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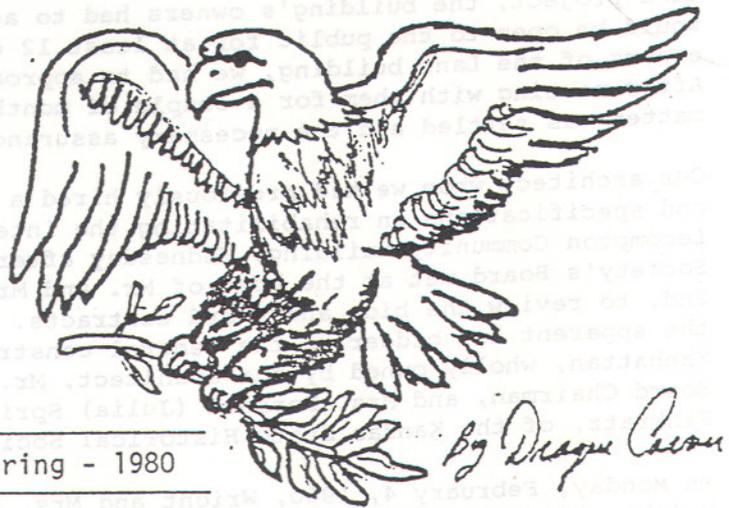
BALD EAGLE

Volume Six, Issue Number 1

Originally Published in LeCompton, Kansas : Spring 1980
Digitally Archived August 2006



THE BALD EAGLE



Vol. 6 - No. 1

Lecompton, Kansas

Spring - 1980

....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.

AT LAST!
LANE UNIVERSITY
GETS A MUCH
NEEDED FACE-LIFT

LANE UNIVERSITY LECOMPTON, KANSAS

REHABILITATION OF THIS PROPERTY, WHICH IS LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES, HAS BEEN FUNDED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A MATCHING GRANT-IN-AID FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966.

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
HALL ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS, MANHATTAN, KS.

SIGN OF THE TIMES...required by law where federal funds are involved, this sign now stands at the southeast corner of Lane U.

FEBRUARY 18, 1980, WAS A BIG DAY IN LECOMPTON... as rehabilitation of Lane University finally started. While most local residents probably didn't know about it.... members of the Lecompton Historical Society did...and were they EXCITED!!!

After years of dreaming, planning, working, cooking, making and selling chili and ice cream, selling Centennial pendants and lobbying, the members could finally "see the light at the end of the tunnel." Many of you know about the fund-raising activities of the Society, but let's go back to June, 1978, to find out where we really got the needed funds to "go to work".

When we were informed by the Kansas State Historical Society, that the Lane University project was NUMBER 9 on their list for historic preservation grants, and we would only receive \$20,000 for fiscal year 1979, we were disheartened. But, in December, 1978, the Society's Chairman of the Board noticed an item in the newspaper, where the state's budget director had invited the public to a hearing on revenue-sharing funds. We learned our chances of receiving some of those funds were very good, but we needed help from the Legislature.

So we met with our Douglas County legislators...Senator Arnold Berman, and Representatives John Vogel, John Solbach and Mike Glover. Senator Berman introduced a bill in the Senate for a \$50,000 state grant, which was eventually approved by both houses of the Legislature and signed by the Governor. Sen. Wint Winter (whose Winter family is well-known in Lecompton) as Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee was also most helpful.

With this grant approved, we applied to the Department of Interior in Washington for a match of \$50,000, which was approved. So, this plus money we had received from Douglas county, friends, business contributors and members, we thought we were ready to proceed. But, such was not the case...we still had one more hurdle to cross. Before federal funds could be given to a project, the building's owners had to assure the federal government that the building would be open to the public for at least 12 days a year, for 15 years. Since we were not the owners of the Lane building, we had to approach the Perry-Lecompton School Board on the matter. After meeting with them for a couple of months, and work between their attorney and ours, the matter was settled and the necessary assurance given to Washington.

Our architect whom we had previously hired a couple of years ago, was ready to go with plans and specifications on rehabilitating the interior, so bids were advertised and opened in the Lecompton Community building, Wednesday afternoon, January 30, 1980. Following this, the Society's Board met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wright, Saturday afternoon, February 2nd, to review the bids and award contracts. However, in their review, it was disclosed that the apparent low bidder on the general construction contract was Landmark Building Company, Manhattan, wholly owned by the architect, Mr. Hall. The Board therefore directed Charles Wright, Board Chairman, and Mrs. Forrest (Julia) Springer) to review the matter with Mr. Richard Pankratz, of the Kansas State Historical Society's historic preservation department.

On Monday, February 4, 1980, Wright and Mrs. Springer, along with the Society's attorney, Doug Wright, discussed the matter with Mr. Pankratz, who informed them that under federal government guidelines, there was no apparent conflict of interest, and that we had to award the contract to the lowest qualified bidder, in this case, Landmark Building Company. So, that same evening, the Board met again at the home of the Springers in Lawrence, and contracts were awarded as follows: General Construction, Landmark Building Company, Manhattan; Quality Electric, Lawrence; Carlton Heating and Air Conditioning, Manhattan, and Miller Plumbing, Topeka, totalling \$192,649.90, with completion of all work to be done by August 1, 1980.

On February 18, 1980, Wright and Mrs. Springer, along with Mrs. Louis (Opal) Goodrick, met with John Knowles, representing the architect, in the west first floor room of Lane University and presented him a check for architect fees of \$10,000. The next day, the project started and since then, much has already been accomplished. The stage on the second floor is about done, floor joists have been replaced and strengthened, plaster has been removed, and debris cleaned out. The basement concrete floor has been poured. Helping Landmark with this work has been several Lecompton men, thus project money is helping our community already.

Pictured on the back of the second sheet of this issue of the Bald Eagle are pictures of something you'll never see again during your lifetime...Lane University's first floor before rehabilitation work started. They are the last pictures taken of Lane's deterioration...now there'll be no more falling plaster, no more holes in the roof and floors, no more pigeons, and we hope, no more broken windows...just a beautiful building, hopefully to be rededicated completely finished in 1982, when the old building will be officially 100 years old. Thousands of people, many yet unborn, will visit our community and enjoy the fruits of those many who labored to bring this all about...and our community will be forever a better place because of it. If you don't believe this, you're probably one of those who said they'd never rehabilitate Lane University. Not many of those around now, are there?

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS IN 1979 INCLUDED...

Bess Sehon	\$15.00
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Chestnut	25.00
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Cunningham	75.00
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kreider	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Springer (pews)	150.00
Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Holland	25.00
Larry's Auto Supply, Inc. (Lawrence)	10.00
KLWN Radio, Arden Booth (Lawrence)	150.00
Rusty's IGA (Lawrence)	300.00
McGrew Real Estate (Lawrence)	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Herman Banks (pew)	100.00
Warren-McElwain Mortuary (Lawrence)	500.00
All-Star Dairy (Lawrence)	150.00
Grace Brasher (2 pews)	150.00
Madge Rothberger (pew)	75.00
Mr. and Mrs. E. Lewis (pew)	75.00
Wayne Masterson	100.00



Board chairman Chuck Wright hands a \$10,000 check to John Knowles, architect with Hall and Associates, as first payment on the Lane rehabilitation project, with President Julia Springer in the middle and Opal Goodrick to the right. Check presented at Lane University. February 18, 1980.

Phil and Elsie Wizer	250.00
Mr. and Mrs. N.E. Abella	5.00
Charles Wright	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. T.H. Popplewell	25.00
Paul, Elsie and Joyce Bahnmaier (pews)	75.00
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Megill	25.00
Bud Jennings & Sons Carpet (Lawrence)	15.00
Humanities Grant-Opal Goodrick	50.00
J.C. Penney (Lawrence)	50.00
Malott's Hardware (Lawrence)	50.00
Lecompton Bridge Fund	17.51
Lawrence Journal-World	250.00
Kuhn's, Inc. (Lawrence)	20.00
Doris Matney (pew)	75.00
Mrs. W.A. Clarke-Oliphint Estate	100.00
Rice Foundation	1,000.00
Cooperative Farm Chemicals (Lawrence)	100.00



Board chairman Chuck Wright and President Julia Springer officially sign the contracts for rehabilitation of Lane Univ. February 4, 1980

THE BALD EAGLE SALUTES ALL OF THESE FINE CONTRIBUTORS...AND INVITES OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE!!!

As you have noted in the list above, the first equipment purchased by the Society was 20 antique church pews for the Chapel, at a total cost of \$2,000, from Warren-McElwain mortuary. The mortuary donated \$500, leaving a balance of \$1,500. To date all pews have been purchased by members in honor of a relative. The plan is for a small plate to be placed on each pew in whose memory or honor it was purchased, and one large plate with the name of the donor and of the relative.

HISTORY ABOUT THE McCARTY FAMILY...

(On June 28, 1977, a letter was written to Mrs. Forrest (Julia) Springer by W.C. Lewellen, consultant in Del Mar, California. Julia forwarded the letter, with comments, to The Bald Eagle, and for some reason, it was misplaced until now. Here it is, with our deepest apologies to Chet Lewellen:)

Dear Mrs. Springer:

Offhand, my name will mean nothing to you but I'd almost bet we have met at sometime along life pathways--probably when I was a little boy living in Lawrence.

I am Sally McCarty's youngest and last living son. She was born in Lecompton and the youngest of the children of William McCarty and his wife, Rachel. They're among the first settlers of Lecompton--especially Grandmother McCarty (whose name from her first husband was Todhunter).

I had two uncles from the McCarty family--Charles and George. And also two Aunts--Virginia and Minnie. All are gone now and all are in the family burial plot in the Lawrence cemetery.

Frank McDonald of Lawrence is an old family friend from longer than I can remember. I got a letter from him today and a copy of "The Bald Eagle". That prompted me to write--and send you this modest contribution to help your very worthy cause.

I can't contribute very much of historical interest to you, but as a youngster I spent quite a lot of time on the old McCarty farm, 3 miles from Lecompton. And I can remember Mother telling me she once had a job at a hotel in Lecompton and that she attended Lane University. If I am correct, the first territorial Governor of Kansas was named Llewellyn (notice the difference in spelling). I've often wondered if he were related to my father, James Calvin Lewellen because I've often wondered why Dad went to Kansas, as he was born and raised in Ohio.

If it makes any difference, Grandpa McCarty was a direct descendant of King Edward I of England. Thru the "Price Family" from the Isle of Mann, his forebears. They came to America with Lord Baltimore on "The Ark" and "The Dove" and founded the first colony in Maryland. Grandpa had the genealogy traced and I have a copy of it.

With best regards, /W.C. Lewellen (Chet)

Julia's reply, she mentioned the cross mounted on paneling in the Lecompton United Methodist church, and he replied: "In the settlement of his mother's will (Sally McCarty) it was I who saw to it that the church in Lecompton got what she wanted them to have. They opted to buy the cross--her bequest was for cash. The minister there wrote me a "thank you" letter, I remember. So, her wishes were carried out to the letter! The minister also sent me a picture of the cross after it had been installed.

FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICIALS VISIT LANE UNIVERSITY...

Ed Teel Patterson Tiller, with the Department of the Interior's Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service, Washington, D.C., Mr. Richard Pankratz, Director, and Julia Workman, of the Historic Preservation department of the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, and Harry Marmet, state architect, met with Charles W. Wright, Society Board chairman, Julia M. Pringer, Society president, Sara Walter, vice president, Opal Goodrick, special funding airperson, and member Forrest Springer, on February 26th, to tour the Lane building. The project architect, John Knowles was also on hand to guide the tour and answer questions about work to be done. This is the first visit to be made to the site by a staff member from the Department of Interior, and he praised our efforts in getting Lane University rehabilitated.

To comply with state and federal guidelines on the project, a weekly log must be kept to record progress of the work, including mention of important discoveries or developments that have occurred, and occasionally, black and white photographs showing work in progress. Mrs. Opal Goodrick is taking the pictures and is compiling a book containing them for future use in the museum.

Present work being done on the building does not include fixtures, wallpaper or other interior decorating. Funds for this work will have to come from private sources, and we welcome any assistance in this regard. If you would like to contribute...or know someone who might...please send us your contribution...which is totally tax-deductible...or let us know who you know that wants to contribute.

FINE GIFT RECEIVED FROM LOCAL ARTIST...

Howard (Ellen) Duncan, our artist in Lecompton with many talents, presented an 11 by 14 charcoal and ink drawing of the Lane University building, to the Society at their meeting Thursday evening, March 13th. At the time, Ellen was in a Topeka hospital recuperating from surgery, and the sketch was presented by her sister, Geri Skinner. Geri has very capably filled in as our secretary while Mary Nell Lasswell has been hospitalized. Mary Nell is now recuperating and expects to be a regular attendee at our meetings again.

Published by
The Lecompton Historical Society
Lecompton, Kansas 66050

Nonprofit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Lecompton, Kansas Permit No. 1

POSTAL PATRON
Lecompton, Kansas 66050

SOCIETY'S LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS GROWING...

With Life Memberships costing \$50 a person or \$100 a couple, the list now includes 37 people, who are:

Mrs. Edna Bahnmaier	Paul Bahnmaier	Mr. and Mrs. Herman Banks
Mr. and Mrs. Darwin Behlke	Mrs. Grace Brasher	Miss Justine Curry
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Duncan	Mrs. Wilma Fleming	Mr. and Mrs. Earl Goodrich
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Goodrick	Mrs. Lee Winter Gress	Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Hoffsommer
Miss Zella W. Iliff	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jones	Mr. and Mrs. Karl Kreider
Miss Phyllis H. Martin	Mr. C.D. Oliphint, Jr.	Mrs. Mary M. Rogers
Miss Geraldine Skinner	Fred LePort Spangler	Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Springer	Mr. and Mrs. A.K. Winter	Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wizer
	Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Wright	



North first floor room of Lane, pictured to the northeast corner. Note the rotted floor and plaster, now all removed. February 18, 1980



Southeast first floor room of Lane as workmen begin plaster removal. February 18, 1980

FROM THE "LECOMPTON SUN", October 15, 1891...

Jake Hill is afraid the City "Dads" will condemn the awning in front of Bartlett's store, in which case there would be nothing to keep runaway teams out of the store.

The following vacant instruments in the college band have been supplied: B bass, Cora Day, 2nd tenor, Ella Leamer, 2nd alto, Jennie Greene, Bflat cornet, Julia Green, Bflat cornet, Ina Bartlett.

Prof. Bartlett returned home from Conference last Saturday.

OF LOCAL INTEREST...

Sara Walter and Julia Springer attended the annual Historic Preservation Grants workshop of the Historic Preservation department, February 23rd, at the Kansas State Historical Society's building in Topeka. They report that this was very well planned and an informative workshop.

A recent letter from Mary La Rue Ross to Mary Nell Lasswell, secretary, included her dues of \$2.50, and she asked to be remembered to her friend, Zella Iliff. Mary lives in Altadena, Calif.

**DON'T FORGET - JUNE 28 IN LECOMPTON
TERRITORIAL DAYS !!!**