

The LHS Newsletter Archive

# **BALD EAGLE**

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# THE BALD EAGLE



By *Dragon Carson*

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Lecompton, Kansas

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....published quarterly by the Lecompton Historical Society, a non-profit organization, dedicated to the preservation of Lecompton's colorful and historic past...and its hopes for the future.



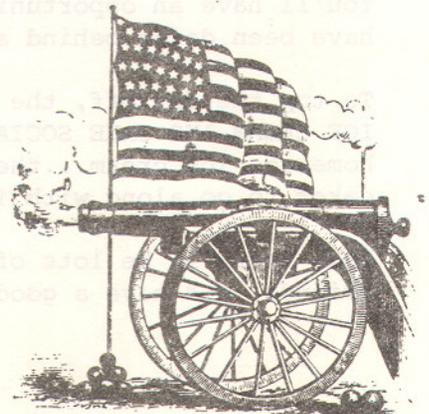
## CELEBRATE MONDAY, JULY 5TH

## IN LECOMPTON!!

FROM 10 A.M. TILL ????

PLENTY OF FUN  
AND EXCITEMENT  
FOR ALL

TURN THIS PAGE  
TO READ ALL  
ABOUT IT —



## ALL OF LECOMPTON COMMUNITY WILL GET INTO THE ACT...WE'LL MISS YOU IF YOU'RE NOT THERE

The Lecompton Jaycees have all been busy these past few weeks getting everything in order for a GALA, BIG, EXCITING DAY for the Lecompton community. Here's a list of things they've lined up for your family's enjoyment.

There'll be lot's of good things to eat. The ladies of the Methodist church and the members of the Youth Fellowship will have lots of good things to eat, including hot dogs, hamburger's, pie, and salad.

There'll be cotton candy, snow cones, and a FISH POND. If you fishermen haven't caught your limit, you sure can at the FISH POND.

Paula Sue Kraft will have a booth of Ceramics, and the Blue Birds will have a GAME BOOTH.

Janet and Loma Gregg will sell hot dogs and pop in a booth, and Jack Gregg will sell you a sign board with your name on it.

Mrs. Howard Duncan will feature art and oil paintings in her booth, while the Rebekah Lodge will have a GOODIE SHOPPE AND BAKE SALE.

Joe Stauffer will have pony rides for the kids, and there'll be plenty of games and prizes for kids of all ages.

The Fire Department will have a display of their trucks and equipment.

The Jaycees will sponsor the First Annual Lecompton Championship Horseshoe Pitching Tournament...an event expected to bring to Lecompton some of the finest Horseshoe Pitchers in this part of the country. If you can't pitch, you can at least come and see how the experts do it.

The Jaycees also will be selling raffle tickets for a gun, and will hold a GREASED PIG CATCH for three classes...6 to 10; 11 to 15; and 16 and up.

There'll be a pancake race for WOMEN ONLY. You've heard all about the one out at Liberal each Spring...well, we in Lecompton aren't to be outdone. We've got some pretty fast flippers in our neighborhood too...and they'll be out to WIN. All they need is a crowd to spur them on to victory!!!

For men under 30 there will be a TUG-OF-WAR...and also the same thing for men over 30...if we can get them out of their rocking chairs, and away from their canes

There will also be a picture taking booth...and a BEARD CONTEST...and a WESTERN SHOOTOUT.

You'll have an opportunity to watch the beard judging, and see how all of these guys have been doing behind all of that hair.

To top the day off, the Lecompton Historical Society will hold their Annual HOMEMADE ICE CREAM AND CAKE SOCIAL. There'll be lots of tasty, delicious, good old fashioned homemade ice cream...the kind Mother used to make...and lots of good home-baked cakes to go along with it.

And, there'll be lots of opportunities to just sit back, relax, visit with old friends, and have a good time. SO, DON'T YOU AND YOUR FAMILY DARE MISS IT!!!!

## ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL PLANS BEING FINALIZED...

Larry Gish, chairman of the Historical Society's Ice Cream Social on July 5th, is finalizing his plans for a gala event that evening for one and all.

Larry has asked us to pass along to the readers of "The Bald Eagle" that anyone who wants to donate ice cream and their freezer is certainly encouraged to do so. Also, if you have an ice cream freezer we can use, please bring it by 5 p.m. on Monday evening, July 5th.

We need lots of cakes, so if you can, please donate a cake to our effort, and if you cannot bring a freezer of ice cream, we can still use gallons of ice cream mix.

Remember, anything you donate to our Ice Cream Social can be deducted from your income tax as a deductible contribution, since our Historical Society is a non-profit organization.

All proceeds from our Ice Cream Social, above what few costs we have, go to the restoration work we are now beginning on Lane University.

BE SURE TO COME TO THIS BIG ANNUAL EVENT...MEET YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS...EAT LOTS OF GOOD HOMEMADE ICE CREAM...AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN!!!

PENDANT SALES GOING GREAT!!!

The sale of our Bicentennial pendants is approaching the \$4,000 mark in net profit to the Historical Society and restoration of Lane University. There are still some of these unusual, attractive Bicentennial pendants left, and they'll be available for your purchase at the Ice Cream Social, Monday evening, July 5th. If you haven't bought yours yet, plan to get them then. You'll be right in style with everyone else in the community...and even some of the menfolk are planning to wear them. We know of one prominent man in Leocompton who bought one for his daughter, but said that it looked so good that he planned to wear it himself. That's the spirit, Sam!

OUR FLOAT TO BE IN BIG TOPEKA PARADE...AND EVERYWHERE ELSE...

Even though our now-famous float, carrying the miniature scale model of Constitution Hall, was late in getting entered in the 4th of July parade in Topeka, they did accept our entry, so Leocompton will be in Topeka's Bicentennial Parade...Sunday, July 4th.

After the Topeka parade, there'll be a parade at Baldwin and Wellsville, and who knows, maybe we'll even enter it in next New Year's Day Rose Parade in Pasadena. Stranger things have happened...and here in our community some times strange things do happen... like selling \$4,000 worth of \$2.50 Bicentennial pendants.

\$100 DONATION RECEIVED...GRATEFULLY...

Our Historical Society has received a \$100 donation from the Lawrence Club of Telephone Pioneers of America, P.O. Box 131, Ottawa, Kansas

Mr. James Erhart, Route 1, Lawrence, inquired about making such a donation, and Opal Goodrick promptly gathered some information together, including a Territorial Days Booklet, to present to the Telephone Pioneer officers. We wish to THANK YOU, James Erhart, and the Telephone Pioneers for thinking of Historical Leocompton and our Lane University project. Your donation will be put to good use...AND WE APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH!

In the March issue of "THE BALD EAGLE" we ran the first part of a letter written by Fred C. Baetlett to George L. McCarty, back in October, 1951, containing interesting facts about early days in Lecompton and Lane University. Here is the concluding part of that letter....

I've mentioned "Sun Rise" as a small town of 300. Well, Sun Rise was the horse thief rendezvous of so many thieves, that a man's life was worth nothing. Missouri lost hundreds of horses, mules and cattle, and lots of them were hid in the Kaw Valley woods in Sun Rise and vicinity. Quite a few men were hung by vigilantes, but when Lane made his raid and the work on the Capitol (Lane University) stopped, the town of Sun Rise hit for tall timber. The old Lecompton jail is still standing that held 12 men at a time, that were members of gangs of out-laws and some went to Leavenworth, some to the County Jail at Lawrence, and some never accounted for, as mobs were fierce and life was cheap. Mr. Hartup told me of a fellow that was leading some horses in Sun Rise, and a mob strung him to a limb on suspicion.

When I was 5 years old, 300 Indians came through Lecompton, from reservations close to Holton. Some 25 soldiers were taking them to the Territory. They came down Grasshopper (Creek) and crossed the river at the Louis branch, and folks didn't sleep that night, as they camped in Leamer's pasture, and when the sun was up, they went south past your place, but that was before you were thought of.

As to the Fort west of your home, on Naces, I know nothing. I've heard of things that would not look well in print. As to the Stillhouses there, I know nothing, or of the Stillhouse on Shucks place on Coon Creek. I've seen the buildings, but not the operation. I remember when the 7 store buildings burned...nothing funny about that tho.

I remember one night when all the students were on the hill sliding, and some fellows took all the bed clothing from the Dormitory and hid them on the roof and locked the roof door. 'Twas cold and snowy and all the covers were rolled in the snow on the roof. Boy! If they had known who it was...well the maddest bunch of boys I ever saw finally found them, but no one ever heard a whisper.

Then I remember when the music teacher and I went up on the Dormitory and "Tick-tacked" a window on the 3rd floor, and as we heard her scream, we hiked down and ran over to the college, and after a while, went home. In the morning we heard Miss --- ran down stairs to President Ervin's rooms and she (the girl) was so frightened she jumped into Mr. and Mrs. Ervin's bed right between them. Well, they are all dead but me, so this is the story true!

Do you remember when Jim Keezie graduated? Well his subject of Oration was "Failure" and when 3/4 thru, he stopped and hesitated, and his forgotter worked so beautifully that he did fail, and was so flustrated he had to stop and took his seat, and 'twas so perfect a failure the crowd sheered to the echo. But, poor Jim put on a bold front and smiled blandly, and let it go. But afterwards acknowledged it was not on purpose, but a real failure.

Another fellow, V.G. Jacobs started his oration, but forgot - stood a moment, then went to the side of the Rostrum, spit down, then back, started in again, but at the same place, forgot and stood a bit, walked over to the other side of the Rostrum - spit down and back to try again, but failed and gave up. The crowd laughed, gave him a good hand, and then laughed till some cried.

Well George, I think I've failed to give you just what you wanted. I've reviewed old college life and events that might be of interest to some, but afraid the true line of incidents told, won't be anything to what you can give. Thanks for the good letter as always you write. Will be here only a short time, then back to St. Louis for a while, and it may be, will go to Tulsa, as Dale is there just now, can't say for how long. His family are in St. Louis. The "Red Cross" is on wheels most of the time. Dale has moved

5 times in 2 years. But, they move him and pay all expenses. He gets \$550 per month wherever he is. I'm with Merle now and he is building a house 30' x 65', and I pretend to help.

Kindest regards to you and wife, Fred C. Bartlett, 3417 Cleveland, Kansas City, Mo.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MORE IMPORTANT HISTORY DISCOVERED AT LECOMPTON...

Mrs. Dorothy Weeks, who resides in Lecompton, has disclosed that she is a great, great, great, great granddaughter of Betsy Ross, the Philadelphia needleworker who designed and made the first American who designed and made the first American Flag in 1777.

Mrs. Weeks relates an interesting story about a quilt which was given to Betsy Ross as a wedding gift from her mother. This quilt has been handed down from mother to eldest daughter since the time it was made for Betsy over 200 years ago.

As each elder daughter receives the quilt, it is laundered and put away, not to be used, and the red, white, and green appliqued quilt in the acorn design, is in remarkably good condition.

Mrs. Weeks, herself, is not in line to receive the quilt, as she has an older sister. But because her sister has no children to pass the quilt on to, Mrs. Weeks' eldest daughter, Barbara Jean Hiddleston, of Lawrence, will eventually be the owner of the Betsy Ross quilt.

To commemorate their heritage, Mrs. Weeks has purchased Bicentennial American Flag pendants from the Lecompton Historical Society, and will present them to each of her children, as a reminder of their illustrious ancestor, Betsy Ross. She will also give one to her mother, who now owns the Betsy Ross quilt.

\* \* \* \* \*

### ARCHITECT REVIEWS PRELIMINARY LANE RESTORATION PLANS WITH BOARD...

Manhattan architect, Charles Hall, was in Lecompton Thursday evening, June 17th, to show the Board of Directors of the Historical Society, and officers, his preliminary plans for restoration work on Lane University.

The meeting took place at the home of Sally and Chuck Wright, and those attending included Mr. Hall, Julia and Forrest Springer, Larry Gish, Jack Gregg, Mary Nell Lasswell, Opal Goodrick, and Sally and Chuck.

From the outset it was quite evident that Mr. Hall had done an extensive job of surveying the old Lane University building, and he presented preliminary drawings of the basement, first and second floors, as well as exterior plans.

For the basement he proposed removal of the old wooden floor, replacing it with a concrete one. Two small meeting rooms there were discussed and it was decided that these should be made into work and storage rooms for the museum. Also in the basement would be a larger meeting room for the Historical Society, public restrooms, a janitor's supply room, and utility room for the heating and air conditioning equipment and the electric boxes. The meeting room would have a kitchenette in it for the Society's use in holding their monthly covered dish suppers, and for other community occasions.

Basement entrances on both the east and west ends of the building would give easy access to the basement area, and they would be restored to as close as they were when they were originally constructed more than a hundred years ago.

On the first floor would be space for the museum office, and two classrooms, complete with old style blackboards as they were originally. The entire area would be renovated, plaster removed and gypsum wallboard replacing it, with wainscoting and wall paper of the period installed. The stairways throughout would have to be replaced since they have deteriorated so badly.

On the second floor, two rooms...a music room, and an art room, originally in the Lane University building, would be restored, and a chapel with seating capacity for 212 people would be restored. The space where a balcony was once built, would be given over for displays of various museum pieces to be contributed by people who have historical items of the period available.

On the outside of the building, the exterior would be pointed, cracks filled, and windows and doors replaced. Steps at both the east and west entrances would also be replaced.

All in all, his thoughts pretty well followed what the Board and officers had expected, and an air of excitement predominated at the meeting.

One point came up in the discussion that's worthy to note here. The old building was heated with wood-burning stoves throughout, and there were a number of chimneys protruding above the roof. He recommended that we not have but one chimney protruding now, since that would be necessary anyway for heating of the building, but to put other chimneys on the roof would open the roof to possible future leaking from rain and snow. The Board agreed with his thinking on this.

With this step in his work now completed, he will proceed to come up with cost estimates on the proposed work. On Thursday evening, June 24th, the Board is to meet in Lawrence with Mr. Earl Wilson to present our Historical Society budget for the coming year, and to include what we feel is necessary for county funding on the restoration work.

With Mr. Hall's guidance and assistance, the Board feels that our chances have been greatly enhanced for getting increased county funds for restoration work on Lane University.

We hope so...and we hope it's not too long before we can enjoy Lane University again as a center of our community, as it was many, many years ago.

NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THIS FAR...READ THE FIRST PAGE AGAIN...AND PLAN TO MEET YOUR

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS ON MONDAY, JULY 5TH, IN HISTORIC LECOMPTON...BY THE KAW!!!

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