

100 Years Under Old Glory
Mankato, Ks 1872-1972

Mankato
Curt Com

with Junior size and folding chairs for adults. Nearby attractions have lured tourists to Mankato and provided recreation facilities for the inhabitants of the town.

Jewell County State Lake, located six miles south and west of Mankato, covering an area of 57 acres contains largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Camping is permitted and day use of the facilities are available.

A 100 acre lake called the Lovewell Dam and Reservoir is located on White Rock Creek five miles east and eight miles north of Mankato. A concession is in operation with fishing, rental boats, food, bait and tackle. The lake is

stocked with largemouth bass, walleye, white bass, channel catfish, bluegill, crappie drum and bull heads. It is a popular recreational area with facilities for water sports, picnicking and camping. There is public hunting in season.

Pawnee Indian Village Museum is located on K 266 eight miles north of US 36. This historic site administered by the Kansas Historical Society is a relic of the time the Lewis and Clark Expedition marched in this section of the United States. It was here that the United States Flag, Old Glory, first floated in the Kansas breeze, when the young Army Lieutenant Zebulon Pike, demanded the Flag of Spain should be replaced with the flag of the United States.

Jewell County Centennial

A county wide Centennial Celebration was climaxed in Mankato with four days of activity, June 7-8-9-10, 1961. At this time, the Historical Museum, a gift of Bert Schlagle, was dedicated. A Centennial Committee was appointed by President Clarence Black for each township, whose duty it was to collect the history of that township. The Jewell County Record compiled this data in a special issue. At that time, Miss Lucy Wiley, one of Jewell County's most excellent teachers, was chairman of Calvin Township. She has assisted in many ways in preparing the volume of the "History of Mankato."

In 1972, Lucy Wiley was living in Mankato. She was an efficient teacher in the Sunday School for the Harmony United Methodist Church and an active member in many civic and church organizations.

Events of the Celebration included ball games, old fashioned dances, a barbecue dinner, a horse show, parades, a pioneer tea, displays of arts and crafts. Slides consisting of old time landmarks, organizations and such themes were shown daily by Harry Swope. Clyde Reed, Jewell County Work Unit Conservationist had displays of soil conservation. Mrs. E. C. Johnson who gave many displays in the Museum helped boost the attendance by collecting displays and advertising the Museum.

The Jewell County Historical Society was organized at the National Guard Armory in Mankato, May 16, 1959. Frank Kissinger acted as chairman of the meeting until officers could be elected. Fred Meyer, Jewell, was elected President. Brad Juoy, Montrose, Vice President.

Famous Mankato People

Although Mankato is a small town several residents have been active in many State and National offices. Two men from Mankato have represented Mankato in Congress. They are Hays White and Wint Smith. E.E. Penner was a member of the Kansas State House of Representatives and Alva Menhusen was a member of the Kansas State Senate.

Mrs. Frank W. Boyd, a member of a newspaper family has received many State and National honors. She is the only woman to have received the William Allen White Citation of Merit. The Chamber of Commerce sponsored a dinner in her honor on her ninety-fifth birthday, December 13, 1971. Sharing the honors with Mrs. Boyd was another chipper young lady, Mrs. George Huntington. Mrs. Huntington had already celebrated ninety-six birthdays. Both Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Huntington were the most charming of all the guests, beautifully dressed, smiling and gracious. All the other women were jealous of their vivacity and youthfulness.

Mrs. Frank W. Boyd has been Kansan of the Year, Kansas Mother of the Year, Woman of Achievement of the National Federation of Press Women. She has been honored with the



of Mankato's heaviest snow storms, which hit this area in 1920. The above picture was snapped one mile west of Mankato on the Mo. Pacific R.R.



Mankato Investment Co. block is shown above.

National Guard Armory

The Kansas National Guard Armory was completed November 27, 1958. The Armory was built on the site where the Mankato Elementary School had stood since 1900. The Armory building, upon inspection by a representative of the Kansas State Architect, was turned over to Lt. Jack Beeler, Commander of the Mankato Unit, Battery B, 725 FA Battalion (Heavy Motor Unit). At that time the Mankato Unit consisted of 4 officers and 68 men. The other officers were: Lt. Charles L. Fogo, Lt. Lowell (Flash) Newlin, and Lt. Gene Reystead. Newell Alexander was the permanent duty employee.

The building was constructed at a cost of \$120,323.68. The size was 120 x 125 feet with a probable seating capacity of 500. There is a special kitchen. The contractor was Bushbaum and Rauh of Salina. Raymond (Butch) Morris of Salina was superintendent of construction. M.M. Mayse was the Mankato representative. The building was available for meetings of other organizations.

Mankato Museum

Mrs. E.C. Johnson began a museum for Jewell County in her home at 302 East Main in Mankato. The Johnsons had many valuable antiques of historical significance which they wished to share with their friends and neighbors. This project grew like Finney's turnip, to such a size that larger quarters were needed. A.W. (Bert) Schlagle offered his two-story business building on Commercial Street to the Jewell County Historical Society and Museum as a memorial to his wife who had passed away August 4, 1959.

Bert Schlagle, son of Daniel F. Schlagle and Alice Deaver, was born in a sodhouse a mile northeast of Mankato, where his parents had homesteaded in 1872. He attended Jewell County schools and worked at various jobs until he enlisted in Company G. 32nd Volunteers in July 1899. At the time he

gave the building to the Jewell County Museum, he was only surviving Spanish-American War Veteran in Jewell County. Following his war service, Bert operated a laundry in Mankato for a number of years. From 1920 until ill he forced Mrs. Anna Schlagle to retire, the Schlagles operated the Schlagle Market and Grocery in the building on Commercial Street that has since become the Museum.

Anna Colson was born on a farm three miles east and north of Mankato, April 11, 1883. Her parents were Mr. Mrs. Charles Colson, who had migrated to Jewell County directly from Sweden. Anna Colson and Bert Schlagle married at the home of her parents November 8, 1916. She was a successful school teacher for several years before marriage. She was grade school principal in Mankato a time.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Schlagle were active in community affairs; he served as a member of the Mankato City Council for 20 years. In 1961, he was president of the Jewell County Centennial Committee.

In 1954, a meeting was held at the Armory to formulate the Jewell County Historical Society. Mr. Frank Kissinger as chairman until the officers could be elected. In election Fred Meyer of Jewell was elected chairman; Judy of Montrose was vice-chairman. Miss Helen Starn of Mankato, Treasurer, and Mrs. Elton Gillett, Bureau Secretary. A membership of one dollar was assessed drive to secure members was organized.

At the time of the Mankato Centennial in 1972, Mrs. Johnson was still an active hostess in the Museum. Meetings of the Jewell County Historical Society were held one or two a year. Visitors to the Museum who signed their names numbered more than a thousand annually, coming from all over the fifty states and many foreign countries. Mr. Carl Johnson was President of the Jewell County Historical Society. Miss Bernice Howard was Secretary and Treasurer.

The Jewell County Historical Museum has proved to be one of the most widely advertised tourist attractions in the Mankato and all done by word of mouth. One visitor told another, "Do stop to see the Museum when you go

Mankato, Kansas."

July 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1961, were important dates for Jewell County. The dedication of the Historical Museum took place that time. This Ceremony was a highlight of the Jewell County Centennial Celebration. The event was of such magnitude that the officials planned a four-day celebration to give the event full recognition. Officers of the Jewell County Historical Society at the time of the countrywide Centennial were: Clarence L. Black, Mankato, President; Darus Henningsen, Mankato, Vice-President; Miss Eunice Howard, Mankato, Secretary; Miss Lucy Wiley, Mankato, Treasurer. The Board of Directors were Iden McCott, Jewell; Mrs. Howard Edwards, Jewell, Mrs. Kenneth Maag, Jewell; and Joe R. Beeler, Jewell. It was decided that all persons 80 years or older should be honorary members with no dues.

Mankato Packing Plant

The Mankato Packing Plant was opened in 1967. The development arranged for a number of federal loans including a \$325,000.00 loan from the Rural Electrification Administration and \$36,000.00 from the Kansas Development Credit Corporation. The City of Mankato donated \$150,000.00 worth of land for the project.

In 1967, the City of Mankato installed a million-gallon water storage tank to serve the demands of the plants.

In 1971, John P. Reed, owner of the Sunflower Beef Co., Inc., of Wichita paid \$275,000.00 for the plant lease.

The plant had a slaughter capacity of 400 head of cattle daily, in what is called a "kill and chill operation."

The plant provides jobs for about 60 to 75 persons. Congressman Bob Dole spoke at the Open House October 15, 1967. A crowd conservatively estimated at 5,000 attended the ceremonies. Cars were here from many Kansas Counties and several other states. Ralph Waugh, President of the Mankato Commercial Development Association and a

Director of the Mankato packing plant was Master of Ceremonies. The following Chamber of Commerce members served the lunch: George Jensen, Tom Lehring, Merle Blew, Wayne Blaylock, Jim Durham, Dean Buster, Alfred Ross, Walter Campbell, Merle Reager, Neolin Taylor, Doyle Alcorn, Carroll Collins, Jon Menhusen, Boyd Silsby, Richard Diamond, Melvin Blecha, Jim Gunther, Clyde Reed, Dr. Mervin Peterson, Eldon Grout, Finlay Munro, Dale Park, Jim Dodd, Stanley Ozmun, Clarence Loomis, J.E. Moon, Jr., Melvin LaRue, Rex Seirer, Jerry Kier, George Bechtold, Ray Dietz, and Dale Crangle.

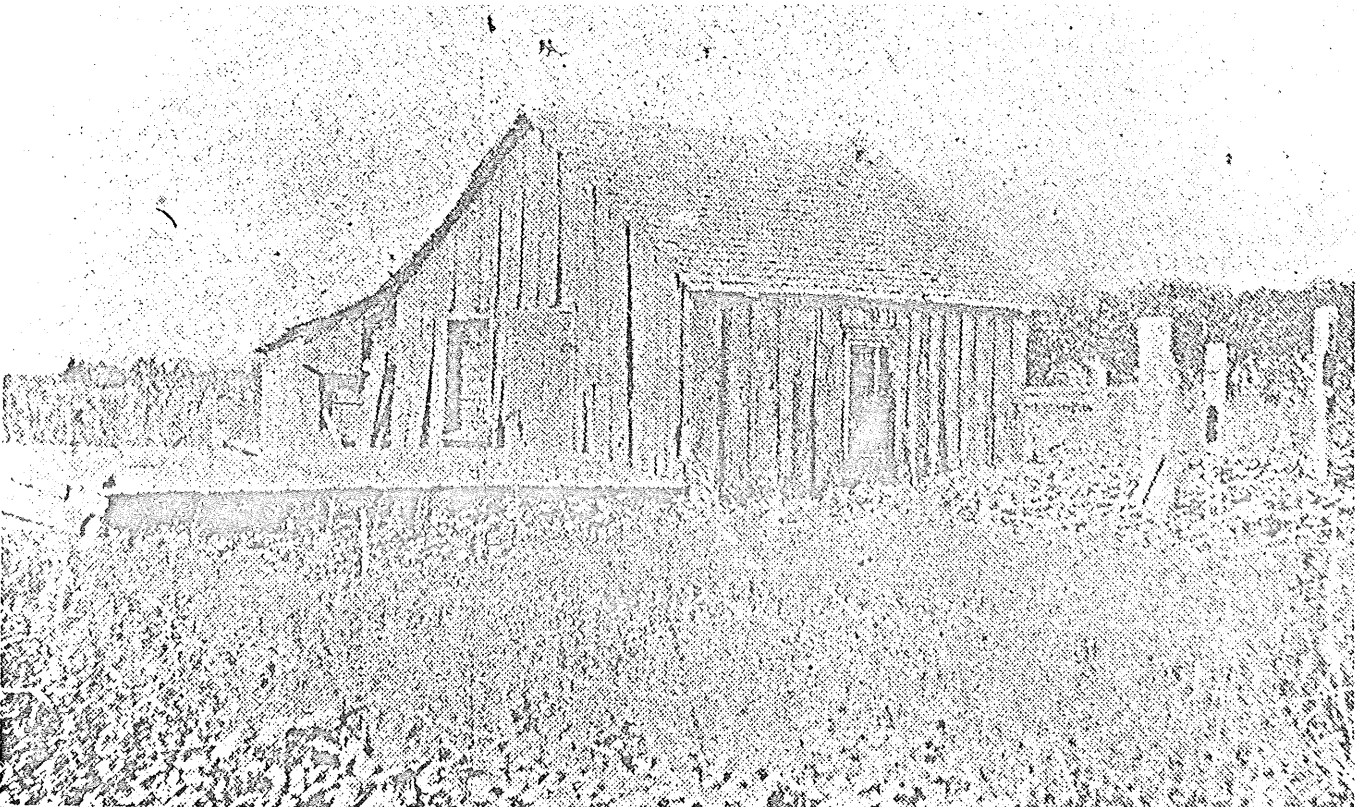
Corky Thompson and Arden Clegg, City Police Officers, were present to direct traffic.

Chester Leonard, fire chief, and the following members of the fire department helped park cars: John Caylor, Jr., Gerald McAtee, Glen Hudibergh, Henry Diamond, and Bob Shoemaker.

The New Post Office

The United States Post Office moved into its new building late in October 1967. The Post Office had been in a rented building on the west side of Commercial Street, just a half block north of the new location. This new building is 48 x 60. It is fireproof haidete block covered with brick veneer. The floor is tiled throughout. Fluorescent lighting is used. Air conditioning and heating units were up-to-date when installed. There are 248 boxes in the new building as compared with 214 in the building previously occupied by the Post Office. Kenneth Van Tilborg of Cawker City was the contractor.

Lyle Rafferty was the Postmaster in this new building. Lawrence Roe completed thirty years' service as the most obliging letter carrier for Mankato in June 1972. For one-third of the city's history, Lawrence Roe had walked the Mankato streets in good weather and bad to take the letters



Mankato's first postoffice. It was constructed by D. J. Vance in 1872.