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Rhetoric in Early Hays City, 1876-1900

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RHETORIC IN EARLY HAYS CITY
1876-1900

being

A Thesis Presented to the Graduate Faculty
of the Fort Hays Kansas State College in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Degree of Master of Science

by

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Date January 21, 1963 Approved Albert H. Dunavan
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RHETORIC IN EARLY HAYS CITY

by
James F. Caton

(An Abstract)

The purpose of this study was to demonstrate the nature and significance of the spoken word in early Hays City from 1876, to 1900 as shown by accounts contained in Hays City newspapers of this period and interviews with some of Hays' oldest citizens.

Memorial Day and the Fourth of July were special occasions in which public speaking played an important part. The local Grand Army of the Republic was an organization which was responsible for much of the public address in early Hays City. The Camp fires of the G.A.R., Harvest Home Celebrations, and the Farmer's picnic were always events which were accompanied with various forms of public address.

Many speaking events were held in relation with the public school. The meeting of the Teacher's Association, The Normal Institute, and the High School Commencement were events in the school year in which public speaking played an important part.

The young city's enthusiasm for politics was great. Several distinguished politicians visited Hays City. With the formation of a strong third party, the woman orator became a popular figure on the political platform.

Public speaking was important in early Hays City. The nature of public address was versatile, and its significance was great.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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PREFACE

This work deals with the nature of rhetoric in Hays, Kansas, between 1876 and 1900. Hays was commonly referred to as Hays City during this period; thus, the writer has consistently used this designation.

The quoted material within this thesis has been checked and rechecked. The writer feels reasonably certain that all of the quoted material has been recorded accurately. The editors of the early day newspapers were prone to make many grammatical mistakes which were never corrected in their haste to "put the paper to bed." Because this is true several errors are recorded for which the writer wishes to assume no responsibility. This explanation is included here to avoid frequent interpolations made to assure the reader that the quotations are accurate although spelling or logic might otherwise lead him to doubt it.

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INTRODUCTION

The significance of public address as an influence upon history would be difficult, if not impossible to evaluate empirically. This is true because it is impossible to observe either the speaker or the audience. Certainly it would seem obvious that public address has had some influence, however nebulous, since history began.

It is not the purpose of this thesis to create a defense for the importance of the spoken word. This importance may have differed from generation to generation or era to era.

Purpose of the Study

It is the belief of this writer that public speaking in early Hays City was important and that this time in the history of the town was a time in which public speaking had reached an apex. Television and radio were not common to the homes of Hays City's earliest residents. News was spread first from telegraph office to telegraph office and then from mouth to ear. The purpose of this thesis is to demonstrate the nature and significance of the spoken word in early Hays City as shown by newspaper accounts and interviews with some of Hays' oldest citizens.

Materials Used in This Study

The newspaper accounts of public speaking afforded an important source of material used in this study. Much information about the settling of this historic area of Western Kansas has been lost forever through carelessness and neglect.

Comparatively few issues of weekly newspapers published in Hays are available in this community. Forsyth Library has no regular collection of weekly newspapers in Hays prior to 1900. The News Printing Company has several issues of the Ellis County Star dating as early as 1876, when this paper was first printed. This collection, however, is incomplete. The only complete and bound collection of newspapers which fall within the scope of this thesis to be found in Hays is contained at the public library. The Hays public library has a complete collection of The Republican from its start in 1888 through 1900.

Fires, floods, and foolishness have taken a heavy toll of bound volumes.¹ The Kansas State Historical Society Library in Topeka proved to be the most valuable source of early Hays City newspapers, but even its collection is incomplete. The newspapers available from 1876-1900

¹Robert J. Spangler, "A History of the Hays, Kansas, Daily News," Thesis, Fort Hays Kansas State College (May 16, 1962), p. 3.

are much greater than those available prior to 1876. Because this is true the scope of this thesis will be limited within these dates.

Only a minimum of research has been done in the history of Hays and Ellis county, so materials related to this thesis are scarce. To put together some of the pieces in the confusing puzzle of Hays' history it was necessary to interview several of the older residents of the community.

For the purpose of this thesis, the phrase "public address" must assume rather arbitrary characteristics. Pulpit address and speaking associated with fraternal orders such as the Masons and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows will be excluded from the scope of this thesis. Drama, although related to public speaking will also be omitted from our understanding of public address. The term rhetoric will be used in the broad sense of communication of ideas through speech and writing, but with emphasis upon the former. The use of terms such as "rhetoric", "oratory", "eloquence" and "public speaking", unless the specific context reveals a distinction, have been used as reliably analogous expressions.

CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The spoken word has been one of man's greatest mediums of communication. Indeed our social relations would be violently altered if this form of communication were ever removed from us. William N. Brigrance in his first volume of History and Criticism of American Public Address says:

Not only is history written with words. It is made with words. Most of the mighty movements affecting the destiny of the American nation have gathered strength in obscure places from the talk of nameless men, and gained final momentum from leaders who could state in common words the needs and hopes of common people. Great movements, in fact, are usually led by men of action who are also men of words, who use words as instruments of power, who voice their aims in words of historic simplicity Literature in times of crisis becomes the words of men of action, of men who understand the power of words as weapons of warfare.¹

The history of Kansas was "made with words." We have the words of Lt. Zebulon Pike which express his opinion of the land upon which Kansas lays, "Our citizens, being so prone to rambling and extending themselves on the frontiers, will, through necessity, be constrained to limit their extent on the west to the borders of the Missouri and Mississippi, while they leave the prairies, incapable of cultivation, to the wandering aborigines of the country."²

¹William Norwood Brigrance, History and Criticism of American Public Address, Vol. I (New York, 1960), p. vii.

²Kansas Centennial (1954), p. 9.

Lt. Pike's words may have briefly slowed the westward movements of pioneers, but less than sixty years later Kansas became a state.

Many great leaders arose in this period. Dr. Brigrance says concerning this period, "In public address this was the period typified by such historically prominent persons as Henry Ward Beecher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Wendle Phillips, Robert G. Ingersoll, Phillips Brooks In fact, it was a period in which there was perhaps more speech-making than at any previous time in the history of the United States."³

Early Hays City was not without capable leaders who were men of action and men of words. The spoken word in early Hays City was a vital part of the young city's growth and development. It could be said that the history of early Hays City was a history written with words; it was also a history made with words.

Such speakers as I. M. Yost, Mill P. Wilson, Martin Allen and H. D. Shaffer demonstrated leadership qualities through the nature of their public speaking.

The history of rhetoric in Hays City is a history of colorful extremes. Public speaking took part on such happy occasions as High School Commencement and the Fourth of July and on such sad occasions as a memorial service for

³Brigrance, I. 111-112.

the dead; the speech may have been one of welcome or one urging the audience to adhere to a specific point of view. Memorial Day, Fourth of July, a school function, or politics--all of these subjects as well as others--commanded the best from Hays City's orators. This is why a study of this nature is important. If one can come to understand what occasions commanded public address and how the orators of the day responded to these commands, important insight into the nature of Hays City's earlier citizens can be attained.

CHAPTER II

PUBLIC SPEAKING ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS

One of the most significant occasions for public speaking in Hays City was Memorial Day.

The Grand Army of the Republic was directly responsible for the Memorial Day program and they took special pride in this responsibility. Announcements concerning the nature of the coming Memorial Day programs occurred in the newspapers sometimes as much as a month in advance. This day was especially meaningful to the Grand Army as it was a day commemorating the dead, many of which had died while fighting in the Civil War.

The Grand Army of the Republic, frequently referred to as the G.A.R., was an organization of veterans of the Union Army which fought in the Civil War. This organization was formed in 1866. "Its membership, which numbered 409,489 in 1890 dwindled until only 16 were left at its last encampment in 1949."¹ The purpose of this organization like most patriotic societies was to keep alive the comradeship and the traditions of the military service; it also was responsible for promoting patriotism in American traditions and in promoting laws to help the veteran and his dependents. Affiliated with the G.A.R. was the Woman's

¹Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia and Fact-Index, Vol. VI (1954), p. 98.

Relief Corps which was founded in 1883.² Both the Woman's Relief Corps and the G.A.R. were active in early Hays City.

It is not difficult to see that if one of the tasks of the G.A.R. was to stimulate a spirit of patriotism that Memorial Day would be a time of special consideration.

Perhaps mention should be made of the origin of Memorial Day at this point. This information was obtained from the Encyclopaedia Britannica:

Decoration day, a holiday, known also as Memorial day, observed in the northern states of the United States on May 30, originally in honour of soldiers killed in the U. S. Civil War, but subsequently also in honour of those who fell in later wars. Before the close of the Civil War May 30 was thus celebrated in several of the southern states; in the north there was no fixed celebration until 1868, when (on May 5) Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic issued a general order designating May 30, 1868, 'for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion.' Logan did this 'with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year.' In 1882 the Grand Army urged that the 'proper designation of May 30 is Memorial Day'--not Decoration Day'.³

Two things seemed always to characterize the Memorial Day services; the G.A.R. was always in charge and public speaking was always the center of the program. Many of the officers and men of the fort played an important part in the Memorial Day programs. The music, which was common at the services, was supplied by the 18th infantry band of

²Pictured Encyclopedia and Fact-Index, Vol. VI (1954), p. 98.

³Encyclopaedia Britannica, Vol. VII (New York, 1956), p. 127.

the fort from earliest times until the fort was abandoned in April of 1889. Frequently, the post Chaplain was asked to give the benediction, and if possible one, or some, of the officers of the post were invited to take part. An example of this is given in the Hays City Times.

At 19:30 O'clock the whole force of soldiers at the post, headed by the 18th Infantry band, commanded by Co. Coppinger, marched to the city, halting at the Opera hall. A few minutes later Vance Post, numbering about 30 men, old soldiers to whom the day recalled many a scene of camp and field made their appearance, marching to the muffled notes of the drum and fife, and with the regulars from the post entered Opera Hall, which was crowded to overflowing with a large audience of citizens, soldiers and people from the surrounding country, and the following interesting program was gone through with:

- 1st 'America,' by 18th Infantry Band
- 2nd Reading of Orders by Adjutant
- 3rd Ceremonies by the Post
- 4th Sweet Spirit Hear my Prayer' Band
- 5th Reading of Scripture by officers of Post
- 6th Invocation of the Divine Blessing
- 7th 'Nearer my God to Thee,' Band
- 8th Address Prof. Carroll
- 9th 'Alma Redemptoris' Band
- 10th Address Comrade Emig
- 11th Recollections of the War: Medley of War Songs, by band
- 12th Benediction by Post Chaplain.⁴

It should be noted in the above program that two addresses were given.

The Memorial Day services were held at different places at different times. For example, the opera hall was the frequent gathering place for these services but it was held in the court house in 1889 and in 1890. In 1891 the

⁴Hays City Times, June 5, 1886.

services were held in the Lutheran Church and in 1892, one of the halls at the Old Fort.⁵

As the Indian trouble diminished, the troops were gradually withdrawn until only three companies were left at the Fort. "The fort was abandoned April 17, 1889. It was the last fort to be deserted in the western half of Kansas."⁶ Following the desertion of the fort the nature of the Memorial Day services changed somewhat. Although the G.A.R. was responsible the affair became more of a community affair employing the talents of local citizens. This is made apparent in the first Memorial Day service held in the city after the fort was abandoned. The Democratic Times contained the following story:

Decoration Day was generally observed by our citizens. The gathering at the Court House was immense and very interesting exercises had. Hill P. Wilson delivered a very fine address which was well received. H. D. Shaffer spoke in an able manner and Rev. Thomas made some well timed remarks. The exercises were interspersed with very artistic singing by a male quartette. All enjoyed this annual Decoration Day in memory of the bravery and endurance of those who cheerfully laid down their lives as a sacrifice upon the altar of their country.⁷

The above story includes the names only of local Hays City residents who participated in the program. This practice continued for the most part from the time that the

⁵Hays City Sentinel, May 31, 1892.

⁶Hill, W. A. Historic Hays News Printing Co. (Hays, 1938), p. 22.

⁷Democratic Times, June 4, 1889.

fort was abandoned until the turn of the century. The speaking parts for the Memorial Day programs were given to instructors from the school, the ministers and local businessmen such as H. P. Wilson and H. D. Shaffer mentioned above. In 1890, however, the services of Lt. Governor Felt were obtained and he climaxed the program with an oration. After some description of the Memorial Day services the Free Press said, "In the court house the children performed their part well, Miss McIntosh recited splendid and Lt. Gov. Felt made a soul stirring address."⁸ No further mention was made concerning Lt. Governor Felt's presence or speech.

Although the fort had been closed in the spring of 1889 the nature of the Memorial Day services was still quite military in fashion, due to the fact that they still were conducted under the supervisor of the G.A.R. It was discovered, through an interview with Mrs. Motz of the Hays Daily News, that this practice continued to the late 1920's or early 1930's.

In addition to the regular Memorial Days held on May 30th, at least two special Memorial Day services were held.

⁸Free Press, May 31, 1890.

Ulysses S. Grant, the famous General of the Union Army during the Civil War and the 18th President, died at Mt. McGregor July 23, 1885. A special Memorial Day service was held in Hays City honoring this great hero. The following story appeared in the Ellis County Democrat and Advocate:

Memorial day, last Saturday, was very generally observed in this city, the stores and general work were suspended, and many buildings being draped with mourning. (Many remarked the entire absence of a sign of mourning on the Star office, which claims to be the oldest Republican paper in Ellis county).

The services were very interesting, the church being crowded. The singing by Mrs. Fulghum and Wilson, Misses Brosius, Robbins, Messrs, Adams, Cole, Griffith and Reeder was much admired, while the able address of well chosen words and actions of General Grant, was listened to with much admiration. Prof. Carrol is no flowery orator, but his every word expressed a meaning that told louder than action.⁹

Another special Memorial service was held in Hays City; this one was held honoring General Sheridan who died at Nonquitt Mass, on August 5, 1888.

This story appeared in the Democratic Times, August 16, 1888:

There was a large congregation assembled at the Lutheran church last Sunday morning to listen to the memorial sermon on the death of that famous hero and soldier, General Sheridan, the G.A.R. Post forming an attractive feature of the assembly. As to the address, it is safe to say that in this whole broad state no abler address or more eloquently expressed thoughts were listened to upon this Sunday morning.

⁹Ellis County Democrat and Advocate, August 15, 1885.

From first to last the speaker held the closest attention of the large audience by his eloquent speech and the fitting eulogies paid to the honored dead; it was a beautiful sermon, deeply interesting, and appreciated by every one present.¹⁰

In addition to the Memorial Day services, the Fourth of July celebration was an important speaking occasion. This celebration, however, was not as significant as that of Memorial Day.

Probably one of the shortest addresses was given at a Fourth of July celebration. Judge A. D. Gilkeson was asked to address a crowd of people at a picnic. The Ellis County Star paraphrased Mr. Gilkeson's brief address:

He said his strongest sympathies at that hour extended in the direction of the dinner table, and thought that, perhaps, the audience, like himself, preferred solid rations to wind orations.¹¹

This concluded his formal speech and the people began to eat.

The Fourth of July in early Hays City was always picnic time. This was not the only time when the desire to eat may have reduced the length of the speech. A brief reference is made to an address given by David Rathbone, a Hays City lawyer: "Lawyer Rathbone delivered a short but interesting address, after which the dinner was announced."¹²

¹⁰Democratic Times, August 16, 1888.

¹¹Ellis County Star, July 12, 1877.

¹²German American Advocate, July 5, 1884.

The programs held on July Fourth differed from those of Memorial Day. The Memorial Day program was always characterized by public speaking; it was a program dedicated to the remembrance of the dead. Thus, public speaking was central to the day's activities and conversely, the emphasis on the Fourth was celebration rather than remembrance. Public speaking was a part of the program, but only one part of a program containing many parts. The following example, taken from the Democratic Times, July 9, 1889, illustrates this:

At 8 O'clock A.M. National salute by Garfield battery depot. At 9 A.M. procession will form at court house headed by the 18th U. S. Infantry Band and march to the fair grounds:

At the fair grounds, music by the 18th Infantry Band
 Invocation
 Music by glee club
 Reading Declaration of Independence
 Music by 18th Infantry Band
 Oration
 Music by Glee Club
 Music by 18th Infantry Band
 Racing at the track will commence at
 1 P.M. sharp¹³

A baseball game between Russell and Ellis followed the racing matches and a Grand Ball in the evening concluded the day's activities.

The Hays City Sentinel contained a rather humorous story concerning public address and the Fourth:

¹³Democratic Times, July 9, 1889.

The singing was extraordinarily fine--in fact, worthy of lengthy comment. The dancing was good; and edibles better, and the enjoyment immense. Mr. Fred Kruger was to have read the Declaration of independence; but the small boy in charge of the manuscript got lost and it was necessary to pass this part of the program over.¹⁴

The "Campfire" was another special occasion which afforded opportunities for public speaking.

The Campfires, like the Memorial Day programs, were sponsored by the G.A.R. These meetings were held at least once a year beginning with 1889 and were always opened to the public. The nature of these meetings was quite similar. The old soldiers and guests would sing a few songs, generally songs which were popular during the war, and relate stories of battles. The G.A.R. was a strong political organization as well as a social organization. Because this was so, they could frequently get some high ranking state official to be present and give the main address. The story of ex-Governor Anthony speaking before the G.A.R. camp-fire occurred in the Ellis County Star, January 28, 1890:

It is not a mistake to declare that all in that very large audience on that occasion, were highly pleased and greatly delighted with the singing and those speeches which were brimfull of sparkling wit and profound eloquence. Among other good things said and logically argued was the base slander upon our old soldiers that they would lie and steal. This was plainly shown to be a foul misrepresentation of our citizens who saved the country by their military prowess and bravery in the war of the rebellion.

¹⁴Hays City Sentinel, July 5, 1876.

Ex Governor Anthony, utterly buried this mean slander by showing clearly to every intelligent person in that vast audience that our old soldiers only avail themselves of color and rainbow tints, which with poets is called 'poetic license,' when they tell of their many dangers sufferings and marvelous exposures and escapes.

It was very evident that this rational way of putting the lying part of the charges against the union soldiers, met with a hearty response and amen with the audience. To add however in thunder tones to the strong conviction of the audience that old soldiers of the Grand Army of the republic were true, it was shown those boys in blue never stole chickens and turkeys or silver spoons. No, while it was admitted by Gov. Anthony that the boys sometimes took things on the march, they were forced upon them, even the turkeys and chickens showed that they wanted to be taken.

The speakers at this camp-fire illustrated in a remarkable degree that big yarns of comrades were not lies but were perfectly justifiable on the poetic license theory, in all the fact remains obvious to the crowd, this camp-fire was a signal success and a very enjoyable occasion to all who participated in it, and would well bear repeating. Every body were happy vindicated and immensely pleased.¹⁵

The account given above of the camp-fire differs from the account given in The Republican, January 25, 1890. This paper explains that several G.A.R. orators in the state were invited but, for various reasons, were unable to attend. Jack Downing was appointed chairman and opened the program with a song. The following is the account given in The Republican:

. . . General A. B. Campbell, of Topeka, was introduced, who, after making an apology for the absence of the balance of the three speakers, made a good talk in the interest of the soldiers for nearly an hour

¹⁵Ellis County Star, January 28, 1890.

J. C. Waters, a prominent attorney from Topeka, was next introduced. He spoke on the sorrowful scenes at the national military asylums.

Ex Governor George T. Anthony, who has not visited Hays City since 1875, when he attended the first agricultural fair ever held in Ellis county, and the first in western Kansas, was next introduced.

The Ex-governor was followed by Judge Osborne.¹⁶

Perhaps the most important camp-fire held by the local G.A.R. was that one which was host to the legislative committee of the G.A.R. The local G.A.R. wished to have a home for old soldiers built on the site of the abandoned Fort Hays military reservation. The members of the G.A.R. and the citizens of Hays City worked toward this goal. In January of 1889 the legislative committee of the G.A.R. visited Hays City with the intent of determining the suitability of the area for this purpose. Elaborate preparations were made by the local G.A.R., including a camp-fire held at the rink. After the great crowd was comfortably seated, Mr. Simon Motz, acting as the master of ceremonies announced that the exercises would be opened with a selection by the band, entitled "Recollections of the War." Several speeches were given during the day. Post Commander Henley made a short speech of welcome on behalf of the citizens. Rev. Killinger's address with that of Mr. Buck of Emporia, one of the members of the legislative committee,

¹⁶The Republican, January 25, 1890.

and the address of Mr. O. H. Coulter, Adjutant General of Kansas, are contained in the Appendix.

Hays City failed in this project; the Old Soldier's home was constructed in Dodge City, Kansas.

The first fair in this area was called "Harvest Home Celebration". Both farmers and townfolk would gather in a public meeting place, usually a church, and display some of their prize crops. This celebration was always held in early August, or September. One of the first of these celebrations was held in early August, 1876. The Governor, George T. Anthony, was on hand to address the crowd. The brief story of this event occurred in the Ellis County Star, August 19, 1876.

HARVEST HOME CELEBRATION

All brought their lunch baskets, and specimens of the crops for which premiums had been offered. The band was in attendance and the assemblage was addressed by Hon. Geo. T. Anthony and several other gentlemen.¹⁷

The Harvest Home Celebration seems to have altered through the years and after 1890 nothing more is found in the papers concerning them. This story appeared in the Democratic Times, September 4, 1890.

The Harvest Home exercises at the Baptist Church, last Sunday evening, were very interesting. The recitations and singing by the little ones was a very pleasing feature, and the music of the choir, composed

¹⁷Ellis County Star, August 19, 1876.

of Misses C. L. James, Birdie McLain and Mr. Curt Wann, with Miss Kitlina Beach as organist, was exceedingly fine: as was also the vocal solo, by the last named young lady. And last, but not the least of the exercised of the evening, was the address by Rev. L. D. Goodwin, of Ellis, whose remarks in regard to the benefits of the church mission work, were very interesting. He is a most entertaining speaker, and well worth going a long ways to hear. The only matter was that his time was too short, as he had to leave for home on the evening train. However, he became so interested in his theme that he forgot all about going away until the engine whistled for Hays. And then his departure was so sudden that he did not even have time to say "Good evening" to the congregation.¹⁸

The business of farming was slow getting started in this part of Kansas. Hays City depended upon the Railroad and buffalo, cattle and fur shipping the first few years of its existence. The presence of the military fort close by helped the economy, too. However, farming increased in importance as the land became more populated by settlers hoping to turn what had long been referred to as "The Great American Desert" into a crop producing soil.

Farming, then, became an important industry in and around Hays City. The farming class became an important class to the young city's increasing population. This class became even more important when in 1889, Fort Hays was officially closed and the soldiers were withdrawn.

The farming class had many things in common. A crop failure, due to a lack of moisture, generally affected most

¹⁸Democratic Times, September 4, 1890.

in the area when it affected one. Although they came from many different backgrounds they were united in a common task; to make a virgin prairie land produce crops which could be sold at a profit.

As early as 1876 the farmers of Ellis county and of the surrounding counties instituted the practice of gathering for a mass picnic, which they called, the "Farmer's Picnic". The people would gather, beginning at mid-morning, at a predetermined place where they would have the picnic and the fun of the day. Frequently the people would gather at Big Creek south of town. The adults would assemble in groups and talk about the problems of the day, while the children played in the grove. Generally, after the noon meal, they would gather around a platform and listen to speeches related primarily to methods of increasing farm production and efficiency.

From 1890 to at least 1900 the nature of the "Farmer's Picnic" changed from a non-political meeting to a political meeting associated with the Alliance party, which was known also as the People's Party or the Populist Party.

The "Farmer's Picnic" of 1889 was quite different from the one held in 1890. In the year 1889, the speeches were given by Hill P. Wilson, Martin Allen and I. M. Yost. All of the speeches were of an almost non-political nature.

Hill P. Wilson spoke about farming and finance. Martin Allen spoke about the benefits of farmer's organizations, and I. M. Yost followed this theme.

In June of 1890 various politicians were invited to speak at the "Farmer's Picnic". To this point the nature of the picnic was not so much political as social. Dave Rathbone, a Democrat, Webb McNall, a Republican, and Wm. E. Scott, a member of the Alliance Party were all invited to speak and did so. The Free Press says, concerning this picnic, "Over 100 wagons and from two to three thousand people were on the ground and it was surely a decided success"19

The Old Settlers also had a picnic which was always well attended. Public speaking was quite common at these gatherings.

An account of the Old Settler's Picnic held in 1895 occurred in The Republican, August 3, 1895.

Invocation by Rev. Zimmerman, 'America' was then sung by the male quartette.

President Allen then made a short address of welcome, reciting some of the incidents of the early days in Ellis county.

He was followed by the male quartette singing 'Welcome Today.'

Judge Osborn was then called upon to make a response to the address of welcome. All expected to hear a happy speech from the judge, full of stories and reminiscences, but they were disappointed he could think of

19Free Press, June 7, 1890.

nothing but fried chicken and ice cream, and he told them so An adjournment was then taken for dinner.

After dinner United States Senator Lucien Baker and Congressman Charles Curtis made the addresses of the day. The addresses were full of patriotism and love for the state of Kansas. It was unfortunate that a stenographer was not present to take down their addresses. An attempt to give a portion of their talk would do them an injustice.²⁰

A brief story of the Old Settler's Picnic occurred in the Free Press, August 22, 1896.

. . . Dave Rathbone delivered an appropriate address and then would be republican congressman Ellis, who was there at the special invitation of President Motz, made a shallow address, so silly that but 7 persons, by actual count, applauded. Such a contrast to the splendid address last year of Charlie Curtis. Drawing his remarks, mostly jokes, thro' his nose, with no force, nothing attractive, he convinced nearly everyone, even Republicans, his utter unfitness as a Congressman.²¹

It is difficult if not impossible to condense a view of the special occasions in which public speaking occurred into a brief chapter. The significance of politics has been reserved for another section. In brief it may be said that the G.A.R. was responsible for much of the speaking that took place in early Hays City. This organization was responsible for the Memorial Day program and this program was one of the most significant of those given in early Hays City.

²⁰The Republican, August 3, 1895.

²¹Free Press, August 22, 1896.

CHAPTER III

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ITS EVENTS

Apart from the many special occasions which afforded the orator a chance to practice his art, the community life of early Hays City seemed to revolve around two institutions: the school and the church. It has previously been stated that the scope of this thesis will not include aspects of rhetoric associated with the promotion of a particular theological view. This chapter, then, deals with the school, perhaps the most important secular institution in the young city.

Many special activities which contained some form of public address were associated with the public school. Some of the school programs were held without charge to the public; for other programs an admission was charged, usually twenty-five cents. At least once during the school year these programs were given, sometimes in the school building but more frequently in one of the churches. The proceeds from the "Entertainments", as they were called were used to defray the cost of costumes and the other expenses of the program. The amount in excess of this, as a rule, went into the school fund. In the Hays City Times, March 19, 1887, there appeared an example of one of the school programs.

The school Entertainment given by the pupils of our public school, well worthy of praise. The Program was rendered in an extraordinary manner, and won the hearty applause of the audience. The first part of the program, although rendered by pupils of the primary departments, was highly appreciated by the audience. The entertainment was opened by an address of welcome, by Nellie Gautier, after which the school sang a song entitled Greeting Glee, in a manner which won applause. Mattie Hager recited Peter Long Pocket, which was calculated to make a person think there had been a famine, or rather was going to be. The dialogue entitled the Debating Society, was very well recited to say the least, and won a hearty applause. The next on the program was a duet by Miss Gretta Adams and Miss Ada Brosius, which would have done credit to the operatic stage. After which was a number of recitations all of which were rendered very well to say the least.¹

The programs put on by the school were always well attended unless bad weather made transportation impossible. The Democratic Times, March 29, 1888, contained a similar story of the school program.

The entertainment given by the high school scholars at Opera Hall last Friday evening, was greeted by one of the largest audiences of the season. The program was so uniformly well rendered that individualizing would seem out of place. In "The Last Loaf" the characters were well taken, Master John Huntington as "Dick Bustle," and Will Kelley as "Tom Chubbs," were both good comedy parts, and nicely taken by the young gentlemen. George Yard looked dashing when he came back from China; Doc. Iler did the inebriate act in a most satisfactory manner, and Prof. Nolan, as the bad old "willian" created a sensation. The ladies of the cast took their parts admirable, Miss Ada Brosius looking very pretty as the heroine, Miss Kate Courtney doing some very pretty acting as the persecuted wife, and Miss Elsie McIntosh playing "Patty Jones" to the queen's liking, and displaying a degree of excellent marksmanship in throwing the "last loaf" at Tom Chubbs.²

¹Hays City Times, March 19, 1887.

²Democratic Times, March 29, 1888.

Programs involving drama and recitations, such as those included in the above two examples were common with the school children. At least once a year programs of this nature were rendered to the public.

In the first of the two stories contained above, the paper failed to mention the place in which the program was presented, but in the second story it is made clear that the program was held in the Opera Hall. The programs were frequently presented at different locations. The most popular places for the high school programs to be held seem to have been the Opera House and the Lutheran Church.

In February of 1898, a program was held with the express purpose of gaining enough money to purchase needed reference books for the school library. The announcement of this program appeared in the Free Press, February 19, 1898.

High School Entertainment
Friday evening, March 4

The public Joint Debate, Literary and musical entertainment of our High School will be given at the Lutheran church at 8 p.m. The features of the program will be a debate on the question: 'Should the jury system be abolished?' in which the affirmative will be maintained by Ralph Grasham and Jennie Ward Negative Patric McCarthy, James Madson, Recitations by Gea Grant, Mabel Conboy; music by Misses Madden, Yost, Shaffer and Schwaller and Prof Bissing's orchestra.

Admission 25cts, to be devoted to purchase of reference books for the school library. It is to be hoped

that our citizens will encourage this commendable effort by their presence.³

Up to the year 1889, the school programs held during the regular school year consisted of younger students. In 1889, the public school saw its first high school graduating class go out into the world. Prior to this time the public school may have had debating and literary societies, but the weekly newspapers are quiet about this subject. After 1889, however, both literary and debating societies were common.

The debating and literary societies of the school were responsible for programs presented before the public. Hays City citizens also had such societies and it is impossible to judge from the newspaper accounts which organization, school or townsfolk, actually presented the programs. Mention of both groups is contained in greater detail in the chapter concerning public speaking related to entertainment and information.

Frequently, children would be called upon to give welcome addresses to visitors of the public school. They may have taken turns in this task, or if the teacher preferred one student, probably the one considered best would give the address. Charles King, an eighty-one year old resident of Hays, said, while being interviewed, that he

³Free Press, February 19, 1898.

was frequently called on to act as the master of ceremonies for the school programs. On one occasion the superintendent was going to visit the school and the teacher asked him to prepare an address of welcome. He refused. The teacher insisted that he do as she asked and he, with equal intensity, insisted that he would not. He never gave the address of welcome as the argument ended when he walked out of the classroom, never to return.

Columbian Day, held in honor of Christopher Columbus, was celebrated in 1892 with a program presented by the school. The following is a brief announcement contained in The Republican, October 29, 1892:

Columbian Day was celebrated by appropriate exercises at Eastman's Hall last Friday evening. The program was all that could be expected, the children doing their part without a mistake. Supt. Grass delivered an excellent address. The only drawback was the smallness of the hall, compelling several to stand and others to go away.⁴

Lafayette Day was also celebrated with a special program presented by the high school. The following program was printed in The Republican, February 15, 1898.

The Public Schools of Hays Will Celebrate Lafayette Day.

October 19th the anniversary of the surrender of Yorktown, which closed the revolution, has been set apart in this country as LaFayette Day. The Marquis di LaFayette, who bled for American freedom, sleeps in Paris in a hitherto unmarked grave.

⁴The Republican, October 29, 1892.

The American Commission of the Paris Exposition has called upon the schools of the United States to celebrate in an appropriate manner the name and deeds of the friend of our infancy as a nation, and to contribute to a fund which will be used in the erection of a suitable monument over his tomb.

The unveiling of this monument will be a prominent feature of United States Day at the Paris Exposition, July 4, 1900. In response to an urgent request from the U. S. Commissioner of the Paris Exposition the Public Schools of Hays will celebrate the honors of LaFayette Day with an entertainment to be given at the opera house, beginning at 8 o'clock p.m. sharp.

Admission: Adults, 25 cents; children under 12 years of age, 15 cents. Doors open at 7 o'clock.

PROGRAMME.

Part I.

Welcome Song		Four Girls
Recitation		Arthur Horn
	"On the Door Step."	
Japanese Fan Drill		
.....(etc.)		Primary
		Department
Medley		Rhoda Yost
Recitation		Pearl Joslin
	"His Mother's Song."	
Song--George King,	Minnie Kohl, Helen Mullen,	
	H. Fitzpatrick	
Recitation	"What Are the Wild Waves Saying."	Alfred Havemann
	"Adam Never was a Boy."	
Recitation		Nellie Reeder
	"An Item from School Life."	
Oration		Clifford Jordan
	"The Hero of Two Worlds."	
Song--Double Quartette	from High School	
	"Huntsmen's Glee."	

Part II

Recitation		George Griffith
	"When Greek Meets Greek."	
Recitation		Henrietta Oshant
	"The Sins of Omission."	

Song	"Star Spangled Banner."	Grammer School Girls
Recitation	"Washington's Kiss."	Lizzie Troth
Recitation	"My Philosophy."	Milton Luce
Recitation	"Miss Malony on the Chinese Question."	Rachel Zeigler
Flag Drill	Tableaux	Grammer School Girls ⁵

At irregular intervals teachers from around the area would gather in Hays City for meetings. These meetings seemed to be held primarily for the teachers but the public was generally invited. Ellis was also the scene of these meetings. The groups of teachers became known as the Ellis County Teacher's Association. A story of one of these meetings was printed in the February 16, 1889, edition of The Republican:

The last meeting of the Teacher's association was held in Hays City Feb. 2, 1889. The meeting was called to order by the Vice President Whelan, who is always on hand. A song by the Association was the first on the programme. A model set of examination questions, by Miss Jennie Gorbes, created a lively discussion. An excellent paper, "Training of the Perceptive Faculties," by Prof. L. H. Gehman. After which the Association had dinner. Afternoon session began at half-past one. Prof. Gehman read a story at the request of the Association, entitled "The Dunces of Cambridge," which was fully appreciated by all who were fortunate enough to hear it. "International Geography, What to teach and how to teach it," by Mill L. E. Boyd, was well handled, and the discussions interesting. "Compound Numbers," by W. T. Young, was next on the programme. "Model Recitation," by class of his own pupils, Mr. E. E. Balcomb, was interesting as well as instructive . . . Association adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet

⁵The Republican, February 15, 1898.

in Hays City the first Saturday in March. This will be our last meeting this year. An interesting programme is prepared. Everybody welcome.⁶

In newspaper accounts of later meetings of the Association, it was discovered that the programs always consisted of readings and lectures relevant to teaching methods or to the teachers' interests.

The activities of the Ellis County Normal were closely related to various forms of public address. The Ellis County Normal convened for the first time in Hays City in the summer of 1879.⁷ It was a school established to train teachers for service in the public schools. The Normal, as it was called, was always held in the summer months.

The significance of this school to the nature of rhetoric in early Hays City was great. Programs including public speaking were held by the Normal, and guest teachers and speakers helped to liven the little city of Hays during the hot summer months.

At first, the enrollment was small and the program of the school was more or less experimental. It is regrettable that the records of the Normal have been lost. The first mention of significance to this study of the

⁶The Republican, February 16, 1889.

⁷Ellis County Star, July 29, 1880.

Normal occurred in the Ellis County Star, August 13, 1880.

Long before the hour announced for the commencement of the exercises, the hall was densely packed, no standing room, even, being unoccupied.

Supt. Gochenauer assumed the chair, and performed the duties thereof gracefully.

The selections were excellent in character and well rendered throughout. Lack of space prevents us from noticing the program in detail; yet, a few of the company deserve special mention.

Miss Rose Steed, the accomplished daughter of Rev. Steed, rendered Jen Ingelow's "High Tide" in a manner which indicated not only great excellence in elocutionary knowledge, but evinced a mind capable of grasping, appreciating and rendering in an effective manner the beautiful sentiments of that masterpiece of one of our sweetest poets

Mrs. S. C. Umholtz recited the "Creeds of the Bells" with splendid effect. Mrs. Umholtz has a powerful voice, of which she is master. She was warmly applauded and was called to the front again with a recitation of "The Stylish Church" which she rendered admirably.

Supt. Gochenauer read "Poe's Raven" in a masterly manner.

Prof. A. Bailey's daughter recited "Prayer and Potatoes" in a manner which plainly showed the careful training for which the professor is famed. Her distinct and clear articulation was superb and she was warmly applauded.

The entertainment was a grand success, and many deserve personal mention, but space forbids, though they are none the less deserving.⁸

For nearly ten years the newspapers remained mysteriously silent about the Normal. During this time only

⁸Ellis County Star, August 13, 1880.

slight references are made to the school; then, in August of 1889, there appears to be a greater interest taken in the school's activities.

I. M. Yost, one of Hays City's leading citizens, gave the address of welcome to the students of the Normal at least three times: 1889, 1890 and 1892. These three addresses given by Mr. Yost are contained in the appendix.

The Normal Institute was host in 1889 to Professor Bell, who delivered an address at the Presbyterian Church. A few days later, Professor Swisher from the Salina Normal University paid the Institute a visit and addressed the students.⁹

In August of 1891, Professor Fairchild of the State Agricultural College came to Hays City and addressed the students and the citizens. Through out the following years, several lecturers came to Hays City as guests of the Normal. The most famous of these visitors was Governor Lewelling. The Free Press says concerning the governor's visit,

. . . . at 10:30 the party visited the Normal, the school flag being run up in their honor, and the Governor and Mr. Smith (who is Co. Supt. of Phillips County) made a few remarks to the teachers that were loudly applauded.¹⁰

⁹Hays City Sentinel, August 27, 1889.

¹⁰Free Press, August 25, 1894.

A description of one of the day's activities in the Normal was published in The Republican, August 13, 1892.

The scope of the institute is broad and professional.

Conductor Reece has introduced a number of new features in which the teachers take special interest and from which they are receiving great benefit. One is the introduction of grade meetings. As the district schools are now being graded all teachers can, with interest and profit discuss and practice the work in all branches for the first year, second year, etc. These meetings are held once a week at 4 p.m. and are well attended.

Another interesting feature is the organization of a Lyceum. The Lyceum meets Tuesday and Thursday at 4 p.m. The exercises consist of practice in parliamentary laws, debates, study of authors, reading and comparing standard literatures, songs, recitations and essays. At the first regular meeting they elected the following officers; Mr. S. Sites, President; Miss Belle Sutton, Vice President; Miss Juletta Bekaw, Secretary; Miss Ida Replogle, Treasurer.

August 9th. The meeting was called to order by the president. The members listened to a very instructive and interesting inaugural address from the president, after which Miss Matie Beach favored us with a very choice selection, which was very well rendered, entitled, "Leadville Jim." Miss Mona Joseph read a very interesting and comical piece, entitled, "The Tramp," Miss Kittie Beach favored us with a very beautiful and excellently rendered song, entitled, "The Birds." She was accompanied on the organ by Miss Jennie Forbes.

The reading class has been divided into two sections for competitive drill in literary, rhetorical and oratorical work. It is very noticeable that the plan of the institute is to lead teachers away from the narrow text book into broader and richer fields of investigation and into a higher realization of the noble work in which they are engaged.¹¹

¹¹The Republican, August 13, 1892.

That public speaking was important at this time is made apparent by the above example.

The existence of the Normal Institute in Hays City may have played an important part in securing the land of the old fort for a state school. In 1895 this editorial occurred in The Republican.

The State Normal School

The Normal School at Emporia is overcrowded, and an appropriation by the legislature is asked to erect additional buildings. It is thought best by many to locate another school elsewhere in the state.

Mayor Oshant has called a meeting of our citizens for this evening at the court house, with a view of presenting our claims to the legislature, asking for the location of the school at Hays City. We hope all will turn out and give the matter prompt attention.

Wichita is making a move and when she moves it means business.

It would be manifestly unfair to have both schools located in the southeastern portion of the state. Public institutions should be distributed with some degree of fairness. The eastern half of the state thus far has secured all the great institutions, except two: The three asylums at Topeka, Osawatimie and Winfield, Reform School at Topeka, school for Deaf and Dumb at Olathe, school for the Blind at Kansas City, the Soldiers' Orphans Home at Atchison, the Penitentiary near Leavenworth, the University at Lawrence, Normal School at Emporia, Agricultural College at Manhattan--nearly all in the distant eastern portion of the state: and only two small institutions in the western half: the Soldiers' Home at Dodge City and Industrial School for Girls at Beloit.

If a spirit of fairness is to govern, the school will be located at some point in the western part of the state.

Days City offers a location the most favorable of any, geographically considered, with the abandoned military reservation across Big Creek, and if the proper effort was made to induce our delegation in congress to become interested in securing it for this purpose, it seems reasonable that it might be done. Uncle Sam has heretofore shown extreme liberality in encouraging education by setting apart million of his acres for the benefit of public schools. Who can doubt, if properly presented, any member of congress could object to ceding the reservation for school purposes. But the thing is to get the member who can and will push this matter.

With the reservation secured, there should be no trouble in getting the school located here. Let us council together and determine what best to do. Without an effort we can hope for nothing. If we mean to go to work in earnest, the sensible way is first to induce the legislature to send a committee of three or four members to view the reservation, &c. There could scarcely be a doubt as to a favorable report being made; and for our legislature to memorialize congress asking the ceding for the benefits of a state Normal School.¹²

The highlight of the school year was commencement. This was a time for the students to demonstrate the degree of their knowledge. People from all over the county would congregate to hear their relatives and friends recite poems, read essays, or perform in one manner or another. The following announcement came from the Ellis County Star, June 29, 1876:

With this week our school term closes. Friday afternoon the parents and acquaintances of the children are expected to visit the school and note for themselves the progress made by the little ones. Dialougues, Essays, and Declamations will constitute the exercises.¹³

¹²The Republican, January 12, 1895.

¹³Ellis County Star, June 29, 1876.

Although informal exercises were held at the conclusion of the school year, it was not until 1889 that a formal graduation program was held in Hays City. This brief announcement occurred in The Republican, April 6, 1889. "The school board have determined that hereafter there will be connected with the closing of the school term, Commencement Exercises."¹⁴

The nature of the commencement exercises remained much the same from the first one held in 1889 to the last within the scope of this thesis, 1899.

The band would be on hand to provide the music. One of the town's ministers would give an opening prayer and then the graduating students would, one after another, read the essays which they had prepared for this occasion. Frequently, special music was included between some of the addresses. After all of the graduating students had completed their recitations, the chairman of the school board would give an address followed by the presentation of diplomas; then, an additional address would be given by a guest speaker. The guest speaker was usually someone with speaking experience associated with some phase of public education. The program would then be concluded with a benediction.

¹⁴The Republican, April 6, 1889.

The commencement exercises were held at the Lutheran church from 1889 to 1898. In 1898 the exercises were moved to the G.A.R. Hall. This Hall proved to be too small to hold the crowd desiring to attend the commencement exercises.¹⁵ The G.A.R. Hall was used the following year, however, as the graduating class of 1899 was the smallest in the history of the school.¹⁶

Two speakers addressed the graduating class of 1891 and their friends. Professor Canfield of the State University delivered an address on June 4, 1891, at the Lutheran Church the night before graduation. The following night, A. J. Bryant gave the commencement address and then presented the diplomas. The story of Professor Canfield's address is given in the Hays City Sentinel.

On last Thursday evening one of the State University professors entertained a crowded house at the Lutheran church of this city with an excellent address upon the admirable educational system of this state.

He showed that this was planned and provided for in the Wyandotte convention which adopted a constitution for this state before Kansas was admitted to the union of states. That the same plan of education adopted in the seventeenth century by the colony of Massachusetts providing for a general system of education for the whole people was engrafted in the Wyandotte constitution. This was unique and unknown to all the nations of this earth being broad enough to reach the entire people of the commonwealth embracing as it did, as a part, the common school and State University, which University was an intergral part of the educational system of Kansas.

¹⁵The Republican, May 14, 1898.

¹⁶The Republican, May 20, 1899.

Prof. Canfield in a most forcible and eloquent manner elucidated his important subject, the value, importance and necessity to the state of our admirable public and university system. It was by the people and for all the people for the rich and the poor alike. It was needed for the protection of the best interests of the State. It was planned and devised for this purpose. The speaker showed by a most logical argument that our school system was admirably meeting the great design intended at the beginning. All in all Prof. Canfield gave his audience a rich intellectual treat which must yield lasting benefit to his attentive audience. His lecture was a grand, masterly success.¹⁷

An account of the same address was given in The Republican, June 6, 1891.

As per announcement, Prof. Canfield of the State University, delivered a lecture to the graduating class of the Hays City High School and their friends in the Lutheran church last evening. The church was packed to its utmost to hear this talented educational instructor. His subject was the "Public Schools." He said that the constitution of the state of Kansas provided for public schools and that the State University was a part of the public school system. When the Puritans landed in Massachusetts in 1647 they at once passed a law that when any town shall increase to 100 families or house-holders, they shall set up a grammar school. Two hundred years afterward with the thoughts of the Puritans still in their minds, the Kansas legislature met at Wyandotte and passed school laws that has made it possible for every child in Kansas to gain a common school and University education. He spoke very highly of the public school system and asked why some people opposed our system, which was practical from the start. It was the result of steady growth and development, and had come to stay. There may be laws passed for the resubmission of the public school system, whatever else happens. Only ignorant people oppose the school system; but the state has made this public school system and will stand by it. Professor Canfield talked for one hour and thirty minutes, and was listened to and followed throughout with intense interest by an intelligent

¹⁷Hays City Sentinel, June 9, 1891.

audience. If the state will continue to allow Prof. Canfield to deliver this lecture over the state, the opposition would sink to oblivion and the public and University schools would rise to such a standard that the interest and verdict would be unanimous in their favor.¹⁸

The stories contained in the Hays City Sentinel and The Republican are obviously similar, yet different in many respects. Including both of these stories about the same speaking occasion illustrates the problem of determining historical genuineness of the speaking situations recorded in this thesis. It will be seen that these differences in newspaper reporting become greater when the subject is politics.

The largest class to graduate from the Hays City High School was the one of 1891.¹⁹ Thirteen young scholars received diplomas on Friday evening, June 5, of this year. Each of these students had prepared essays which were presented orally on the night of graduation. The Hays City Sentinel printed a program of the coming exercises.

Programme

Of the Graduating Exercises of the High School, to be held in the Lutheran Church Friday evening, June 5th:

Music		Orchestra
Invocation		Rev. A. T. Aller
Salutatory		W. J. Madden
Essay		Manna Mullen
	A Will and a Way	
Essay		Grace Nelson
	The Love of the Beautiful	

¹⁸The Republican, June 6, 1891.

¹⁹Information found in records in Hays Public High School.

Essay	Alexander the Great	D. W. Nickles
Essay	Scott and Byron	Stella Bryant
Essay	The Moral of Failure	Henry Bauer
Music Essay	The American School Boy	Orchestra Joseph Shaffer
Essay	The World's Fair	Frank Kay
Essay	Before and Since Railroads	Gail W. Beach
Essay	Noted Women	Mattie Hager
Essay	Oneness of Purpose	F. Cahill
Essay	The Gates Ajar	Kittie McLain
Valedictory Address and Presentation of Diplomas	A. J. Bryant	May Bemis
Music Benediction		Orchestra Rev. T. B. Hughes ²⁰

Public speaking was an important part of the training in the high school program. Lester Thonssen and A. Craig Baird in their work, Speech Criticism say:

It would seem therefore, that the criticism of rhetoric ebbs and flows with the tides of academic acceptance. It is subject, moreover, to the influence of fads and fashions in thinking, just as are literary criticism and the related arts. In short, it reflects the spirit of the age and character of its educational philosophy. The past century, it seems clear, has favored the revival of rhetoric.²¹

As it has already been seen the Normal Institute emphasized the study of rhetoric. This same emphasis seems to have been made in the public schools.

²⁰Hays City Sentinel, June 2, 1891.

²¹Lester Thonssen and A. Craig Baird, Speech Criticism (New York, 1948), p. 244.

On November 4, 1962, the Hays Daily News printed a feature article about this thesis. The primary purpose of the article, as far as the writer was concerned, was to enlist help in the project from interested persons. It was hoped that manuscripts of old speeches might be found as a result of the news story. If no manuscripts, perhaps interviews or additional information might result from the story. Only one person responded; Mr. Ed. Jantzen of Hill City sent the following letter:

Hill City Kansas
Nov. 6, 1962

Mr. Jim Caton
Plainville, Kansas

Hi Caton

In regard to your research on public speaking. I graduated from Hays College in 1909. Some time before that, I would estimate it to have been about 1904 or 05, in the early days of Hays College, a student by the name of Olsen was standing on a bank. It seems to me it was east of Hays, any way it was near the slaughter house. Frank King and his brother were going to the slaughter house about dusk. They saw this student standing on the bank, waving his arms, yelling loud, going through all kinds of antics which we were taught to do in those days in public speaking. They were sure the boy was crazy. They man andled him with the aid of the sheriff, took him up to the Court House and jailed him. He continuously contended that he was not crazy. They agreed with him. Never the less they locked him up, went down town, spreading the news they had captured a crazy man. When Steve Joy, the bailiff, brought the boys supper, Olsen said, "Now your sheriff says I'm crazy, but wouldn't you do just one little favor for a crazy person? Pleas call Mr. Picken at the College

and tell him that you have me in jail and I would like for him to come over at once." When Picken arrived he exclaimed "Oh my, he is one of our brightest students". The sheriff said "May God pity the rest of them".

If you can use this, or any part of it, I am glad. Feel free to call or write me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely yours

E. D. Jantzen
415 W. Walnut
Hill City, Kansas

Phone 674 2516

Mr. Jantzen's information was valuable. The "antics" which Mr. Jantzen claims he was taught at this time may have been a reflection of the oratorical tide of the nineteenth century.

The Republican is the only newspaper to include the addresses of the graduating students. In 1889, five students graduated and all five of the addresses were printed. Four students graduated in the class of 1890; their addresses were also printed. The Republican, too, printed the thirteen addresses of the students in the class of 1891. In 1892, the address of Miss Jennie Nickles, the valedictorian of the class, was the only one to be printed. The editor, Mr. George Griffith, stated that the other seven addresses would appear in later editions. They never appeared. The valedictorian address given the following

year by Miss Mamie Start appeared in The Republican in May, with the story of the commencement exercises. This was the last address given by the graduating students to be printed.

Most of the speeches were informative and dealt with such subjects as archaeology, time, the nature of the sun, and the writings' of Charles Dickens. The addresses given by the first three valedictorians are included in Appendix B.

CHAPTER IV

ENTERTAINMENT AND INFORMATION

In early Hays City there were no television sets, radios or motion pictures. The only mediums for news were the newspapers, bulletins posted at the telegraph office, a few periodicals and the news carried from one person to another in conversation. Even the news gained from the newspaper had to be read with care and if possible confirmed by other papers, for the editors were, in most cases, partial to one political party or another.

Evenings were spent in entertainment that had to be created. Participation was required of most entertainment. Because of the nature of entertainment was more limited in the nineteenth century than it is now, more attention was given to public speaking and speech related activities within the community.

A popular form of entertainment in early Hays City was oral reading. Entire programs composed of selected readings and character recitations were common. The Ellis County Star gave an example of one of these programs:

A large and appreciative audience assembled, in Court house hall, on Tuesday evening, to listen to selected readings by Mrs. Umholtz. Mrs. Umholtz did justice to the claims of her friends for a high order

of elocutionary talent. The selections were well rendered and excited responsive applause.¹

Programs such as the one listed above were given on several different occasions. They provided entertainment for organizations such as the church, the temperance union and the school. On one occasion a testimonial was held in honor of Prof. Carroll and his work as an instructor in the public school. The testimonial consisted of a program which, according to the German American Advocate, engaged "the best musical and literary talent of the city."² The price of admission was twenty-five cents and all the money was presented to Prof. Carroll.

Miss Elsie McIntosh, who graduated from Hays High School in 1889, gave a recital in April, 1891. The Republican gave an account of this recital:

At Eastman's Hall on last Friday evening, Miss Elsie McIntosh gave one of her delightful recitals. Though the evening was somewhat stormy, nevertheless the young and rising elocutionist was greeted with a fair audience. The people of Hays are justly proud of this talented young lady. We can claim her as our own, as she belongs to the first generation of our city; and with the exception of the necessary time spent abroad in the prosecution of her studies, she has always lived here. Miss Elsie is an elocutionist of rare promise. In any selection, either humorous or pathetic, she is at home and proves her self a success. Her rendition of the "Boblink" was excellent; that of "Their first unpleasantness" was true to nature; while the "Medley" cannot be excelled. Her manner, her voice, her articulation, and her general appearance on the platform, must make her a success in her chosen profession.³

¹Ellis County Star, August 19, 1880.

²German American Advocate, July 26, 1884.

³The Republican, April 25, 1891.

A program of oral readings, similar to the one above was given by Georgine Yost in November, 1893. This brief announcement appeared in The Republican, November 4, 1893:

It always gives us pleasure to mention the progress our young boys and girls are making, and especially the graduates of the high school. Miss Georgine Yost, who is taking an elocutionary course at the Valpariso (Ind) College, is making rapid strides to the front as a reader. Last Saturday evening she readed the program with an oration on "Heroism," before a large audience.⁴

Georgine E. Yost gave a public recital similar to the one mentioned above in August, 1894. The Free Press carried an announcement of the recital. The paper said, "Miss Yost has been taking lessons of several professionals and is pronounced quite an elocutionist."⁵

Two months later Miss Yost presented another program which included oral reading and statuary posing. The Republican said, "Her expression, articulation and graceful gestures in this difficult piece "The Gypsy Flower Girl" showed the audience what she could do."⁶

Yard parties and socials which included elocutionary talent were popular forms of entertainment.

A social was held at Mr. A. D. Gilkeson's home on a Thursday evening in early August, 1880. The Ellis County Star included the following remarks concerning this affair:

⁴The Republican, November 4, 1893.

⁵Free Press, August 25, 1894.

⁶The Republican, August, 1894.

. . . Prof. Bailley got off some genuinely good oratorical work, on "A mon's a mon for a' that," and a most laughable Irish version of "Excelsior." . . . We repeat, that, what with music and Shakespeare, Burns, ice cream and cake, and a half hundred guests, each bent on contributing what they could to the general fund of enjoyment, it was a rare and pleasant gathering.

The Republican printed a program of a Thanksgiving Entertainment given by Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Yost. Notice the extent of oral readings and recitations which it includes:

THANKSGIVING ENTERTAINMENT.

The recital given by Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Yost and daughter, Georgine, Thursday evening, was a success. Miss Yost's recitations were selected with taste and rendered perfectly. Her six months instruction in Chicago has perfected a natural talent, which she possesses in no small degree. We haven't space to mention each one who took part separately, but all helped to make a very pleasing entertainment. Following is the program:

Overture	Orchestra
Address of Welcome	Ed. D. Yost
Welcome Song	Yost Family
Reading--Selected	Ina Brosius
Solo--"Carnival of Venice"	Peter Bissing
Legend of "The Organ Builder"	Georgine E. Yost
Duet, "Nightingale"	Mrs. S. Motz and Mrs. C. C. Brosius
Recitation, "Hagar"	Annie Mollov
Song, "Swiss"	Annie Murset
Recitation, "No Sects in Heaven"	Mrs. W. J. Lippard
Song, Banjo Accompaniment	Prof. D. H. Montgomery
Exercise, With Dumb Bells	Rhoda J. Yost
Selections from "Blind Tom"	Erma Henley
Recitation, "Independence Bell"	Lucy Snyder
Quartette, "The World is What We Make It"	
C. M. Wann, W. J. Bethard, A. J. Bryant, C. W. Reeder	
"Frair Phillip"	Georgine E. Yost
Solo, "The Long Ago," Hewitt	Mrs. J. H. Ward

INTERMISSION.

Toast--"Our Children"	Geo. P. Griffith
Reply	Dr. Snyder
Quartette, "Dreams of Long Ago"	
C. M. Wann, W. J. Bethard, A. J. Bryant, C. W. Reeder	
Recitation, "Our Little Hero"	Eirdie Schultz
Solo	Mrs. M. P. Wilson
Exercises, Clubs	Annie Molloy
Duet, "Murmuring Sea"	Mrs. A. J. Bryant and Mrs. W. J. Bethard
Reading, "The Thin Man From Dayton"	Jennie Nickles
Duet, "Strangers"--Clauder	Mrs. J. M. Schaefer and Ella Magrona
"Jerry"	Georgine E. Yost
Duet, Banjos, Song Comique	Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Montgomery
Speech, German	Rhoda J. Yost
Duet, "Love Never Sleeps"	Fannie Brosius and Rosina Yost
Our Guests	A. J. Bryant
Duet, "Rock Beside the Sea"	Mrs. I. M. Yost and Daughter
Solo, "Tambourine"	C. C. Brosius
Auld Lang Syne	Entire Company

"Social Shake"⁸

Different names were assigned to many of these gatherings, such as "parlor entertainments", "Literarys", and "recitals" but they all had one thing in common, public speaking.

Hays City was the host to many professional lecturers. These lecturers would travel from town to town presenting their rhetorical talents for a fee.

Noble L. Prentiss appeared in Hays City on Tuesday evening, December 10, 1878, and delivered a lecture at the courthouse entitled, "A Kansas Man's Impression of Scotland,

⁸The Republican, December 2, 1893.

Ireland, and England." The Hays City Sentinel reported the story and said, "Every seat was occupied and Prentiss held his audience spell-bound. Now in a ripple of an audible smile, and then entranced by some beautiful description. Everybody was delighted, and a prodigal of Kansas journalism can number all of his years among his appreciative admirers."⁹

In 1879 Robert Green Ingersoll was invited to speak in Hays City. The Ellis County Star reports the invitation in its December 25, 1879, edition. In following editions, hope was expressed that Mr. Ingersoll might come to Hays City. There is no evidence that he ever did speak in Hays City, but the fact that he was invited demonstrates the concern of some of the townsfolk and their belief that the community would respond to such an occasion.

Professor E. A. Plank delivered a series of lectures on botany in the Presbyterian Church. Concerning Mr. Plank, the Ellis County Democrat and Advocate said, "Go hear him as he is an interesting lecturer."¹⁰

Frequently the local newspapers printed the story of the lecturer's coming but then failed to mention anything about him after he had been here. An example of this was found in the Free Press:

⁹Hays City Sentinel, December 14, 1879.

¹⁰Ellis County Democrat and Advocate, August 15, 1885.

A treat is in store for all old Kansans in the lecture of H. D. Fisher of Topeka on 'Reminiscences of Early Life in Kansas,' on Thursday evening, Feb., 9th at the Opera Hall.¹¹

The announcement was printed but there was no story of Mr. Fisher's presence in Hays City.

Although Hays City was host to several traveling lecturers, it could boast of its own as well. This announcement occurred in the Ellis County Star, August 11, 1881:

W. F. Montgomery will lecture at the Presbyterian Church tomorrow evening. His subject will be 'In Defense of the Great American Desert.' A cordial invitation is extended to all.¹²

There was no follow-up story concerning the lecture given by Mr. Montgomery.

Martin Allen also lectured in early Hays City. Included in Appendix D is an abstract of a speech given by Mr. Allen before the Farmers' Institute. In December, 1879, Martin Allen gave a speech before the Horticultural Society at Holton, Kansas. This speech is also contained in Appendix D.

The Farmers' Institute mentioned above was an organization dedicated to making the farmer's task simpler through understanding and improved farming methods. This organization

¹¹Free Press, February 4, 1888.

¹²Ellis County Star, August 11, 1881.

was responsible for several addresses given in Hays City. The public was invited to attend these meetings. The Democratic Times, February 27, 1890, printed this brief story concerning the Institute:

The Farmers' Institute held here on the 20th and 21st, owing to the inclemency of the weather, was not so well attended as that of last year, although the program carried out was a most excellent and interesting one. The papers read were all instructive and entertaining, especially those of Hon. Martin Allen, Wil. Fuller, J. E. Johnson and R. Joy. Mrs. T. L. Jones' paper was, as usual, a brilliant effort, and well sustained her reputation as one of the most accomplished essayists in the state. Miss Frost's essay, read the last day, was also an excellent production. The addresses by the visiting Professors of the State Agricultural college were of great interest, especially to the farmers.¹³

The Farmers' Institute was held annually and the nature of the meetings was always the same; to entertain and inform with a greater emphasis placed upon the latter. H. D. Shaffer gave an address before this organization in 1894. His speech is contained with that of Martin Allen in Appendix D.

Debate was a popular form of entertainment in early Hays City. The Republican, February 23, 1889, carried this story about the Debating Society:

Our Debating society was well attended on Wednesday last. The programme was carried out nicely. There was no regular question, each speaker took some noted character in American history and championed his doings

¹³ Democratic Times, February 27, 1890.

in life. Out of the following characters the judges decided in favor of Columbus. Washington's life and doings were championed by M. Keyl; Patrick Henry, Mattie Keyl; Benjamine Franklin, Master L. Brown; LaFayette, Ida Behan; Alexander Hamilton, Master E. Brown; Grant, Lizzie Wellbrock; Prof. Morse, Clarence Keyl; Columbus, Robert Behan. All of the speakers did well and fought nobly for their man.¹⁴

The above example is not a good illustration of the programs which were held by the Debating Societies; it is given because it was one of the first programs of this type recorded by the newspapers.

The debates, sponsored by the Debating Society, were usually held in the winter months. The questions were given to the contestants at least a week in advance of the debate. The Democratic Times included a story which illustrates better the nature of the debate programs:

The debate at the literary society at the Gossar school house, Wednesday evening of last week was upon the question as to which had the most influence upon man, whether it was women or money. Jake Gossar was among the debators championing the influence of the ladies, while Jim McIntosh was one of those debating on the other side. The judges decided in favor of the women.¹⁵

Occasionally a debate was held as a part of a program. The following is an example of this:

The Literary at North Fork last Friday night was one of the liveliest of the season, with select readings, declamations, dialogues, and song of all songs.

¹⁴The Republican, February 23, 1889.

¹⁵Democratic Times, February 6, 1890.

After 10 minutes recess the debate commenced: "Resolved, that Education is better than wealth," The question, was argued with a spirit by eight on a side, and was decided for money. The judge seemed to think if they had money that was all that was needed. Some of the speakers made strong points of the affirmative, but availed nothing.¹⁶

An interesting debate was held at the high school in 1896. The subject of the debate was "Resolved that women should have the right of suffrage."¹⁷ The judge of this debate was A. R. Cole, who decided in favor of the negative.

In addition to the Debating Society, other societies were formed in early Hays City. The Chautauqua organization was formed at least as early as 1891. Neither the papers of early Hays nor the residents interviewed revealed the origin of this organization in Hays City. It was a society dedicated to learning. Such subjects as "English History," "Geology" and "The Church in the United States" were studied by members of this group.¹⁸

A story in The Republican, February 23, 1896, revealed that other organizations similar to the Chautauqua did exist in Hays City:

A number of Hays women met at Mrs. Hartland's on Thursday afternoon for the purpose of organizing a literary and musical club. As many, who it is thought

¹⁶The Republican, March 22, 1890.

¹⁷The Republican, March 21, 1896.

¹⁸The Republican, January 24, 1891, March 24, 1891, and August 1, 1891 respectively.

will be interested in this movement, were not present, it was decided to postpone the election of officers until the next meeting, which will be held on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Mrs. Gartland's. All women are invited to be present and become members of this club.¹⁹

The literary and musical club mentioned above became the Saturday Afternoon Club and is still in existence today in Hays. A brief history of this organization written by Mrs. Emma Golden says,

It was organized as a literary and cultural club, but it soon became a study club . . . the topics studied were: current events, mythology, French history, science, and debate.²⁰

The program of this organization was expanded in 1899 to include civic work. The first big civic project of the club was working toward a public library for Hays.

Although the forms of entertainment in early Hays City differed from those of today, the early citizens found many ways in which entertainment could be provided. Elocutionary recitals, lectures, and literary societies provided early residents of Hays City with various forms of entertainment.

¹⁹The Republican, February 23, 1895.

²⁰Emma Golden, "A brief History of the Saturday Afternoon Club," Unpublished, p. 1.

CHAPTER V

POLITICS

The subject of politics was an important one to the residents of early Hays City. Listening to speeches given by the candidates for offices gave the citizens of Hays City an opportunity to be informed and entertained as well.

Hays City was easily accessible because it was located near the Union Pacific Railroad. This fact made Hays City the scene of many political rallies.

The newspapers of the little city never permitted the political questions of the day to go unanswered. Each newspaper assumed a partisan attitude and freely expressed a one sided point of view. Papers with names such as the Ellis County Democrat, The Alliance Pilot and The Republican indicate the partisan nature of their editors. Captain Henry King, in a commencement day address delivered at the Kansas State University in June, 1906, said,

It was in our politics, perhaps, that we Kansas Newspapers were most apt to disregard the impulses of brotherly kindness and patience. The Kansas newspapers had early manifested a partiality for aggressive and vociferous campaigns. They were very fond of putting candidates under the narrow, as they called it . . .¹

It was no doubt necessary for the reader to read more than one newspaper in order to get an accurate estimate of the true situations of his day.

¹History of Kansas Newspapers, Kansas State Historical Society (Topeka, 1916), p. 13.

An example of putting an individual under the harrow was found in the Hays City Sentinel, November 1, 1876. This paper announced a Republican rally at Ellis and said concerning J. H. Downing, editor of the Ellis County Star: "Go and hear Downing's abominable lie about his war record, disproved."² It seems that Downing had gone to Ellis and had spoken at a Republican rally. Downing had a scar on his face; in fact, he had been called "Scar-face Jack" by the Hays City Sentinel in a previous issue. Downing had made reference to this scar and suggested that he received it from a Rebel saber as he battled in Tennessee. The Hays City Sentinel attempted to disprove this by writing to Downing's boyhood home in Council Bluff. According to this paper, a reply was received from Major W. S. Burke, who resided in Council Bluff, stating that Downing received the scar on his cheek from the blow of a ax in the hands of his step-father. It is not the purpose of this thesis to determine the truth or the falsehood of this situation. The story is included to illustrate the way in which the two papers fought one another.

The first act of the political drama in Hays City was opened with a local convention. These conventions were designed to outline the political goals and to stimulate interest in the coming campaigns. These conventions

²Hays City Sentinel, November 1, 1876.

were usually well attended and, as a rule, were quite orderly. An exception to this rule occurred in 1876.

The Hays City Sentinel gave the following account of this disorderly convention:

Below we have given as correct an account of the proceedings as is possible for a disinterested looker-on to do, with such criticisms as we deem necessary. If a party will split and no amount of coaxing will unite it, then, we say, criticisms by the press are legitimate. The meeting was called to order by D. C. Nelson, the call read, and the chairman elected. Motz was nominated as a delegate, was nominated and defeated, Humphrey was nominated, elected but refused to serve, and then commenced the reign of dire confusion--Motz and his party striving to delay the proceedings until the arrival of his Russians, by [The deteriorated state of the paper made the next two lines impossible to read] to noat down the speakers and to go on with the business. Finally amid the noise and confusion D. C. Smith was elected chairman, and George Ryan, secretary; but this did not abate the hubbub. The speakers, yelling and hustling continued for above an hour when the arrival of the Russians partially silenced it. But here we must speak of one of the principal disturbers, W. D. Lane. Drunk as a man can be and stand, the anebriated little waiffet staggered around the floor, vacantly staring at the chairman, wildly gesticulating, incoherently jabbering for over an hour; until at last his imbecility of expression warned the men who had put him up to talk against time, that he would soon succumb to the fiery elements raging within him and he was choked off. Nothing but waiskey could make a man act as foolish, and it must have been Democratic waiskey at that. If there is a man in Kansas totally void of honor, that man is W. D. Lane. He tried to bribe the chairman of the convention to rule in favor of his party, regardless of right and justice, when votes were being challenged. We have ample proof of this fact and do not hesitate to brand this putrid sore as a villian

3Hays City Sentinel, October 11, 1876.

Most conventions followed the simple and quiet plan of procedure like the one recorded in the Ellis County Democrat and Advocate, October 3, 1885:

The Democratic convention met to-day with a full delegation from the different townships, with a crowd of lookers-on. L. D. Kirkman of Walker was elected Chairman and made a neat little speech that was loudly applauded. M. M. Murdon was elected as Secretary. The usual committees were appointed and reported. The committee on resolutions presenting a long report which was adopted.

Mr. Silkeson was brought before the convention and made a short speech which was loudly applauded.⁴

Hays City, because of its central location in the county and its nearness to a main railroad, was host to many campaigning politicians. The Ellis County Star, on October 19, 1876, included this story of a meeting sponsored by the Democratic Party:

On Tuesday afternoon the Democrats of Hays City held their first public meeting of the present campaign.

The Court room was handsomely decorated with a number of large flags fitted up in fine style for the occasion, and at the hour of opening a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen had gathered in the room to hear the doctrines of the Democracy expounded by one of its most talented adherents.

The meeting was called to order by A. D. Silkeson, who made a few pleasant remarks, which were well received by his hearers, and then introduced Mr. P. T. Pendleton, of Ellsworth. Mr. P. made one of the average party speeches, decrying the Republican party, and exalting the opposite one, and after closing, Mr. Gilkeson, in a neat little speech introduced Hon. Thomas

⁴Ellis County Democrat and Advocate, October 3, 1885.

P. Fenlon, the Democratic candidate for Member of Congress from this District. Fenlon then commenced his remarks and for an hour and a half delivered one of the most effective speeches ever heard in Hays City.⁵

The Hays City Sentinel announced in the September 14, 1878, edition, the following:

Honorable John A. Anderson and Sen. Ingalls or Col. St. John will address the citizens of Ellis at 2 o'clock P.M., Tues, Oct. 8; and the citizens of Hays, at 7 o'clock P.M. of the same day, in the court house. A better opportunity to hear two of Kansas' best orators will never be presented.⁶

The coming of Mr. John Anderson to Hays City was "big news". A large crowd greeted him and listened to his address. The Hays City Sentinel contained this story:

The Republican mass meeting in the courthouse last Tuesday night was the largest political gathering ever held in Hays City. Honorable John A. Anderson, nominee for the Congress, was the orator of the evening and delivered a good, sound Republican speech, such as if delivered in any town and schoolhouse in the State would round up the party into a solid working column and convince every Republican of the honesty and integrity of his political faith. . . . In all Mr. Anderson's speech was excellent and received a cordial welcome. Prentiss closed the meeting with one of those woody speeches so characteristically Prentiss.⁷

The residents of Hays City were deeply interested in politics and frequently expressed their joy when their favorite candidate was elected. An example of this occurred in November issue of the German American Advocate:

⁵Ellis County Star, October 19, 1876.

⁶Hays City Sentinel, September 14, 1878.

⁷Hays City Sentinel, October 12, 1878.

On Wednesday night the Democrats had a grand jubilee over the election of Cleveland as President. All day long were teams busy hauling boxes, barrels and rubbish until the pile was as large as a house. A liberty pole many feet high, was erected near by, this was surrounded by barrels stuffed with hay. Near Middlerniers was one wrapped with saturated cloth. A keg of powder and two anvils were on hand to make the noise and a barrel of oil to make the blaze more brilliant. At 7 the tattoo sounded and the torches lighted, the workers around the fire hiring substitutes to carry theirs, the cannon boomed the fires lighted and the celebration commenced in earnest. For hours did the cannonading, the parading, and the fires keep up and men and boys shouted themselves hoarse. Crowds thronged the streets and everything passed off without ar.⁸

Another celebration occurred following the next presidential election. The Republican, November 17, 1888, gave this story:

Early Monday evening a general stir could be noticed on our streets. Wagons were going and coming from every direction filled with boxes and barrels, which were piled on North Main street in front of Fitzpatrick's store. The pile proceeded to grow until it reached mammoth proportions. The storekeepers, both Republicans and Democrats, were liberal in their donation of firewood. As early as half past six horsemen commenced coming in from every direction to Republican headquarters at the rink. At 7 o'clock sharp bugles were sounded, the brass band came down Main street playing a lively quickstep, and horsemen came from every direction. After procuring capes and torches, Capt. Sam Mellison and his lieutenants, McLain and Bauer, soon had them in line fronting south. Dora Gosser drove up about this time with two wagons coupled together for the stand. At a signal from the Captain, the bugle again sounded and the procession left for the east end of town, where they were to join with the rest of the procession. At about 7 o'clock the procession again passed down Main and up Fort street, headed by the brass band. Then came several ladies horseback; 100 men on horseback carrying torches; log cabin on wheels drawn by 6 horses. Just at this time the large fire was lit, and as it blazed up showing the log cabin with its inmates and coon skins on the outside,

⁸German American Advocate, November 15, 1884.

the cheering was deafening. After this came a buggy containing Judge West, Circuit Clerk Keach, Eli Fox and ex Representative B. C. Arnold. On the outside of the carriage was a banner which read, "What's the matter with Ellis county?" Several banners were in the line. The procession marched up and down all the principal streets and broke ranks at the rink at about 7:30 o'clock. Main street from Fred Krueger's corner to the rink and Fort street from Rubel sky Bros. to the Windsor Hotel was just crowded with people. The millinery store of Miss A. M. Sites was most beautifully decorated with Japanese lanterns. After the march all adjourned to the rink, where singing and speaking were enjoyed until a late hour.⁹

The two examples of rejoicing because of the results of a political campaign demonstrate the fact that the citizens of Hays City were quite serious about their politics.

In August of 1888, Hill P. Wilson, the owner of the Hays City bank, was nominated for State Senator at the Republican Convention at Colby, Kansas. This nomination pleased many of the local citizens and they planned a reception for him upon his return from Colby. The Hays City Sentinel reported this story:

Fifteen rounds of cannon greeted the arrival of his train, and in the evening our citizens, irrespective of party, marched to Mr. Wilson's residence and tendered him most hearty congratulations. The Hays City bank took station in the illuminated grounds, while a brilliant display of fire works added to the entertainment of their music. Mr. D. Rathbone, in a neatly turned speech, presented the congratulations of the visitors. Mr. Wilson responded and his slightly trembling voice, as compared to his steady, cool utterances at the Colby mass meeting, testified most eloquently his high appreciation of the esteem of home people. The writer was impressed with the remark of a farmer who stood near

⁹The Republican, November 17, 1888.

him, He said: 'Mr. Wilson is a square man, got rich without spoiling and all that sort of thing; but the speakers do not remember that since 1874 he has been the most presistent and never-let-go wheat farmer in western Kansas. he demonstrated what he held in theory--that here was the great wheat growing region of Kansas. I owe him something for that.'¹⁰

Hill P. Wilson was the only man to become a State Senator from Hays City in the nineteenth century. Hays City, however, was the home to several politicians who became members of the house in the Kansas State Government:

1877	A. D. Gilkeson
1879	L. F. Eggers
1881	Martin Allen
1883	E. C. Arnold
1889	James H. Reeder
1891	James H. Reeder
1893	D. F. Replogle
1895	John Schyler
1897	Joseph E. Pasgall ¹¹

Many distinguished politicians visited Hays City. In May, 1880, Governor St. John was in Hays City and the Ellis County Star carried the following story concerning his visit:

Gov. St. John arrived in our city at an early hour this morning on his return from the frontier, where he has been visiting the settlers in their dug-outs. The Fort Bank serenaded the Governor at the New York house, where a large number of our citizens had called to pay their respects to his excellency.

At 10 o'clock our citizens met at the Court house, where the Governor had promised to say something on matters of general interest.

¹⁰Hays City Sentinel, August 21, 1888.

¹¹List compiled from W. D. Wilder's work, Annals of Kansas 1541-1885 (Topeka, 1886), and Annals of Kansas 1886-1925, Vol. I, ed. Kirke Mechem (Topeka, 1954).

The meeting was called to order, and on motion, Gen. Pratt made Chairman and J. H. Downing, secretary. After music by the band, Gen. Pratt made a speech, at the close of which he introduced Gov. St. John who spoke for half an hour on topics of general interest. The Governor was frequently cheered by the audience. His speech was a plain practical, common-sense talk.¹²

In September of 1888, Hays City was host to Governor Humphrey and Lieutenant Governor Felt. The Republican contained this story:

Last Saturday the Opera House was crowded to hear Governor Humphrey and Lieutenant Governor Felt discourse Republicanism. These two gentlemen spoke on the issues of the day, but more particularly on the tariff, and showed conclusively that protection is what the country needs.¹³

In 1892, Governor Lewelling visited Hays City. The Free Press printed the following story:

. . . Then Gov. Lewelling entertained them for an hour, every word attentively listened to, for his address was pleasing and solid meat, his railroad figures being surprising and an eye opener.

Congressman Baker gave them half an hour of the doings in Congress that were astonishing to the farmers. He will be here in October and give them a political talk.

Then Secretary of State Osborn gave them an hour of his forcible convincing talk that enhanced all the audience.

Those who failed to attend missed a real treat.¹⁴

¹² Ellis County Star, May 13, 1880.

¹³ The Republican, September 29, 1888.

¹⁴ Free Press, September 3, 1892.

In addition to Governors and Lieutenant Governors, Hays City was the host to National Senators and Congressmen. The County fair was held in Hays City in September, 1889. Senator Ingalls and Congressman Turner were invited to be in attendance at the fair and to address the crowd. The story of their presence occurred in The Republican, September 14, 1889.

Senator Ingalls spoke as only Senator Ingalls can-- witty and to the point. He and his short speech will long be remembered by the people of Ellis county who were fortunate enough to be at the fair grounds Friday afternoon. He promised his hearty co-operation to the people of this county in their efforts to locate the State Soldiers' home on the Fort Hays reservation. Senator Ingalls is one of the men Kansas is proud to call her own.

Congressman Turner followed Senator Ingalls. He is one of Kansas' own men; a Kansas heart and soul with the interest of our state at heart first in everything, particularly western Kansas. A western Kansas man, his care and sympathies are for us. He is a man the people have confidence in and know it will not be betrayed. His speech will always be remembered by those who heard him as one of sympathy and feeling.¹⁵

Sometime in the late spring or the early summer of 1890, the development of a third party was obvious in Hays City. The papers are not clear when this party came into existence. This third party became known as the Alliance Party and later as the Populist Party. One of the difficulties in determining its local origin was the fact that

¹⁵The Republican, September 14, 1889.

an Alliance group had existed for several years as a social organization with no political platform.

With the introduction of a third party in Hays City, there came a remarkable change on the political scene. Local newspapers, generally paritsan in nature, now seemed to be caught in a dilemma, not knowing which candidate to endorse or what political position to assume. A picnic of the Farmers' Alliance was held at the fair grounds in June, 1890. Three papers gave accounts of this picnic; each differed considerably.

The Republican contained the following account:

At the fair grounds a sociable time was had by all with the five thousand in attendance. A dancing platform was well filled with the young people all day. In the afternoon there was a game of ball between the nays and Gorman clubs. There was also speech making, in which Hon. Webb McNall, republican candidate for congress, Rathbone, Lotz, and many other local speakers took part. It was a gala day for the farmers and one long to be remembered by our people.¹⁶

The Free Press carried this account:

A speakers stand and seats had been arranged under the trees and after dinner all met there. The band gave more of their fine music and President Hopkins called time in a strong speech. Mr. Kirkman welcomed them on behalf of the Alliance in a short speech.

W. E. Huttman, of Ellinwood and editor of the 'Advocate' was then introduced as the German orator of the day and for half an hour addressed them in German that was continually applauded.

¹⁶The Republican, June 7, 1890.

Then followed the English orator of the day, the farmer's pet, Dave Rathbone, who gave them one of his telling Anti-monopoly speeches that showed he was still with them as in the days when he helped them fight the 'wheat pool' with the 'German-American Advocate'. His pretty but forcible talk received continual applause. And he gave way to let the candidates say a few words, but Webb McNall was the only one called on and he talked a few minutes to them.

It was stated not to be a political meeting and political talk was not desired.

The Alliance members then took hold. Miss Nettie Post read an appropriate essay, and telling but short speeches, full of Alliance vim were made by brothers Wm. E. Scott of Smokey, H. Joy, Hopkins, Father Edwards, and W. L. Fuller.

Over 100 wagons and from two to three thousand people were on the ground and it was surely a decided success¹⁷

The Democratic Times, the last of the three papers mentioned above, said the following:

. . . After a large crowd gathered about the speakers' platform and listened to short speeches by Hon. L. D. Kirkman, Hon. Frank Hopkins, H. W. Joy, esq., and others, Messrs Kirkman and Joy's remarks being well timed and full of good solid sense. Hon Webb McNall, republican candidate for Congress, was also present and addressed the assemblage, his main effort being to impress the alliance men that he, too, was once a farmer, and knew as well as any of them how to plow and dig cellars and wells. He made a very good impression upon his hearers--impressed them with the idea that he would not be a very hard man to defeat, if the right man was chosen to make the race as the farmers' candidate.¹⁸

¹⁷Free Press, June 7, 1890.

¹⁸Democratic Times, June 19, 1890.

It is important to note the introduction of a third party upon the political scene, because with it came a change in the nature of public address in Hays City. Prior to this time women had little or no part in the political campaigns; with the introduction of this third party, however, came a growing awareness of the significance of the women orators in politics. Women had been permitted to speak publically, but their remarks were largely confined to the realm of temperance. With the 1890's came the woman orator as a force in the politics of Hays City.

The first mention of this appeared in the above mentioned story of the Alliance Picnic contained in the Free Press: "Miss Nettie Post read an appropriate essay" ¹⁹ In September of 1890 another farmers' picnic was held at the fair grounds. A lengthy list of orators was found in the Free Press, September 13, 1890. Mrs. McCormick of Barton county, a candidate for State School Superintendent, addressed the crowd. Later in the program Mrs. Diggs, of the Topeka Advocate spoke. The Free Press said concerning Mrs. Diggs, she "captured the crowd. Her comparison of old time beliefs and the idea expressed of the uprising of the People's Party, brought forth loud and hearty applause." ²⁰ The Democratic Times

¹⁹ Free Press, June 7, 1890.

²⁰ Free Press, September 13, 1890.

September 11, 1890, printed a story of the same picnic mentioned above. This paper referred to the speech of a Mrs. Dix, associate editress of the Alliance Advocate. By the position of Mrs. Dix in the program, it is obviously the same lady that the Free Press referred to as Mrs. Diggs. The Democratic Times said of Mrs. Dix: she

. . . stepped upon the platform and for nearly an hour held the closest attention of the audience, proving herself the great attraction of the day. As a lady orator she is one of the finest we have ever heard, talented, witty, and possessing a power of expression and force of language equaled by but a few women speakers in all the land.²¹

The Republican contained a brief announcement of the same affair and in this announcement made reference to two lady orators: Mrs. Fannie McCormack and Mrs. Diggs.²²

Perhaps the most famous of the lady orators to visit Hays City and address its citizens was Mrs. Mary Ellen Lease. The Free Press, May 15, 1891, printed this story:

As advertised Mrs. Lease came here on Wednesday and many alliance men and their families were in, filling the Opera house, and she made an address that must have been pleasing if applause is any way to judge.

She has a wonderful delivery and at times held her large audience spellbound.

²¹Democratic Times, September 11, 1890.

²²The Republican, September 13, 1890.

In the evening she held an open meeting in the opera house, which was crowded and for over 2 hours she held her audience with a strong political speech, pouring hot shot into the two old political parties.

Many farmers remained in town to hear the address and were well repaid for the trouble and are now stronger People's party men than ever.²³

The Farmers' Alliance conducted many campaigns in conjunction with picnics. This policy became popular with all parties but was introduced and sustained by the Alliance Party. At a picnic held in June, 1891, a Mrs. Joseph addressed the crowd. The Free Press, June 18, 1891, said:

Mrs. Joseph from the Smokey treated the audience to some very appropriate remarks, urging the ladies to continue in their good work in encouraging the men to continue the fight to save their fire side from the monopolists and professional politicians.²⁴

Jerry Simpson visited Hays City on September 26, 1891. He was, perhaps, the most famous of all the Populist speakers. This story was found in the Free Press, October 3, 1891:

. . . Father Edwards presided and introduced Mrs. Vickery, who spoke for half an hour. Her address is fine and generally lasts two hours but as she was anxious that the audience should hear Jerry she cut her address short and did not do herself justice.

Again the band played and then Jerry Simpson was introduced and well received with rounds of applause, and for nearly 3 hours he gave them solid and unanswerable arguments of the Peoples Party.

²³Free Press, May 15, 1891.

²⁴Free Press, June 18, 1891.

He is an easy, forcible speaker, and he made hosts of friends, and those who failed to hear him missed a rich treat.²⁵

The formation of a third party caused a partial fragmentation of both the Republican and the Democratic Parties. The Alliance Party grew so strong that politicians could not ignore it. As a result of this development the new party caused politicians to examine their own party and make defenses for it. An example of this is found in The Republican, September 27, 1890:

Promptly at 2 o'clock, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Laumer. H. D. Shaffer was then elected permanent chairman of the meeting.

In taking his seat Mr. Shaffer said: This is the first republican meeting this campaign. The republicans will support the grand old party. It has been said that it has lost its old time vigor. I am scarcely prepared to admit this. The party originated with such men as Lincoln, Sumner and that class of men. The history of the party disproves it. The party has been right for 28 years, through the dark days of the way. This is a wealthy county. It was right on the question of slavery. It has settled all questions--civil rights, tariff, home-stead act, civil service, etc. It has dealt with all questions honestly. Passed rules in the lower house to regulate majority--no representative can sit in his seat and say he is not present. We have a new party now called the farmers' Alliance. As a class they are honest men, but are being lead by a strength to cope with the question of labor and capital. I can't see way the republican party will not be as true in the future as in the past. There are good speakers present and I now have the pleasure of introducing to you Hon. Webb McWall, Candidate for congress of the sixty district.²⁶

²⁵Free Press, October 3, 1891.

²⁶The Republican, September 26, 1890.

Not all of the politicians that stood before Hays City audiences were received with cheers. There were undoubtedly some excellent speakers and some that were poor.

The Democratic Times, October 23, 1890, printed a story of a visiting orator who, in the opinion of the editor, was worthy of little applause. Following is this story:

Although the coming of Col. A. P. Forsyth, the republican orator, has been advertised by big posters in flaming colors, yet a very small crowd gathered at Eastman's hall last Saturday evening to hear the old gentleman's speech. We were thoroughly ashamed of our republican friends upon this occasion, as, before the Col. had finished his address more than a third of the audience had got up and left the hall. Although we did not blame them for wanting to leave, yet thought they ought to stand it if the democrats and ladies present were able to be inflicted. The Col's speech was largely devoted to the farmer's alliance, the McKinley bill and bemoaning the fact that so many of the old boys were not "voting the way they shot." His song and dance on the tariff question was the same old stereotyped one that had been the sole stock in trade of republican orators for the past decade²⁷

It has already been mentioned that the papers of this era were partisan in nature, so it should not be surprising to read an account of a Republican orator, like the one above, in a Democratic newspaper. Conversely, The Republican said of Colonel Forsyth the following:

. . . The Colonel spoke for two hours on the alliance, of which he is a member. Told of the benefits of the organization as a farmers' organization, but of the harm it is sure to do as a political party.

²⁷Democratic Times, October 23, 1890.

He told what the republican party had done and what they would continue to do if kept in power. The Colonel was by far the fairest speaker that has been here this campaign and you missed a good address by not attending.²⁸

Another example of an unimpressed editor was found also in the Free Press, August 22, 1896. The story is about the Old Settler's Picnic and the speakers on the program. After listing some of the speakers and the nature of their speeches, the paper said:

. . . then would be republican congressman Ellis, who was there at the special invitation of President Motz, made a shallow address, so silly that but 7 persons, by actual count, applauded. . . . Drawing his remarks, mostly jokes, thro' his nose, with no force, nothing attractive, he convinced nearly everyone, even Republican, his utter unfitness as a Congressman.²⁹

Politics was a subject of interest to many in early days City. The nature of politics remained much the same from 1870 to 1890, but in 1890 it was shifted into a three party system. This change from two parties to three parties caused a considerable change in the nature of political speaking; the politician had two foes instead of one; party lines became blurred, and women were given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability as political orators.

²⁸The Republican, October 23, 1890.

²⁹Free Press, August 22, 1896.

C. AFTER VI

PUBLIC ADDRESS AND TEMPERANCE

Public address and the temperance movement in Hays City were closely related. William Brigance stated that on a national level public address and the temperance movement were also closely identified.¹

Anna E. Arnold stated, "Temperance was a live topic in Kansas from the beginning; even in Territorial days laws were passed that tended to regulate, in some degree, the liquor traffic."²

W. P. Montgomery, editor of the Hays City Sentinel, was strongly in favor of the temperance movement. He rigorously supported the activities of the temperance union and gave it much space in his paper. The following story appeared in the Hays City Sentinel, April 6, 1878:

The long delayed temperance movement came down upon the city of Hays last Monday, and is now in full blast. The management was taken in hand by the Presbyterian Church, assisted by several gentlemen from Ellis, who had had recent experience in conducting these meetings.

This story continued to some length by listing several speakers, all exhorting temperance. Dr. Soclenauer made the closing speech. The Hays City Sentinel said concerning this speech:

¹Brigance, p. 113.

²Anna E. Arnold, A History of Kansas (Topeka, 1914), p. 137.

Dr. Gochenauer made the closing speech and in our opinion, struck the keynote of the issue. He handled the temperance man who encourages the sale of liquor by signing the petition, without gloves, and fairly hauled over the coals our leading citizens who were standing aloft in this movement.³

At the conclusion of Dr. Gochenauer's address, the temperance pledge was circulated and received several signatures, making the total number 125.

In March of 1879, Hays City was invaded by Mr. G. W. Arbuckle of Russell. The Hays City Sentinel described Mr. Arbuckle as, "a man of rare gifts for oratory."⁴ Mr. Arbuckle lectured Wednesday and Thursday evenings in the first week of March and continued to lecture at least once a week for the next three weeks. His lectures must have had a "reviv-
alistic" nature, for at the conclusion of each address an invitation was given to all in the audience to sign the pledge if they had not done so. The Hays City Sentinel reported that during the second week of Mr. Arbuckle's visitation to Hays City that 134 signatures had been obtained.⁵

At the conclusion of his series of lectures, Mr. Arbuckle had obtained 210 signatures, and a temperance club had been formed with Charles Talmage as president. It is

³Hays City Sentinel, April 6, 1878.

⁴Hays City Sentinel, March 7, 1879.

⁵Hays City Sentinel, March 14, 1879.

interesting to note that the population of Hays City in 1879 was 850.⁶

The temperance movement provided women the first opportunity in early Hays City to express their views in the form of public speeches. Miss Armade Way addressed a large audience in the courthouse during March, 1879. The Hays City Sentinel said of her, "She is a woman of talent, and was frequently applauded."⁷

In April of the same year, Miss E. Maxwell of Hays City read an essay, which she had prepared, before the Hays City Temperance Union. This essay was printed in the Ellis County Star, April 17, 1879, and is contained in Appendix F.

The activities of the Temperance Union were more versatile than the simple presentation of a lecturer who spoke of the evils of alcohol. They presented programs which contained music, readings, and speeches. The Ellis County Star contained this program of a temperance meeting:

Programme

Music	By Choir
Address	D. C. Nellis
Song	Gertie Armstrong
Select Reading	C. Henley
Solo	Miss Emma White
Speech	By the President
Song	Ella Montgomery
	Miss Flora Milner
Music	By Choir
	Miscellaneous Business ⁸

⁶Annals of Kansas, Vol. I, 1954.

⁷Hays City Sentinel, March 28, 1879.

⁸Ellis County Star, April 24, 1879.

In 1880, during the administration of Governor John P. St. John, the people of Kansas voted to adopt the following amendment to the Constitution: "The manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors shall be forever prohibited in this State, except for medical, scientific, and mechanical purposes."⁹

Following the passage of this amendment the activities of the temperance movement seemed to relax in Hays City. The newspapers continued to print stories of the activities associated with this movement, but fewer stories were printed and it would appear that the purpose of the movement had at least partially been fulfilled. Although the movement may have relaxed it did not entirely go to sleep. This announcement appeared in the German American Advocate, January 12, 1884:

Next Wednesday evening at the Lutheran church Rev. A. B. Campbell and Mr. Troutman will address our citizens on the subject of Temperance, and both are said to be able speakers. On Tuesday evening they speak at Ellis, and it is hoped that on both occasions they will have good audiences.¹⁰

The Republican contained this brief announcement:

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Hays City, is fully organized and have in view a reading room, in which will be a pleasant and profitable place to while away the evening hours.¹¹

⁹Arnold. P. 138.

¹⁰German American Advocate, January 12, 1884.

¹¹The Republican, March 14, 1891.

A story contained in The Republican, March 19, 1892, indicated that as early as this date the local W. C. T. U. had inaugurated the practice of conducting oratorical contests, awarding medals to the winners. The following is a part of the above mentioned story contained in The Republican:

. . . It was competition that awakened the people of this community on last Friday night a week ago to a realization of the fact that much genuine oratorical skill and elocutionary genius is hidden away in the corporations of Hays City's rising generation. On the above named evening there was, under the auspices of the W. C. T. U., an oratorical contest for a silver medal, known as the "Demorest Medal." The contestants were eight in number There were five points to be taken into consideration by the three judges in rendering their decision as follows; Voice, Articulation, Gesture, Memory and General Effect. The medal was finally awarded to Miss Kitty McLain, not that her skill as an elocutionist was superior to that of some of the rest, but because her memory was less faulty.¹²

The temperance movement was an important factor in stimulating the nature of rhetoric in early Hays City. As an organization, it was responsible for the presence of several lecturers in the community, who lectured on this subject, and for special programs which employed various forms of public address.

¹²The Republican, March 19, 1892.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to demonstrate the nature and significance of the spoken word in early Hays City. To accomplish this purpose it was necessary to focus the attention of this study on accounts contained in the newspapers of this period, and on interviews with some of Hays' oldest citizens.

To demonstrate the nature and significance of the spoken word in early Hays City the following questions had to be answered: (1) What occasions were speaking occasions in early Hays City? (2) In what manner did public speaking fill, or attempt to fill, these needs? (3) What was the relation between the public school and public speaking, if any? (4) What was the relation between public speaking and early day forms of entertainment? (5) In what way did public speaking relate to the political situation of this period? and (6) Was the nature of public speaking in early Hays City influenced by the temperance movement?

The two special occasions of the year in which public speaking seemed to play the most important part were Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The nature of the Memorial Day programs was one of solemnity; it was

a day when the memories of departed loved ones were recalled, a day when all were reminded of the grimness of war. The Fourth of July, on the other hand, was a special occasion which seemed to call for celebrating and rejoicing because of the independence the nation had won. Memorial Day seems to be the more significant of the two.

The G.A.R. camp-fires, the Harvest Home Celebration, the Farmers' Picnic and the Old Settler's Picnic were other special occasions which always called for public speaking.

Public speaking was central to all of the above mentioned occasions. Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter were important occasions, but on these days the season, and not the speaker, seems to be more important.

The public school and its activities acted as a strong force in binding the community together. The school had many activities which involved some form of public speaking. Programs which were composed entirely of oral recitations and speeches given by the children were given under the auspices of the school. Debating and literary societies composed of the students were formed under the supervision of the school.

Newspaper accounts indicate that the Normal Institute emphasized the importance of rhetoric in the course work of the school, and was responsible for the presence

of many orators in early Hays City.

The highlight of the school year was commencement, and the commencement program was one filled with speeches given by the graduating students. The nature of these commencements is further demonstrated by the fact that rhetoric was emphasized in the school's curriculum.

The absence of commercial forms of modern day entertainments such as television, radio, and motion pictures made it necessary for the citizen of early Hays City to seek entertainment through different mediums. Because the nature of entertainment was limited, more attention was given to public speaking and speech related activities within the community.

The public school provided entertainment with the programs which they presented. Just as debate and literary societies existed within the school, the community had societies of a similar nature. Yard parties and socials which included elocutionary talent were popular forms of entertainment.

Lecturers, who traveled about the country, frequently stopped in Hays City. Their presence afforded the citizens another form of entertainment which involved public address.

Although the forms of entertainment in early Hays differed from those of today, the early citizens found

many ways in which entertainment could be provided. Elocutionary recitals, lectures and literary societies provided early residents of Hays with various forms of entertainment.

The subject of politics was an important one to the citizens of Hays City, and public speaking was the primary way in which the political fire was spread. Several dignitaries visited Hays City during this period.

The nature of political speaking during this period was influenced in two ways: (1) The formation of a strong third party caused the older two to wax eloquent in defense of their platforms. (2) The woman orator arose to the plane of significance in politics.

The zeal of the temperance movement caused many orators to take a stand on this issue. Public address and the temperance movement in Hays City were closely related.

The temperance movement was responsible for programs which contained music, readings, and speeches. The temperance movement must have been successful in Kansas as well as in Hays City because in 1880 the people of Kansas voted to adopt an amendment to the Constitution making the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors prohibited in the state, except for medical, scientific, and mechanical purposes.

This thesis ends with 1900. A large amount of material is available for the researcher who would like to pursue the study from this point forward. This thesis is concerned with the nature and significance of public address in early Hays City. A rhetorical analysis of selected speeches given in Hays City would be an interesting subject to pursue.

APPENDIX A

GRAND ARMY PROCEEDINGS

From the Ellis County Star, January 7, 1888, A.

D. Shaffer, the newly elected P. C., before taking his chair, spoke as follows:

Comrades--Before assuming my duties, I would feel ungrateful if I did not express to you my sincere and hearty thanks for your confidence imposed, and for the honor you have conferred by choosing me your post commander.

In assenting and taking upon myself the solemn obligations to faithfully and impartially perform all the duties pertaining to the office of post commander, I am impressed with the weight of responsibility that I promise much, and I cannot help but feel at this time the want of knowledge in the workings and principles of the Grand Army, as well as the want of ability to perform all these duties which a post commander should possess, and of which I am certainly not in possession.

By my short and somewhat indifferent services in this post, I feel I did not warrant or justify your confidence, and I can only hope to merit in part that confidence by a faithful attempt to perform my duties. I will promise you to do the best I can, and my only hope shall be that my short comings and failures, whatever they may be, will be attributed to errors in judgment rather than of the heart.

After the close of the late war a demand arose by inclination and necessity for an organization to be composed of its surviving soldiers.

This organization was then wisely based upon and has for its objects 'Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,' and is cemented and strengthened by old associations formed during the war.

The principal originator and founder of this order was the gallant and brave citizen-soldier Gen. John A. Logan, the first Commander-in-chief.

These associations formed during the four years of war, through many hardships, fatigues and great sufferings in camp and on the march, in hospital and in prison pens and on the battlefield, were well calculated to bind together in one common brotherhood our beloved order we today have, I armonious and thoroughly united in all its actions.

Of this organization, it must be said, the Grand Army of the Republic is short-lived. It should then be to us doubly interesting while it lives, because of its friendships formed during the war and before even the existence of the order itself. May its good work live long after it.

Few of us, perhaps, were personally acquainted during the war, and it may seem strange to call each other friends, but the simple knowledge to us that our breasts in common were targets for the enemy, is the tie that binds us and makes of us all friends. When we greet for the first time an old soldier, we call him 'friend.'

With us there is no boast of an ancient order; nor can we hope to look far into the future for its continuance beyond even the short existence of our own lives. The order originated during our lives and ends with them. Then, comrades, for us to contemplate the extinction and even the death of the Grand Army, based as it now is, upon hallowed associations of the war, and these cultivated in friendships and peace after war had ceased. To reflect that after the perils of war had passed, and during these last twenty years, all along the line, the gradual dropping out of the ranks here and there, one by one, and this reduction of our ranks to continue until finally the last comrade of our Grand Army shall have answered the rollcall--the last sounding taps--the echo dies away on the air, the final end has been reached when we, a Grand Army, live only to the world in its memory, is indeed, sad; but all this will leave a thrilling story on the pages of history of our country for our children and for the future.

Considering, then, the short life for our order, we must live active and useful lives in a great living present; improve all opportunities; be useful to ourselves, useful to our comrades, and especially useful in giving relief to the destitute wards of the Grand Army. This organization, by a strict and plain duty in carrying out these obligations will have fulfilled its mission.

On every hand we hear expressions of pride in our great prosperity as a nation. Ex-soldiers of the war, as a class, nevertheless, have that feeling and boast of the blessings and every great prosperity of their country. The origin of these blessings can be clearly and indisputably traced back, and are the acknowledged outgrowth of the differences that were settled by the war. This gives to soldiers a sort of exclusive, patriotic pride; because, clearly our present prosperity and welfare of the country were won by sacrifices of many thousands of lives--by your health and blood of the living of to-day. Soldiers, in all times, gloried in their success; and it is our pride and privilege to recount with feelings the individual as well as collective, parts taken in that great drama from 1861 to 1865, which was a success.

If we should be convinced of the great work accomplished by the war ask this question: 'What would be the condition of our country if the south had met with success and our union been divided?' I admit, a question, in a strict sense, unanswerable, but does it not seem to you that some results like these would have followed? I think I could see at least two governments: One in the north, the other in the south; one free, the other slave. Custom houses and officers, hatreds and deep seated jealousies, fortifications and standing armies between, with a constant strain on either side, and a vain hope to keep a balance of power; constant threatenings of strain on either side of war; oppressive burdens of taxation. Then place in contrast with this imagined condition of things, realities, such as the wiping slavery out of existence in this country, followed by a more than twenty years' peace and an unparalleled prosperity of the whole country.

Comrades, you and these that have fallen, made the brilliant pages in the first century's history of this nation.

Of the over two millions soldiers enlisted for the war perhaps less than one-third survive, and of the survivors over 300,000 do duty in the ranks of the Grand Army. But comrades, a greater number than the Grand Army ranks compose to-day offered up their lives before the ending of the war. We of to-day remain among the favored with our lives spared. We were spared to witness and enjoy this great peace and prosperity for nearly a quarter of a century after the war. We yet live in

peace and in the interests of peace. But while the peace of our country is the great objective, we should not overlook the peace of the needy and destitute comrades, the widows and orphans. Relief gives them also a peace. Remember, words to them will not answer. Feelings and friendships expressed are not sufficient. Promises do not give relief. They appeal to our charity; yes, to a nation's charity. But, when a nation that was made great and overflowing in wealth through the sacrifices of these comrades and then fails to deal justly with them and their dependents of their needs (and I say here there are yet many deserving comrades and their dependents in destitute circumstances that the nation should seek out), then this duty falls upon us as a Grand Army to be liberal in all our benevolences and to seek them out and extend that relief. I am happy to say so far as I know this post in the past has faithfully performed all such duties that have come within its knowledge. It will be a pleasant duty to the post to continue and ever increase in this charitable work. This post in its organization is strong and will continue increasing in number and strength. It has a future that will brighten in proportion to its charitable and kindly feelings for the needy. Comrades, this is our great work--the charitable work. It is the object and aim of this organization. Were it not doubtful if the order would at this day exist at all. It is what brings us together in our post rooms, where we in a body inquire into the health and needs of any sick or destitute comrades or their dependents. 'If any are sick or in distress' we grant the relief collectively as a body that otherwise would not be done by a single individual act. It is a noble work, and nowhere in past history do we learn of similar organizations. After great wars in other countries, soldiers were left to care for themselves or with a small pittance of a pension, but nearly always neglected. Charities for ex-soldiers in those days were the exception and not the rule.

It is impossible to estimate the blessings conferred by Grand Army posts in this country. If history ever properly record them, or only in a measure, by appropriately giving to the world the benefits bestowed by the Grand Army as whole throughout this country, this Grand Army of the Republic will be classed among the great benevolent institutions in existence for a half century after the war.

Let us ever keep in view our watchwords, 'Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,' but remembering always that charity is the greatest of these. 'If we have not charity we are as sounding brass and tinkling symbol.'

The Legislative Committee of the G.A.R.
Visit Hays City

A detailed description of the day is recorded in The Republican, January 19, 1889. Following a description of the day and the purpose of the visit of the committee the paper described the elaborate preparations made by the local G.A.R. post. A dinner was held at the Windsor Hotel.

At 4:30 all adjourned to the rink where a camp fire was held under the auspices of Vance Post G.A.R.

After the great crowd was comfortably seated, Comrade Motz announced that the exercises would be opened with a selection by the 18th Infantry Band, entitled "Recolections of the War." . . .

Post Commander Con. Henley then made a short speech of welcome on behalf of Vance Post No. 2 G.A.R.

Rev. Killinger was then introduced who made an address of welcome on behalf of the citizens. He spoke as follows:

Gentlemen and Memebers of the Grand Army Delegation:

It is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of the mayor and of the citizens of this city and county, to emphasize the words of welcome already addressed to you by the commander-in-chief of Vance Post located in our midst. We are impressed with the fact that your advent to our city is attended with consideration of vital interest and of future welfare to a large class of men now resident in this great commonwealth. It comes not within my province to dictate to you a policy, nor to portray your responsibility in relation to this laudable consideration, the progeny of the true spirit of philanthropy.

My task shall be complete in assuring you that I voice the sentiment of this entire city as well as of the county when I say that we are not indifferent to, nor oblivious of, the present interest and the future welfare of the men who periled their lives in the late rebellion. We recognize in the men who then went forward to the front, who suffered the smoke of battle and who after the clouds of war had rolled away returned to the bosom of their families, the honored citizens and the true patriot; their love of liberty, their devotion to country: their impetuous charge: their steady and successful repulse; in their loud call to repeated resistance and the wearing of their bosom freely and fearlessly in the instant of whatever terror there may be in battle, and considerations which demand of the patriotic heart of our country, the establishment of institutions in which the declining years of the saviors of our liberties should be mellowed with the tenderness of this nation's love; should be amply provided for by this nation's generosity; and the departure of whose life should be specially marked by this nation's generosity; and the speciality marked by this nation's tribute. Unwilling that the old soldier of our country should be forced by the gastly monster of destitute circumstances or by the decrepitude of old age into a separation from his loved ones, we are willing that he shall have a home on YOUNDER VIRGIN PRAIRIE in close proximity to his own, where, not only in pleasant surroundings with the bride of his youth and the fruit of their union, but also beneath the flag under which he fought and upon the soil already made sacred to the nation by the marshal tread of our country's defenders, he shall enjoy until the sunset of his earthly existence the place he won at the point of the bayonet and the freedom he rescued from the shackles of agalling vassalage; mutilated body shall be laid in the nonors of war by his comrades in battle, in that silent city of the dead, the surface of whose soil is already rippled by the graves of some of the boys in blue. And then, at each successive return to the festival of the dead his passionless mound shall also be garlanded with the tokens of a national love for the battles he helped to fight, and for the victories he helped to achieve.

Gentlemen and associates of this legation coming unto us at the invitation of an organization whose action we endorse; coming unto us in the capacity significant of what I have said, and thus having honored us by your distinguished presence in turn, and in order to show our appreciation of the manifestations of our good will toward us, we, as the citizens of Hays, and of Ellis county, are happy in extending to you our good

will in a common cause, and give to you each and all a cordial welcome to our hearts and our homes to the hospitality and generosity of our city.

At the close of Rev. Killinger's address the 18th Infantry Band played "The Black Brigade."

Comrade Buck, of Emporia, was next introduced who responded to the address of welcome on behalf of the visitors, as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen.

This unexpected but pleasant duty has compelled me to respond to the address of welcome and I gladly do it on behalf of myself and the other members of the committee, who are here upon business for the Kansas department G.A.R.; and I want to say that we fully appreciate the lofty sentiment that has been uttered. Though we may not hope to compare with the manner and phraesology with which they were so beautifully coupled, yet our response is as earnest as any welcome could possible be, because we have felt welcome ever since we came to your town. Another town equally as enthusiastic presents its claims, and your committee is in duty bound to go and look that field over; and I might say here without letting out a secret, that the committee would very gladly adopt either one "were the other dear charmer away."

The G. A. R. of Kansas want a soldier's home, not such a one as are represented in many places of this country, but a home where an old soldier and the partner of his youth might, when they are no longer able to support themselves, find a home where they can look up to the blue sky above, and feel that it was their hearthstone surrounded with all the dignity that the word home implies.

Permit me to thank you again on behalf of this committee for your unbounded hospitality, and your cheering words and patriotism. We wish you a long prosperous and happy life for the rest of your days, and may we hope, trust and believe that you will all find a happy home in a land of blessed immortality when your days on earth are done.

Rev. Killinger, I. M. Yost and Charles Reeder, with Miss Birdie McLain as organist, then sang "The night before the battle."

Judge Osborne was then introduced and made a short pleasant talk which was listened to attentively by the audience.

"Sitting Bull's March" was then played by the 18th Infantry Band. This is a representation of an Indian fight and war dance, and was applauded loud and long.

O. H. Coulter, Adjutant General of Kansas, of Wichita, was introduced by Comrade Motz and spoke as follows:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, Comrades and Loyal Fellow Citizens--I am somewhat of a Methodist and I generally let the inspiration of the moment speak for itself. And as the Adjutant General of the department it becomes my duty to prepare all speeches delivered by all the speakers in the department. I think Judge Buck's speech that was just delivered was prepared very nicely indeed, and be it said to the credit of most of my comrades, they do the same thing. As I said I am somewhat of a Methodist, and I'll let the inspiration of the moment speak for itself. I never dare prepare a speech, I never did deliver a speech and could not on this occasion, but there are always some thoughts that present themselves to the mind of any person who thinks, and I have dotted down on this card three thoughts that came to my mind. The first one was loyalty. When I entered the room this evening and noticed this congregation, and knowing the purpose for which they were gathered, I believed them to be loyal and that is the first line I have on the card; and the second line is music. When I listened to the music, that was the next engrossing thought of my mind. And the next line was woman--God bless her. When I looked through the crowd and saw these women gathering in here, I marked that down on the card. These three thoughts seemed to present themselves to me, but I want to begin at the bottom of the card and go on the other way. Women first, for had it not been for the loyal women of the country, this beautiful, sacred banner of ours would not be floating over our heads to-day, for, be it said of the loyal women of this country, to them we owe what little liberty we have to night. And the music--did you ever think, comrades and fellow citizens, that it was only the loyal people that live under the folds of the American flag love music? And the people who have been disloyal to that flag have no music in their souls. Now this is a fact; this is history. I want to ask you, boys, what songs did the confederates

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have of their own. They had none; and when across the line they heard our bands playing those sweet, patriotic tunes, those fellows would send up cheer after cheer, bless them. You have heard them. The loyalty of this country love music and I am going to make a very short talk, because there is a half dozen of my comrades here who have been treated so royally they would feel greatly offended if they didn't have half an hour to stand on this rostrum to talk. We have Myers among us, who is better known as Gen. Murray Myers, of Wichita. Well, I'll not name them, because they may not all be called out--might not have an opportunity, so I'll not mention them. Loyalty--the occasion of this meeting to-night is loyalty. It is loyalty to the defenders of the flag. Comrades, fellow citizens, I want to say to you, you do not understand why we want this soldier's home, and that all the old soldiers that the National Government has provided a soldiers' home, and that all the old soldiers that apply can obtain admission to them if they have a honorable discharge, and are entitled to the care of the home. But I want you to remember that as has already been said from this rostrum, they have hundreds of martyrs in the department of Kansas to day who would rather suffer the pangs of poverty than to leave the old wife who has stood by him for the last 40 years. The wife who has stood by your children while you were on the front defending the flag and to-day to think that you would have to leave her to the cold charities of the world, or the poor house, and you go to the soldiers home. Comrades, I want to say to you as Adjutant General of the department that I receive letters every day from old comrades that make my heart bleed. When I look over those letters and see the misery and want that these worthy comrades write to me to know what relief there is for them and their wives and children. If there is no help for their husband, who is unable to leave bed to support his family. And then, too, in the loyal state of Kansas, which to day possesses more old soldiers than any other state in the nation. In order to place myself right before you, my comrades here in Hays City, I want to say I have done more work for the past eight or nine months in the department for the establishment of a state soldiers home, and I have worked harder, with an earnest will, for a soldiers home, a project which was instituted by myself. I have been assisting these comrades all in my power, because I know it is a necessity and I want this home established; and if your G. A. R. committee on legislation presents your location

in preference to that of Dodge, I want to say to you that I know that post down there as well as anybody else and they will stand to your back solid. And I know further that the committee at Hays City, if they happen to select other location believing it is for the best, I know the comrades here at Hays will stand as solid.

Comrade McLain then sang "Marching Through Georgia," assisted by the audience on the chorus.

Comrade Collins, of Sabetha, Kansas, made a good speech, but we are unable to give it to our readers, as the reporter has not had time to make a transcript for us.

Comrade Ross, of Dodge City, was introduced, who told of the advantages of a soldiers' home.

The exercises were closed with "Splinters--a musical smashup," by the 18th Infantry Band.

At 8:22 our distinguished visitors took the east-bound train for Topeka, where they will take a special train for Dodge City, to view their city and grounds with the same purpose that they came here.

T. H. B. Wood then stepped before the large audience and presented, on behalf of Vance Post No. 2, G. A. R., a handsome flag for the mast at the top of the school house. Following is his address:

The presentation of flags to public schools is not only an event in this history of our public educational institutions, but in that of the Grand Army of the Republic. That this is a loyal and patriotic work no one can justly question. Had the idea been advanced thirty years ago, and the national colors been floated from every public building and school house in the land, it would have created such an affection for the good old flag that not a man would have been found who could have fired upon in north or south. This matter has become one of national interest, and in nearly every city north, south, east or west come reports of flag presentations to schools and colleges and every section vies with the other in its expressions of loyalty and justly, too, for it floats over the greatest nation on the face of the earth, and cost seas of blood and billions of dollars to maintain. What is it that constitutes us as the greatest nation? Equal rights, liberty and justice to all. Not in being governed by the hereditary aristocracy, or titling of the poor to support the rich, or taxation without representation, which was the cause of the American revolution. But when our forefathers dashed from their necks the yoke of bondage, they maintained a position that is tenable now. They fought for the right, and is right now; always will be right, always be powerful, always be those principles which represent the best, the truest and noblest interests of humanity. This noble land of ours, young, vigorous and enthusiastic, waves to the breeze a banner having for its inscription an irresistible appeal to the great heart of the American people--"liberty to all." Liberty to all; yes, that cry has a fascination for most Americans. Liberty of conscience, liberty of speech, liberty of action, and liberty to exercise all the rights vouchsafed to us by the constitution. The strong hold to liberty is the suffrage of the people, and whatever party or power that persists in debauching the ballot by fraud, intimidation and murder, can never retain the confidence of the American people. I have stood in Independence Hall and looked upon the old bell which first rang out to the citizens who in 1776 were awaiting the action of congress that the declaration of independence had been decided upon. Fifteen years

before this, when that bell was made, the following words from Lev. 25-10 were cast upon its rim: "Proclaim liberty to all the land and all the inhabitants thereof." For 15 long years that bell rang, with the hope of a prophecy of liberty. And at length on the 4th of July, 1776, the words written in prophecy were peeled out, not in reality and truth, nor as a prophecy accomplished of a hope fulfilled, because, how could there be liberty to all the inhabitants thereof, when the poor African was held in bondage from 1776 to the firing upon Fort Sumpter. There is a mournful commentary upon the blindness of the south to the great principle of human liberty. Southern white men, sensible, sober, conservative, earnest and willing to listen to argument and reason on every other subject but that of the black man. The question of the superiority of the white and the inferiority of the black continued to agitate the whole country until Kansas made application to be admitted into the union. When it became apparent that she was to be admitted as a free state, the whole of the south became inflamed with a passionate remonstrance against any movement that would protect the negro in his rights of liberty. A quarter of a century has gone since the great civil war came to its close in the surrender of General Lee at Appomatox. Almost 30 years have elapsed since the first gun was fired upon our flag at Sumpter, and the north was startled by the discovery that the fierce argument which had long divided the nation, had at last driven us from the rostrum of debate to the field of carnage. Most of the men who stand before you in blue to day were young men then, fired with a patriotism that was heroic, they enlisted in their country's service in defense of the good old flag, and settle the question of the equality of the race. That debate is ended; a debate whose magnitude can not be exaggerated; the issues involved in it being, I think, greater and more far-reaching, than those which invested the 13 colonies with independence; opening a new chapter in our future as a nation; binding our vast territory into unity from ocean to ocean, from the lakes to the gulf, the home of a common civilization. With but a single flag to shield its growing millions. In view of the part that the boys in blue took in the last war in defense of the principles taught by this single flag, Vance Post No. 2. G.A.R. made the request to be allowed to present to you this glorious flag. We have followed this flag on the field of battle. With white faces and firm set teeth we have charged through the abbatis

and scaled the walls of forts, waded swamps, and suffered privations in a hundred ways. And from the horrid shriek of shot and shell, the ping of the minnie ball, we bring back the good old flag unsullied and unstained, excepting by the blood of those who fell in defense of our holy cause. I give you this flag in the name of Vance Post No. 2, G.A.R. and I also give with it our admonition at every camp-fire, "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Anarchy still lives. The death of the chiefs in Chicago on Nov. 11, 1887, was commemorated last November, their object being to keep alive in the minds of their followers the the (sic) death of its martyrs. Think not that these fanatics are anything but enemies to that flag and our country's institutions. They are only deterred from speaking their views in public thro' wholesome fear and the law, which came down with such awful vengeance on August spies. We must feel this question some day--to be fore-warned is to be forearmed. The anarchists are as well organized as ever. The seeds of anarchy have taken root in this country. It may never be stamped out, and the ignorant especially are closed upon as a class to rally around the standard of a social revolution. The south are only subdued and with advantages facilities, would make as desperate an effort to trail in the dust that good old flag as they did in days gone by. It was not always as it is now. From 1795 to 1818 it had 15 red and white stripes, the extra two being for Vermont and Kentucky. In 1818 congress determined that the United States flag should consist of thirteen stripes, alternating red and white for the 13 original states and a blue field on which should be a white star for each state in the union. When you have followed this flag in history with Washington, Old Pat, and Old Hickory, the three military men, Commodores Decatur and Perry and Admiral Faragut, you will probably have learned the duties you owe to such a country as ours--to keep it pure and good. France imitating the independence of this country have established a Republic. More recently old Brazil has taken to the good old ways, and this may set in motion a tidal wave that will yet wash away European thrones as the sea did Counte's chair, and it will cheer the lovers of liberty in every part of the globe.

To which Rev. D. B. Whimster ably responded for the school board.

APPENDIX D

The following essay on Time was read by Miss Katherine D. Courtney at the commencement exercises of the Lays City High School at the Lutheran church Thursday evening, May 23d, 1889.

Thomas Reed, a Scottish metaphysician, says: "I know of no ideas or notions that have a better claim to be accounted simple and original than those of time and space."

If, then, having our own ideas of time, we are curious enough to consult Webster for a suitable definition of the term, we shall find not one, but a dozen. All the different significations are concisely explained, and among them are four which are especially interesting; three, because they concern man in his daily life; one, because of the glimpse of the infinite which we obtain through it. Let us look at this one first. Time--"absolute or unmeasured duration." Can we comprehend it? Is it, like eternity, without beginning or end? No. Time is but the term which man applies to the portion of eternity meted out to the universe or granted them as mortals. It had its birth: "in the duration" if time is finite and limited.

We read that in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. When was this beginning? How long before the earth assumed its present form? Can we count the ages that have passed from the beginning until now? Man and his contrivances are useless here. Surely time is unmeasured.

And while we know that the earth is all pelt with fervent heat, and the heavens be rolled up like a scroll, can we reckon the cycles that shall roll by before this is fulfilled? If we cannot, and we know we cannot, time is truly unmeasured, and mind of finite man can not grasp its significance, though it be finite like himself.

It is no wonder, then, that our symbol of time is an old, old man with snowy beard and wrinkled brow. Father time was old when man first met him.

Of the other three definitions, one reads: "Duration of one's life; the hours and days which a person has at his disposal."

At first thought this seems clear enough. We all know what our time is to us; how we spend it each day for good or ill; how it flies as with wings, or creeps along with maddening slowness; how it brings now joy, now grief, and we think we understand it. But when we try to put our ideas into tangible form, how the "clearness" vanishes! The definition itself seems a circle. What is "the duration of our life" but time, and what is time, in this sense, but life. But whatever it may be, whatever each may think of it, of one thing we are sure: We have time and it is ours for waste or work.

Longfellow says:

"All are architects of fate,
Working in these walls of time."

The poet either was very charitable or else he forgot the lazy people, the drones in the great hive; but it is evident that he thinks all must work who would leave a lasting mark in time. Whatever our ambition we must labor if we would have it gratified. Who ever heard of the man who became great by doing nothing?

And what an example nature sets us! "All things are full of labor; man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing." The waves of ocean, constantly breaking against the shores, wash away the sand and grind up the hardest rock; the mighty rivers hollow out their channels and cut precipices for banks. The winds and the rains, the snow and the forest, the sunshine and the dew, all work. Can man not learn from these?

Observe the lower life around us: the birds building their nests, the ant laying her stores, the bee gathering honey--shall we who may labor for time and eternity be excelled by these creatures that live but a day? Then, if we would set stones in these "walls of time," we must preserve. We shall never know what great deeds have not been done for want of preseverance.

This is a story told of an old woman who never spoke ill of any one. Upon being asked her opinion of the devil, she replied: "Well, if some good people had his perseverance they would accomplish more."

Next we notice time as the allotted period. The time of life is short even if it can consist of the three score years and ten. We read that "man fleeth

as a shadow and continueth not," that "art is long and time is fleeting," that "time waits for no man," and there often comes to every heart a mingled feeling of sorrow and gladness that nothing here can last.

A king once sent for a wise man and asked him for a thought that would subdue him in joy and comfort him in grief. After consideration the wise man wrote for the monarch these words: "Even this will pass away." Truly, a useful thought, both for sovereigns and subjects.

But we live not for time alone, and if we live aright we may laugh even as it harries away from us.

Then, too, we have time as an "opportunity or season." In some form opportunity is always with us, and if we could only realize it each hour would seem the special season for some undertaking. Hear the words of Solomon: To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the sun."

"A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." "A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak."

If, then, there is a proper time for every action, and if we wish our efforts to be followed with success, how necessary that we should know just when and how to seize each opportunity! Some people are always making blunders even with the best intentions; others seem to have a natural faculty of doing the right thing at the right time and in the right place; in short, they make the most and best of their opportunities.

This ready appreciation of opportunity in little things, we call tact, and those who possess tact have often a wider and stronger influence than any who have greater gifts and lack this one.

Making the most of small opportunities is good preparation for grasping greater ones and a kind word or pleasant look in season are perhaps better things than the giver thinks.

But, if we are to believe the immortal Shakespeare, at least on great opportunity exists in every life, and

the fault is our own that we are not all Caesars. He says: "Men at sometime are masters of their fates." At some time! It is a perplexing and anxious thought to know that some word or action may be the one which will most influence our lives, to know that at some period we may actually decide our own fates, and not to know when that time is, whether it is already past, or yet to come.

It is probable, however, that most of us pass safely the critical period, and unconsciously mold our "fates" into the most suitable forms, for if we could have and be all that we desire, how peasants would throng the palaces and fools mouth the words of wise men.

Time, as opportunity or season, is the servant by whose aid great deeds are done and mighty works accomplished. Man and opportunity can move the world, and do move it, too.

Listen. A royal palace, and in the magnificent, brilliantly lighted banquet hall, a crowd of gay nobles surrounding their monarch and urging on the revelry. See them drinking wine from the sacred golden vessels until king and courtiers forget their duties and forget the foe outside. Then come out into the city. The great river which flows through it has been turned out of its course by canals. Soon a mighty army will march along the dry river bed, seize the unguarded gates, and slay the impious Belshazzar in his revels.

So Babylon was captured because Cyrus the Persian seized an opportunity.

If George Washington had not made the best of opportunity at Long Island, the star spangled banner would not be waving throughout the land, for while we say that a fog saved the American army, yet if its great commander had not seen in the low-hanging clouds a means of escape and used them as such, that fog would never have become famous.

Thus throughout history we find the world's great men making the most of opportunity, and if we cannot be Alexanders or Caesars we can at least follow their examples in a humble way, ever remembering that--"Our time is not our own; it belongs to God, to religion, to mankind."

Valediction.

And since the wisest of men tells us that there is a time to every purpose under the sun, there must be fitting times for saying farewell, and one of these seasons is now come.

To me, dear classmate, this opportunity of saying "good bye" is granted to-night. How shall I employ it. I need not speak of friendship and good wishes; we know too well the deep interest each takes in the others' welfare, for need of that. I shall not dwell upon the sadness of parting; you all know that "Welcome ever smiles, and farewell goes out sighing." It is useless to tell you of the dangers and difficulties of life. You know as much about them as I do, which is very little. So I will say only this: We have studied and recited together for the last time--here. We are now promoted from the primary department into the preparatory school of the world. Let us try to study its lessons so faithfully and learn them so thoroughly that we may together take up a new course in the college of God. This I bid you--farewell.

Commencement Exercises

The second graduating class of the Hays City High School held their commencement exercises Thursday evening in the Lutheran church. The essays delivered by the young graduates were well written, and delivered with ease and address. Each did credit to the careful training of the professor.

LIBERTY, THE OUTGROWTH OF THE WORLD'S HISTORY
by Ina Brosius

History is a record of what man has done; and liberty is the outgrowth of culmination of man's power. History in its broadest sense, treats, not only of the rise and fall of nations, their rulers and their wars, but of the condition of the people, and the progress they have made in civilization. Throughout all the ages which have come and gone since man was created, and the nations were formed, the lower classes of huamnty have been struggling against tyranny for the privilege of having a voice in the making of the laws. History begins on the banks of the Nile, with the Tigris and Euphrates. In Egypt we find a people mild and intelligent, with many arts and inventions, and skilled in architecture: and, notwithstanding the fact that society was divided into distinct classes, there was a chance for the talented and the clever to rise above their inherited position; yet all were subject to the will of an absolute monarch. In Assyria the condition of the people was much the same, except that they had the privilege of a direct petition to the king in case of public wrong or neglect: and we turn to Babylonia only to find the record of another despotism. The Jewish Commonwealth is the first republic of which we have any definite knowledge. Its foundation was the house, from which the ascent was through the family or collection of houses, and the tribe or collection of families to the nation. There were twelve heads of tribes, called princes, but the source of power was the assembly of the people known as the Congregation of Israel, in which every free Hebrew had a voice. The laws were mild, far beyond the spirit of the age, but the desire for an earthly monarch crept in, and the people lost their freedom by failing rightly to appreciate its blessings. Media, Persia and China only add to the list of depotisms. Next we turn to Greece and note the change. The little peninsula may well be

termed the birth-place of liberty. We find the people all astir, with every power of the mind in full play, and the little states burning with patriotism. In the golden days of Athens she had neither king nor aristocracy; man ranked with man, and intellect reigned supreme. No talented Athenian, no matter how poor, was debarred from the society of the richest and noblest, and every free citizen had a voice in the laws and zealously maintained his rights and liberties. In Sparta, with her two kings and aristocracy, the rights of the people were somewhat abridged. We now look for the effects of this freedom.. Athens is the acknowledged mother of literature, and the works of Grecian authors exist to day as models, while the mild philosophy of those ancient schools, though much has been added to it, has never been superseded. Then comes Rome, with her long struggle between the Plebeians and the Patricians, in which, time after time, the Plebeians gained the advantage, first in securing tribunes of the people and afterwards in forcing the Patricians to publish the laws, and to grant many other privileges too numerous to mention. Then follow the years of Roman liberty, and her fall. Of the nations which have existed since the fall of Rome the history of many of them is but the record of feudalism and despotism. Only in Switzerland do we find the people successful in maintaining their liberty. In England we find the struggle renewed. The hot Teutonic blood of the English people cannot well brook oppression, and on this little island many battles for liberty have been fought. All that has saved royalty in England is the amount of power, which, the example of this liberty-loving people, the founders of our nation were encouraged to content for their rights. We have traced the stream of liberty from its source, we have watched it deepen and widen little by little, almost choked out of existence at times by the oppression of tyranny, but fed by a thousand streams of true nobility of character, it rose again and flowed on with more vigor than before. Who can stop the pure? Tyranny cannot stay it. Oppression only purges it of the refuse matter, leaving the pure, sparkling stream with a mighty impetus gained by the long struggle, to "Flow, and never cease to flow." And looking back through the ages we see the hand of the Invisible leading the nations of the earth, by ways they know not of, nearer and nearer to perfect liberty, and a closer relationship to the Divine Being. Lastly we turn to America, to our own nation.

A century ago, after our independence had been gained, the United States was, in spite of its thousands of shackles, the grandest, freest nation in the world. But the war has wiped out the stain of slavery, and atoned for it in rivers of patriotic blood, and to-day our nation stands unsurpassed in the world's history. But much yet remains to be righted. Liberty is not yet fully victorious. What can we say of the future? We cannot stand still. The tendency of the age is forward! From generation to generation education becomes more and more universal, and with it comes liberty in its truest sense. Liberty is fast gaining ground, as will be seen when we consider that the nation of Brazil has dethroned the mildest monarch which a despotism has ever seen, in order to establish a republic. When the present good Queen of England dies, what will take place? We are not prepared to answer the question, but the signs of the times point toward republicanism.

But, in the future, there must be some particular people, who, aided by peculiar advantages, will attain a degree of liberty beyond that of the people by which they are surrounded. Which will it be? America has risen from the ashes of the old world to a higher and nobler development than has ever been reached in the past. All the people of Europe have mingled to form our mighty commonwealth, not as foreigners, but as Americans, as citizens of a powerful nation. We have a territory not nearly all occupied, a temperate climate and a fruitful soil, while the nature of the country and the facility of communication brings the people into a close relationship with each other. We have the advantages to education and freedom, and the past history of the world to guard us against mistakes.

Europe, the scene of development in the past, with her petty nations, each jealously guarding its own domain, or mixing in the quarrels of its neighbors, cannot, in the future progress in proportion to our own country. May we not, then, claim the honor for our nation? Who can say that we are not destined for progress? The watch words of the present age, and of the one which is to come, are, and will continue to be liberty, equality and fraternity.

Valediction

Classmates, the time of parting is now come. As a class we have assembled for the last time. We have just set sail on the stormy ocean of life to try our fortunes in the great future spread out before us. Of the one who has been with us so long in our school life here, who has mingled with our daily work, lessons of patience and industry, leading us, by paths unseen to a nobler and better life, what can we say. The best of praise is praise unspoken. Let us praise him by our lives. And now as we go out in the school of life, learning the lessons of life from that hard master, Experience, O, may we so live that when the end shall come it may not be said that we have lived in vain.

Valedictory
May Bemis

Classmates and Friends: Tonight we step out of school-life into life's school. We have finished the work required of us and it is now acknowledged to the world. But this means a parting of the members of our class and we shall never again be assembled just as we are to night.

Most of us have been in the same class since we were children, each one doing his best, even before we thought of graduation or knew the meaning of the word. It was easy enough while we were small, but as we grew older we soon learned the meaning of failure. While we failed to gain our standard many times, each time we tried more earnestly, thus making failure a valuable lesson.

But final success blots out all memory of failure. Not success as the world understands it--merely being allowed to be graduated--but true success; that in which our own conscience tells us we have done our best and faithfully at all times to obey rules and preform tasks.

All lessons have not been learned as we shall find as we travel life's rough road. We have not even learned all that is possible in our own school. We have only laid the foundation of our future happiness and success in life.

But what is to become of our class? You have already heard all that any one knows about the future. We can only hope that the most favorable prophesies will prove true. Next year others will fill our places and in a few short years we shall be forgotten, so let us look over the past.

Five years ago we numbered 26. Then all the recitation benches were filled and each one had to wait patiently for his turn to speak and the teacher did most of the talking. We had to remain after school occasionally for misbehavior or unlearned lessons, but it was taken as a matter of course.

The next winter we were only 16. We had to do most of the talking ourselves that winter and sharp was the contest for rank "one." It was seldom held two successive months by any one. Then proud was the

winner. So time went on; some came, others went, until at the beginning of the present year we numbered 15. One went from our ranks to become a teacher, another left on account of ill health, and now we have the unlucky number, 13.

We now wish to extend our thanks to our friends. And to the school board here assembled. By your presence we know you take an interest in our school and school work. We hope you will overlook our errors and appreciate our efforts, even if we have not accomplished what you think we ought.

Our professor already knows how much we thank him for his assistance in the past and interest in our future work. We shall always remember the three years that he was our teacher as the happiest of our school life.

Classmates, when shall we ever be together again? Our pathways now diverge. Some will remain here, others will continue their work at different schools, one here and another there, but it will not be the school of our early childhood. We shall make new friends wherever we go, but we shall never, never forget the old ones. Let each one of us try to maintain his own respect and to attain an unsullied character, remembering that

"True worth abides in him alone
Who, in the secret hour of thought
Can still suspect and still revere himself
In loneliness of heart."

If we constantly mould our lives after the perfect pattern can we not in after years, when the night turns the pages of memory, recall with greater happiness these simple essays and the night they were read?

Trusting we shall meet in the Home from which there is no parting, I now bid you good by. Hoping we shall be held in remembrance, we did you farewell.

Valedictory
Jennie Nickles

Ladies and Gentlemen: By the courtesy of my classmates there devolves upon me to-night the honorable, yet sad duty of saying the parting words.

Tonight we are graduated and that one word means much to us. It means, among other things, that we have satisfactorily completed our work in school. We have labored hard and faithfully to overcome the trials and difficulties of school life, and we have succeeded at last.

Hitherto we have had some one to map out our work for us and to guide and assist us in doing it. Henceforth we must map out our own work and rely upon ourselves for its accomplishment.

To a very great extent our destiny lies in our own hands. Whatever it is it will depend large upon the work we have done in school, as we will doubtless find hereafter, as we climb the steep hill of life.

To our youthful imagination the future looks rosy and gay. The day that is dawning is full of promise. No clouds are upon the horizon, and we step forth with buoyant hopes and high expectations of a life that shall be full of noble aspirations and lofty achievements.

But still we cannot deny that the future stands veiled before us. We cannot lift that veil, or in any way penetrate the mysterious depths beyond it. We can only hope the most favorable prophecies will prove true, and commit ourselves to the guidance of Him, who is as wise as he is merciful; therefore, we will try to content ourselves by reviewing the past.

Most of us have been in the same class since we were children, each doing his best and striving to excel the others, even before a thought of graduating and entered our minds.

But time has wrought its changes with our class, as well as with all others. Five years ago we numbered eighteen. The next year we numbered thirteen. And thus it was; some went, others came, until at the beginning of this year we numbered nine. One left our ranks for other employment, leaving to night the number of eight.

We deem it proper to express our gratitude to the school board for their kindly interest in our welfare. They have freely given their time and labor without compensation. We wish to assure them we deeply appreciate their efforts in our behalf.

We may say without flattery that the high standard of our school is due largely to their intelligent efforts and determination to secure only the best results. As a class we feel we owe them a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

We thank our friends here assembled for your presence here to night. Your presence indicates an interest in our school and school work, and although we might have done better, we hope you will appreciate our efforts and try to overlook our errors.

To Professor Gehman we tender our thanks and heartfelt gratitude for his kind assistance in the past and interest in our future work. We have ever found him ready and willing to help us. I will here add, the happiest years of our school life were spent with him as our teacher.

And now, classmates, the parting words must be said. We will never again be assembled for the same purpose, as we are to night. Our pathways will now diverge. Some may remain here, others may continue their work at other schools. We will each go our way, making new friends and seeing new scenes. But I hope we shall never forget our classmates of this night--the proudest, happiest night of our lives--for in after years it will be a pleasure to recall these essays and this night.

This evening's labor close our work in connection with this school. In future life, when memory causes us to look back over our youthful days, we will doubtless say, and say truly, that it was the happiest part of our lives.

With kindly remembrance of the past happy days, we will bid farewell to our school days in Hays, Farewell.

APPENDIX C

ADDRESS OF WELCOME
I. M. Yost
at opening of Normal.

President of the Board, Ladies and Gentlemen: To you who have assembled for the purpose of giving and reviewing instruction in your chosen profession, I extend a most hearty and earnest welcome in behalf of the school board and our people. We hope to convince you that ours is genuine hospitality and then by mutually sharing it you will be benefited.

The Normal Institute, as conducted to-day is the essential element to which may be attributed the rapid advancement and gigantic progress in our school work, our system of preparing and qualifying teachers for the best results in the school room, we fear, is less appreciated by many, and even those now directly the recipients of the fruitful results of the grand system than it should be.

However, this seems to have but little discouraging effect upon you, and in fact tends to stimulate you all to yet greater efforts.

The lack of appreciation in this electrical age of ours is but in keeping in this matter as in every other department and avocation of life. He who is busy obtaining needful and useful results has no time nor disposition to remain idle long enough to await those who lag behind and fail to grasp influences found at our Normals.

The result of our work confronts us daily and often astonished those counted among the intelligent, and because of these mistaken intelligent persons, their lack of appreciation and comprehension of the advantages of the new science of teaching. But do not be discouraged. That which is obtained without a struggle is generally without value. Move forward, then, in unison. Your mission is a noble one, and the results are to be the foundation of all future great achievements. Upon this line of foundation work our nation has been building up her sons and daughters until to day America has no peer incapable of reading among the intelligences on the face of the earth; and we hope further . . . (5 words incapable of reading) not only small continents, nations, lands and seas

be united by electrical cables of iron, but until the cable of thought with electrical promptness and majestic power and wisdom shall unite with the divine spirit of Heaven, and we shall not only familiarly know of all things of earth, the sun, moon and stars and the great planets of the skies, but also enjoy daily communion through the "eye of the mind" with our great Creator, until all the possibilities your finite minds shall stand out in bold relief and man shall know want no more.

To the extent of my ability to see and understand, I appreciate your work. I know of some of the many advantages to the pupil and I also know of the disadvantages under which you labor. Many of them I have noted more forcibly during my past term as director of the district. I will not go into detail in this, but trust with each advancing year these annoyances may be removed and your task become lighter and more pleasant, your pay be commensurate with your services. However, in this I am pleased to say our district as progressive as any in the west and yet our teachers are scarcely half paid. Teachers and those who would become teachers, rise to a higher plane and demand your just dues.

I would be guilty of injustice were I to occupy more of your valuable time, knowing that men of wisdom are waiting to speak.

Again assuring you of our appreciation of your position and work as teachers, with the many wearisome efforts on your part, which like the work of a noble good mother, will only fully appear as a perfect credit to her boy in after life. So your impressions on the young minds of your scholars will grow into account of the great credit in after life. And although you may not now be appreciated by the pupil much less by the parent, still, never fear, the result must come to light, and if your work is well done, your labors will never be forgotten and your name shall be honored by thousands.

Again, I welcome you with assurances of our best endeavors to make your stay among us both pleasant and profitable to you as it surely will be to us.

Before the Teachers' Institute, Hays City, Ellis county, Kansas, by I. M. Yost, president of the board of education:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen--It affords me great pleasure to meet with you this evening. And on behalf of the faculty of this institute and the board of education of Hays City, I welcome you, teachers, scholars and friends of the grand object of education, and I extend to you the freedom of our city, so far as her educational advantages are concerned.

Many of you are new comers; citizens of our county but a few years. Some came here six, or probably ten years ago, and but a few fifteen years ago. What a change has taken place since the day of your arrival--what a transformation for the better education of our young people. Look at the picture, if you please. In 1875 our teachers with their attainments then could not now pass examination for a third grade certificate. As a consequence, scholars then had to be driven to school, and now we must beg to keep them out of school. This indicates interest in the right direction.

Our first normal was held here ten years ago, and while it was a poor excuse, nevertheless it was a step in the right direction and marked a period when Ellis county teachers could be taught. Yes, and must be taught in order to be acceptable. And it is a noteworthy fact, that not only parents demand able practical and scientific teachers, but our scholars also ask for such, and "none other need apply."

In 1885 we had but 15 school houses and 20 teachers in our county. Now we have 50 school houses and 75 teachers, of which we are very proud. And this is not all. You have been schooling yourselves and each other in the need for more advanced methods of teaching, and by a combination of experiences, you have developed thought until you have created such a high standard of school work in our midst, that teachers and scholars are thrilled with a spirit of inspiration for the work which not only elevates the standard of our teachers and scholars, but of the entire community and country, and we believe great statesmen are coming out of these cities and plains of the far west. Men and women of broad views and liberal hearts, whose brains will pulsate

in the management of the affairs of our great nation, and whose knowledge will safely guide our "ship of state." Go on, then, principal, superintendent, teachers and scholars in your laudable endeavor. Yours is indeed a grand calling, because you shape the destinies of nation.

Combine your minds and let each intellectual eye contribute his and her brightest ray of light, until the great center of attraction shall beam with a new and exalted light, surpassing the rays of the noon-day sun, which shall illumine every pathway of man and guide the nations to glory and renown.

I trust this session of our normal will far surpass all former ones, and then you will speak out your best thoughts, open wide the door of your experiences, and teach the teacher. Remember, "no man lives who may not learn."

Let us glance over past history and we will be convinced that consulation, combined experience and multiplied intelligence lead to the greatest success in every department of life.

The savage council together as well as enlightened man; the merchant, statesman, mechanic, artisan, farmer and soldier all advise and council together, and out of the combined mass of their knowledge comes purified, scientific education for and appropriate to each respective calling in life.

And so, too, are the burdens of school work lightened and your lives brightened and your success guaranteed.

The inventive geniuses of earth are thus discovered, the miraculous performed and professions and crafts of every kind man is heir to, are rapidly lifted up to the highest plane of understanding and the wisest conception of the mind.

From the section hand on our rail roads, the ploy boy in our fields, the mechanic in his ship, the merchant in his store, the statesman on the floor of debate, the warrior on the field of battle, the rulers of nations, all alike, find and recognize the need of teachers who can teach, and not simply who would do so. This age, than which no grander age ever was, demands normals.

Nation holds congress with nation, and normals convene in hovel and palace and school room alike, all over our fair land. The first normal of record was held in 1735 in Prussia, and the second school of this kind was organized in Germany at Berlin in 1784 by Frederick the Great. Our country was first blessed in this direction at Lexington in 1839, about 50 years ago. The science of teaching is being taught now, and we hope to see the time when this feature will be fully appreciated and a scientific knowledge of the art of teaching be required.

Our most successful teachers of to-day are those versed in the science of the work, and who have made teaching their profession for life.

THE NEEDS OF TO-DAY

by I. M. Yost before the school

Today we are building a great high-way from Chicago to St. Louis, over which trains will move safely, running at the rate of 100 miles an hour. This great road will be electrically lighted for a mile in advance and behind the fast moving train, so that night will not appear and darkness not aid the wrecker and robber in his terrible work. What great progress has been made--and may be not say what great progress will be made. I need not remind you of the old ways, the old modes of travel. We know that the forces which are now used to produce such wonderful results have existed for millions of years. Nothing new has been created. The human family on the morning of the opening of the Garden of Eden, were endowed with the same possibilities that you are. The command then and now has never been recalled. Go work in my vineyard. Behold, the glorious creation! Everything here man needs, Utilize and live.

Remember, the forces of earth are dormant and must be aroused from their eternal sleep. Every force to be of utility to man must be artificially excited into power. How quiet and harmless the little brook lies in the shade of the trees surrounding it, until restless man builds a dam from bank to bank and although it may take the little insignificant rivulet years to fill up the gorge, still, at last the brink is reached and the great mill moves and millions are fed. But if man has not built upon the true scientific plan, like the dam at Johnstown, the walls may give way and nature, so long chained down may seek her dormant state in such a manner and haste, that the power which served man to his delight and profit, now destroys and annihilates everything within its reach. How well then to learn correctly and thoroughly the fundamental lessons which lead to prosperity and wealth. If I can excite one thought new to you or strike one cord of ambition I say I shall be rewarded. Do not loose sight of the mechanical arts.

Some of you may have finished your school education with this term and the important question arises, what next for me? A trade, a profession or nothing. Weigh your decision well before you conclude. Measure your next step by the rule of that perfection to which your accomplishments have listed you. Consult your fitness,

your likes or dislikes. Never for a moment admit that any calling of labor, whether by brain or muscle, to which man is heir, has not within her ranks, thousands of the most honorable and noble men and women. Again I say, measure well and accurately, by a solid chain of reasoning conclude, and then with untiring zeal and ceaseless energy apply your whole power, your thoughts your life, and nothing but misfortune unforeseen, lies between you and great success.

When I recall the old days just 25 years ago, yes, 10 years ago, I wonder whether this age is the millennial dawn. We talk with unknown people; enjoy daily the products of soil we never trod; mountains bow to our will; the earth yields her fatness to the queen's taste. Then who of us would not be in provision of knowledge sufficient to see and know all within our reach. Remember, the mechanical trades are numerous and that they need recruits from the intelligent classes and the chances of success are very great in this calling. Intelligent workers are well paid in every calling. Do you ever stop to consider why there are so many persons out of employment? Then notice, its those who have but willing hands and feet, ordinary intelligence and very little education to offer. Are there many active, well educated persons out of employment? Are there many intelligent, well trained, well behaved mechanics out of work? No, ambitious boys full of energy, girls full of life, who have a spirit of such progress well grounded. No, no. Will you ever know the time when there will be a surplus of the right timber in this lively wilderness of life. Only keep your brain going in the right, honest, honorably, progressive channel, and your pathway will be smooth.

Think of your advantages over the millions who have lived, that you might excell them. Those who have utilized to so great an extent the forces of earth, and think of the great advantages you enjoy by, and through the intimate union of the present millions of great minds, whose thoughts you can enjoy and whom you should aid by your genius.

But a high degree of perfection can only be attained through a broad gauged, deep cut, reamed out, illuminated, everyday, free school education, and in a country where liberty reigns supreme and thought knows not her limit, and where unalloyed progress shall go, until we are like our Creator, all powerful; I cannot pass by the mechanical genius' of to day until I tell you of the work of

85 men and boys, who, in a single day of ten working hours, built and completed a locomotive engine and tender and rode 10 miles with her before supper, that day.

Boys and girls, read scientific books and papers, build up a taste for the arts. This is the great age in which the skilled workman will receive his reward. Don't idle away a single day. Keep your eye on the goal of great usefulness, but never measure your stature of attainments greater than they are. Climb up the rugged side to fame by deep, well cut niches in the rock. The whole world of people smile to day and bless the noble boy or girl, who, through genius, elevates the condition of our kind and thereby makes earth a desirable habitation.

I might occupy your time much longer in especially enumerating evidences of our progressive age, but one other illustration will suffice. Just 15 years ago it was thought a fine achievement when 6,00 copies of our daily papers could be printed in an hour. Now our newspapers are made up of matters of interest, fresh every hour, from every inhabitable part or field, on the whole face of the earth, the sun, moon and stars daily contribute to the thirst of your capacious brains, at the rate of 50,000 copies per hour from a single printing press.

Count yourselves in the world of thought now, and remain in the competition to the last. Keep your intellectual machine bright with the friction of constant, untiring use. Let your minds be in a perpetual motion of usefulness. Foster and acquire such a keen interest in what ever noble pursuit you engage, that you forget the lapse of time. Life itself is thus prolonged and the living of it made easy. Hunting for the prize is better than waiting for it. Heaven is thus attained on earth and enjoyed through eternity.

APPENDIX B

If Wheat Farming Fails to Pay,
What Shall the Farmers Do?

H. D. Shaffer At Farmers' Institute

If it is the object of this Institute to discuss subjects, propound questions, advance suggestions and ideas to benefit farmers and lead them in a course to better their condition, then this farming community has need of an Institute equal with any.

Without consuming time to select any special subject for discussion, I drop on to the problem such is uppermost in my mind.

If the single crop farming of wheat fails to furnish sustenance and support the farmer and his family and involves him deeper in debt every year, what shall he do? At no time in the history of Ellis county farming has the question of obtaining the means of a livelihood been so serious and full of apprehension as now. A few years ago we witnessed the tide of emigration westward and the past autume it rolled back again. This has been periodical, but at no previous time has the retrograde movement of settlers become so alarming. The western third of the state is half depopulated, and the alarm extends into Ellis county and farther east. So far few of the farmers have left; but many are revolving the question in their minds what best to do. What is in store for them if they remain, or where can they go to better their condition?

At this critical time enthusiastic advocates of wind mill irrigation point to a way out. That beneficial results from the new method of farming will follow is scarcely to be doubted, but to what extent seems a matter of conjecture. For the present a want of practical knowledge of the underlying supply of water, its depth, and the means of raising it to the surface forbids an estimate of the extent irrigation can be carried on in the country. Those who have given the subject investigation and are to some extent capable of giving an opinion, seem free to admit that the irrigatable portion of land in this county will be confined to patches of low land of a few acres each along the Saline, Smoky and possibly Big Creek Valleys, where it is claimed a sufficient underflow of water can be had. All the rest of the land in the county is out of the question so far as any immediate results are hoped for. But taking the small areas or tracts along

the valleys in the aggregate--they will comprise many acres--and if the project proves a success will work a great change in the condition of farming. But it is scarcely to be conceived how a sufficiency of water can be raised by wind mill power to irrigate wheat or corn fields on a paying oasis, and we conclude the main attention will be directed to garden farming. Then the question of a market will naturally arise. Garden farming, as is well known, is extensively carried on close to market and especially most profitable adjacent to large cities. If it would pay at such a distance as this from market after deducting transportation and meeting the competition of naturally expected from those engaged in the same business closer by, and with the vast productions pouring out of the valleys throughout the state, it certainly is a question of consideration. This much, however, must be admitted: If the farmers along the valleys meet with success in growing their own vegetables and enough more to sell to their neighbors, and supply and markets in the small towns close by, a long felt necessity will be supplied. The money that finds its way out for these products kept at home; and more, a permanent step will be taken in solving the problem of these semi-humid plains.

Farmers must have a living and should have more. Low prices in wheat and failures have caused them to fall behind. The single wheat crop farming is proving disastrous. Wheat is now produced in such quantities and has become so cheap that it is fed to cattle and swine; a fact to some of unknown in former times. The three principle industries in Ellis county are: wheat growing, cattle raising, and horse raising. There are other and similer industries of some note, but have received little attention. Of the three industries names, cattle raising holds out the most promise. There is less risk in cattle than wheat. It was a mistake when the herds were decreased; but they can be regained in a few years. How much better for the farmer if he can turn off each year a few herd of prime steers or dry cows. This is a nation of meat eaters and for that purpose cattle will continue to be raised and be in demand.

If reports are true, creameries are operated on a paying basis in other localities near by, not more favored than ours. It would create a demand for much

cows and give fairly remunerative employment to neighboring farmers. The failure in our creamery here would seem to argue against this; but the fact that creameries in eastern states are being supplied from cows stall fed the year round on high priced feed of fodder and grain, when here the grazing is almost free and fodder and grain cheaper.

But the crisis in wheat farming is reached. A change to diversified or more mixed farming is inevitable if success is desired. There are difficulties in the way, it is true, and with many hard to overcome. It is not expected wheat farming could be discontinued, but less of it and more of something else.

The surer way to success and independent living is by mixed farming. Farming nowhere pays big, but the successful farmer follows a variety of employments, and receives his incomes from as many sources.

PLOWING AND PRESERVATION OF MOISTURE

Abstract of a paper read by Martin Allen at the
Ellis County Farmers' Institute at Hays City, Kansas,
Dec. 8th, 1894.

In the outset let me inquire what sort of a plow was Cincinnatus using when called upon to become dictator of the Roman Empire? and was he using the same old crooked stick for a plow to stir his four acres when the messenger went after him the second time for a like purpose? What sort of a plow was General Putnam using when he left his oxen standing in the furrow, that he might proceed with unusual haste to the defense of his country? Was the Mould board entirely of sod and was it plated with wrought iron? It was probably the former. That was nearly 123 years ago, while Solon Robinson in his facts for a farmer, tells us that 97 years ago one Charles Newbold of New Jersey had spent what was then a princely fortune, \$30,000, in a vain endeavor to introduce the cast iron plow--and gave up in despair, leaving the American Farmers wedded to their idols, the old wooden plow. These were the good old days that some are still hankering about when ignorance prevailed. Witchcraft was generally believed in, and some even maintained that cast iron plows poisoned the ground and rendered it unproductive.

Our present style of plows made of steel did not come into use until about 45 years ago. They were the outgrowth of efforts to cultivate the soil and the prairies when the cast iron mould board could not be made to scour.

All the leading styles of plows are inteded to turn over the soil, or, in other words, to bury the surface soil and to at the same time turn the sub soil to the surface at least to the extent of the depth of the furrow. This we believe to be wrong in principle notwithstanding its universal practice, because the elements of greater fertility in all soils undisturbed, is found at the surface; with the proper conditions of moisture, seeds germinate most freely near the surface; roots of trees and young plants of all sorts seem to strike most freely and to grow most rapidly very near the surface of the soil.

Then why bury this best part of the soil below its place of present usefulness? It may be true that these best elements in time again come to the surface, when they are most available; but to wait for their return is a waste of time and often may result in the loss of a crop.

Therefore, I apprehend that the best results may be obtained by stirring the ground deeply--the deeper the better--once in three or four years, without turning it over as is now practiced, and for the intervening time to cultivate quite shallow but often--the oftener the better.

Deep plowing, as usually practiced, is a delusion, because in our dryest seasons the soil dries out as deep as the plow goes, and in seasons of quite fair moisture with the subsoil or the soil from the bottom of the furrow brought into the surface for a seed bed the best results cannot be obtained.

About 40 years ago, or rather more, a boom upon deep plowing swept over this country, it was led by the eminent philanthopist, Horace Greeley. He induced his warm friend, the great showman, P. T. Barnum, to use an elephant to aid in plowing deeply a part of his magnificent estate at Bridgeport, Conn., but tradition has preserved no record of the crops that followed. I think it quite safe to conclude that these crops did not compare in yield or magnificence to the effect put forth to get them.

These booms follow each other quite rapidly sometimes upon the subject and then upon quite another. They seem to be the escape pipe for the enthusiasm of the best talent and most heroic devotion to the public good. During a lifetime they reach many subjects, not omitting war and politics. The persons prominently engaged in them are generally patriots and their intentions are for the betterment of themselves and thrier race. But, alast how often they do fail, for want of the most mature consideration or the fullest details in facts and digures; but oftener by insisting upon applying the facts and figures obtained in our locality to another locality where the conditions are somewhat different. The difference may be only slight, yet enough to upset and bring to naught the nicest theories and even the most stubborn facts from the other locality.

The boom now on top in western Kansas is irrigation. Much of the best talent of the country is engaged in advocating it, and much good will grow out of it; but the wasted effort probably never will nor never can be fairly and properly estimated.

We are getting many nice stories of the results of irrigation, but a great truth upon one piece of land may turn out to be a great lie on another piece of land, even in the same locality. I do not want to discourage irrigation, but rather to admonish people to consider it carefully in the beginning, and to go slow in the start.

It is well known that with 18 or 20 inches of rainfall well distributed we can raise good crops of wheat, and that with 10 inches more we can do well with corn and potatoes. But without the clouds as an accomplishment of so much rain, without the moisture left in the atmosphere, without the consequent dews, and without the ammonia and other fertilizing ingredients coming with the rain; with a dry atmosphere and hot wind that so rapidly suck up the moisture from an already dry soil; then and under those conditions, how much water will it take to raise a crop of wheat or corn? Does any one know, or does any one have any idea of the amount? I mean here under the conditions existing throughout the most of the western half of the state of Kansas.

These conditions, be it remembered, are quite different from such as are found in narrow valleys, surrounded by snow capped mountain peaks. Then the atmosphere is cooled to begin with and the water is already fertilized by the sediment washed down the mountain sides.

Here the water might be fertilized by running it through tanks and vats supplied with manure, but very much of it at best would be taken up by the hot and hungry winds.

Yet, wherever water might be fertilized by running it through, wherever water can be had in plenty anywhere from 8 to 15 feet below the surface and a chain pump can be constructed to be run by horse power and to throw a stream say 6 inches or filling a spout made by nailing four fence boards together.

Then under such or somewhat similar conditions it might do very well to water a garden of 2 or 3 acres, or possibly a farm the size of that tilled by Cincinnati, and where this can be faithfully done there is almost no limit to the amount of human food that can be produced on a limited area. But beware, I beseech you, of the temptation of trying to irrigate broad acres when water to do it with has to raise 40 or 50 feet and the volume limited at that.

I find myself dwelling upon the application of moisture, or rather giving caution against injudicious efforts to apply it, instead of its preservation.

The deep stirring of the soil, as already suggested under the head of plowing, would be one of the ideal ways of holding large volumes of water and preventing much of the surplus rainfall, that comes at times, from passing rapidly away towards the larger waterways. When once caught in the deeply loosened soil, one of the best means of holding it there, is to stir the surface quite shallow, but often. The earth itself is full of minute pores, through which the surplus water finds its way into the soil. By these same pores this water rapidly escapes whenever a hot day atmosphere presents itself; and the best means of preventing it is by stirring and disturbing the surface, disorganizing, breaking up, or cutting off these pores and by this means preventing the escape of moisture from the soil.

APPENDIX E

SELECTION OF THE FITTEST

By Martin Allen, of Hays City, Kansas
Speech given before the Horticultural Society
Holton, Kans. Dec. 17, 1879

We believe it is a well-settled axiom, that "the fittest survives," but this is in the mighty struggle for existence that has gone on continually among all living things, both animate and inanimate, from the beginning up to the present time. Man has aided Nature and himself to some extent in this struggle, by selecting animals, trees, fruits, vegetables and cereals, and in cultivating and distributing them in all parts of the civilized world. Among the very most rude types of mankind only is this struggle of Nature entirely left to himself, unaided in some way.

Many sorts of trees grown from seed vary greatly, probably as much as well-established breeds of animals do--possibly more; probably no two are precisely alike. Take, for example, the cottonwood: a quarter of a century ago it was the leading rapid grower among the soft-wooded trees in the prairie regions of Illinois, and we think it has at one time or another risen to this position in each of the prairie States of the great Northwest, it certainly holds this place now on the plains of western Kansas, from whence we write. Unfortunately, science seems only to know two sorts of this tree, their difference being known by the bark of the young shoots, and the indentations in the edge of the leaf. Woodchoppers know two sorts, namely, the white and yellow; and tree vendors talk fluently to their customers about these two sorts, and especially about the great merits of the yellow sort, which they have to sell. The very important fact that these sorts are only known by chopping into their wood and noting its color and quality, seems to be overlooked, for they cannot be distinguished by any outward signs in the young tree. The most casual observer knows two sorts of this tree--the large-leaf variety, spreading almost from the foot of the Alleghanies to the Missouri river, and the small-leaf variety, from the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. The white and yellow sorts both extend into and form a part of both the large and small-leaf sorts. Practical tree growers have still other distinctions, such as upright, spreading, and drooping; my own grounds affording one that may prove to be worthy of propagation as an ornamental weeder. He who would

cultivate this noble tree, and at once arrive at the best and most uniform results, should first determine by actual experiment with the ax, that he is getting the right quality of wood; he should also be satisfied that his tree is an upright and rapid grower; and that it is also a male tree, so that the nuisance of seed flotating in the air from his forest may be avoided. And when the best selection in all these particulars is once made, propagate it by cuttings, which simply continues the original; in no other way can the best and most uniform results in rapid growth and quality of wood be reached.

Of our hardest and best wooded trees, the Osage orange is one of the most promising on the plains, but it, too, varies greatly when grown from seed, some trees making a growth of six inches in diameter, while others, equally well situated, make but two, or at best but three inches. Upon closely observing two such trees, it will be found that they differ somewhat in their general make-up, from the very first year of their growth--the slow grower has small leaves, and the ends of its branches are more tapering; while the rapid grower has leaves twice as large, and its shoots and branches maintain their thickness better toward their end, or terminal buds. Therefore, we apprehend that the best results in growing timber from this tree will be obtained by selecting the best specimens of the large-leaf sort from the seed-bed; or, if from the hedgerow, carefully dig the tree selected in the fall--make its roots into cuttings--pack in sand and in the cellar until spring, then plant carefully in good, well-prepared soil, where they are to grow into timber, and cultivate well for two or three years. Do not plant among corn, as this tree will not endure shade.

And so may this plan of selecting the fittest or best specimens of its kind extend to almost, if not every variety of tree grown from seed. In some sorts the continuation of such selection can best be made by layering; others of necessity must be made by grafting; while others readily extend themselves to sprouting from their roots.

The belief that the same principles of selection that have been applied to our fruit and ornamental trees may be safely and profitably applied to our timber trees, has prompted these hasty suggestions. If thought, from which action comes, should be the result, I shall be much pleased.¹

¹Kansas Horticultural Report: Ed. by Secretary, Vol. IX, pp. 64-65.

APPENDIX F

WITHIN AND WITHOUT

An Essay Read before the Hays City Temperance Union
by Miss E. Maxwell, Friday Evening, April 4, 1879. - Taken
from the Ellis County Star, April 17, 1879.

A new town has sprung up out here upon this breezy prairie, where there is so much room for all. How did it get here? Did the Fort begin the town before the days of the Kansas Pacific R.R. or did the settlement require a Fort? When traveling over these broad prairies, and noticing the little staggling settlements along the road, all very, very new; unfinished buildings, unfinished roads, unfinished fences and fields-- in short every thing, giving evidence of plans still very incomplete--noticing all the newness and discomfort which must necessarily follow such incompleteness. I have wondered what were the motives that brought people from all the different States to these out of the way wilds to make homes for themselves. Ah! there is the answer; to make homes for themselves.

Taking up the fragments of shattered fortunes, to begin anew in a new country. Ready to encounter the difficulties they might meet, determined to conquer, they have pushed on, and the little settlements have sprung up as if by magic.

At first the pioneers came westward slowly, in the heavy covered wagons that always to me, look like monstrous scoop sun-bonnets, moving slowly over the plains. Afterwards an enterprising railroad company bound the East and West together with bands of steel, and now trains go rushing through, freighted not with merchandise only, but with heart treasure--the plans, the hopes, the fears, the longings and expectations of the throbbing heart of humanity; restless, dissatisfied, unsatisfied humanity. So the towns dot the wide spreading plain all along the road; Each little settlement a little world of its own, these towns yet very young but growing year by year. Hays City is one of them--called a city, just as we call an infant a little man or a little woman. What would we think of parents who cared only for the physical growth of the child, while its immortal mind was left uncultured? We can easily see what would be the result of such training. The citizens

of this infant city Hays, have in their keeping its training. Shall it be educated only to a greed of gain--catering to its many wants, just as a foolish mother gives her spoiled child whatever it cries for? Let our aim be higher than this--of animal growth. This child city has many needs. Its mind must be carefully cultivated. Its soul needs must be fully met--that the child may grow to a full and perfect statue. How is this to be achieved? -- the home must begin the work--the germ of life is there--within the sacred circle of the fire side.--What about our homes here in the wilds? It was my lot to spend two years in a new town in another part of this State of magnificent distances. It was my first experience of western life--and I must confess I was dreadfully shocked at the loose down-at-the heel way of life, as well as that of the life without. Said a lady to me, when I spoke of the careless manner of living, among those too, who knew better; "Oh you know we grow careless out here, so far from civilization--there is no one to care how we look--we go about as we please." Why! said I, "did you leave your love for your husband in the east, or sell your self-respect with your furniture?" She thought I looked at such matters in a "very queer light."

I think a woman who has no care as to neatness and prettiness of dress, about her work, as much as in her parlor, lacks some element of true womanliness--and her influence over those who make up the home circle is just so much weakened.--Fortunes may have been lost in the East, every thing given up--but don't let us give up everything; courage is left, dear ones are left to be helped and strengthened.

There is no need for leaving our good manners, if we ever had any, behind us in the deserted home.--Why should we be beyond the bounds of civilization? We must bring civilization with us--and all the make up of a happy homelife--We must bring heart-shine with us--to brighten our homes.--There is no brightness, no adorning equal to the strengthening sun-light of a bright brave, heart. We women have the most to do with the very germ of the new city's true growth. When I think how much we have to do with the culture of mind and heart of those we love; how much brightness, how much soul, woman can put into the home life, I thank God that I am a woman. Woman is the soul of the home--it is her gift from God--her talent to be increased until the Lord of the talent claims his own. Shall this talent be

hidden in a napkin? Are we making the most of this our talent? Are we keeping our homes bright, sweet and attractive? It is the home life that has made the refinement and culture of the East, and the home life will make or mar the West. Woman need not complain that their rights are denied them--nor complain their sphere is narrow, nor sigh for the ballot box--the country has no need for petticoated politicians--Jeff Davis will do for the present--but the country does call for us to use our rights as true women. We have as many rights as we can manage. We have the right to a true noble life, to be true to principles of right true to all that elevates and builds up our race.

It is said that woman is governed by the impulses of her heart--that she always jumps at conclusions.--Granted, but generally the hearts impulse is on the side of the right--and a woman generally lands upon the right conclusions in her jumps--and long ones they are sometimes--lands fair and square and firmly, and stands waiting while the masculine mind walks slowly along a line of reasoning to the same spot--A woman's perception of right and wrong is keener than a man's, because less biased out side influences. You may call her reasoning "intuitive" if you will--intuitive really means heart touching--and by being true to it is heart teaching--how strong a hold in the right path may we have upon our brothers, husbands, friends!

Oh, let us hold our God given right, firmly for their sakes! I am afraid we little realize how strong our influences is over the other sex. A man is always his better self in the presence of a true womanly woman; the rude jest, the ready oath, are hushed in her presence. Let that refining influence be felt so strongly that it will not be lost outside of home, that it will follow the man wherever he may go, keeping him from wrong paths, holding him back with iron grasp from whatever be-littles manhood. The State does not make society--but society makes the State and home makes society--and woman makes the home. Do you see how the circles widen? Cato used to say "The Romans ruled the world, but women ruled the Romans." That holds true today; we rule the rulers--and our court is our home. Let our scepere be one of righteousness. A genuine home life, or the want of it, stamps society. We all know the origin of the title "Boot Hill." Glorious memorial that--an everlasting monument to whiskey--aren't you proud of it? "Boot Hill!" Men killed in whiskey rows,

dying like brutes--ending in infamy a life that might have been noble. There was little of true woman's influence in those days--none of home life for the men who grew rough and degraded without it, and died shamefully. We have the whiskey fiend to conquer yet. It will die hard--conquered only by strong, steady effort. The Prohibition--bill will not do it, as long as saloons have back doors and pigeon holes big enough to hold a glass, where men can sneak up to drink death to body and soul. The liquor license law will not kill the death-stealing trade, as long as men can be found who will lend money to pay the price the Government demands for the death of those who make the nation. I do not think a government that derives any of its sustenance from the price of blood is anything to be proud of, and the Stars and Stripes float over a suicidal land! Just signing the pledge will not avail to life the nation from the depths, if the home influence is not brought to bear upon it with all its living strength. The Temperance lecturer may wear his throat out pleading with men to be men--not brutes,--I beg the poor brute's pardon, a brute would not touch the liquid fire; the temperance lecturer may spend his life in the cause of Temperance, but his efforts will fall bitterly short of his noble aim, if women do not come forward with all true womanly heart in the work and with her personal effort aid in the cause. Mere good wishes are empty breath without active effort. Shall we stand still and see the work which has begun so bravely die out for want of our aid, and such as only woman can give? We pray, oh, how earnestly we pray, that these whom we love may be kept from the curse which is ruining our land. We must work--labor is prayer put into practice, and that is what the Lord calls us to do. We do not know to what extent we may be accountable for the souls that fall. The work of saving men from a life of misery and shame and a drunkard's grave, has begun in this young city. Temperance is the foundation--No! the "Rock of Ages" is the foundation upon which to build, and Temperance is one of the strong pillars to support the beautiful structure. The work must go on and the molding, chiselling, polishing, is the work of the home--woman's work. Let the influence of her true life--firm in denouncing wrong--strong in her Christian integrity--gentle and bright in her life--let this influence be felt by all with whom she may come in contact. The memory of a praying mother or sister, has been a strong air of salvation to many a man. I venture to say that there is no man so old in years or sin, or so hardened, here to night, who does not feel a warm throbbing in his heart, and a strange filling

of the throat at the remembrance of a mother's caress, a mother's soft touch upon his hair--a sister's loving kiss--when his lips were purer than they are now-- a gentle wife's clinging hold--or the soft caresses of a little child that called him "Father". The dear Home circle may be broken, for some of these begore me to-night, but do not let the golden thread of memory be tarnished. You may sigh "for the touch of a vanished hand" and the "sound of a voice that is still," but oh let that gentle touch of mother, or sister or wife hold you back from vice--let that loving voice, a mother's prayer ring ever in your ears--and bring you back to better, nobler living. Make up your mind to-night--you men who have made life so hard--to win back your nobleness, your true manhood--by the race of God--you shall not want for woman's aid.

Oh sister women! Our sphere is wide--it's shores are washed by Eternity's sea. Let us live, nobler better, truer, more real and earnest lives, that the world may be the better for our having lived in it.

"Act, Act, in the living present
Heart within and God oe'r head!"

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