

Speaking of Kansas

Washburn Center for Kansas Studies



Fall 2008

Spring Semester 2009 Offerings:

PO 107A, State and Local Government MWF 10:00–10:50 Loran Smith

PO 307, Internship, State and Local Government Loran Smith

PO 309A, Kansas Legislative Experience TR 3:00–4:15 Bob Beatty

GG 304A, Geography of Kansas MW 1:00–2:15 Tom Schmiedeler

GL 103A, Historical Geology (with Kansas emphasis) M 5:30–8:00 Will Gilliland

Tom Schmiedeler, Director
785-231-1010-1559
tom.schmiedeler@washburn.edu

Sharon Ashworth, Biology
Deborah Altus, Human Services
Tom Averill, English
Bob Beatty, Political Science
Patti Bender, Health
Roy Bird, KS State Library
Marcia Cebulski, Playwright
Jeannie Chinn, KSHS
Marilyn Cott, KHC
Charles Cranston, Mass Media
Virgil Dean, KSHS
Paul Fecteau, English
David Feinmark, Mabee Library
Jessie Fillerup, Music
William Gilliland, Geology
Rachel Goossen, History
Chris Hamilton, Political Science
Robert Hull, Finance
Reinhild Janzen, Art
Jim Kelly, KTWU
David Kendall, KTWU
Robert Lawson, English
Gabrielle Lunte, Modern Languages
Bruce Mactavish, History
Judith McConnell-Farmer, Education
Marguerite Perret, Art
Mark Peterson, Political Science
J. Karen Ray, English
Leslie Reynard, Communication
William Roach, Business
Betsy Kanabe Roe, Art
Bradley Siebert, English
Sarah Smarsh, English
Loran Smith, Political Science
Margaret Stewart, English
Sara Tucker, History
William Wagnon, History
Marydorsej Wanless, Art
Margaret Wood, Soc./Anthropology
Carol Yoho, Art

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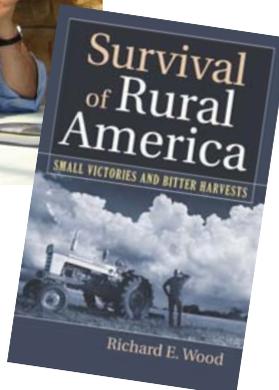
Kansas Day 2009 Presentation

The Center for Kansas Studies will sponsor its annual Kansas Day presentation on Friday, January 30, 2009, in room 208, Henderson Hall, on the Washburn campus, Topeka. The speaker will be **Richard Wood**, author of **Survival of Rural America: Small Victories and Bitter Harvests** published recently by the University Press of Kansas. Wood's book is of interest to Kansans because, through a series of community profiles, it offers

perspectives on a variety of issues faced by people in small Kansas towns. The presentation is free and open to the public. A review of Wood's book written by fellow and Kansas Studies director, Tom Schmiedeler is available at: http://www.kshs.org/publicat/history/2008autumn_schmiedeler.pdf



left, **Richard E. Wood** speaks in Lucas, Kansas



Gubernatorial Interview Series continues

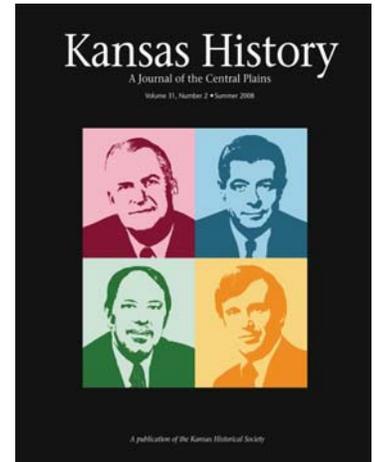
—Virgil Dean, Kansas State Historical Society

From the right-to-work and school district unification to the right to life and capital punishment; from the civil rights movement, including the ERA (Equal Right Amendment), to rural depopulation, health care, and senior citizens; from the severance tax, nuclear energy, and the environment, to liquor by the drink and legalized gambling (casinos, state lottery, and parimutual betting), the last half century, no less than the first (1854-1904), has been an important, dynamic period in Kansas history. In one way or another, state government has been intimately involved in all of these issues and more, and one could argue that Kansas really has been—or could be studied as—“America in microcosm,” as historian Carl Becker described the Sunflower State in 1910. Unlike the earlier period, however, the state's more recent past has suffered from a dearth of scholarly attention. Some good beginnings have been made, but much remains to be done.

With this in mind, *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* launched a short series of articles, edited by Professor Bob Beatty of Washburn's political science department, based on his interviews with the state's surviving governors. The first, former **Governor John Anderson Jr.**, appeared in the winter 2007-08 issue (www.kshs.org/publicat/history/2007winter.htm), and the second, a conversation with former

Governor William H. Avery, came out in the spring of this year (www.kshs.org/publicat/history/2008spring.htm). The third features **John Carlin**, who served as governor of Kansas from 1979-1987. “Be willing to take some risks to make things happen’: A Conversation with Former Governor John Carlin” is part of a special summer, 2008, issue called “Governing Kansas, 1966 to 1986” (www.kshs.org/publicat/history/2008summer.htm), which also includes articles on governors **Robert B. Docking** and **Robert F. Bennett**.

(Additional, supporting materials, such as transcripts and video clips, are available on KansasMemory.org.) *Kansas History* hopes the series and this special issue will stimulate discussion and perhaps encourage new scholarship focusing on social, economic, and political developments in Kansas during the decades since World War II.



Chris Hamilton of Washburn's political science department has finished (and copyrighted) his historical fiction novel, *The House Rules: When We Are At War, and At War with Ourselves*. It is currently being reviewed by one publisher and query letters are being sent out to literary agents. The novel is based on a true story of Concordia, Kansas during the Vietnam War and social revolution years of the late 1960s. The centerpiece is Terry Householter, who was the fastest high school sprinter in the U.S. in 1967. Terry died in Vietnam at age 20 as a United States Marine, earning the Bronze Star. Terry was a catalytic figure in the social revolution among young people in the town, and he had the same heroic effect on his Marine unit in Vietnam. It is a socio-political novel of Kansas and its peoples, and of war when facing dire times. Chris intends it to be published by the 40th anniversary of Terry's death, June 23, 2009. “It took nearly 40 years to get past all these events and find the voice to write it that was up to the job of telling a truly incredible tale.” It is based on many interviews. For those interested in the story about Terry, a website about the life, achievements and influence of Terry is maintained by his Marine colleagues, and former teammates and competitors at www.facesonthewall.com/Faces_On_The_Wall/Terry_Householter/terry_householter.htm

Mabee Library News

It is with great excitement that I announce that our new library catalog interface is now up and running. Encore is a single-search box that provides the researcher with a greatly improved and intuitive catalog experience. It is available both from the homepage of Mabee Library (www.washburn.edu/mabee) and at <http://encore.topekalibraries.info>

In the next few weeks we will make some adjustments and continued improvements to our use of Encore, but tonight I want to give special thanks to

Martin Wisneski of the School of Law Library for his leadership in the Encore project. In addition, thanks are also due to Farhan Makda and Tammy Baker of Mabee Library, and Shawn Geil from ISS, for their work on getting us to this point.

Please feel free to share your thoughts about our new interface with me or any member of the Library staff.

— Alan Bearman, Interim Dean of Libraries

The Washburn University Libraries extensively collects materials relating to the State of Kansas and the Great Plains in support of the Center. The current collection covers all disciplines, time-frames and materials formats to assist teaching, learning and scholarship regarding our State. We invite everyone interested in the history, people, culture and natural environment of the State of Kansas to browse and checkout materials of interest.

SELECTED NEW LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS in support of the CENTER FOR KANSAS STUDIES September, 2008

Compact Guide to Kansas Birds by Ted T. Cable, Scott Seltman, and Krista Kagume. Lone Pine Publishers. 2007.

Continuous Water-quality Monitoring of Streams in Johnson County, Kansas, 2002-2006 by Teresa J. Rasmussen, Casey J. Lee, and Andrew C. Ziegler. U.S. Geological Survey. 2008.

Diabetes Management in Kansas Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers [thesis] by Britt N. Short. Washburn University. 2007.

Ducks Across the Moon: Life on Eight Acres in the Flint Hills by Ken Ohm. Leathers Publishing. 2008.

Evolution, Education & Ecology: Spotlight on Kansas [videorecording] by Dave Kendall. KTWU. 2001.

Governance of Western Public Lands: Mapping its Present and Future by Martin Nie. University Press of Kansas. 2008.

Great Plains During World War II by R. Douglas Hurt. University of Nebraska Press. 2008.

Hollywood's West: The American Frontier in Film, Television, and History edited by Peter C. Rollins and John E. O'Connor. University Press of Kentucky. 2005.

Hydrologic Droughts in Kansas: Are They Becoming Worse? by James E. Putnam. U.S. Geological Survey. 2008.

Prisoners of War in Kansas, 1943-1946 by Lowell A. May and Mark P. Schock. KS Publishing. 2007.

Sedimentation and Occurrence and Trends of Selected Nutrients, other Chemical Constituents and Diatoms in Bottom Sediment, Fall River Lake, Southeast Kansas, 1948-2006 by Kyle E. Juracek. U.S. Geological Survey. 2008.

Seeding Civil War: Kansas in the National News, 1854-1858 by Craig Miner. University Press of Kansas. 2008.

Survival of Rural America: Small Victories and Bitter Harvests by Richard E. Wood. University Press of Kansas. 2008.

Water Quality on the Prairie Band Potawatomi Reservation, Northeastern Kansas, June 1996 through August 2006 by Heather C. Ross Schmidt, Heidi E. Mehl, and Larry M. Pope. U.S. Geological Survey. 2007.

— David Feimark, Mabee Library

Views from a River Road

Among the many roads that traverse the Topeka to Lawrence corridor, one stands out as the road not taken. Known locally as the Scenic River Road, its geography evolved in cadence with the meandering Kaw, sometimes clinging to the safety of the side of the bluffs, and at other times, as if to avoid taunting the river by its presence, retreating to the edge of the broad floodplain. Its place in the Valley has also been measured to a degree by the winding wagon roads that descended the watersheds of the adjacent upland separating the Kaw Valley from the Wakarusa to the south. The Road gradually grew to link these random, north-south routes, thereby providing access to the various farms that had sprouted on the fertile valley bottom land. Although the Road has lost some of its wrinkles over the years, it has never risen above the stature of a rural service road within the Valley with limited reach beyond. As for the multiple watershed routes today, they simply belong with another era. Several have been abandoned; they narrow into overgrown lanes and then vanish into the forest.

Anyone who has driven the River Road has been impressed with its scenic views in part because there is so much variety to the nature and so many perspectives from which it can be observed. In this essay I interpret several views that offer not only aesthetic perspectives of some of the natural features along the River Road, but also those that convey a sense of the cultural history that has shaped the valley. Let's begin traveling on the Road east of Topeka. Here it is officially SE 2nd Street but quickly becomes N 2190 Road after climbing to a lofty perch on the side of the bluffs. Here the river has meandered smack into the bluffs leaving no room for the



Figure 1

by Tom Schmiedeler,
Geography

Road. A break in the trees lining the Road offers us a clear—and scenic—late fall view of the river below (Figure 1). We see a typical fluvial morphological sequence of “cut bank” erosion on the outside of a meander and “point bar” deposition on the inside. The lack of vegetation at the cut bank and the point bar suggests that the stream channel position is in a state of flux as it tries to maintain equilibrium among the variables—geometry,

load and discharge—that it has at any given time.

Our next view is of the Road in the heart of the woods that covers the bluff slope (Figure 2). As members of the eastern oak-hickory forest complex found along major rivers in eastern Kansas, the trees here are in their natural habitat but on the adjacent uplands beginning at the top of the bluffs, they have taken over the native prairie grasslands in many areas. With settlement came fire suppression and the propensity of saplings to survive, especially those of the Eastern red cedar, the state's only true evergreen. The larger species along the Road here are burr oaks and

red oaks accompanied by walnut, ash, hickory and hackberry with an occasional Osage orange (hedge), hornbeam and American elm. Chestnut oaks are more common on the thin soils overlying the bluff cap rock, whereas giant cottonwoods and sycamores line the river banks far be-



Figure 2

Views from a River Road

low (Figure 3).

One of the highlights of traveling slowly through the forested segment of the River Road is the wildlife one frequently encounters. There are deer, of course, often seen coming up the slopes from the river and wild turkey in the mixed forest grassland openings. Foxes and woodchucks can also be seen occasionally from the Road, as can barred owls, which will hunt during daylight hours for just about any small mammal (rodents are favorites), along with some birds (a chorus of cawing crows is often a good indicator of the presence of a barred owl in the forest). Honking geese can be heard, too, from the river or flying above (Figure 4). And in winter, the Kaw becomes



Figure 3

when stock holders and directors of the Lawrence and Topeka Railway Company met on December 12, 1868, to authorize construction of a line between the two cities. The next year, engineers, under the direction of J.B. Whitaker, surveyed a route that, in order to reduce costs of grading and bridge construction, generally held fast to the floodplain.

It was not until May 27, 1872, however, when the ceremonial ground was broken at Topeka “where the citizens assembled with spades and picks and formed a parade to the Santa Fe depot.” Chapman and Thorp, general contractors for construction, completed twenty-four miles of grading by the end of September, but work was then sus-

pended. The Kansas Midland, incorporated on May 29, 1873, made a “contract of purchase” with the Lawrence and Topeka Railway and on April 1, 1874, began laying track (purchased from the Lochiel Rolling Mill Company of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) at Topeka. On June 18 an excursion train ran the tracks

for the first time between Topeka and Lawrence. The Santa Fe eventually assumed control of the Midland in June, 1875.¹

The Kansas Midland line gave birth to two rural post offices, Chandler and Glendale (Station), and to one town, Grover, which was named for Joel Grover, a native New Yorker and Free State advocate who arrived at Lawrence with the second group of Yankee settlers in September, 1854. Although

Grover later became director of the St. Louis, Lawrence and Western Railroad Company, another predecessor of the Santa Fe, Alden Speare, president of the Arkansas Valley Town and Land Company, actually platted the town on August 28, 1885. Grover died in 1879 and perhaps Speare or some other company official wished to honor his service by naming the townsite for him.²

By 1885, Speare was in the twilight of an exceptional career of platting towns on Santa Fe lines in Kansas, most of them (including Spearville near Dodge City) quick-on-the-heels of railroad construction in the early 1870s in unsettled

By 1885, Spears was in the twilight of an exceptional career of platting towns on Santa Fe lines in Kansas...



Figure 4

the hunting ground for bald eagles, which rest on the high branches of cottonwood trees between attempts to catch fish.

For most of the distance between Topeka and Lawrence, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad never strays far from the river or from the Road. Its history began

or partially settled regions of the state. In this context, Grover seems like an afterthought. Its location, about half way between Tecumseh and Lecompton, was probably determined to avoid the market areas

Views from a River Road



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

Today, after gradually descending from the bluffs, the River Road approaches the abandoned townsite beneath a canopy of towering cottonwoods. At its intersection with the River Road, a rusting sign identifies the former Main Street as “Greenwood Valley Road.” Officially, it is E. 150 Road (Figure 7). Another rusting and pint-sized sign nearby has the words “Kansas Capitols Trail” and an arrow pointing westward. It is a reminder to travelers that the Road is a historical link between Lecompton, the Kansas territorial capital, and Topeka, the state capital. The railroad grade here, parallel with the Road for a half mile or so, is now high above the Road, having been elevated and moved about 75 feet south in response to the 1951 flood.

Beyond the abandoned Grover townsite the Road continues east, crosses Spring Creek and then turns sharply north at a giant burr oak that has somehow survived a few feet away from the forested bluff at the edge of a farm field (Figure 8). After a short distance the Road crosses the tracks and turns east into the heart of corn and soybean country for about two miles (Figure 9). As in most parts of Kansas, the agricultural patterns displayed here between the Road and the river, a half mile or so to the north, have experienced significant transformation since the end of World War II. Like farmers elsewhere in Kansas, those in the Kaw Valley used mules and horses to pull farm implements until tractors became more common in the late 1930s. The war years delayed full-scale mechanization, but by the late 1940s horse power was all but gone. With the advent of self-propelled tractors and combines came heavier capital investment, larger farms and fewer farmers. Crop patterns changed, too.

Views from a River Road

Before the 1960s, Kaw Valley farmers raised wheat on the thinner, clay soils of the uplands and corn on the sandy loams of the river bottom lands. Alfalfa was also popular as supplemental cattle feed either baled or processed into pellets in regional dehydration plants. Truck farming, especially of potatoes, was part of valley agriculture since early settlement, but lower commodity prices and the devastation to facilities and soils by the great flood of 1951 eliminated most forms of this labor-intensive industry until the recent resurgence in response to the growth of the local and organic foods movements.

With recovery from the flood and with increasing mechanization, many farmers began planting grain sorghum to complement the wheat on the drier upland soils and soybeans in annual rotation with corn on the river bottom loams. Farmers have grown soybeans in the United States since the 1830s, but soybean acreage expanded dramatically in Kansas and elsewhere in the 1950s and 1960s in response to increasing market demand and decreasing supply associated with the destruc-

Truck farming, especially of potatoes, was part of valley agriculture since early settlement...

tion of Chinese agriculture by the country's civil war and intervening World War II. More recently, the introduction of transgenic hybrid seeds—those genetically modified for herbicide and pest resistance—has been incorporated into efficiencies in the economies of scale engendered by technological devel-

opments such as improved center-pivot irrigation, no-till equipment, and GPS technology.

The cost of these technologies, along with higher energy prices, have substantially increased oper-

ating expenses to the point where farmers have to be selective in their application of herbicides, fertilizers and seed. For example, the farmer who plants corn in the Kaw Valley today likely uses a GPS system to coordinate seed drilling with soil texture, permeability and fertility. Transgenic seeds are costlier, but some of them offer the advantages of not only resistance to disease and pests, but also shorter maturation dates that, in combination with no till technology, have allowed for the introduction of double cropping—the planting of two crops in a growing season. Where this has occurred along the Road, (such as the field in figure 10), one can see soybeans growing in wheat stubble

in early August.

Amidst all the rows of corn and soybeans and more or less evenly spaced along this long stretch of the Road are three “I-houses” (Figure 11). An I-house is an American



Figure 10



Figure 11

folk house type that, in its simplest form, is one room deep, two rooms in length and two stories high. The one story version of this plan is sometimes called the I-cottage. Included under these labels are modifications of the basic form into “L” and “T” plan houses. In a study of traditional rural houses along the

Views from a River Road



Figure 12

Missouri and Kansas border, including Douglas County, geographer James Shortridge found that I-houses and I-cottages dominated throughout the region, but their popularity began to decline after the 1880s.⁴ He found that a large proportion of these houses appear to have been modified in some way by Georgian (central hall and symmetrical end chimney arrangements) or Gothic (cross gables on front facades) influences. “The most fundamental changes that

Still, the I-house endures.

have occurred...are related to the confrontation of folk and popular cultures—an abrupt increase in the variety of house types present and a trend toward one-story and more compact houses. These changes are concentrated in the 1920s and 1930s.”⁵ Still, the I-house endures. Shortridge observed that the re-

maintaining I-houses are either well-maintained or recently restored and suggested that the image of the I-house has become symbolic of cherished American values much as the log cabin was for earlier generations.⁶

From the floodplain, the Road turns sharply south, crosses the Burlington Northern Santa Fe track once again and begins to climb a well-weathered bluff via what resembles a sunken lane, a relatively rare impression on the Kansas landscape (Figure 12). Sunken lanes, also called hollow ways, are prominent in parts of Britain and France and may have originated with the use of ditches as ancient Celtic property boundaries. Weathered by soil erosion and by prolonged use as foot paths, the ditches became hollowed-out depressions and, in time, with the growth of overhead foliage of hedges and trees along

their banks, gave one the impression of entering a tunnel—a hollow way! This River Road version of a hollow way was never a sunken foot path for anyone nor does it give one quite the impression of entering a tunnel even when the trees have their foliage. For the traveler who passes through this hollow way, however, there is the sensation of experiencing yet another variable and charming part of the Road.

Beyond to the east, the Road goes over a forested hill and dale landscape and then turns abruptly south at the corner of a former tree farm, whose inspiration may well have come from a huge burr oak, incongruently imprisoned within the tree farm fence among the few scattered evergreens that remain. And just beyond is an alarm clock set for spring. A small pond adjacent to the east side of the Road has silted full and vegetation obscures its form. But when the March winds begin to temper and the twilight deepens, frog ribbits bring the old pond back to life. Once, when I

From the floodplain, the Road turns sharply south, crosses the Burlington Northern Santa Fe track once again and begins to climb a well-weathered bluff via what resembles a sunken lane....

stopped to listen, a Northern Mockingbird, somewhere in a hedge tree nearby, tried to steal the show by auditioning non stop its full spring repertoire. The Road speaks to those who will listen.

After passing through Lecompton, the Road continues eastward. After twice climbing and descending

Views from a River Road

two interfluvial slices of a dissected bluff, it merges with the railroad and river in a more or less linear pattern for about a mile. Along this beautiful stretch, one can more easily appreciate the riparian life and forms because the Road is very close to the river. At times, the broad sand banks become debris fields for whatever the river moves in periods of peak discharge (Figure 13). Beyond this scenic stretch, the Road elbows away from the river to the southeast, crosses Lake View

Lake, a Kaw oxbow, and then, after climbing from a creek bed, ends unceremoniously with the sights and sounds of Interstate 70 and Lawrence's version of ugly tract housing.

In the future, the River Road will most likely continue to have a limited number of travelers. The population of Douglas and Shawnee counties is growing, but most of the development is occurring south and west of Topeka and Lawrence. Although the road is an all-weather,

er, gravel route except for paved approaches to Topeka, Lawrence and Lecompton, the mud and the dust at times discourages many travelers. Above all, the road is so isolated that many people are simply unaware of its existence. Perhaps, too, the Road not taken is a reflection of our culture today in which fewer contemplative souls seek what the road offers: solace in solitude and communion with nature.

— *Photos by author*



Figure 13

¹ *Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe RR/Ry*, Historical Files, Box # 579. Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

² William G. Cutler, ed., *History of the State of Kansas*. (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), p. 349.

³ R.L. Polk & Co., *Kansas State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1890-1891*. (Detroit: R.L. Polk and A.C. Danser).

⁴ James R. Shortridge, "Traditional Rural Houses Along the Missouri-Kansas Border," *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 1(Fall-Winter, 1980): 105-137.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 134.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 134.

Fellows Meeting: *Minutes*

September 11, 2008

Fellows of the Center for Kansas Studies met for a luncheon meeting at 12:30 on Thursday. In attendance were Carol Yoho, Tom Averill, Brad Siebert, Bill Roach, Judy McConnell-Farmer, Will Gilliland, Reinhild Janzen, Marguerite Perret, Margy Stewart, David Feinmark, Marcia Cebulka, Bob Lawson, Bob Beatty, Virgil Dean and Tom Schmiedeler. In addition, Fellows welcomed Vice President Robin Bowen, Sarah Smarsh, Sharon Ashworth, and Leslie Reynard as new members. After the traditional round-the-table discussion of activities and interests, Director Tom Schmiedeler reported that the Center had been allocated the same budget as previous years. Tom encouraged contributions to the fall Center Newsletter, the deadline for which is October 31. Tom also requested funding for an honorarium for bison rancher, Wayne Copp, who will give a presentation for the Global Warming class field trip at his ranch near Auburn on September 22. Tom also made an in absentia honorarium request on behalf of Rachel Goossen for Jeff Pierce, a local teacher who will give a presentation on teaching history methods, including Kansas History, to Rachel's ED 366 class. Fellows approved both honorariums. Tom also announced that he would soon solicit from Fellows names and information on potential Kansas Day speakers so that Fellows could collectively decide on an appropriate speaker for the annual January event.

As part of the Speaking of Kansas series, Tom Averill requested funding for literary readings and class room visits by poet and novelist Jeanine Hathaway (*Moth-*

erhouse), by writer Rolf Potts (*Marco Polo Didn't Go There*) and by author Karen Stolz (*World of Pies*). Fellows approved funding in the amount of \$500 for the visits by these writers. Tom mentioned that he had a request from a Lawrence woman who is trying to help the Greensburg High School library restock their shelves with Kansas books. Tom donated books and he encouraged Fellows who wish to donate either their own or duplicate copies to contact him. Tom also announced that he is a member of the Board of Advisors for the production of a documentary film "C.W. Porubsky's Deli and Tavern, which will be a compilation of firsthand interviews of family, patrons, authors and historians, in union with photographs, 8mm film and other vintage video and newspaper articles about this historic eatery in Topeka's historic Little Russia neighborhood. The film will be directed by Matthew Porubsky and Jeff Carson and produced by Gizmo Pictures. The Board of Advisors has a projected budget of \$35,000. Tom requested that the Center provide seed money for the cost of planning and holding a fundraising event for the film. Fellows approved the appropriation of \$478.

Reinhild Janzen requested and received support in the amount of \$200 for printing a Mulvane Art Museum catalogue/brochure which celebrates forty years of the Mulvane Women's Board history and the thirty-one art works purchased through their support for the Mulvane' permanent collection. The project is also receiving support from the Dean's office and the art department. Playwright and fel-

low Marcia Cebulka is planning a new script with a central character who studies monarch butterflies that migrate from Kansas to Mexico. Fellows approved her request for \$500 for research and travel to the El Rosario Butterfly Reserve in Mexico in January.

Margy Stewart reported that her manuscript "One Time on the Upper McDowell," which she developed while on sabbatical leave, has been transcribed and typed. Fellows approved her request to pay costs of the typist. She announced that "Voices of the Wind People," a pageant conceived to provide the public with a historically accurate story of the clash between two cultures, Native American and Euro-American, in the historic setting of Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail, will be held this weekend on Friday, September 12, and on Saturday, September 13. Margy also reported that Reconnections, an organization of the descendants of the African-Americans who established colonies in Kansas following the end of Reconstruction, holds conferences every two years in conjunction with scholars and others interested in these settlements. The members currently live all over the world but now are increasingly focused on bringing out the heritage of Kansas's Black settlements. Reconnections III will be held in spring, 2009, in conjunction with K-State, which is currently involved in an archeological exploration of the site of the Dunlap Farm Colony south of Council Grove and which is trying to bring in Princeton scholar Nell Irvin Painter as the keynote speaker. Washburn was being considered by Reconnections when K-State stepped forward to

Fellows Meeting: *Minutes*, cont. from p. 11

be their partner. Margy proposed that Fellows of the Center for Kansas Studies consider working with Reconnections to sponsor Reconnections IV in 2011.

David Feinmark provided a list of Mabee Library new acquisitions

that support the Center for Kansas Studies. He mentioned that the library has set aside money for the purchase of books that have Kansas and Great Plains themes. He encouraged Fellows, after first checking the library catalog, to con-

tact him with the names of sources of Kansas and Great Plains books that can be ordered by the library.

Meeting minutes by
Tom Schmiedeler



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Center for Kansas Studies
Speaking of Kansas
Fall 2008

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
1700 SW COLLEGE AV
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66621
Department: Geography