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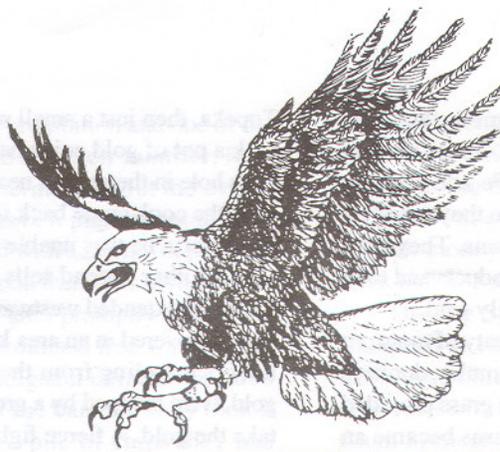
# BALD EAGLE

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# BACD

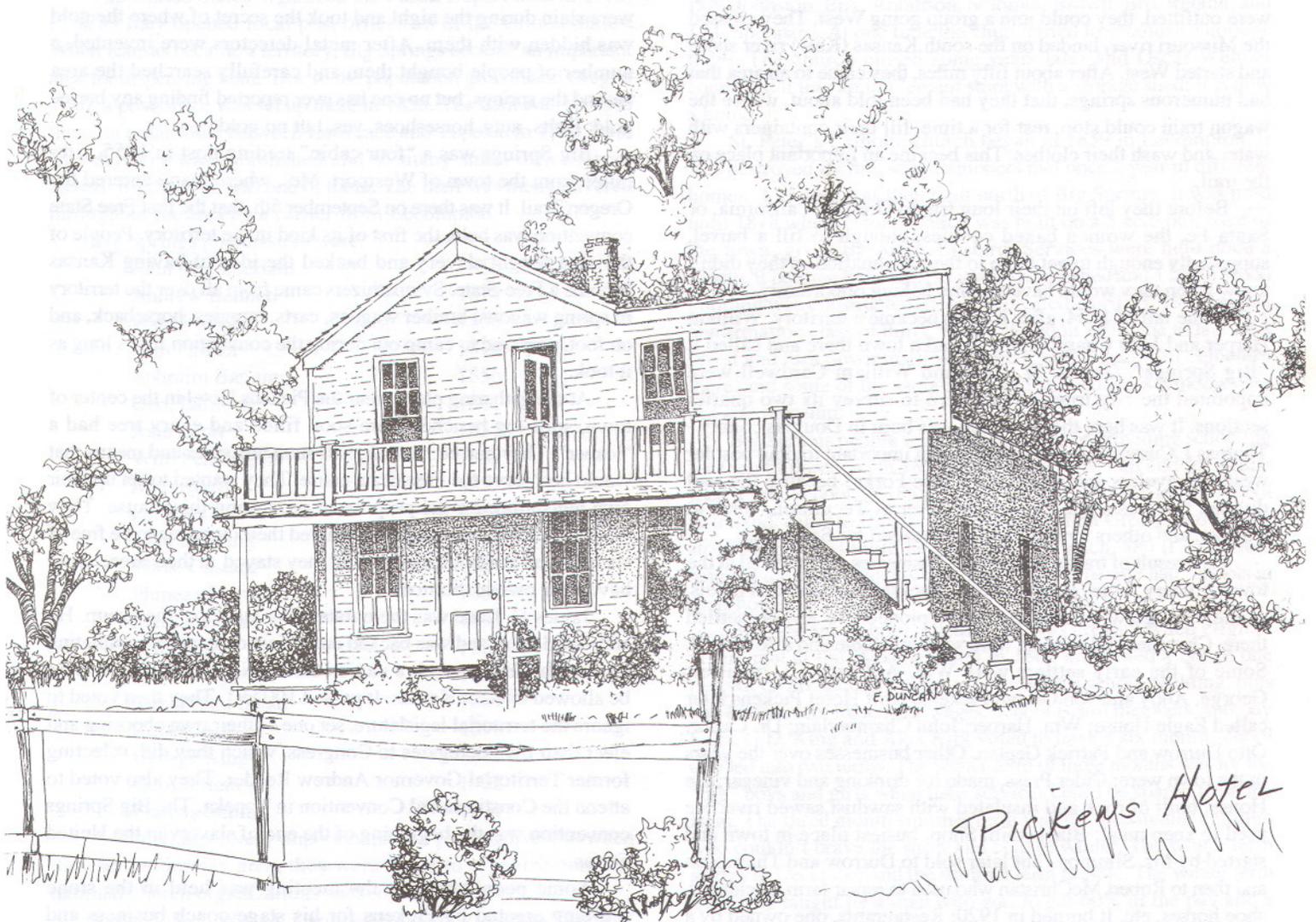


# EAOC

VOL. 19, No. 3

LECOMPTON, KANSAS

FALL, 1993



## — BIG SPRINGS —

Land of buried treasure, of never frozen springs, of boundless breathtaking landscapes, womb of prohibition and free-state politics - weird as it sounds, that description fits Big Springs, a tiny community, just about a dozen miles east of Topeka and the same number west of Lawrence. It is located in the northwestern part of Douglas County, in Lecompton township. It was so named because

of the large ever-flowing springs in the immediate vicinity. It is one of the oldest towns in the county.

Kansas in the late 1840's and early 1850's became a way of transportation for anyone going to California, Oregon or Santa Fe. Many people desired to go to Oregon to obtain farms and to develop the popular beaver hide industry, and to California for land

and to mine gold. By 1854 when Kansas became a territory, thousands of people were migrating to the West. Many traders were also involved, moving California, Santa Fe and Oregon products to the Midwest primarily Missouri, where they could be sent to the Eastern market by river boat and wagons. They then filled their wagons and packhorses with Eastern products and took them back to the West coast where they were easily sold.

Kansas was a comparatively level land with plenty of moisture and grass to meet the needs of the animals - horses, mules, donkeys or oxen - that pulled the vehicles. The lush Kansas grass provided the animals with all the food they needed. So Kansas became an important part of three routes, the Oregon Trail, California Road, and the Santa Fe Trail. A popular place for starting the trek was Westport, Missouri (now Kansas City, MO) so as soon as they were outfitted, they could join a group going West. They crossed the Missouri river, landed on the south Kansas (Kaw) river shore and started West. After about fifty miles, they came to an area that had numerous springs, that they had been told about, where the wagon train could stop, rest for a time, fill their containers with water and wash their clothes. This became an important place on the trail.

Before they left on their long trip to Oregon, California, or Santa Fe, the women baked cookies, enough to fill a barrel, supposedly enough to get them to their destination as they didn't know when they would have another baking opportunity.

In the fall of 1854, after Kansas became a territory, William Harper and John Chamberlain started a town there and called it "Big Springs". George W. Zinn and William Cardwell were appointed the city trustees and were to survey its two quarter sections. It was here the first child was born in Douglas county - Thomas J. Custard. The town became an important trading post for western travelers and was labeled "the Forks" because the trail divided there as some crossed the river at Tecumseh, some at Topeka, and others turned south and headed for Santa Fe.

As a result of traffic on the trail, businesses were started at the town, grocery shops, livery stables, blacksmith shops, and hotels, as the town grew quickly and many pioneers to Kansas settled there. Churches and schools were soon available and also helped. Some of the early settlers were Wm. A. Cardwell, minister; George, Abby and son Orland Pickens, built Hotel Pickens later called Eagle House; Wm. Harper; John Chamberlain; Dr. Carter; Otto Durrow and Patrick Geelan. Other businesses over the years in the town were: Cider Press, made for drinking and vinegar; Ice House, built of rock and insulated with sawdust, sawed river ice used to keep meat; Blacksmith Shop, busiest place in town and started by Mr. Simmons but later sold to Durrow and Thompson and then to Robert McChristan who used to repair farm machinery, shoe horses, etc. It burned in 1920; Restaurants, one owned by a Mr. Wymer in 1920 and 30's, and Ernest Mohn when the turnpike was built; Molasses Maker Wm. B. Herschell; Lumber sawed, Otto Durrow; Garage built and operated by Lawrence and Harold Slaughter, later sold to Willis Horton and Francis Connele; Cabins, two erected to use as motels by Mills Duncan and Red Phillips.

Big Springs is rampant with folk tales. One of them has three versions, but they all concern a pot of gold. Otto Durrow, the first blacksmith in town, told a story that a train of prairie schooners came across the ferry at Lecompton and reached Big Springs, just as rumor came there, that Indians had attacked and wiped out

Topeka, then just a small settlement. The wagon master and cook took a pot of gold coins belonging to members of the train, dug a deep hole in the ground near one of the springs and buried it. Years later the cook came back for it, but due to the erosion and change of scenery, he was unable to find it.

Another legend tells of the Cherry Creek miners. Kansas Territory extended westward to the Continental Divide where gold was discovered in an area known as Cherry Creek. A group of gold miners traveling from there with their wagon beds loaded with gold, were stopped by a group of men and an attempt was made to take the gold. A fierce fight followed and the "would be" robbers were repulsed. The miners fearing another onslaught, buried the gold somewhere in the nearby hills and fled. They came back later but couldn't find the gold. Another author says the gold haulers were slain during the night and took the secret of where the gold was hidden with them. After metal detectors were invented, a number of people bought them and carefully searched the area around the springs, but no one has ever reported finding any buried gold. Bolts, nuts, horseshoes, yes, but no gold.

Big Springs was a "four cabin" trading post in 1855, fifty miles from the town of Westport, Mo., where many entered the Oregon Trail. It was there on September 5th, that the first Free State convention was held, the first of its kind in the territory. People of the area fought slavery and backed the idea of having Kansas become a Free-State. Sympathizers came from all over the territory in spring wagons, lumber wagons, carts, buggies, horseback, and on foot, prepared to camp out during the convention for as long as it took.

At the gathering place, near the Pickens Hotel in the center of town, split-log benches were soon filled and every tree had a "leaner". They had come to discuss such measures and means that would best serve the Free-State cause. They wanted to set up their own legislature for the purpose of promoting their cause. They were not abolitionists, they just wanted their own area to be free of slavery, and the South, as long as they stayed in their area, could have their own institutions.

James H. Lane was the outstanding leader of the group. He addressed them and was backed enthusiastically upon completing his speech. He then made a motion that no Negro free or slave ever be allowed to enter Kansas. It passed 100 to 1. They then voted to ignore the territorial legislature, set one of their own choosing and elect their own delegates to Congress, which they did, selecting former Territorial Governor Andrew Reeder. They also voted to attend the Constitutional Convention in Topeka. The Big Springs convention was the beginning of the end of slavery in the United States.

Some people believe the meeting was held in the stone building erected by Pickens for his stage coach business and adjacent to his hotel, and that the convention convened there. There is no record of it. The stable was in constant use because it was on the three western trails. It is an attractive stone building and in recent years was restored, hoping to make it a museum. The Pickens Hotel is long gone.

It is also believed that the nucleus of the Free-State party born in Big Springs, included many of the same vigorous leaders who later founded the New Republican party and were closely linked to it all their lives.

Big Springs was also a promoter of prohibition and one of the first communities in the Territory to do so. Their minister, Rev. Wm. A. Cardwell, preached frequent sermons about the evil of liquor. The community was eager to have a pharmacist in their community, so when a Dr. Carter arrived with a satchel of pills and started a drug store, he was welcomed. Soon thereafter a Missourian delivered three barrels of whiskey and Carter promptly opened the first saloon there. When the druggist promised free whiskey the following Saturday night, a group of indignant citizens appeared at his establishment and seized one of the barrels. They took it outside, opened it, and poured in on a pile of chips they had prepared, and set it on fire and destroyed the other two also. This caused the doctor to leave and there was no saloon.

The United States organized the Postal Department in 1775. In 1789 they opened local post offices all of the United States. When Kansas became a territory, Big Springs became an important area for dispensing mail. Due to the population growth and Oregon Trail, a post office was set up there in 1855. The mail was brought there on a star route between Lawrence and Topeka. In 1896, rural free delivery was established and so many small offices were closed. Big Springs was one of them. The mail was then delivered throughout the area by a carrier from Lecompton.

Big Springs postmasters were:

John Chamberlain	1855
Andrew Bennett	1874
Wm. Vaughn	1856
Sam Painter	1876
Ephraim Banning	1856
Geo. Lambert	1881
John Scott	1857
Wm. Pennington	1885
John Reeve	1859
Patrick Geelan	1888
John Banning	1861
Thos. Custard	1889
Phineas Martin	1865
Patrick Geelan	1893
Wm. Kirby	1866
Dan Geelan	1894
Mrs. Laura Swan	1867
Robert Adams	1898
George King	1869
Geo. Jeffers	1902
Francis Smith	1871

A church was a very important part of pioneer lives, so when they settled into an area, they were eager to organize one, and national church organizations backed their efforts.

In 1855, Rev. Wm. A. Cardwell was sent to Kansas Territory by the United Brethren church. He chose to go to Big Springs as there was considerable civic strife due to the slavery question. The family settled into a shack, and Rev. Cardwell canvassed the community to find out how interested they would be in establishing a church. He preached his first sermon June 10, 1855 in Ephraim Banning's log house.

In 1856 a church was organized with 13 members and soon a medium-sized rock building was built. The seats were rough trestles with a single strip at the proper height for a back. The pulpit was an unpainted desk, about 5 feet by 5 feet by 3 feet. The building

was used as both a church and a school. In 1892 it burned and was replaced in 1898 when a former church at Whiting, Kansas was moved to Big Springs in sections and reassembled.

In 1992, a fund for a new church was started and by 1932 enough money had been accumulated to build a large, modern brick building and parsonage, which was dedicated May 29, 1932.

The Big Springs Christian church was organized by Elder Campbell in 1859. He served as pastor from 1863-1869. This was the oldest Christian church in the state. In 1870 a church was constructed by a Mr. Anderson with the help of Frank, Oliver and Clum Spencer.

They had a membership of 200 with Frank Spencer as Elder. The church was served by the following ministers: Pardue Britton, D.N. Johnston, Bro.. Robinson, Solomon Brown, Bro. Ireland, and J.M. Sheppard. At one time the church tried to establish a college there. The church closed some years later and Oscar Webber converted it into an implement store with a storage shed; it is now a home.

St. Peter's Catholic church began in 1859 in Lecompton. It was destroyed by fire, so parishioners met once a year in different homes. A church was then built north of Big Springs. It was used until 1878 when a stone church was built on a 5 acre plot west of the town, given by Amos Custard. Services were held once a month. It became too small, so it was demolished and a larger wood building was constructed. It was dedicated April 23, 1905, with a confirmation class of thirty. It was closed in 1970 due to lack of a priest and torn down in 1984. There is still a beautiful cemetery there, and some of the sacraments and stained glass windows are in Lane museum.

Big Springs people were very desirous of providing schooling for their children, so in 1854 they built a town hall and for a time used it for a school. In 1855, Patrick Geelan, who had taught school in Ireland, came to Big Springs. When the first Greenwood Valley stone school was built, he went there to teach, and it's possible some of the local students went along. Some people had schools in their homes.

Big Springs School, District 72, was created when eligible voters met at the Pickens Hotel in 1869 and voted a tax of one percent on all taxable property, to provide a school building, plus one-half percent for teacher wages. School Board members Anthony Sells, G.D. King and Alex Kirk voted to have a six month school divided into two terms. The winter term of three months was for the "big" boys and girls when their services could be spared from the farm. The three month summer term was for the smaller children who couldn't brave the snow and cold of winter. The winter term started in December and the summer term in June. The winter term was to be taught by a man who was to get 60% of the pay and a woman teacher for smaller children, 40%. The first man teacher received \$50 a month.

The school and church (U.B.) signed an agreement to let the church be used for school during the week. The school was to make certain changes in the building and pay for them. It was located on US highway 40 across from the present church, and this building burned October 29, 1892. The church then held services in the Greenwood Valley school house (the first one) behind the Kellogg place.

In 1878 the district bought two acres of land from Abby Pickens and put up a frame building. Harley Spencer said at one-time there were 65 students attending school there. Sophia Damm, a former student, described the building as having a front door that opened directly into the school room. Against the wall were benches on which dinner buckets rested, with space underneath for overshoes and hooks in the wall above for coats and hats. The far wall was one step high and the teacher's desk and the organ was on it. The blackboard extended around the room and was made by simply painting it with black paint. Double seats of walnut were used for several years, but later replaced with single ones.

Gypsies often traveled the road past the building. As there was a well nearby, they often stopped and washed their clothes and hung them on the school's fence to dry. Occasionally they tried to take the lunch buckets from the children and pull the shades.

In 1926 the school was replaced by a one-room brick and stone building just east of the town's business section at a cost of only \$7,000. It had a basement used for eating lunches and some play. In 1932 it became famous for having the largest number of students in a one teacher school in Kansas. The teacher, Mrs. Mildred Brown, had 53 students, 23 boys and 30 girls. In the year 1949-50 the room was converted into two rooms and two teachers were hired. In the late 1950's the State Education department began demanding that rural and small town schools unite with other schools, forming new districts. Big Springs school was terminated in 1963 and united with the Shawnee Heights school district in Tecumseh.

A tragedy occurred in the community in 1894. The Geelan family and the Hill family were feuding. One day Geelan (postmaster) received a threatening letter urging him to leave town. The letter was signed by "The White Caps", a secret organization.

Mr. Geelan upon seeing Fred Hill, a young man, out in the street, accused him of writing the letter, and a furious argument ensued. Fred left the area and went home to get a rifle to go squirrel hunting. As he passed Geelan's store, Geelan came out with a revolver. An argument erupted and both raised their guns and fired. Geelan was shot through the head and died instantly. Some said Fred shot first, some said Geelan did. Fred was not hurt and immediately went to Lawrence to give himself up. An investigation was done by the law and he was given a light sentence.

In 1857 Isaac Newton Roberts and other Big Springs men organized a Masonic Lodge, a "Dispensation" Big Springs Lodge U.D., and a charter granted October 10, that year under the name of Shawnee Lodge No. 9. It increased in membership and met regularly there until 1869 when it was no longer active.

The Lecompton Lodge had met in Constitution Hall for years, but it was sold and the buyers gave it to the State Historical Society, as it was an important and historic building and needed to be preserved. The Lodge had to find new quarters so they decided in 1987 to move to the Big Springs school building to meet there.

### Big Springs Militia

When the Civil War erupted in 1861, five years after the slave convention had been held in Big Springs, men of the town formed their own militia to fight for the Union. Its three officers and 28 privates became Company F, 2nd Regiment of the Kansas State Militia. It was composed of Robert Campbell, D.A. Cardwell, T.H.

Clark, J.A. Davidson, Henry Dummer, George Duncan, William Duncan, James Eagle, George and Henry Fix, J.H. Glenn, J.H. Hall, L.H. Hilligoss, J. Howell, Thomas Johnson, Theodore Kreipe, J. Miller, T. Murray, J.C. Niccum, T. Prather, A.S. and J. Roberts, David Rake, Oliver Spencer, W. Thomas Thompson and Wallace True.

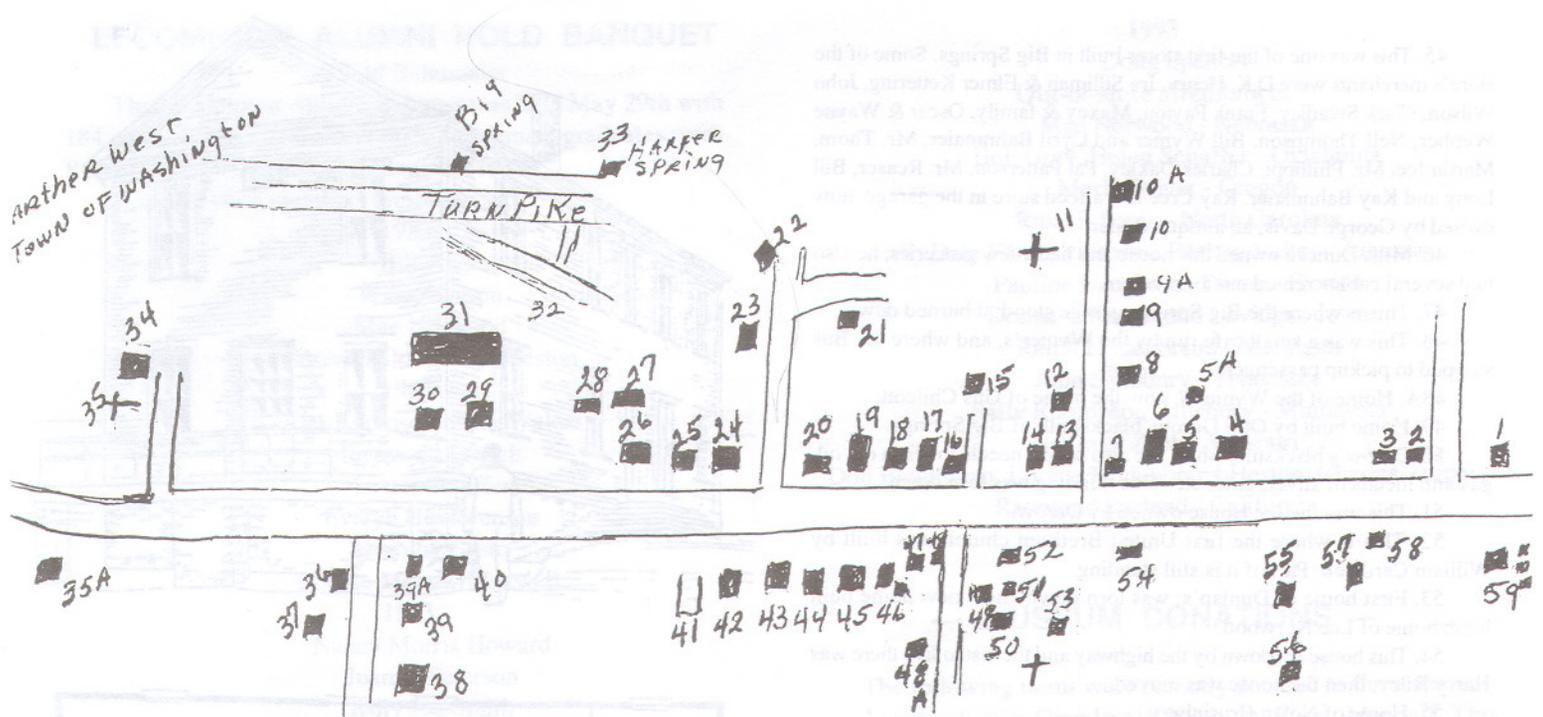
Their fighting experience was limited. They were called into Lawrence in 1863, the day after Quantrill's raid, and they fought in the Battle of the Blue in 1864. Three Big Springs militiamen were killed, David Rake, James Eagle and Robert Campbell. Six were captured, George and Henry Fix, 2nd Lt. P.H. Geelan, George Duncan, J. Hawk Glenn and Wallace True; many horses were killed. Although a mounted Company, they had neglected to teach their horses to lie down on the ground at the sound of a certain bugle call to save themselves from injury. The three officers who headed this militia were Capt. James Thompson, Lt. James Morarity, and Lt. P.H. Geelan.

The Santa Fe railroad bypassed Big Springs in the 1890's and located close to the Kansas river. That lost the opportunity to attract new business, as at the time only horse-drawn vehicles were available to transport materials and produce. After 1915, when cars and trucks became available, town trade was lost and many discontinued their business.

So today, 1993, Big Springs is a quiet, friendly community with six active businesses, a car repair garage, motorcycle shop, an orthopedic supply company, Blue Grass Motor Mart, Spencer's store and David Antiques. The former school house is used for public meetings and a baseball diamond is available. Big Springs is proud of its "past", but also proud of its "present".

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-- BIG SPRINGS SITES --

1. Fred Hartman said there used to be a hotel here and only heard it called Big Springs Hotel; short lived, then torn down.
2. Home of Errol Joe Kampschroeder.
3. Kampschroeder's Machine Shop.
4. House moved in by Bill Adams of Topeka.
5. Big Springs School District #72.
- 5A. Big Springs Fire department, built in 1989.
6. Big Springs Fair building, where the Douglas county Agriculture and Fair Assoc. was held from the early 1920's.
7. New house built by Gus and Ethel Hartman.
8. Old home of Gus and Ethel Hartman.
9. D.K. Henry ran a creamery here.
- 9A. Home built by Marvin Kahle.
10. Home built by Homer Fickle.
- 10A. First cheese factory run by John Austin.
11. East View Cemetery.
12. Home of Jake Plants.
13. United Brethren church parsonage.
14. United Brethren church, now the United Methodist church.
15. Randall Cree's car repair shop and home.
16. Home built by Alvy Wilson; a descendant, Dianne Grandstaff, still lives here.
17. Wilson Store, built by Alvy Wilson. Store merchants were Charles, Elmer and Virgil Wilson, Bob Adams, Mr. Jeffers, Nell Thompson, Bert Reynolds, Martin Ice, Charles Oakley. Repair shop, Doug Fairchild and Machine shop, Max Bahnmaier.
18. Home of Cy Boursaw.
19. Old Pickens Hotel stood in early days, run by George & Abby Pickens and son, Orlando; later bought by Silas Ebersole in 1902, parents of Carrie Cree. She remembers the seven bedrooms well. Hotel was torn down and another house built here.
20. Stone delivery stable built in 1855; still stands today.
21. Home built by Don Schwanke.
22. Home built by Clyde Schwanke.
23. Home built by Al Schwanke.

24. Store built by Ray Cree in 1948; sold groceries, feed and gas; owners Ben Emery, Ralph & Ruby Hartford, Bud Keating and Vernon Spencer.
25. Home built by Murphys, now Gary Slater's home.
26. The old Christian church.
27. Motorcycle shop ran by Randy Lester.
28. Home built by Bill Burd.
29. Home of Bud and Jessie Rake.
30. Old house; some of the owners were Ed Herschell, Wright, Elmer Trowbridge; now owned by Bud Newell.
31. New building owned by Bud Newell & Associates. It is an orthopedic supply outlet and supplies plastic joints. Also known as Serenata Farm where Arabian horses are raised.
32. Oregon Trail wagon ruts made by travelers who made their way down to the Big Spring and Harper Spring.
33. Harper Spring.
34. St. Peters Catholic church once stood here, but is now torn down.
35. St. Peters Catholic Cemetery, south of the church.
36. This is where the old Custard home was, which is not visible today.
37. Home of Francis Kennedy.
38. Home built by Mr. Peckham; Wm. & Alice Horton lived here awhile.
39. Home of Melvin Walter and his mother, Myrtle Stember.
40. Old Bahnmaier home; Cyril & Ethel Bahnmaier lived here awhile.
41. This shell of a rock building was to be a dance hall built by Gilbert Henry. The building was never finished. He once had a store and gas station here, then it was a dance hall. He tore it down to build the new one.
42. Home built by Gilbert Henry. This is where Ernie Mohn had his restaurant while they were building the turnpike; Pauline Godfrey made the pies.
43. Where Oscar Webber ran a store and also lived.
44. Home of Bill Brown, now owned by Dena Johnson.

(Continued on the next page)

45. This was one of the first stores built in Big Springs. Some of the store's merchants were D.K. Henry, Ira Silliman & Elmer Kettering, John Wilson, Clark Swadley, Frank Payton, Maxey & family, Oscar & Wayne Webber, Nell Thompson, Bill Wymer and Cyril Bahnmaier, Mr. Thom, Martin Ice, Mr. Phillippi, Charles Oakley, Pat Patterson, Mr. Reaser, Bill Long and Kay Bahnmaier. Ray Cree had a feed store in the garage, now owned by George Davis, an antique dealer.

46. Mills Duncan owned this house and had a few groceries; he also had several cabins rented out to travelers.

47. This is where the Big Springs garage stood; it burned down.

48. This was a small cafe run by the Wymer's, and where the Bus stopped to pickup passengers.

48A. Home of the Wymer's, now the home of Gus Chilcott.

49. Home built by Otto Durow, blacksmith of Big Springs.

50. Durow's blacksmith shop. He also used a needle to witch out oil, gas and metals of silver, gold, etc. This building was torn down.

51. This was the Ice House owned by Durow.

52. This is where the first United Brethren church was built by William Cardwell. Part of it is still standing.

53. First home of Dunlap's; was torn down and a new home built here; home of Lee Norwood.

54. This house set down by the highway and the last to live there was Harry Riley; then the house was moved.

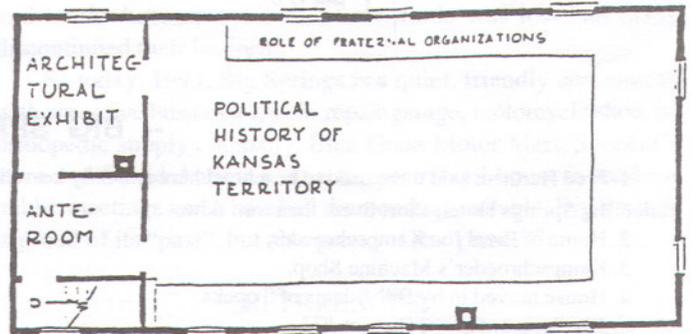
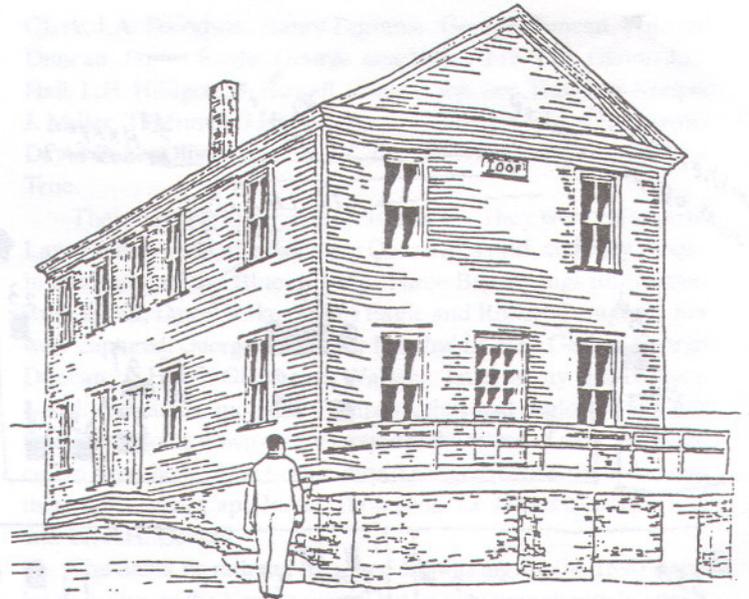
55. Home of Nolan Crusinbery.

56. Trailer home moved in here.

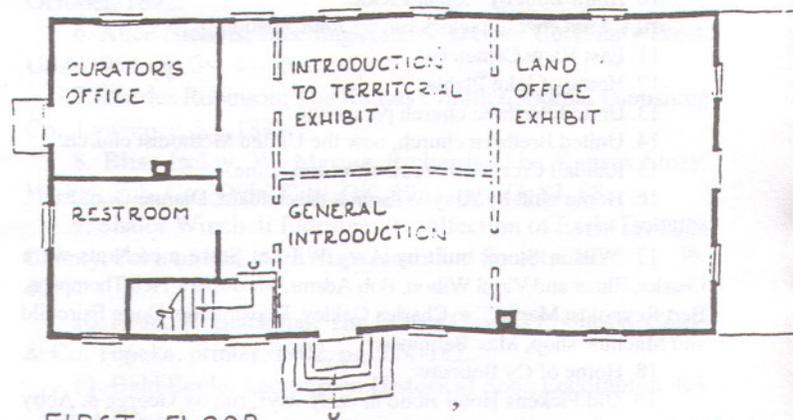
57. Home of Sam Wise, now occupied by Franklin Tuttle.

58. Vegetable market, owned by Tuttle where he sold produce.

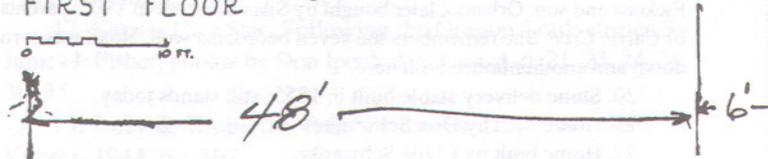
59. This is where a store and cabins for travelers were, run by Red Phillips; last owners were Lawrence & Eva Cheek. East of this building a new home was built by Esther Wulkuhle.



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



## LATEST WORD ON CONSTITUTION HALL

By Paul Bahnmaier

The following is a construction schedule and design for Constitution Hall, as presented by officials of the State Historical Society before a Kansas Legislative committee in Lecompton, July 20th.

### Building Preservation Schedule

Preliminary design	Oct 93 - Dec 93
Construction documents	Jan 94 - Mar 94
Bidding process	Apr 94
Construction process	May 94 - Sep 94

### Interpretation Schedule

Research & script writing	Sep 93 - Mar 94
Draft exhibit script	Apr 94
Final exhibit script	May 94
Exhibit design*	Jun 94 - Sep 94
Exhibit construction*	Oct 94 - Jan 95
Exhibit installation*	Feb 95

\* Exhibit production schedule extended because of previous exhibit commitments at the Kansas Museum of History.

### Opening Schedule

Dependent upon employment of Historic Sites Realignment Plan

# LECOMPTON ALUMNI HOLD BANQUET

By Paul Bahnmaier

The Lecompton Alumni Banquet was held May 29th with 184 in attendance. The oldest male and female graduates were Robert Gray (1930) and Ella Stanwix (1917).

Honored class members present were:

1933

- Bill Anderson
- Willis Horton
- Mae Norwood
- Lorene Hildenbrand Heston

1943

- Alta Kampschroeder Walter
- Raymond French
- Lester Stauffer
- Evelyn Houk Jensen
- Dorothy Casto
- Lorene Matney Maxwell.

1953

- Nancy Morris Howard
- Juanita Peterson
- Billy Joe Smith
- Donna Levings Hildenbrand
- Sally Salisbury Thompson
- Charles Turner
- Dale Hamlin
- Johnny Salisbury.

1963

- Gary Stauffer
- Mary Houk Smith.

1993

Doug Spencer

Out-of-state attendance:

- Mae Norwood - Nebraska
- Bob Gray, Helen Schaffer - Oklahoma
- Merle Stover - Oregon
- Russell Foree - North Carolina
- Dale Foree, Victorine Barlow Velter - Arizona
- Pauline Baughman Dione - Florida
- Donna Hildenbrand Levings - Iowa
- Ralph Hildenbrand - Michigan
- John Salisbury - Tennessee
- Sally Rhompson Salisbury - Minnesota
- Elmer Zeeb - Missouri
- Don Baughman, Lorene Hildenbrand Heston, Charles Turner, Rayomnd Barland - California

## — MUSEUM DONATIONS —

The following items were recently donated to the museum:

1. A book "On Grandma's Porch, by Kerry Mendell. This book is about the experiences of three McClanahan sisters, Fae, Helen and Roberta, as young children.
2. Mary and C.C. Mathews Estate; Lecompton high school, 4-H, Mathews' Hardware and other memorabilia.
3. Minnie and Don McAfee, a board stamped Krieder Lumber Yard, Lecompton, Kansas, and an ammunition box.
4. Glass bowl from Dr. Otto and Kathryn Spurney.
5. Table from Governor Stanton Home, made by Gem Rogers and given by Lorraine Owens.

..... Please Clip and Mail With Your Check .....

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.

Dues are \$4 per year for individual membership and \$6 for a couple's membership. The dues 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 Spencer, 1828 E. 100 Road, Lecompton, KS 66050.

- \$4 Annual Individual Membership
- \$6 Annual Couple's Membership
- \$50 Individual Life or Memorial Membership
- Other Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## -- OBITUARIES --

**David V. Noe** died June 17, 1993. He was born March 30, 1909, the son of A.G. and Nettie Geeland Noe. He was a farmer and insurance agent. He served 32 years on the Douglas County Stabilization and Conservation Committee and wrote a column for the Lawrence Journal-World. He married Margaret Baughman in 1931. Survivors include his wife, a daughter, Kay Muckenthaler, a son Keith, 3 sisters, Hazel Scheer, Magdalena Husted and Gladys Hammer; five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

**Benneson H. Bisel** died July 10, 1993. He was born January 10, 1911, the son of Harry and Bertha Amanda Thrush Bisel. He married Velma Mae Sutter in 1932; she died in 1983. He married Irma Maxine Glenn in 1990. He operated a dairy farm, nursing home and a mobile home sales business. Survivors include two stepsons, Melvin and David Dark, a daughter, Lola McCracken, two stepdaughters, Sherri Neill and Barbara Haney; five brothers, Grant, Marvin, Dale, David and Ralph; six sisters, Alma Sunstron, Bertha Golden, Hazel Luthi and Goldie Gurtrer, three grandchildren and eight step grandchildren.

**Corina F. Vausbinder** died July 14, 1993. She was born November 21, 1898, the daughter of Edward and Jenny Greene Harris. She married Charles H. Vausbinder in 1921 and was employed by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Crosby Brothers, Palace Clothing store and Band Box cleaners, all in Topeka. Survivors include a daughter, Ann Lasswell, 2 sons, Charles and John. She attended our meetings as long as her health permitted.

**Lee Winter Gress** died July 1, 1993 in Medicine Lodge, Ks. She was born July 22, 1897 in Douglas county, the daughter of Milton and Louis Heise Winter. She married Herb Gress in 1921. Survivors include two daughters, Georgi Dawson and Ruth Ann Railsback. She was an early supporter of the Lecompton Historical Society.

**J.D. McCall** died May 26, 1993 at Charlotte, North Carolina. He was born June 14, 1898 at Lecompton, the son of Alexander and Armanda Nickell McCall. He was a chief accountant for the U.S. Postal Service. He married Eula Clegg. She preceded him in death as did a son, J. Darryl McCall. Survivors include a sister, Kathryn Robson.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### Life members:

**Dr. Richard J. Brown**  
**William "Willie" Turner**  
**C.L. "Red" Turner**  
**Willa C. Norwood (Cline)**  
**James R. "Bud" Banks**  
by daughter Rhonda Banks  
**Delmar Barland**  
**Leroy Barland**  
by sister Rosamond Barland  
**Jerry Barland**  
**Dean L. Chiles**  
**Loena Spena**

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President - Paul Bahnmaier

Secretary - Marie Traxler

Treasurer - Alice Clare (Sally) Wright

Typesetter & Editor - Chuck Wright

Historical Writer - Sara Walter

Genealogical Writer - Iona Spencer

Illustrator - Ellen Duncan

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