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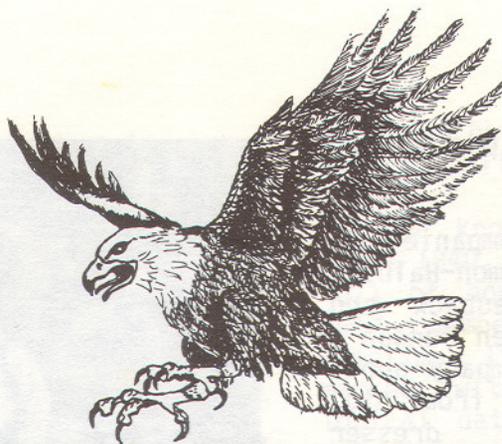
# **BALD EAGLE**

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## DOLLS!

## DOLLS!

DOLLS! DOLLS! DOLLS! What is a doll? Webster's New World Dictionary describes a doll as being a children's toy, made to resemble a baby, child or grown person. Dolls can take you to the far corners of the world and reveal for you a cross-section of history and social styles.

There are museums all over the world with exhibits that show dolls as old as 4000 B.C. Some of these may be examples of religious objects but many are really dolls. These were carved from ivory, bone, wood or stone. Others were molded from clay. Some of these dolls have arms and legs that closely resemble those in the nineteenth century.

Dolls have always been big business -- even in Greece many years ago where dolls were made in quantities large enough to sell in special shops. Dolls play a double roll in that they give children enjoyment and are collectibles for thousands of adults.

Leading artists in the 17th and 18th centuries were commissioned to design special dolls and costumes using fine fabrics and jewels for royal families to enjoy and use as gifts.

Paris became the center for making the beautiful costumes during the 18th century. During the late 1860's and 1870's a well dressed doll had as many as a hundred pieces of garments and accessories. These garments were made as duplicates of what children and adults were wearing at that time.

There were many doll companies in France, Germany and Bavaria during the 1800's and on into the 1900's. Germany provided the world with toys, including dolls, for more than four hundred years. As the changes in the world took place, changes took place in developments and methods of manufacturing dolls. The development of porcelain factories for dinner services, figurines and ornaments led to the first dolls heads and parts made of porcelain. These heads were first made from left-over materials. This took place about 1840, and gradually, new factories



"Little Beauty" -- Lane Museum

making only dolls heads and parts were built.

Some of the best-known companies in Germany were: Simon-Halbig, Krammer-Reinhardt, Kestner, Heuback and Armand Marseilles. One of Ellen Duncan's dolls was made by the later company about 1900. Her clothing is made from old, hand-crocheted, lace-trimmed dresses, scarves that were her mother's.

The German companies exported millions of dolls all over the world in many different styles -- ladies, child and baby dolls. Bodies were made of leather, composition, cloth, paper, mache or wood.

At the same time, the same changes were taking place in France. It was in France that some of the very finest bisque doll heads were made. However, history shows that the French companies used some of the best German-made heads. A few of the French companies were: Steiner, Jumeau and Bru. In 1899, several French companies joined together to form one company -- Societe Francaise de Fabrication de Bebes et Jouets. Their dolls were simply marked S.F.B.J. All of the French dolls were dressed in the beautiful fashions of the day. The Bru Company made dolls of different colours to represent different races. Among this company's innovations were two-faced dolls, one sad, the other happy, the heads turning on a spindle. They also introduced mechanical dolls that danced, threw kisses or walked. Wigs were made of lambswool, mohair or human hair.

Many of the German dolls were sold without clothes or wore a simple chemise. They also sold doll heads alone so that the purchaser could make the body and clothes.

The first real doll maker in America was Ludwig Griener who patented a doll head in 1858. He used paper mache or composition. American doll companies of the late 1800's and early 20th century were the Acme Toy Company of New York, E.I. Horsman Company, Amberg and Son. In 1878 George Borgfelt Company was the largest and had many companies make dolls to its specifications. K & K Toy Company started making dolls in 1915 and Effanbee Company started in 1912.



These companies were in fierce competition. In 1925, the Acme Company copied Horsman's beautiful "Tinie Baby". Horsman immediately sued the Acme Company but lost the case in court because the marvelous baby doll was simply marked EIH instead of the full E. I. Horsman Company. That doll is now a rare character doll sought by collectors.

How do you date a doll? To many people, just saying, "This was my mother's (or Grandmother's) doll" may be enough for them. They are happy just knowing about it in that way. It is interesting to others to know what place in history their dolls have had. Many of the dolls from France or Germany were well marked but some had no marks at all. In 1890 Congress decreed that all merchandise coming into this country had to be marked with its place of origin. Some of the dolls had their country marked on them before that time so using 1890 as a point for dating is not certain. China dolls were almost entirely a German industry. They were made of a special clay that has been glazed and fired which makes a glossy smooth surface as contrasted with the dull surface of bisque that more closely resembles a human

complexion. The china heads weren't marked at all before 1891. A mark can sometimes be found inside the shoulder. Some can be dated by their hair style but that can only be approximate. The hair fashions of the time were molded into the doll's head. However, the molds were often used after the hairdos of ladies were changed so you say, "in the era of \_\_\_\_\_". When the china doll has the original china legs, check the foot. If the foot is flat soled it was probably made before 1850 because shoes with a definite heel were not made until after 1850. The china legs and arms were quite frequently broken as they banged together. China dolls have been found with bodies of cloth or kid. They may or may not have china arms and legs. Some have kid arms and legs with the fingers and toes indicated by stitching. Jeri Skinner's doll could be fairly easily dated because of the body. The cloth body, professionally made, has extra large hips which were popular in the 1860's and later dropped. Her doll has leather hands with the stitching as noted before. The china doll heads, arms and



Jeri Skinner's Doll

legs are being reproduced now and are very hard to tell from the old ones.

We know that bisque heads were made about 1840. Some of the doll history books tell of how the bisque improved and the mold numbers and company marks are sometimes listed by years. If the doll is marked with the company making it, a logical date can be arrived at by using material available in any of several books written especially for doll lovers. One of the best sources is the two volume set of Coleman's Encyclopedia. Book two of this set weighs about six pounds so it isn't one you would enjoy carrying around while looking for dolls to purchase. If the doll has her original clothes, then check a history of fashions to arrive at a date. I am far from being an authority on dolls but I find it an enjoyable hobby to read about them. There are many books written for you if you are interested.

Prices vary according to the condition, age, and the going market and how important a certain doll is to you. If it is one that says, "Take me home with you," then you will probably pay whatever it takes to own her.

The beautiful old dolls are being reproduced now. Some of the makers are doing a beautiful job but some are very poor. It is a shame that the old dolls cannot have their place in history without being reproduced. However, there are some real artists creating their own models and are producing some very nice dolls. These will be the antiques of tomorrow.

Dolls in the Lecompton museum are very interesting because they belonged to someone who knows about them and their history. One of the outstanding dolls is one given by Allie Banks. This doll was made in Germany by the Ernest Heuback Company of Koppelsdorfer Porzellan Fabrik. She has set (not sleeping) brown eyes, bisque head and lower arms. Her body is of kid leather except her lower legs which are cloth. The filling is sawdust. Her clothes were replaced in 1982 in the style worn by ladies of 1902. Her blue velvet dress was made from one worn by Maybelle S. Hall to one of Wyane Hall's award

presentations. The tiny pin at her neck was a spelling award given to Allie in grade school. The small crocheted bag at her waist is typical of ones carried by ladies at that time. Her wig is of human hair.

The beautiful, well cared for, doll whose photo is shown on page 1 is 20 inches tall. On her body are the words, "Little Beauty". Her body is kid, in good condition. She was made in Germany by the Heuback Koppledorf Company, probably in the later 1890's. She shows some loving wear but is in amazingly good shape and her original mohair wig is a beautiful brown -- in braids.



This doll is a Simon-Halbaig doll made in Germany with an approximated date of 1900. She is 18 inches tall with a bisque head on a composition body. The doll shows very little wear so she is probably one that was not played with.

The marks on the 16 inch doll given by Mae Carr are not available but this doll was probably made in Germany. She is beautiful in her replaced clothes and wig.

Another bisque doll made in Germany was given by Opal Goodrick. This doll has composition arms and legs. Opal gives a date of 1902. The Lenard and Lucille dolls, given by Doris Matney, have a date of 1921. They are dressed in red polka dots and are about 8 inches tall. They appear to be all bisque. There is a tiny bisque half doll on the shelf that you might miss, so look carefully.

Notice the topsy-turvy doll in red on the side wall of the display case. This doll has a date of 1895, probably made with love for a favorite child. The story is that slave children who want to play with a white baby just like the ones their mothers cared for, were given the topsy-turvy dolls. When the young slaves were around the white plantation owners, they displayed the black baby. When they were in the cotton fields, they reversed the skirt and played with the white one. (Americana, March/April 1982)

Composition dolls in the museum include one from Ruby Eichman. She has given a date of 1934 for this baby doll with a soft body and composition arms, legs and head with sleeping eyes. Her wig is of mohair. Composition was a combination of different materials and each company had its own "secret" formula. Mary Nelle Lasswell also has a composition doll there with a soft body. This doll could have been from the 1930's also. Baby dolls with a ma-ma crier in them were quite popular then. The Mexican doll given by Maxine Dark is of composition and is dressed in a typical Mexican outfit. The carnival doll given by Mildred Kreipe McAnaw could be chalk or composition. Those big eyes will capture your heart. Probably someone had a lot of fun throwing balls in a bucket to win that one. The celluloid doll about six inches tall dressed in feathers could also have been a doll won at a carnival. It is unusual to see a celluloid doll in such good shape.

The large doll in red without a name could have been made in recent years. Without picking it up and checking the materials, I don't know what it is made of.

The Vietnam doll given by David Dark was made in the Phillipines. The head and

body seem to be made of a molded cloth with vinyl hands. She is beautifully dressed in a green ball gown. Look for the china head dolls given by Mabel Cole Glenn, Evaline Browning, Mary Nell Lasswell and Fay and Raymond Morris. You will notice the dates of 1909, 1885, and 1888. The Morris doll was dressed in pink with black by Mother Harriett Morris. These dolls are all lovely and have been well taken care of.

The doll given by the Kreipe family has had a lot of loving. Made from a printed fabric and stuffed, the face is lovely in design. You can just see the loving it has had.

There are three baby dolls in the first room on the right as you enter the museum. The one in the old buggy is not marked but it has beautiful eyes. She is dressed in wonderful old baby clothes. It is hard to date these dolls if they are not marked unless the family has a story about them. One of the baby dolls in the cradle belonged to Sara Walter, daughter of historian Sara Walter. She says that little Sara received the doll when she was about three years old -- probably in the 50's. Look at the most unusual baby face and the closed baby fists. It is marked the Ideal Toy Co. The other doll is marked 1933 but the company name is hard to read. These two dolls look great in the cradle.

The big doll in the sleigh is about 36 inches tall. She is unmarked. Given by Doris Matney, this doll has beautiful eyes and hands. She has on a child's dress that is marvelous. The fur coat, muff and hat are very attractive.

Martha Robb

## TERRITORIAL DAY

Territorial Day is Saturday June 24th. Plan to attend this great event in our historic community. It is a good opportunity to invite your relatives and out-of-town friends to show them that the good life of small town neighborliness still exists.

## Town Meeting Well Attended

Congressman Jim Slattery held an informative town meeting at Lane University on April 28th.

## Do You Remember ?

The girls had their dolls, but what did the boys do for toys? Sara Walter and Ione Spencer decided to find out by asking male members of the historical society to recall their childhood toys. Here is what they found out.

Wally Holderman and his brother "Doc" made tractors from empty thread spools, match sticks, a piece of soap, tape and a rubber band. They planned races as these tractors walked across the floor. The Holderman brothers also utilized broom sticks for entertainment by riding them as "stick horses" or by attaching a piece of some old farm machine with a bolt and pushing it around the yard. They also had many animals to play with especially "Tootsie" a small pony they rode around the neighborhood.

Ronald Robb (the donor, along with his wife Martha, of the doll house and barn to Lane Museum) made miniature farms using string to indicate the separate fields and he made animals out of wood. Ron's favorite toy was a truck he made out of an old roller skate. He built a box to fit on top of the skate to serve as the truck body. It could be pushed or pulled.

Curt Sehon made whistles from slippery elm branches, as did Ron Robb. A branch 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter and 8 to 10 inches long was cut, bark removed by twisting, notched and bark replaced to make the whistle ready to blow.

At halloween Chuck Wright made "tictacs", a noisemaker, out of wooden spools with notched edges and rotated against a window by pulling on a string to make a racket.

Howard Duncan liked to line up bars of soap and canned vegetables as a train when small, but stopped at age 5 when he received a toy train set for Christmas.

Joe Stauffer made wagons from orange crates, played marbles, and made T sticks to roll wheels around the yard. Pat Istas played hop scotch, roll the wheel, and made sling shots to throw rocks. Francis

Kennedy's favorite toy was an iron tractor. He also played on a large boulder in the pasture which he imagined was his horse and enjoyed many adventures from his stone steed.

Norbert Hershell recalls spinning a button on a string. He also used barrels for games such as races, or to see who could roll the barrel farthest while walking on top of it. He made fishing tackle from a sapling, string, cork, nut, and hook. Norbert made slingshots from Y shaped branches, an old innertube and a leather pouch from an old shoe tongue. He also made trucks out of 2X4s, spools, nails (for axles) and match boxes, and a scooter from a roller skate and 2X4s. Norbert was very handy and made a two-seated bike from an old frame, parts of a tricycle and wagon. Often his terrier "Brownie" was his partner in riding the bike, his paws on Norbert's shoulders.

Wilber Hildebrand and his brothers and cousins got much use out of wagons and they made their own sleds from scrap lumber. Swimming, hunting & fishing occupied many long summer days and in the winter taffy pulls, popping corn and reading took care of the evenings.

In finding out about the fellows' toys from the past other information on "favorite passtimes" came to light which were not really toys. This information may appear in a future Bald Eagle.

Ione Spencer & Sara Walter

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thanks to the following volunteers who have helped in so many different ways to make the Lecompton Historical Society and Lane University Museum an exciting place to visit: Iona Spencer, Lisa Morgan, Maxine Dark, Opal Goodrick, Margaret Wulfkuhle, Dorothy Shaner, Arloene & George Simmons, Darlene & David Paslay, Elizabeth Johnson, Helen Norwood, Louise Norwood, Mae Norwood, Marguerite Bowman, Helen Hildenbrand, Sally Wright, Mae & Wally Holderman, Doris Matney, Areluia & Pat Istas, Jeri Skinner, Sara Walter, Vicki Roberts, Lavina Hanna, and Ellen & Howard Duncan.

The Lecompton Historical Society continues to be blessed with volunteers and

people willing to donate unique and elegant artifacts. Thanks to the following people for their contributions: A handmade ornate doll house and barn by Martha and Ronald Robb. A library book on the Eisenhowers by Dorothy Kapp. Leg brace that belonged to Willi Henry in 1900 by Joe Yost. Lawrence Kansas Illustrated No. 2 by Glenn Kappelman. They contain many photos and drawings of Lecompton and Lawrence. Newspaper clippings by Marie Traxler. Table scarf by Lloyd and Fay Stanbroah Talley. A donation by Dee Gibbens of Pioneer Wood Products for the map and book cases to hold Ray Gieseeman's collection. Paintings and family photos from Curtis Sehon. Wheel chair from Marlene Jolly. Antique viewmaster and Kodak camera from Kay Bradford. Flag which was used at funeral of Raymond McAdow during World War I by Dorothy McAdow Bennett.

Paul Bahnmaier

## OBITUARIES

Services for Kenneth Matney, 81, Morris, Illinois were held March 28, 1989 with burial in a Morris cemetery. He passed away March 26th. Kenneth Matney was born April 28, 1907 in Lecompton and graduated from Lecompton High School in 1927. He was a farmer and worked for Kansas Power & Light Company and the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant. He moved to Illinois 15 years ago. He enjoyed his return trips to Kansas and attending the historical society meetings. He was proud of his Kansas heritage. He married Ester Bahnmaier on February 27, 1937. She survives. Other survivors include two daughters Mary Jo Thomas and Nadine Litton; a son, Don; two sisters, Opal Hall and Lorraine Maxwell, Topeka; and 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Memorials were to the Lecompton Historical Society.

Mrs. Ruth Davidson, 64, San Pablo, California died Tuesday February 14, 1989 at Richmond Hospital. She was born February 1, 1925 in Topeka the daughter of Clarence and Gladys Renshaw Lehman. She was a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in San Pablo and had served on the St. Paul's school board. She married James Alexander Davidson, February 5, 1941 in Scranton, Kansas. He survives. Other survivors include four daughters, Sister Judeana Davidson, Mary Kay Davidson,

Frances Bonito and Margaret McCaskey; two sons James Davidson and Orren Davidson; two sisters Ethel Grant and Avis Butler; a brother Clarence Lehman; and 7 grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the St. Paul's church with burial in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery.

Services for Dorothy May Foley, 75, rural Lecompton, were held April 12. Burial was in Hubbel Hill Cemetery in Tonganoxie. She passed away April 9 at a Lawrence hospital. She was born September 9, 1913 at Tonganoxie. She had lived in the Lecompton community since 1942. She was a dietician and cook for Kansas University for 27 years. She married Joseph F. Foley on November 12, 1938 in Tonganoxie. He survives. Other survivors include a son Francis "Sonny" Foley, Lecompton; a brother Willard Holladay; two sisters, Ella Jane Jones and Velma Pearson; five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Christine J. Kraft, 65, Lecompton passed away March 24, 1989 at a Lawrence hospital. She was born July 3, 1923 in Lawrence. She moved to Lecompton at an early age and graduated from Lecompton public schools. She was employed at Josten's American Yearbook in Topeka and owned and operated Chris's Flowers in

Lecompton. She was a member of the Lecompton United Methodist Church. Her husband Roland I. Kraft died February 23, 1982. Survivors include a son Dennis and a daughter Nancy Pollard; a sister Helen Webb; and four grandchildren. Services were held at the Lecompton United Methodist Church and burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Lecompton. Christine was very proud of Lecompton and its history.

Dolph C. Simons, Sr. of Lawrence passed away February 14, 1989 at his winter home in Scottsdale, Arizona. He was born November 24, 1904 in Lawrence, the son of W.C. and Gertrude Reinke Simons. He grew up in Lawrence and graduated from Kansas University in 1925. He was Chairman of the board of directors of World Company and Lawrence Journal-World, having previously been editor and publisher of the newspaper for many years. Dolph Simons had represented Douglas County, the University of Kansas, and the State of Kansas with great distinction. He once related one of his earliest jobs in the newspaper business was selling subscriptions in Lecompton. He married Marie Nelson, February 16, 1929. She survives. Other survivors include two sons, Dolph C. Simons, Jr. and Dr. John Simons; 8 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was most supportive of the Lecompton Historical Society.

Paul Bahnmaier

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

Individual membership is \$3 per year, from December to December, while a household membership is \$5. 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 Spencer, R.R. #1, Lecompton, Kansas 66050.

\* \* \* \* \* Please Clip And Mail With Your Check \* \* \* \* \*

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# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Again, welcome to the new members who have joined since our last newsletter in March. We have 87 memorials, 388 life members, and 508 annual dues paying members for a total of 983.

New Life Members: Dr. Otto M. Spurny, Kathryn (Dennon) Spurny, Betty (Svoboda) Brune, Marvin R. Hartman, Evelyn (Merchant) Beem, Mary (Walter) Powell, Robert Dark, Irene (Kibbee) Dark, and Victorine (Barland) Vetter.

New Memorials: Albert and Dolly (Atchison) Gieseman [parents of Ray Gieseman], George M. Bahnmaier by wife Vesta Wymer and daughter Beverly Van Dyke, James W. Bibb (former State Budget Director who helped with our grant for the Lane

University Museum), Sol Matney (farm worker who in later years made his home with Mr. & Mrs. Henry Leslie), William W. Drake (who picked up and delivered mail to the train depot), and Frances (Fleenor) Drake (wife of William).

Iona Spencer

# COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE

The cookbooks have arrived and in everyone's opinion they are outstanding. They contain 270 pages of recipes, basic kitchen information and history of LeCompton. They sell for \$6 plus tax or \$8 to have them mailed to you. They are a real bargain at that price. Thanks to the cookbook committee of Mae Holderman, Arloene Simmons, and Helen Hildenbrand. Thanks also to Ross Wulfkuhle for the photography and Sara Walter for writing the history.

Paul Bahnmaier

## ORDER FOR LECOMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOKBOOKS

These books are \$6.00 each plus \$2.00 postage & handling if mailed.

Number of Cookbooks \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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