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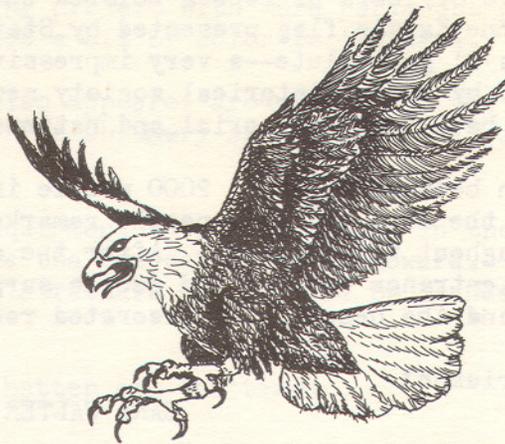
# **BALD EAGLE**

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VOL. 8 NO. 3

LECOMPTON, KANSAS

FALL 1982

## REDEDICATION DAY JUNE 26, 1982

The day began with a dark murky sky and a threat of rain, but eight people descended on the Lane University grounds and by 6 am were busily setting up chairs, putting up flags and decorating the wonderful trailer stage loaned to us by the Topeka Parks and Recreation Commission.

At 9:30 am the historical society had an informal reception for David Eisenhower in the Lane meeting room. This was for the members, guests and relatives to meet Mr. Eisenhower and to thank him for coming.

At 11:30 am some of the group went to the United Methodist Church for a luncheon that the ladies of the church serve annually on Territorial Day. By this time the sun was bright and hot.

The rededication festivities began at 2 pm with guests including Kansas Governor John Carlin; David Eisenhower; State Senator Jane Eldredge; State Rep. John Solbach; State Rep. Jessie Branson; former State Rep. John Vogel; County Com. Beverly Bradley; County Com. Walter Cragan; County Treas. Ruth Vervynch; Register of Deeds Sue Newstifter; Dir. Kan. St. Historical Society Joseph W. Snell; former state budget director James Bibb; Westmar College President Dr. John Courter; Rev. Clayton Lehman; Dale Bartlett, grandson of a former president of Lane, and Mike Harper who represented Sen Nancy Kassebaum. We had not had such a collection of notables in our town since 1856 when Lecompton was the focal point for the affairs of the territory!

Governor Carlin, the first speaker, stated that "Today is not just a celebration of the completion of a community project, it's a celebration of what makes us proud to be a Kansan. We thank you for bringing back a part of our history." He added that the historical society's work was a "success story" which would inspire future generations.

David Eisenhower, the grandson of President Eisenhower, was the featured dedication speaker. He maintained that were it not for the Lecompton constitution, which became one of the movements toward the Civil War, the issue of slavery might not have been debated and Abraham Lincoln would not have become president, and that because of the slavery debate between Douglas and Lincoln, the capital was moved to Topeka which left the partially built capitol vacant and available for Lane University. He also said that without Lane University Ida Stover and David Eisenhower might not have met and later become parents of Dwight D. Eisenhower. He further stated, "I don't think it would be stretching a point to say, if it had not been for Lecompton, I might not be here today."

The stirring music for the program was furnished by the Perry-Lecompton High School Band. U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Officers of Tepeka hoisted the United States flag from Senator Dele's office and the Kansas flag presented by State Senator Eldredge, on the near-by flag poles with a 21 gun salute--a very impressive ceremony. The Confederate flag was then raised by three historical society members to remind people of the role Lecompton played in both the territorial and national history.

There appeared to have been between 1500 and 2000 people in the audience. There was a feeling of celebration in the air, and many people remarked what a wonderful depth of emotion they felt throughout the ceremony. After the completion of the program, a ribbon across the south entrance was cut and people surged into the building to enjoy the numerous displays and the beautifully decorated rooms.

It was, indeed, a day of triumph!

SARA WALTER

#### TOGETHER WE DID IT

Together we did it. This has to be our motto because June 26th and 27th was certainly a great weekend to be in Lecompton.

The many hours you spent making this event happen was tremendous and will never be forgotten. It happened because there was always a volunteer to do something that made the entire project successful. As George Simmons said, this organization is composed of Indians and no Chiefs, in other words a lot of hard workers.

It was significant that David Eisenhower stated that Lecompton ranks with Gettysburg as far as American History is concerned. For too long we have been lead to believe that Lecompton's History was not important. Well, it is the most historic city in Kansas and one of the most historic in America. Lecompton was on the losing side of the war 120 years ago, but was on the winning side on June 26th 1982.

As David Paslay said, we now have a place to show people our history when they come to visit Lecompton. THANKS to each of YOU this is possible.

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Thanks to the following people who donated time the last few weeks getting Lane University ready for the Dedication:

Edna Bahnmaier	Margie Hildenbrand	Dorrene and Robert Shaner
Dorothy Baughman	Rosa and Edwin Hildenbrand	Arloene and George Simmons
Dorothy Beatty	Raymond Hoffsommer	Matt and Jeff Bird
Marguerite Bowman	Allie and Herman Banks	Jeri Skinner
Maxine and Clayton Dark	Mae and Wally Holderman	Iona Spencer
Wanda and David Dark	Bessie Hundley	Joe Stauffer
Ellen and Howard Duncan	Phylis Martin	Carol and Greg Howard
Elda Flowers	Lydia Long	Julia and Forrest Springer
Warrene and Denzel Gibbens	Doris Matney	Wilma Tibbs
Opal Goodrick	Mary Mathews	Sara Walter
Mary Nelle Lasswell	Rich and Karen McConnell	Sally and Chuck Wright
Betty Crawford	Richie and Jeff McConnell	Catherinè Wright Howard
Ruth and Howard Harshberger	Helen Norwood	Margaret and Ross Wulfkuhle
Dena Heinz	Dorothy and Les Shaner	Joyce and Darwin Belhke
Darlene and David Paslay	Mary Powell	Elsie and Phil Wizer
Charlie and Ione Paslay	Irene Sanford	Sybil Schroyer
Carol McCune	Diana Grandstaff	Evelyn Confer
Christine Kraft	Louise Norwood	Daisy and Oliver Wingfield
Le Vona Carter	Bill and Mary Lou Russell	Tom Goodrick
Paul Bahnmaier	Raymond and Ruth Ice	Marlene Hackathorn

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President — PAUL BAHNMAIER  
Editor — ELLEN DUNCAN  
Geneological Writer — IONA SPENCER  
Historical Writer — SARA WALTER

We would like to extend appreciation to the following people who have donated or loaned items to Lane University since the last issue of the "Bald Eagle." Space does not allow us to mention each item at this time. Your contributions have helped make the Lane University Museum one of the best museums in Kansas.

Eula Armstrong	Lavina Hanna	Bill and Effie Reynolds
Bill and Marcella Anderson	Margery and Richard Hanson	Wray and Judy Reynolds
Herm and Allie Banks	Myra Keeler	Susie Richardson
Edna Bahnmaier	Edwin and Rosa Hildenbrand	George and Arlone Simmons
Dorothy Baughman	Mae and Wally Holderman	Julia and Forrest Springer
Dorothy Beatty	Christine Kraft	Les and Dorothy Shaner
Marguerite Bowman	Glenn Kappelman	Jerry and Marge Schmitt
Arley and Opal Brown	Edith La Duke	Vern and Iona Spencer
Evelyn Confer	Mary Nelle Lasswell	Wilma Tibbs
Margaret Cottrell	Bill and Betty Leslie	Lester Tuckel
Clayton and Maxine Dark	W. V. Masterson	Marie Traxler
David and Wanda Dark	Doris Matney	Sara Walter
Bill and Grace Dark	Neal and Mary Mathews	Sophia Webber
Margaret Dark	Phyllis Martin	Westmar College
W.W. Drake Family	Wilma Morris	J.B. Wiggins
Denzel and Warren Gibbens	Helen Norwood	Ross and Margaret Wulfkuhle
Lydia Gies	Dr. Richard O. Nelson	Donald Wright
Lewis and Opal Goodrick	David and Darlene Paslay	Daisy and Oliver Wingfield
Maybelle Hall	Roy Paslay	Richard Hildenbrand
Howard and Ruth Harshberger	Charlie and Ione Paslay	Darwin and Joyce Bahlke
Paul Bahnmaier	Howard and Ellen Duncan	Charles and Sally Wright
Elsie and Phil Wizer	Minnie Sutton	Millie McKinney

The following figure does not count the people who visited Lane University on June 26th. From June 27th to July 26th 721 visitors from 22 states and Canada have toured Lane University. This is great.

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Thanks to Howard Duncan for the presentation of a 25 minute memorized speech by Ely Moore Jr. and to Elda Flowers, Dorotay Shaner, Daisy Wingfield Neita Bahnmaier and Don Rice for the organ music following the Dedication. Their time preparing for this was greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Ruth Iee held a spinning wheel demonstration in Lane University Museum throughout the day of dedication.

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The Lane University Library is now open under the direction of Sara Walter. We have a selection of historical books and a large selection of fiction and non-fiction books that were donated by Allie Banks.

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Walter Wulfkuhle, a life member of the Lecompton Historical Society passed away on July 18th. He was a stockman and lived northwest of Stull. We appreciated his interest in Lane University.

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Arloene Simmons would like to thank all the people who sent pictures for the Lecompton High School Hall-of-Fame. The following are still missing: 1905,06,08,09,11,12,14,15,17,19,20,21,22,23,26,28,29,30,32,36, and 37. Contact Arloene if you have any information about the above mentioned dates. Her phone number is 887-6284 or write to R.R.1 Lecompton, Kansas.

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We also have a film reader and film of the Lecompton newspapers located in the library. This makes for some interesting reading of past events. Iona Spencer was instrumental in securing these items for Lane University.

Thanks to the following people who arrived at 6:00 A.M. on the morning of the dedication to arrange chairs and place bunting on the stage: David and Darlene Paslay, George Simmons, Opal Goodrick, Robert Goodrick, Phil Wizer, Edna Bahnmaier and Paul Bahnmaier. Also thanks to Ross Wulfkuhle George and Arlone Simmons, Matt and Jeff Bird, Darwin and Joyce Behlke, Opal Goodrick, Sara Walter, Rich McConnell, Lavina Hanna, Ed Daniels and Paul for helping clean up and return the chairs. We appreciated Sally Wright and Julia Springer hosting the reception for David Eisenhower. Thanks to David Paslay, George Simmons, Ross Wulfkuhle, Forrest Springer, Bill Leslie and Opal Goodrick for the use of their trucks to haul chairs and other items for the dedication. We appreciate all the many hours spent by Forrest Springer and David Paslay completing the construction of the shadow box for the quilt. Thanks to Joyce and Darwin Behlke for the beautiful pictures of Lane Museum and Dedication he has donated to the society. David Paslay has refinished a display case given by Richard Hildenbrand. It looks Great. Since the dedication Helen Norwood has donated a beautiful walnut cabinet.

The Curators did a super job of organizing the museum. In fact a representative from another museum asked them to help in the arrangement of their artifacts. The committee members were: Sally Wright, Opal Goodrick, Dorothy Shaner, Julia Springer, and Sara Walter. They had a lot of help with the typing and includes: Marguerite Bowman, Doris Matney, Helen Norwood, Jeri Skinner, Elda Flowers, Margie Hildenbrand, Iona Spencer, Darlene Paslay, Wilma Tibbs, and Joyce Behlke.

Paul Bahnmaier

#### MASONS CONSTRUCT MONUMENT

In a time where words have lost meaning, where sausage sandwiches are marketed as pork tenderloin, and where economy cars sell for as much as \$10,000; it was refreshing that the Lecompton Historical Society found Masons who could do masonry! The artistically constructed monument for Lane was created and donated by Lecompton Lodge No. 420, A.F. & A.M.

If you have not closely examined this beautiful monument located just south of the flagpoles, please do so at an early opportunity. It is constructed of native limestone, some of the material coming from within Lecompton and some from the creekbed about a mile north of Dog Hollow School. A cavity was designed within the monument to receive a time capsule which is now being assembled by the Historical Society. This will be sealed at a fall meeting. It has been suggested that the capsule be opened in 50 years making it possible for some young people to witness both the sealing and opening.

The Lecompton masons put in over 100 manhours on the project which was finished on the eve of rededication day. Most of the masons were not Lecompton residents, coming mainly from the Big Springs area. Principal workers were John James and Al (Junior) Long, assisted by Arlin Mannschreck, Larry Addington, Jim Stansell and Howard Duncan. We thank you men for a labor of love which in its own right is a work of art!

#### LECOMPTON SPRUCES UP

Some very nice things have been happening to the town of Lecompton. Along with the new surface on the county road which serves as our main east-west street some very ancient hand dressed curbing has reappeared. This is due to some very hard work by Bill Reynolds and Dick Walters. This curbing looks nice. There may be more!

The 7th grade Campfire Girls, under the direction of Sandy Shores installed some

flower beds, one in the corner of the park and one east of the old high school. They intend this to be an ongoing project with more permanent plantings to be put in in the fall. These flower beds add a bit of color to the area.

New landscaping has also appeared around the church. This was planted and cared for by Mr. and Mrs McAfee. The shrubbery and foliage adds a new dimension to that corner of main street.

Some new playground equipment is now installed in the park, and is being well used by our kids. This was the project of Nancy Howard. Later this summer sand will be placed beneath the structure and it will be bounded by ties of poles to keep it contained.

Lecompton is looking better all the time!

#### SOLOMON WEAVER

(The following article was taken from an early Lane University college newspaper, called the "College Echoes" dated August, 1888. Solomon Weaver was the first president of Lane University and this article was written by F. B. Hill)

Rev. Solomon Weaver was born August 28th, 1814, in Washington county, Penn., and died at Valley Falls, Jefferson county, Kansas, December 6th, 1874, being 60 years, 3 months, and 8 days old.

He was converted in early life and joined the United Brethren Church, and soon after believing himself called to the ministry, became an active itinerant.

The writer in company with him passing along on the Panhandle railroad was shown many places of great interest connected with his early labors in the ministry.

After laboring a few years in Ohio as an itinerant and sometimes as a traveling agent for Otterbein University, he moved with his family to Iowa where he went into the itinerant work and afterwards labored as a presiding elder. In 1855, his energetic mind conceived the idea of a school in Iowa and Western College was soon located eight miles south of Cedar Rapids. On January 1, 1857, the school opened and he was chosen its president in which capacity he served for several years. In 1864, he resigned his place, and in the summer of the same year wrote letters to Rev. W. A. Cardwell and Rev. Samuel Kretzinger concerning the establishing of a school in Kansas. Meeting with liberal encouragement he selected the historic town of Lecompton and purchased the Rowena Hotel for a college building, till a better one could be erected.

On the 14th of November, 1864, he started to Kansas by land and after a cold trip through Iowa, and a dangerous one through Missouri on account of the war, landed at Lecompton on the third day of December.

He found two United Brethren churches and during the winter held a protracted meeting. Thirty-four were converted and a class of about forty members organized.

School opened on the second Wednesday of March, 1865, with Rev. S. Weaver, President, and Prof. D. Shuck and Miss Jennette Stickney as assistants. Sixty-five students were in attendance. In June, at the meeting of the board, Prof. J. M. Strawsburg and Prof. S. S. Riley, were added to the faculty. In June, 1866, the president resigned his position and occupied his time mostly with the "New Era" newspaper, published at Lecompton, preaching occasionally. He moved to Medina with his paper in 1867, where he labored hard to build up a town; after some time he moved to Valley Falls. He was a man of wonderful energy, a determinate will, true to his friends and the cause he advocated. The amount of good he accomplished in starting Lane University can not be over-estimated. Only eternity can reveal it.

Between 800 and 1,000 persons have been converted here since the school started, and Lane has furnished the country with some of her best teachers, with ministers and those that have filled important places. And in almost every case they teach good moral principles, and leave those better with whom they come in contact.

Submitted by Iona Spencer

NEW LIFE MEMBERS: If you would like to add your name to this distinguished group, a Life Membership in The Lecompton Historical Society can be purchased for \$50.00.

Miss Helen Norwood  
Juanita B. Strait  
Ross & Margaret (Coleman) Wulfkuhle  
Lavina B. (DeKat) Hanna  
Calvin & Audry (Boose) Maust  
George & Maxine (Maust) Fowler  
Ruth (Rothwell) Vervynck  
William C. Springer  
Thelma (Kibbee) Bellinger  
Thomas & Nadine Brooke  
Harold L. & Dorothy Keltz

Rachel (Johnson) Larson (Glenn Desc.)  
Alice (Johnson) O'Donnell (Glenn Desc.)  
Margery (Holms) Russell (Wilson Desc.)  
Jeanne (Winter) Brass  
Helen J. Cady  
Bill & Betty (Weber) Leslie  
Raymond & Ruth (Wulfkuhle) Ice  
Helen (Sehon) Pollom  
Ruth J. (Steinmitz) Ketelaar  
C. C. & Helen (Heise) Spangler  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles I. Brooke

THE LECOMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Lecompton, Kansas 66050 is a Non-profit corporation for the preservation of Historic Sites. We are eager for continued membership and new members!

Individual membership is \$2.50 per year, from December to December. Life membership is \$50 per individual. Contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to the Lecompton Historical Society, and mailed to Mrs. Iona Spenser, R. R. #1, Lecompton, Kansas 66050

(Please clip and mail with your check)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$2.50 Annual Individual Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Individual  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other contribution \_\_\_\_\_ Life member

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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