

1981

Hannah A. Rosebrook: Community Journalist/ Local Historian 'The Fairview News,' Kearny County, Kansas, 1918 - 1980

Lee Pendergrass
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Fort Hays State University

Ethnic Heritage Studies

*Hannah A. Rosebrook:
Community Journalist/Local Historian
'The Fairview News,'
Kearny County, Kansas,
1918-1980*

AUGUST, 1981

NO. 5

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Hannah A. Rosebrook:
Community Journalist/Local Historian--
'The Fairview News,' Kearny County, Kansas, 1918-1980

Edited by Dr. Lee F. Pendergrass
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As has been the case with previous issues of Ethnic Heritage Studies, local citizens of Kearny County provided the funding for the printing and allowed the History Department at Fort Hays State University full control over editorial and interpretive decisions. Hopefully, this cooperation between the general public and academia will lead to further such efforts.

The editor wishes to thank Drs. James Forsythe and Helmut Schmeller for technical advice and proofreading the final copy before it went to the printer. As is the case with all such endeavors, the editor must bear responsibility for any oversights.

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PREFACE

In preparing this issue the editor has written an introduction, an epilogue, and a number of annotations to place Mrs. Rosebrook's columns within a historical context as well as to assist those whose memories may have become blurred by time or who were not old enough to recall the events about which she writes.

The columns reproduced in this issue have not been stylistically altered and the original spelling has been retained. Instead the thrust has been to preserve the historically worthwhile material and to eliminate redundancies. While this was the only possible course considering the volume of Mrs. Rosebrook's writings, unfortunately it was also a distortion in that her description of the constancy of community life is virtually lost in the process.

Since Mrs. Rosebrook's columns often read like a diary the editor has eliminated the paragraph format common in the world of journalism and has implemented a diary format for this issue.

In reading these columns one should never assume that community life was submerged by important national events such as World War II. Rather community life remained surprisingly normal and one gains the impression that the people Mrs. Rosebrook knew were determined not to allow their everyday life to be disrupted by any catastrophe, including the Dust Bowl storms. Perhaps this was their way of coping.

Whether or not one philosophically agrees with Mrs. Rosebrook, one who reads her columns carefully can not help but come away with a sense that she caught many of the continuities of history, such as the farmers' drive for parity which re-surfaces sporadically. She understood and in some instances predicted the direction which popular opinion would take, and she politically reflected ideals which continue to capture the fancy of candidates for office and elected leaders.

The columns in this issue represent approximately ten per cent of Mrs. Rosebrook's total output. A complete copy

of virtually every column she wrote has been placed in the Ethnic Heritage Studies files located in Professor Helmut Schmeller's office, Fort Hays State University.

Lee F. Pendergrass
Hays, Kansas
July, 1981

INTRODUCTION

The historical involvement of women in journalism is a subject that has been essentially neglected. Frank Luther Mott, author of a major text, American Journalism: A History, devotes only twelve of 901 pages to women while Lois Banner spends only one paragraph on the subject in her 275 page text. Of Mott's twelve pages only three concern the contributions of female journalists from the 1880's to the present. In these three pages he states that women began flocking into journalism during the late nineteenth century but fails to offer an explanation for their sudden interest. He attributes the increasing employment of women journalists in the early twentieth century not to emancipation or to the growing participation of women in business and industry but to the growth of department store advertising. Since such advertising was directed primarily to women homemakers, according to Mott, both newspaper editors and advertisers concluded that the hiring of women journalists, whose "mind set" they assumed to be the same as the homemakers', would increase female readership and the purchase of products intended for women. This is an arresting assertion which deserves further probing.

The historical role of women journalists at the state level also seems to have been overlooked. The state of Kansas, for instance, is characterized by a dearth of scholarly publications on the subject. This is surprising since G. A. Root, a noted Kansas newspaperman, compiled many years ago a one hundred page typescript in which he listed the names of approximately one thousand women who worked as chief editors, associates, assistants, and as business managers for newspapers between 1878 and 1936. A random sample of this list suggests that women in Kansas began entering journalism in large numbers during the 1890's which contemporary observers of the period dubbed the era of the "New Woman." These observers saw the era as one of ferment on the part of women for greater responsibility and opportunity while apparently reserving comments about why such ferment was occurring. This is also a subject worthy of further investigation.

A cursory examination of some of the individuals on Root's list leads me to believe that women may have entered journalism in Kansas, and perhaps nationally, for a wide variety of reasons rather than being influenced by one major variable such as the growth of advertising. Some of the women on his list fit the classic stereotype of the feminist protestor calling for political and economic equality, but others were more complex; they desired better working conditions and improved wages but opposed suffrage because they thought it would do women more harm than good. Still others entered journalism not for political reasons but because their husbands, who generally had been the owners and editors of the community newspaper, died and they had no choice but to take over the family business or lose it.

One illustration of the worth of studying women journalists within a historical perspective is Mrs. C. W. (Hannah) Rosebrook, who wrote newspaper columns once a week from 1918 to 1980 for the Lakin Independent, a local Western Kansas newspaper. Prior to her death at 104 she was cited by various sources as the oldest living reporter in America, and perhaps the world, and was eulogized by the Kansas Press Women for her contributions to Plains Journalism. Born in Sodra Vi, Sweden in 1875 Hannah was christened Johanna Alida Johanson. Her last name conformed to the custom of the day in that it was a derivative of her father's first name with the suffix "son" added. She accompanied her aunt and uncle when she was eleven to the United States. They migrated to Lincoln, Kansas, where other members of her mother's family, including several uncles who had fled to America to avoid military service, were living. Her parents promised they would follow, but they never did and she never learned why. Thrust into a new country with a strange language, she ultimately learned to speak and read English after spending nine long years in one room country school houses. Awarded her eighth grade certificate at age twenty, she was the only pupil of her primary grade class who received a certificate. Soon thereafter she became a teacher. She had longed so much to learn English that it only seemed natural to her that her immigrant students

be required to do likewise. This included German-Russian children, whose parents unlike Swedish parents, made a conscious effort to preserve native language and customs at home. Yet Hannah in spite of the opposition of German-Russian parents, insisted that only English be spoken at school. Besides suggesting that the type and rate of assimilation may have varied among different immigrant groups, her life history to this point neatly summarizes and reflects the educational expectations and experiences that were prevalent in late 19th and early 20th century America.

Hannah met her future husband Charles in Lincoln. They were married there on October 27, 1901. Six years later Charles was coaxed by his brother Oweny to relocate in Western Kansas where it was possible "to get rich." For Hannah this represented the most unsettling time of her life. Like other pioneer women she later noted: "I hated to leave that home (Lincoln). It was so warm and comfortable." Since her husband's mind was made up she reluctantly set out with him in 1907 in a covered wagon for Western Kansas. On their way they met a man whose covered wagon was "shredded like carpet strings." He asked them where they were headed. They said: Western Kansas. He replied: "Hell! Turn Back! There's nothing out there but wind!" Years later Hannah still recalled, "I will never forget that."

It may have influenced her relationship with her husband, a self-taught veterinarian who took up practice to provide an income that was not tied to the vicissitudes of agriculture and who, after homesteading, became discouraged by the calamities that characterized pioneer life. His children, in a family history written many years later, vividly recollect him sitting with eyes fixed on nothing as if his life's hopes had been torn from him with tears welling in his eyes and trickling down his cheeks, dejected and heart-broken because everything for which he had worked had been wiped out in a few minutes by a hail storm or by a dread disease such as black leg which attacked cattle. In these situations he usually begged his wife to return east with him. Perhaps remembering that he forced her to come in the first place, she often told

him: "You brought me out here against my will and we are going to stay."

It certainly had a bearing on her newspaper columns which are filled with references to the wind, the dust, and the other characteristics of the cyclical weather patterns of the plains. She started writing for the Independent in 1918 because the newspaper editor needed someone to chronicle the social life of the community. She responded with description of the activities of various citizens. Later her columns evolved and she began including comments on political, social, and moral questions of current interest at the time she wrote. As more time passed she began cushioning what she said with a bit of philosophy or some humor.

In her observation of local customs such as frequent social visits among neighbors, bachelor parties, literary societies, and attending church three times on Sunday she incorporated certain social values such as "good, hard, clean work" is necessary to a long life, or "let us run the risk of wearing out rather than rusting out" and thereby functioned as a representative of the community and state sentiment. Perhaps this is why her readers always complained if her columns failed to appear through no fault of her own, for she never missed a deadline.

Besides reflecting virtually lifelong Republicanism and pro-temperance attitudes, she demonstrates a remarkably contemporary antipathy towards the income tax and the national government. Indeed, her anti-New Deal outlook seems to verify that Republican suspicion of federal power and involvement has deep historical roots. She is starkly contemporary in other respects. When she noted in 1936 that "Du Pont, our American ammunition magnate, no doubt is the real cause of all the war excitement if the truth was ferreted out" she captured the revisionism and isolationism that characterized a segment of the mid-western population. Likewise, she reflected the anti-labor sentiment of the 1930's when she wrote: "John L. Lewis is just another Hitler, America's Hitler . . . The C.I.O. strikers are 5th column perpetrators." In 1946 she seemed to speak for much of her area and the entire country when she stated that the enemies of that year were

"Communism, Pendergastism, OPA'ism, power, and supremacy." In her linkage of the Office of Price Administration with Communism she implied that the growth of federal agencies posed an undesirable parallel with the tyranny that had characterized the development of the Soviet Union. She did not speak for the country though when she attacked saloons. To the historically anti-wet segment of Kansas, however, her attack was just the right tonic in a post-war society that was changing too quickly for this segment to comprehend.

A careful reader of Mrs. Rosebrook's columns will perceive that there is little difference between local events as chronicled in the 1970's compared to the 1920's. There are several reasons for the startling similarity. "Fairview Neighborhood," which was named after the country schoolhouse located 1/8 mile from the Rosebrook homestead, was situated twenty-one miles north and six west of Lakin, fifty-two miles northwest of Garden City, one mile south of the Wichita county line, and eighteen miles south of Leoti. Geographically isolated it changed little over time except for the out-migration that occurred because prospective farmers could not locate sufficient water. In 1904 almost every quarter section of land in the neighborhood was occupied by a family. By the 1950's only four families remained, but approximately ninety per cent of those who had left, whether they continued farming or became city dwellers, retained their subscription to the Lakin Independent and kept in touch with Mrs. Rosebrook probably because they needed a reference point or internal gyroscope. Physically they may have been uprooted, but spiritually and emotionally their rural values could not be cast aside. Nor was this phenomenon confined to the generation which personally knew Mrs. Rosebrook. It was passed on to sons and daughters who in turn passed it on to their sons and daughters. Mrs. Rosebrook corresponded as much with the third generation as she did the first, and to the third generation her columns were as important as they had been to the first. Thus, Fairview neighborhood, while of no consequence demographically or economically, functioned as a powerful historical beacon offering a form of stability to individuals who may have been undergoing disassociation.

To her friends and their descendants, who became her friends, Mrs. Rosebrook must have seemed reassuring. A rural pioneer in an age of urbanization, a traditionalist who believed women should remain in the home at a time when economic trends dictated otherwise, a Taft Republican who confronted Eisenhower moderates, a proponent of freedom from taxation and freedom of worship, an opponent of any vested interest group such as labor acquiring too much power, and a spiritual defender of the values that pervaded late nineteenth century America, she surely must have seemed an anomaly in the era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his historical heirs. Yet she represented and spoke for a strong minority sentiment that neither the New Deal nor its offspring were able to quash.

Perhaps this is the most arresting aspect of her historical significance. As the current administration in Washington, D.C., implements tax and government reductions advocated by Republicans since the days of F.D.R. and Harry Truman, one could argue that Hannah Rosebrook reflects not only the powerful historical continuity of rural values and conservative opinion, but also represents their reaffirmation and reascendancy after fifty years of experimentation. As her daughter noted to me, "Mother probably would be amused by what has happened. She probably would say, "they (politicians and government bureaucrats) have finally come to their senses."

My discussion and analysis is based on the following sources. Garden City Telegram, October 14, 1975, October 29, 1975, June 29, 1979; Lakin Independent, August 9, 1980; Pearl Rosebrook Miller, Rosebrook Family History (Tacoma, 1977); Interview with Inez Rosebrook Phillips, June 24, 1981; Wichita County History Association, History of Wichita County, Vol. 1 (Leoti, 1980), 205-206; G. A. Root (comp.), "Kansas Newspaper Women, 1878-1939," typescript, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka; Lois Banner, Women in Modern America: A Brief History (New York, 1974); Frank L. Mott, American Journalism: A History, 3rd. ed. (New York, 1962); and David Riesman, The Lonely Crowd: A Study of Changing American Character (New Haven, 1962)

CHAPTER ONE
COMMUNITY LIFE AND PROBLEMS, 1918-1929

(September 27, 1918) The Holstein and Hartman families left for Otis for a visit. Rev. Berg preached at the M. E. church Sunday morning and evening. Thomas Rewerts, Sr., has been on the sick list for some time. He has the sympathy of many friends. Mrs. Chas. Cetzler received the sad news that her father was very poorly, therefore she left Saturday night for her home. Last weeks sale at Thos. Rewerts was quite well attended and everyone took a lively interest. The Ladies Aid served dinner. To those who supposed Lydia¹ was to be taken from the map we wish to say that it still is in existence. The Messrs Ernest Britkreutz and Henry Bruse toured east in search of a pully² and found one on the premises of Herman Kuhlman. On their way home they forgot themselves and visited Rev. Heike. Sunday morning and afternoon the Lutheran Church celebrated mission-festival. The home pastor Rev. Heike occupied the pulpit in the morning. The Rev. Lohmeyer, of Dodge City delivered an instructive sermon to a large assembly composed of the congregation and friends who had come from far and near. An offering of \$59.00 was taken up for mission purposes. Lydia's public school will open its doors for this years term Monday, September 30th. Opening was postponed as the building is undergoing repairs, and the building of a new foundation is also receiving a new coat of paint inside and outside. Certainly Lydia can be proud of its remodeled school house. Miss Kelly who taught Gruisings school last term, will be the mistress of our school.

(October 11, 1918) The Grusing and Goken families visited August Kuhlman's Sunday. We notice Chas. Kuhlman hauling lumber from Leoti, but are unable to tell you what he is building.

¹Lydia was the first post office in the Fairview area and a gathering place where the Rosebrooks hauled their crops. It was two miles north and three miles east of their homestead.

²A pully or pulley is typically a small wheel with a grooved rim in which a rope is run for hand operation. Generally it is used to make it easier to pull up heavy objects.



"C. W." and Hannah Rosebrook in 1901 shortly after their marriage.

Sunday, October 6th, Rev. Peschel, of Dodge City conducted Lutheran Services at Hetzlers schoolhouse. Sunday evening services were conducted at Fairview schoolhouse, by Rev. Heike, a large congregation were present. Saturday, cars kept the road to Leoti hot as everybody wanted to be first on deck to buy Fourth Liberty Loan Bonds.³ The talk is that the county

³Liberty Loan Bonds, which were also known as war bonds, were sold directly to the American public by the United States Treasury to finance the cost of World War One. Some \$25 billion were purchased with assistance from celebrities and pressure. Those who refused to buy the bonds were more often than not branded traitors.

roads of Wichita county connecting Lakin and Leoti are to be worked again this fall. Herman Kuhlman and John Marquardt accompanied by the Schaaf boys, of Deerfield drove the Ford to Wichita where they will attend the fair for a few days.
---BONDS OR BONDAGE---

(October 22, 1918) So far very few cases of Influenza⁴ have been reported. Some of them were only of a light form. Time has come again where real estate changes hands rather fast. Sunday turned out to be a rather successful day. We hear that Chas. Marquardt who is stationed at Camp Funston⁵ in the quarter masters department is in the best of health. The Wichita County school will be closed until December 9, unless the ruling of the board of health and school board change date. The last few days witching of water has been neighborhood gossip. Sufficient evidence can be found up here for "pros", and a whole lot more for the "cons".⁶ Information will be gladly given.

(November 1, 1918) Our churches and school have been closed and are closed this week in accordance with the order of the Board of Health. Miss Hoss who teaches the Grusing

⁴During September, 1918 the Influenza epidemic, which was world-wide in scope, reached the United States. It continued into 1919, causing approximately 500,000 deaths, including those of many soldiers in military camps. In Kansas by the end of October, 1918 20,000 cases had been reported to the State Board of Health. In many towns schools were closed, meetings cancelled, and quarantines enforced.

⁵Camp Funston was a huge training camp constructed by the Federal government on the Fort Riley reservation in 1917 to train soldiers for World War One. Named in honor of the Kansas General who had fought in the Spanish-American War it was capable of housing and training more than 50,000 men.

⁶Witching of water was a popular method of locating water in the late 19th century. It involved locating an individual who was known to be a water witch. To discover a good vein of water the experienced water witch required nothing more than the forked branch of a peach or willow tree. Stooping low the person took a firm grasp on both sides of the limb and proceeded to pace back and forth over the land. Where there was water, the main stem of the witching rod would bend unmistakably toward the ground to mark the spot.

school is enjoying vacation at home. She will return as soon as the quarantine is lifted. We hear that the moisture has induced Herman Kuhlman, one of our prosperous farmers and ranchmen, to put a number of acres in wheat. We all wish him good luck. Many a hundred head of calves have been bought by our ranchmen. A proof that the crop was good in this section of Kansas. Some come from central, eastern and southern Colorado, others went to Syracuse and into the sand hills.
---FOCH WILL SETTLE IT---⁷

(November 8, 1918) Last week we heard a good compliment to this prairie from people who were on a sight seeing trip, claiming this was a pretty country. Could they really have meant it? I imagine the sky did look beautiful to them, and the nice fresh air gave them the appetite to think so. The invitation to return to our plains on a windy and dusty day is in place.

(November 15, 1918) Word was received that Fred Kuhlman has been wounded by shrapnel. A number of young people enjoyed a pleasant Sunday afternoon and evening at the Marquardt home. Our school like all the rest is still closed on account of the influenza. Still we are glad that no one has had a touch of it. Thomas Rewerts, Jr., accompanied by his sister Miss Mary Kelly and Mr. Mrisser, of Leoti, made calls on the people soliciting "for the boys over there." During the United War Work Campaign, Wichita county expects to raise \$3,000.

(April 4, 1919) It is certainly speaking well of our community to say that quite a number went to church three times last Sunday. The Lutheran church seated a large attendance in the Sunday morning services. In the afternoon, Reverend Heike preached at Fairview schoolhouse. We were told most of the

⁷Ferdinand Foch was a French soldier who played a decisive role in stemming the German advance at the First Battle of the Marne. By April, 1918 he had been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in France, including American troops under General Pershing. Foch launched the Second Battle of the Marne and started the great offensive which led to Germany's surrender. He successfully pressured the Germans to accept the armistice terms.

men folk forgot that it was Sunday. The women outnumbered them by far. Last Friday a surprise was nearly given the surprise party, which had the good will of wishing well, one of our prominent single men, Mr. Alfred Hempler. The community having called at his place found doors and windows locked, no Alfred was seen or heard. Thinking that he might be fast asleep a tumultuous noise was started, enough to scare mice and rats away. His car was in the shed. The saddle blanket there also, this made a person suspicious. Possibly he hid his saddle and himself somewhere in the thistles. Some burglarized the house and the crowd followed and made themselves at home. Scout parties were sent out in search of the deserter, but their reports were rather discouraging, and to be fair, the joke seemed to be upon those gathered in the house. The excitement came. It was Mr. Hempler, who made a mad dash over the prairie, on horseback, trying to catch the thieves in their work. Finding that he was outnumbered, he gave himself up, we might say, begging for mercy.⁸ After all a well enjoyed evening is reported.

(May 9, 1919) The peaches are in bloom now and chances are there will be lots of them.⁹ Rev. Heike held services at Lydia in the afternoon as he was in Garden City in the a.m. Lydia people flocked out to Leoti Saturday evening so they might have the benefit of the program given at the courthouse. People in this part of the world surely went visiting Sunday. We will save paper if we do not mention the "who" and where they went. Everybody was indeed glad to see Fred Kuhlman back.

⁸Pranks seem to have been a common form of entertainment and diversion in a culture characterized by a marginal economy and a rudimentary technology.

⁹A luxury produced by certain Kansas farmers when climatic conditions were favorable. In reminiscences peaches tend to be mentioned to illustrate that Kansas possessed greater agricultural variety than commonly assumed. See, for example, Margaret Raser, Reminiscences of Hodgeman County, Hodgeman County Clipping File, Kansas State Historical Society. Topeka.

He arrived Sunday morning at Leoti having been honorably discharged the evening before in time to board the train without a ticket. Well I should say it did not take his brother, Herman, very long to crank up the Ford and speed to Leoti. It is impossible to say who was the more happy the returning Fred or the folks at home. Fred was in service 19 months and was nearly 12 months in France.

(June 20, 1919) This neighborhood is again praying for rain. All the rain seems to pass by. Most of the harvest on this side of Dodge City will not begin until after the Fourth of July. Mr. Reed, of Garden City is purchasing work horses which he intends to use on his place. All in all, the people around Lydia are smiling and working. Everybody follow our example. Harvest hands are being eagerly sought for here by eastern wheat growers, but as harvest will last about twenty days this year on account of help, many of those that could go for some two weeks are held back, as our harvest and crop needs attention.

(August 29, 1919) Homeseekers have been entertained on the plains of late by land agents. Our good crops are well spoken by all. New furniture, new pulpit and new altar has been added, the walls have been covered and is pleasing to the eye as the stencils are in four or five colors. Expression is found in the new furniture, and a special Cross and Crown design is to be seen in our church.

(September 5, 1919) Miss Clara Kuhlman, who has been staying up in Colorado Springs for over a year is visiting her relatives this week. She is on her way to St. Louis, where she will enter the Lutheran hospital and will take a nurses course.¹⁰ Sunday evening a merry crowd of bachelor young ladies and young men assembled at the residence of the bachelor Kuhlman brothers.¹¹ The program commenced with some

¹⁰ See Federal Writers' Program of the Works, Progress Administration (comp.), Lamps on the Prairie: A History of Nursing in Kansas (Topeka, 1942, 1962) for a well-written and interesting account of the development of nursing.

¹¹ Social gatherings such as this were a culturally approved way to meet and mix for unattached young men and women.

kind of a bean sack race. Then one of the hosts pinned a sheet of paper to each guest's back, upon it appeared a number and a name on each one, for instance Kaiser. Another piece of paper was passed around for the names and numbers to be matched. All had a Hi-ol time. Ice cream and cake were served.

(October 3, 1919) The Kuhlman orchard produced some 500 bushels of peaches this season. Do not tell us we cannot raise fruit in Wichita county or on the plains. Wm. Kuhlman, Jr., received prizes on apples and plums at The Wichita County Fair at Leoti. The Ernest and John Weidmen sale proved that people are afraid of a drop in cattle prices. Broom corn buyers have been canvassing the country. As the offers are rather low they have not obtained much. Last Sunday was a beautiful day for the annual Mission festival services of the Lutheran church. Both services were well attended. The morning collection being \$38.47, and \$25.07 was obtained in the afternoon. A tent was put up the side of the church containing two 16 foot tables from which nearly 200 people received a bountiful meal. Some of our neighbors report a six inch rain fall last Wednesday. Pretty good for western Kansas. Some claim it was the biggest rain for years. The Lutheran church will celebrate its annual Mission Festival Sunday, Sept. 28th, with two services. The morning service will be conducted in the German language by Rev. R. Heike, Sr., of Shawano, Wisc. Rev. A. C. Hallmann of Deerfield will officiate in the afternoon services in the English language.¹² A special collection will flow into the mission fund. Dinner will be served free under tent.

A variety of socials characterized plains culture. Perhaps another reflection of the scarcity that typified the existence some of the more common socials included weight socials where people were matched according to weight, ice cream socials, buttermilk socials, pie socials, and so on. For a description of the social life of the plains see Joanna L. Stratton, Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier (New York, 1981).

¹²Among the ethnic groups that settled Kansas and elsewhere the dual use of native and English languages was apparently a manifestation of acculturation. Some groups, such as the Swedish, may have adopted the practice sooner than others.

(February 6, 1920) A Literary Society has been organized at the Fairview Schoolhouse and meets each Saturday night. Everyone is invited to attend.

(February 27, 1920) There are yet a few cases of influenza in our neighborhood.

(March 5, 1920) The Grusing children are on the sick list. Mr. Grusing took Rev. Berg to Friend Monday. Little Elton Kuhlman is reported to be quite sick again. Mrs. E. E. Denning of Leoti, spent Thursday with home folks. Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Musser spent Sunday at the Rewerts home. The Misses Alice and Ida Lindsey were the guests of Miss Mary Yokel Sunday. Miss Alice Lindsey is staying with Mrs. Stella James and going to school. Rev. Heike of Garden City held services at the Lutheran church Sunday evening. Mrs. Stella James was the guest of Miss Elizabeth Hoss Saturday night and Sunday. Virgil Foushee returned last week from Princeton where he had been attending school. The Eureka school has been dismissed for a week on account of the pupil's being sick. Miss Anna Bruce came in from Chicago, Saturday morning for a visit with relatives and friends. The J. C. Schneider sale near here last Thursday attracted quite a large crowd of people, we understand Mr. Schneider expects to leave soon for Windsor, Colorado.

(March 19, 1920) We had quite a severe wind and dust storm Monday. We understand that the Holstein family are sick with the flu. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kuhlman entertained a number of friends Sunday evening. Quite a large force of men from here went to fight the big prairie fire Monday. Mrs. T. L. Rewerts and daughter visited with Mrs. H. C. Bruce Wednesday afternoon. Miss Grace Grusing has been helping care for the sick folks at August Kuhlman's this week. Dr. O. E. Smith was called to August Kuhlman's last Thursday to see the baby who was very sick but is better at this writing.¹³ There will be a program followed by a pie social given by the school at this

¹³In late 19th and early 20th century Kansas personal visits from physicians and the reliance on midwives, neighborly "nurses," and outpatient live-ins were common. See Lamps on the Prairie.

place on the evening of March 26th,¹⁴ the teacher Miss Mar Kelley extends a most cordial invitation to all to attend.

(April 2, 1920) An unusually large crowd was in attendance at the program last Friday evening. The proceeds of the pie supper amounted to \$48.70 which will be used for the school library.

(April 16, 1920) We were again in the grip of a raging blizzard last Sunday. A party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Kuhlman last Thursday evening. A large crowd was present and an enjoyable time is reported.

(May 28, 1920) We understand the ball game between the Leoti and Deerfield teams, played at Leoti last Sunday afternoon resulted in a victory for Leoti, the score being 15 to 1.

(June 4, 1920) Quite a number of our people attended the Memorial Day exercises at Leoti Saturday.

(June 18, 1920) We have experienced some real windy weather the past week. Some of the farmers have been hauling barley to Leoti this week. D. M. Summers was in our vicinity the first of the week writing insurance. The Misses Helen Jacobs and Josephine Helvie are attending the County Institute, at Leoti. Oxley Dres, representing the St. Paul Insurance Company were canvassing this vicinity last week. Dr. Charles and Fred Rewerts motored up from Garden City, Sunday and spent the day with home folks. The eighth grade graduating exercises in this county will be held at Leoti, June 24th. Miss Tillie Sommers will be the graduate from our school.

(June 25, 1920) The grasshoppers are reported to be getting quite numerous in this locality. Miss Ollie Trayler of Salina, Kansas, has been employed to teach our school the coming term. Rev. Robert Heike motored up from Garden City Wednesday and returned Thursday afternoon. A number of the boys in this neighborhood are expecting to leave this week for the harvest fields in Rush County.

(July 16, 1920) Miss Alice Lindsey left Sunday night to work during harvest. Little Ester Hartman is reported sick with the whooping cough. Rev. Robert and Paul Heike motored

¹⁴In addition to serving as a cultural outlet socials were also a means used to raise money for churches and schools in local communities.

up from Garden City, Sunday to visit their father. Practically all the farmers in this community will begin harvesting their wheat this coming week. A large number of friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kuhlman, Sunday evening. An enjoyable time was spent in watching the fireworks after which ice cream and cake was served.

(November 5, 1920) There will be preaching at both churches next Sunday. There was no Sunday School, Sunday on account of the rain. Charles Kuhlman purchased a new Ford truck of W. A. Burr, last week. W. D. Harlan and E. C. Jams of Salina were writing insurance in this county, last week. The Farmers Union had a car of apples and one of coal, on the track at Leoti, last week. A gentle rain began falling Saturday night and continued until noon the next day. This rain was badly needed for wheat, which has been sown.

(December 3, 1920) The threshing machine is still busy. Misses Amelia and Tillit Sommers spent Thanksgiving with home Folks. Mr. and Mrs. John Holsteine entertained a number of relatives and friends Thanksgiving day. The pie supper last Friday night was well attended and the pies brought \$50 which will be used for school supplies.

(September 1, 1922) Joe Nunn and wife are working for Mr. Beaty of Lakin. C. W. Rosebrook and family took in the carnival at Garden City Friday. C. W. Rosebrook delivered cattle to Lakin last Tuesday. Lightning caused several fires the past week. A good rain is needed. Mrs. T. A. Sizer of Fowler, Colorado, is visiting old neighbors and friends in this community. The school board is busy getting the school-house ready for a new coat of plaster and a new floor. Most all the men turned out last Thursday to fight fire on the O Gay range. It seems fires are the order of the day, there being four fires last week. Lightning striking about a hundred feet from where A. Hahn, Jr., was disking caused his team to run away, tearing the harness to pieces but fortunately no one was hurt.

(September 15, 1922) Miss Helen Jacobs left Saturday night for Tampa, Kansas, where she will teach school again this winter. There were all day services at the church at Lydia Sunday

and a basket dinner in the Henry Kuhlman grove. George and Howard Oliver of Ford County, came up Monday for a visit with their sister, Mrs. G. C. Whitaker. Neighbors and friends successfully surprised Mr. and Mrs. August Hahn, Jr., Friday evening. There were sixty-five present, different party games being played and enjoyed by all.

(October 13, 1922) Mrs. Floyd Brewer entertained the Ladies Aid Society at her home last Wednesday.¹⁵ A social time and a good dinner were enjoyed by all. In the afternoon new officers were elected. Mrs. Hattie Helvie was elected President; Mrs. G. C. Whitaker, vice-president; Mrs. Laura Hahn, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Ira Downs, president of the work committee.

(October 27, 1922) Chas. Walker had the threshers on Friday, being one of the lucky ones to get his harvesting done before the hail storm. Relatives and friends went in with well filled baskets and surprised Mrs. Bladorn last Sunday, it being her birthday.

(November 3, 1922) The Sommers' brother just finished drilling in one-hundred and seventy acres of wheat.

(May 4, 1923) This community was again saddened by the death of Miss Theresa Rewerts, who died at the Halstead hospital. She was buried Wednesday in the family lot at Leoti. Miss Amelia Sommers left for McCracken, Kansas, Sunday evening. She goes into Mr. Bishop's general store at that place as head manager. We are sorry to lose her from this community.

(June 1, 1923) Floyd Brewer is drilling a hundred and sixty acres of cane and broom corn for Ralph Gorsuch. Miss Alvina Moltz of Deerfield has signed up a contract to teach the Fairview school the coming term. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Burns and little Clara spent Wednesday at the August Hahn, Sr., home. Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Jacobs spent Thursday in Lakin attending the Sunday School convention of which they were elected delegates from the Immanuel Sunday School. A surprise party was given for Mrs. Hahn, Sr., Thursday, it being her forty-seventh birthday. About fifty neighbors and friends were present. The evening was spent with music and playing games.

¹⁵The Ladies Aid Society was a local organization of church women formed to financially assist the church to which they belonged.

At a late hour refreshments were served and all departed wishing Mrs. Hahn many more happy birthdays.

(February 1, 1924) A few of the neighbors spent Wednesday night at Wm. Kuhlman's listening to the radio. Mrs. F. Brewer is helping to care for Mrs. G. C. Lonberger at Leoti a few days. Little Laura and Irma Bishop stayed with Rita Brewer, Thursday while their parents were in Leoti.

(July 11, 1924) A number of young folks spent Saturday night in the McCoy home, then motored to Lakin Sunday on a fishing trip.¹⁶

(August 8, 1924) Mrs. Elmer Burns and children and Miss Violet Hahn spent Tuesday with Mrs. Philpott. R. R. Gropp was in this vicinity Friday selecting members to serve on the election board. Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Jacobs and daughter, Ilene, were Sunday dinner guests of Geo. Bishop and family. Mr. and Mrs. Hazlett and Miss Alvina Krenznel spent Sunday in the McCoy home.

(July 24, 1925) The Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Ira Downs Thursday, and a quilt was finished. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Tom Rewerts on August 6. Several cattle and horse buyers visited this neighborhood Thursday and Friday.

(July 30, 1926) Don't forget Sunday School at the Immanuel Church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock and choir practice at 8 o'clock in the evening. Everyone welcome. Miss Blythe Lane is spending this week in Leoti, attending Chautauqua.¹⁷

¹⁶With the development of mass merchandising and the assembly line in the 1920's the availability of the automobile increased while its price decreased. To many people the Twenties are probably still synonymous with the "rumble seat" and free spirited youth. In Kansas young people seem to have been as drawn to the motor car as anywhere else. Whether they were free spirited and experienced generational conflict with their parents remains to be demonstrated.

¹⁷The Chautauqua was a stationary or traveling institution that flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries providing popular education which was usually combined with entertainment in the form of lectures, or dramatic performances often presented outdoors or in a tent.

(December 31, 1926) We hear rumors of a big rabbit hunt and an oyster supper.¹⁸ We will tell you particulars next week.

¹⁸An early foretelling of Dust Bowl Days where rabbit hunts were common.

CHAPTER TWO
DUST BOWL DAYS, 1931-1938

(January 30, 1931) Speed fiends are still busy, doing their bit to make more room in this crowded world. If the big, fat, luscious brewers and distillery men could just persuade our folks down at Washington that the prohibition amendment is illegal and a lot more bunk like that, and could scheme some way to get the restrictions on intoxicants removed, another war will be entirely unnecessary.



The Rosebrook Homestead, including the Original Sod House on the Left. The Large House on the Right was also Sod at First, but was Covered with Wood and had Cement Walls on the Inside. In Later Years the Outside was Covered with Stucco.

(February 27, 1931) Dr. Brinkley has notified his Kansas friends he intends to take up his residence in Old Mexico soon. He has also notified them he intends to run for governor of

Kansas in 1932.¹ Some editor said he didn't hardly think the people of Kansas would elect a Mexican for governor. Well, no one can tell just what the people of Kansas will do. Dr. Brinkley has proven himself a quack and an extortioner, and still that isn't sufficient. Here is what one Kansas county did last fall. Their representative was an up to date progressive farmer and was trying his best to have measures passed that would benefit the farmers. He called meetings of the voters of the county and listened to suggestions from them about things they thought would help things. Was he re-elected? Oh no, a lawyer is holding down that position today. So you see it is hardly worth your time prophesying what the people of Kansas will do.

(March 20, 1931) Modern machinery is causing more unemployment than all other causes combined. Unemployment causes depression of prices on all farm products. Well, if Hoover² was putting out all this modern machinery that is taking the place of millions of laborers, both skilled and otherwise, he would be to blame for all this. But it seems to us that the farmers are more to blame than anyone. But, even if they are, it must be inevitable. Please place the blame where it belongs.

(April 3, 1931) Last week was surely an exciting one. First was the Wing-Wood wedding that was of interest to most of the Fairview folks. Then the threatened blizzard, wind, sleet, rain, and some snow. Next a wonderful, new moon, equinox, and the first day of spring. A-plenty for one week,

¹This is Dr. John R. Brinkley who was also known as the goat gland doctor because he claimed to be able to restore male sexual vigor by transplanting goat glands. Supposedly successful with his first patient his fame was spread by other patients who believed in his methods. He ran as an independent candidate for Governor in 1930 and 1932 in the general election, but was not elected. For additional information on Brinkley see Robert W. Richmond, Kansas: A Land of Contrasts, 2nd ed. (St. Louis, 1974), 240-242.

²A reference to President Herbert Hoover, who to some extent was a scapegoat of the great depression.

we think. Since Sunday, we have had all sorts of weather. High wind, dirt storm, rain, sleet, snow. Pretty disagreeable and bad for little calves. pigs, and chickens.

(April 10, 1931) Still we are hearing blizzard stories that give us a gloomy feeling. So many of them sound just like this: "We only had our milk cows, our chickens, and some hogs. They are all gone. We depended on them for our groceries and immediate living expenses." Many places the buildings that sheltered the farm stock collapsed from the weight of snow and terrible wind pressure and crushed to death the families' income. What will be the result--time alone can tell. The low prices and general depression of the past six months will seem mighty insignificant when we think of the terrible destruction of the recent blizzard. We can't understand why some energetic county representative can't hurry up and suggest a monthly budget bill to be placed on the schoolhouse door, say the first Monday of each month. No doubt, it would be of great interest to the teacher. Since the recent blizzard it seems to us that there are a number of coal houses on school grounds that should be moved to a more convenient distance, or even joined up to the rear end of the schoolhouse. Some teachers that were not fortunate enough to have big boys in school found it mighty hard to get to their coal houses about four o'clock Friday morning. I hope you folks will give this item a little attention at your school meeting. Stock owners in this part of Kearny County learned a lesson; i.e., stock living on wheat pasture, even though they are fat and sleek, seem to have no strength to endure or resist storms and cold. Stock in fair condition and just living on roughness in most cases stood the blizzard better than those pasturing on wheat. Of course, there were exceptions everywhere. Clear this morning and thawing. As we have no neighborhood gossip to tell this time, we will try and give a brief summary of the storm in this community. After about sixteen hours of rain, sometimes hard and part of the time just sleet and drizzle, from the south and southeast, Thursday at ten o'clock the wind suddenly turned to the northwest and assumed tornado proportions. In a very few minutes the air was so full of snow it was impossible to see anything

at all. The blizzard lasted just thirty hours, slacking up Friday afternoon. We have had blizzards that lasted longer, but this was the severest storm in twenty-four years. Men suffered terribly trying to take care of their stock. There are plenty of frozen cars, fingers, and faces around here, but we are thankful there were no lives lost in our vicinity. The loss of livestock, cattle and hogs, was enormous. At some farmers almost the entire flock of poultry froze to death in poultry houses. In most places buildings were packed full of snow to the roof. In some of the barns the work teams were standing cramped up against the roofs. At the Rosebrook farm the stock can walk right up on the barn roof to sun themselves. Stockades and windbreaks were full of snow. Monday forenoon high wind with snow blowing and drifting. Eunice Rosebrook and her nineteen pupils were compelled to spend the night in their schoolhouse. Friday morning Robt. Orr played the part of the good Samaritan and brought food and cheer to the storm-bound teacher and children. They were taken home Friday afternoon. Mrs. Inez Henry Bishop and her four pupils were also compelled to spend Thursday night at their schoolhouse about three miles north of Fairview. It is impossible to even try to estimate the amount of damage this storm did. A number of buildings collapsed from the weight of snow and heavy wind pressure.

(July 10, 1931) The cool dry weather prevailing in this part of the county has made harvesting progress rapidly. Some fields are finished. With the exception of a few damp mornings over the weekend, the weather has been ideal for harvesting. Sunday morning, just a few minutes after sun-up, the thermometer registered 40, and Monday morning, just a little before sun-up, it registered 48. An unusually cold wave for July. A number of wheat fields have been set on fire by cigarettes, but fires have been extinguished before much damage was done. Mr. McCowan lost between 15 and 20 acres Monday afternoon by fire. Wheat yields over this part of the county are reported as ranging from 15 to 35 bushels per acre. In most of the fields "there is no night"--the work day being 24 hours long. A large amount of wheat is being piled up in the fields. The

price in Leoti Tuesday was 31 cents. Pearl and Eunice Rosebrook and Reinhart Kuhlman, who are attending teachers' college at Hays, spent the past week-end with home folks. In spite of the number of combines that were at work here Sunday, there was quite a crowd at the church to enjoy the all-day program, dinner, ice cream, etc.

(July 24, 1931) This neighborhood has had two good rains over the weekend. Combining has been delayed because of soft fields and damp mornings. Wheat price still below thirty cents at the local markets. From the number of wheat piles everywhere, it seems that only a small amount of wheat is being put on the market. Some counties have sent messages to the President for advice about the wheat price, etc. Oh well, advice doesn't amount to much. Actual experience is much better. Farmers were warned a year ago exactly what would happen if those millions of acres of newly prepared soil would be sown to wheat and if crop conditions were favorable. Wheat men laughed in derision at the curtailment idea. Now it is the President's fault that wheat is selling lower than ever known here. Mr. and Mrs. Verne McCoy are happy over the arrival of a baby girl at their home Monday, July 20th. Another big wheat fire Sunday afternoon, just west of Fairview. Jacob Goering was the loser this time. The big fire last Thursday destroyed wheat on the Collingwood farm operated by Mr. Bowen.

(July 31, 1931) Hot, sultry weather the past week. Hot, winds, soil blowing. Burning stubble seems to be the latest craze. The air is so full of smoke during the day that the sunshine is blurred, and after twilight the horizon is red flames and smoke from burning stubble fields. Harvesting is about finished, but the mad rush is still on. Tractors running day and night, getting the fields in readiness for the next crop. It is no uncommon sight to see bareheaded, bare-footed children scarcely in their teens out in the fields, operating tractors. Not quite as much wheat is being trucked to market this week. Farmers are waiting for a change in prices.

(August 7, 1931) Some of the non-resident wheat farmers seem to get a lot of pleasure out of maliciously destroying property for the resident farmers. Maybe the golden rule would be a good thing to think about in such cases.

(August 28, 1931) Most of the Fairview folks attended the old settlers picnic at Leoti the 19th. There was an immense crowd. The parade was the best we have ever seen in this part of Kansas. The Garden City band furnished music all day. We can truthfully say it was a success in every way, and those that sponsored the all-day program certainly deserve credit. There was a splendid community spirit predominating through the entire day. It takes five bushels of wheat to pay for an International fan belt. Also five bushels of wheat to pay for a sack of flour. A well known farmer in a neighboring county has furnished local butcher fed calves for butchering at six cents per pound. The farmer wanted a mess of beef steak from one of those calves, and the butcher charged him 35 cents per pound. What is wrong, or is there anything wrong at all? But the last mentioned incident can be remedied by co-operative butchering among the farmers. C. W. and Herbert Rosebrook helped Ott Kfrenzel with his threshing Monday and Tuesday.

(September 4, 1931) Mr. and Mrs. Ira Downs and Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Hahn, Jr., and children came home from a two week's vacation trip in the central part of the state last Saturday night. They visited Topeka and Wichita. They report that a great deal of the country they traveled through needed rain badly. On their way home they stopped in Garden City and visited Mr. and Mrs. Brewer and Mrs. Fred Pearl and son, Aleck. That was certainly a sad and eloquent eulogy that appeared in last week's Standard, written over the last illness and death of Mr. Bread Wheat. The item was copied from the Imperial, Nebraska, Republic. But the writer failed to mention the direct cause and most important factor in this said death, and that was, and still is, the over-indulgent wheat farmer.

(October 9, 1931) Wednesday morning -- A decided change of temperature during the past twelve hours. The days have been unusually hot the past week. Still dry, and the soil is kept busy shifting from one place to another. Very little

wheat has been sown in this part of the county. Farmers are of the opinion that most of the wheat that has been sown has sprouted and died. Most of the rowed crops are bound and shocked. Farmers are getting ready for winter. Buck Henry threshed for Verne McCoy and E. R. Hubbard. Virgil Rosebrook and his cousin, Lonnie Hutton of Moran, Kansas, are in this neighborhood and expect to spend the winter here. Virgil has employment at the H. K. Biehn ranch and Lonnie Hutton at the Rosebrook ranch. They report drought conditions as being pretty severe in eastern Kansas. Wells are going dry, and in many localities the farmers are buying water. Miss Alice Wallace and Vernon Downs were married September 17th at Dighton by the Methodist minister. Mrs. Downs was a member of the 1931 graduating class of the Leoti high school. Mr. Downs has a job as road patrolman in Wichita County at present. The groom is well known in our community, having spent a great deal of his life here. We wish the newly weds success and happiness. One correspondent in one central Kansas county paper suggested boycotting all bakery products till their prices come down to a level with the wheat. According to our way of thinking, there are a number of things that should be boycotted in preference to the bakeries. The first on the list is whisky peddlers, the second is gambling dens, and the third is billiard and pool halls. All the above are unnecessary and all are doing a flourishing business. No lack of money, no depression is evidenced in any of the above lines of business. Some Fairview farmers drove over to the Scott County potato fields and bought their winter's supply of potatoes. Potatoes are good and prices are right. A hundred pounds will cost about as much as a bushel at retailers.

(October 16, 1931) Our fat, luscious brewery men and their battalion of faithful followers are trying to spring something new in order to get the restrictions removed so beer can flow a little more freely, if such a thing could be possible. The latest is, "It would bring up the price of all farm products." That wouldn't sound so bad if it came from some prominent source in Italy, Greece, or Turkey, but for an American citizen to even think such a thing as that seems

absurd. A number of counties have held mass meetings at their county seats to investigate their tax problems. Some counties have found, after thorough investigation, that the taxpayers are paying for a lot of unnecessary expense, such things as paying for deputies when absolutely unnecessary, furnishing all the members of the county agent's family with gas. From reports we have read from a number of counties, and the most grafting with taxes seems to be on the roads. We wonder if Kearny County taxpayers will wake up some day and investigate.

(October 30, 1931) Wind and more wind seems to be the only thing the weather man has in store for us these days. The soil is blowing badly, freezing temperature at night. A number of farmers have sown wheat since we had our one-half inch of rain, and some wheat that was sown early has come up. Wheat prices are almost back to normal. No. 1 dark hard wheat brings 80 cents in Kansas City today. A fatal shooting at Hugoton last weekend. And a shooting affair at Protection. The main participant in both cases was alcohol. Still some weak minded folks will advocate to remove the restrictions. What we need is more restrictions and law enforcement. The Nebraska state Grange has taken an open stand against any lenience on intoxicants. Let us help.

(November 13, 1931) We have had ice, high wind that carried the soil up into the air, warm, sunny days, thunder, lightning, and even an attempt was made to rain. But it failed. Oh yes, there shall be wars and rumors of wars. This time it is China and Japan. China has been living on charity for the past two years. No doubt, they have been hoarding the food sent them in anticipation of this event. Well, we Fairview folks are advising the big I's at Washington to keep out of this oriental mess--and they will surely listen to us.³

³In mid-September, 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria. "The big I's" is probably a reference to the Internationalists who, because they had traditionally supported the League of Nations, considered Japan to be in violation of its covenants. See Selig Adler, The Isolationist Impulse: Its Twentieth Century Reaction (New York, 1957) for a detailed explanation and understanding of the conflict between the Internationalists and the Isolationists in the 1920's and 1930's.

The wheat that is up is badly in need of moisture. Some wheat is dying. The outlook for the 1932 wheat crop is not so bright at present.

(January 27, 1932) THOSE TAXES Whenever men meet and the tax is discussed, someone will remark that they ought to cut the taxes. On the back of your 1931 tax receipt you will find the various levies as made by the state, county, city, township, and schools. Some of these cannot be lowered and may be more next year on account of the decreased valuation of 14 per cent on real estate and perhaps 30 per cent on personal property. Those levies are soldiers' compensation, bond sinking funds, and bond interests; and who would wish to lower the crippled children levy? Those that may be decreased are, first, the state levy of 1.43 mills. If a sweeping reduction of 25 per cent could be effected in all departments of state government, it would mean a saving in taxes on \$100 valuation of 3 1/2 cents, an amount equal to 6 eggs at the present market value. A 50 per cent reduction in salaries of county officials, assuming that half of the county general tax is used to pay county officials, --and I doubt if it is--that much would amount to a saving in taxes on \$100 valuation of 2 1/2 cents. By dropping the court house levy and also the county hospital, we could effect another saving of 12 1/2 cents. By shaving the county road and bridge fund we might save another cent or two. The county poor may have to be doubled. So thus far we have saved 17 1/2 cents on \$100 valuation and a saving in taxes on the NW 1/4 of 12-23-38 of \$3.36. That would help some, yes. But it is not enough. The levy for Kendall Township is 50 mills. Cut that in two. All right, 2 1/2 cents more saved. How about the schools? Are they where taxes should be cut? Let's see. In school district No. 15 67 per cent of the total tax is required for school purposes. In district no. 4 60 percent and in district 14 58 percent. If you live in district 15, 67 cents of every dollar you pay as taxes goes for school purposes, and that does not include county superintendent or state superintendent and their help. Then it is evident that any real tax relief must come from the schools. Compare the teacher's salary to county officials'. The teacher in district 14 received \$5 a day.

Salaries of county officials are fixed by the state, with the exception of county clerk--a part of his salary is fixed by the county commissioners, who applied the ax to the county clerk's salary to the tune of \$200 a year. Sometime the state legislature will get around to cut salaries. The same holds true for the national government. But in the meantime let's clean our own front yard. The teacher has had her education furnished her by the taxpayer from grade school to teachers' college, with several thousand of the taxpayers' money invested in her. She does not put anything back in taxes--not so anyone could notice it--and received in wages of the taxpayers' money about fifty-five thousand dollars for the past school year in Kearny County. I suggest that, instead of 8 and 9 months school, we have 5 and 6 months, with salaries not more than \$50 to \$75. This would effect real tax relief and permit property owners to keep their property that they otherwise will lose--their homes and all. A return could be made any time conditions would warrant.--Dick Gropp.

(February 12, 1932) The weather the past week has been rather springlike, scarcely freezing during the night. Snow is about all gone. Some drifts still left in sheltered places. The prospects for a 1932 wheat crop in this section of Kansas are still invisible. Prices on all farm products are still below the production cost. The darkest hour is just before dawn, so it must be almost time for dawn. The most important subject we know of now is Alfalfa Bill and his black coffee.⁴ If he should happen to be our next president, no doubt black coffee will become a very popular drink.

(March 4, 1932) The weather has been splendid the past week, except the first of March, which was a demonstration day. Meadowlarks and killdeers are with us again. But we don't know as it will be safe to mention any of that "spring around the corner" stuff. Not until the middle of May at the earliest.

⁴"Alfalfa Bill" was William Henry Murray who was Governor of Oklahoma, 1931-1935, Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, 1907-1909, legal adviser of the Chickasaw nation, and a candidate for the Presidency.

In the spring the farmer's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of "the box his last summer's garments were packed away in." Now this applies exclusively to farmers out on the flats in north Kearny County. The Kansas-Oklahoma state line truck license war is attracting about as much attention as the Sino-Jap war. Well, we Fairview folks think that a license ought to be good all over our U.S.A.⁵ Our item last week to the effect that land is scarce was all wrong. Worlds of farm land, but no homes. The farm corporations seem to think that homes are a nuisance. Tear them down, reduce taxes. Some wheat fields are beginning to look green and looks as if there still might be some wheat in this part of Kansas. Some of the summer fallowed ground is blowing badly.

(March 25, 1932) If the wheat bearcats are keeping the price of wheat down in the .30's on the strength of the 1932 wheat prospects in western Kansas, they might just as well let it soar up to .50, as the prospect so far is almost invisible. We are all anxiously waiting to see the headlines, "little Lindy, Jr., has been returned to his grief stricken parents safe and unharmed."⁶ But will we ever see those headlines? Why must such things happen? We can't help but think that slack law enforcement encourages such horrible crimes. Our laws are all right. But why is it they are not enforced?

(April 1, 1932) All sorts of weather the past week: lots of wind, two or three attempts to rain, some snow, and some sunshine. Last Friday the summer fallowed wheat fields soared pretty high in spite of the depression. Tuesday the

⁵In 1932 ICC (Interstate Commerce Commission) regulations with respect to interstate trucking were only in the process of being formalized and codified. The non-existence of standardized guidelines led to difficulties such as the Kansas Oklahoma State License Truck War in which neither state was willing to allow trucks from the other across its borders.

⁶A reference to the famous kidnapping which garnered national publicity because it involved the son of aviator-hero Charles Lindberg who only five years earlier had made the first solo trans-Atlantic crossing alone in a plane, The Spirit of St. Louis. The kidnapping provided the impetus for the Lindberg Act. See page 55 of this text.

soil in some wheat fields was sifting about like so much baking powder turned loose in the wind. About 4:30 o'clock Tuesday evening the wind shifted to the northwest and the dirt came just like a wall. Darkness enveloped this part of Kearny County. The wind was terrific and the temperature fell rapidly. Wednesday morning the sky is clear and the freezing temperature will soon be forgotten.

(April 8, 1932) A few wheat fields are making a desperate effort to live in spite of all the adversities such as electric winds, soil blowing, drouth, etc. We wonder where those glib tongued eastern real estate men are this morning. The ones that promised us a few radical changes in weather conditions on these semi-arid plains, viz.: real farming and more cultivated land; there would be no soil blowing, more moisture, no more hot winds, etc. The first two conditions are here and so are the last dozen. These same weather conditions have existed in this part of Kansas since we have any history, and we think it will take more than man's work to change it. Even at that, "it could be worse." Charles Scarlett, the Rawleigh man from Elkhart, was in our neighborhood Friday. He reports weather conditions in that part of the state practically the same as here. Here is an extract from a letter in the Drovers Telegram, April 4th issue: "Teachers earn their wages. Pick out a teacher and a public officer receiving the same pay. Go spend a day in the school-room and a day in the office, then decide for yourself who earns their pay. Did the county do a wise thing by beginning their economic program," cutting down the teachers' wages? We think there are a few other places in our county's tax program that could stand a little economizing. In the past 20 years our land taxes have increased from \$6.00 per quarter to almost \$40.00 per quarter. School taxes are not bad in our rural districts--can't see any cause for complaining. Teachers can buy their clothing a little cheaper now, but what about their other expenses: their board, their college expenses, etc.?

(April 22, 1932) This corner of Kansas had a regular spring shower with lightning, thunder, and hail. But today

(Wednesday) the fields are blowing badly. Clouds of dirt are blurring the sunshine. Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Hahn, Sr., Robert Rosebrook, and Carter Hubbard drove to Leoti last Friday night to see the junior play, "The Purple Tantrum." They report a full house and splendid entertainment. C. W. Rosebrook and daughter, Vadna, and your Fairview correspondent spent Tuesday in Garden City as guests of Swift and Company. An educational program for farmers was given at the Dickinson Theatre. Will say that the crowd was so large the new theater building was inadequate. The lunch was also furnished by the Swift Company. The editor of a neighboring county paper told about a revenue man blowing into town and in a short time he began to howl. But he forgot to mention that in the same short time a few bootleggers began to howl and a few others that were deeply interested were badly injured. Miss Pearl Rosebrook has been employed to teach Fairview school the coming term at \$90 per month.

(May 13, 1932) Corn planting is in progress in this part of our county. Some sod is being plowed. Barley is coming in fine shape. Most wheat fields are looking dubious. Prices on all farm products still going lower. A destructive hail storm passed over part of Wichita County last Friday evening. A little hail fell in north Kearny County, but not enough to do any damage.

(May 20, 1932) Plenty of high wind the past week, lower temperatures over the week-end terminating with ice Monday morning. Summer fallowed fields have been on the move for several days and a good rain would be very much appreciated at Fairview. Weeds seem to predominate in many wheat fields where the wheat has been damaged and blown out. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayzlett spent Monday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Ira Downs. Mr. Wharton has been having plenty of pump trouble the past week. Mrs. Laura Hahn and children spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Downs. There is one little city in this part of Kansas that has not heard about the depression up to date. If you arrive there later than one o'clock Saturday, you are liable to find that the only parking place left for you is almost outside the city limits. Everywhere there is

evidence of progress. Cement mixers are at work, excavations are being dug, new homes are being built, beautiful yards surround most of the homes, a new park has sprung up almost overnight. Through the courtesy of the business men, the folks are enjoying splendid picture shows for ten cents. The result is a crowded theater six nights each week. Men that travel and know the despondent conditions that are enveloping most of our small western towns marvel when they get acquainted with Leoti.

(May 27, 1932) Fairview folks are happy over the splendid rains that fell here Monday night and Tuesday evening. It will be a great help to all growing crops, pastures, etc. The cool east wind this morning is certainly a relief after such a siege of south wind and dirt blowing. No wonder taxpayers are becoming indignant, when we read about the family payrolls, the senate barber shop where everything comes free to the senators--even their blackheads come out free, but 15 cents apiece to the taxpayers. Taxpayers even pay for fishing sprees and all sorts of pleasure affairs. No wonder they will spend thousands of dollars on elections campaign, when we think of the opportunities that are free after the election.

(June 10, 1932) Now just a word in answer to that column two weeks ago entitled "Those Taxes." We believe our own front yard is clean. The Fairview correspondent did not complain about high school taxes. Just the wasting and deliberate squandering of public tax money in so many of our public departments. Your Fairview correspondent is too thick-headed to see that tax money invested in a good school and a teacher that does her duty is wasted. The tax economist says the county treasurer receives \$3.85 per day of longer hours. That means \$1108.80 per year. Not many country teachers, if any, received more than \$800 last year. Talk about longer hours. We know a number of teachers that work from 7:30 till sundown, and besides bring home as many as 90 different examination papers to grade over the week-end and have them ready for distribution on Monday morning; and, no matter how much there is to be done, we don't see any deputies. The responsibilities of a county officer are trivial when compared to the responsibilities the

country teacher has to shoulder. Lives, not dollars, are at stake. Every time we see a boy or girl in a graduating class it represents 64 long months of incessant work for some teacher. Sometimes it is sunshine, sometimes it is long, dark, stormy days in a little schoolhouse out on these lonely prairies. Yes, and sometimes it is all night long while a terrible blizzard is raging outside. The teacher alone keeping lonely vigil over a bunch of hungry, restless children. Talk about longer hours, and, if anything should happen to one of those precious lives entrusted to our teacher, who would be to blame? Not the deputy, but the teacher that shouldn't have more than \$50 or \$75 salary. And, as far as the teacher getting her education free, we think that belongs in the "Believe It or Not" column. Most parents have had a little experience along that line. Taxes help, but, if a child couldn't get any more help than the public taxes gave him, the school tax economist wouldn't need to worry about the taxes the public teacher is usurping. For there wouldn't be any teachers. She does not put anything back in taxes, no, not so anyone could notice it. Small incomes are not taxed in Kansas. Teaching our children to grow up and become capable, self-supporting citizens are of much more importance to parents than a paltry sum of money to help replenish the school taxes. Dist No. 4 mentioned in the write-up happens to be Fairview, and, if there is a taxpayer in the district complaining about the school taxes, we have not met him, up to date. We are proud of our school, and we are paying \$90 per month next winter. There are still a few places in this glorious world of ours that a fellow can go and be immune from school taxes; viz., Soviet Russia and Balkan states. Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook.

(June 17, 1932) Dear Editor: As a teacher I received \$100 to \$110 or the equivalent of about 700 bushels of wheat per term. I, the wife of a wheat farmer (the best in the world), speaking in terms of wheat, the source of income, have watched load after load of wheat go to market, produced at a loss. Insecure wages. The present day teacher receives wages equal to 2500 bushels of wheat per term, and more. Assured wages. Is it unreasonable, from the standpoint of the wheat producers in these trying times, to expect the teacher to take a salary

nearer the equivalent of 700 bushels of wheat? Wouldn't it go a long, long way toward leaving something for mother by lightening the tax burden? Every other farm commodity has depreciated in face value, not only wheat. Has the dollar depreciated? No. The teachers' wages are in terms of dollars. Considering these two factors, the teacher in reality would not be suffering a loss on wages in comparison with the source from which maintenance comes. "Lives, not dollars are at stake." Yes--and yes, but it takes dollars to keep those precious little lives. The mother, toiling early and late, does it thru sunshine and blizzards, does it in many a little shack with far less of comfort than found in a schoolroom, does it for the purpose of placing the pupils in the schoolroom. Does the teacher shoulder all the responsibility of placing capable and self-supporting citizens into the world? Ask a mother. Yet mother jointly shares the tax burden. Parts of two vacations of mine were spent over a scorching range in a stuffy kitchen, first to arise, last to retire, seven days a week. Compensation, five dollars per week. Needless to add, I welcomed the opening of school, the five days of work, the two days of relaxation and planning with its stacks of examination papers, its responsibilities, and its trials. Those were pleasant hours spent in a comfortable room with eager, smiling, carefree youngsters. The teachers personally interviewed have without complaint graciously accepted the suggestion of wage cut. They are human--they understand, and do not expect the impossible, which would bring about the "I promise to pay" condition of Chicago. May I add, in justice to the county treasurer, he must support a family. Mrs. E. Molz

(July 8, 1932) Seems to me the last comments on "those taxes" deviated sadly from the subject by bringing in the trials and tribulations of a wheat farmer's wife. Why did you and I and hundreds of other teachers leave the comfortable schoolroom, with its eager, carefree smiling youngsters, to become farmers' wives? Just simply from choice. Because we wanted to. And, as far as the eager, carefree, smiling youngsters, there is no dearth of them, no, not even in the humblest of

those shacks. We need not yearn for the schoolroom to realize that pleasure. There was not anything said to the effect that the teacher shoulders all the responsibility of caring for the children. A mother's responsibilities in her home and a teacher's responsibilities in her schoolroom are each in a class by itself. Of course, all the teachers took their wage cut with a gracious smile and were perfectly willing to do their bit toward lightening the tax burden. But now let us come back to the subject that started this discussion. Why begin on the teachers, when there are so many places our tax money is actually wasted? Why not make an effort to stop this wasting of money derived from public taxes? In closing will say I am not sending any condolences to the county treasurer, for I think he is amply able to care for himself and family without our sympathies. Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook. 9 milk cows for sale to pay taxes on fine schoolhouse and wages for teachers, 8 cows giving milk. I will take \$20 per head. When I am worked to death to pay high taxes on the schoolhouses and high salaries to teachers, when my milk cows are all gone and I have to stand on the street corners drawing a small pittance from the same county that has my all for taxes, the same kids that have been benefited by my taxes will point a finger and say, "That old woman is on the county." Mrs. S. D. Carey, Lakin, Kansas.

(July 15, 1932) Comments on "Those Taxes" have raised a series of questions in my mind. How can a mother and a teacher be put in a separate class? Shouldn't there be co-operation between the two? Wasn't the Parent-Teachers' Association devised as a means to this end? Doesn't the mother and teacher materially have the same goal in view? Does "bringing mother in" deviate from the main subject, taxes, since mother is the "other half" on every tax receipt? If no one is complaining of high school taxes in District No. 4, how does it happen that a few years ago the choice of a certain teacher was determined by the "dollar"? Excuse being, teachers' wages were too high. I taught in one school of 4 pupils; my neighboring teacher taught 20 pupils. We both received \$100

a month. In such a case wouldn't there have been a saving in tax money by both districts if the two districts had combined as long as such a condition existed? Isn't Mrs. Carey's picture only too true? Aren't many facing the same situation? Wouldn't just a peep into the tax ledger convince even the most optimistic that the landowner is slowly but surely slipping? And why? Because of "Those Taxes." A. Uphoff. Except for emergency taxes recently adopted by the federal government, our taxes are not higher. They are a bigger burden, but that's because prices are low and money is scarce. It's harder to raise the same amount than in former years. A situation that cannot be helped. Nearly all the taxes are controlled by law or voted by the people themselves. Certainly, when we vote expenditures, there comes a time to pay up. It is a matter of public interest that taxes be reduced, but they cannot come down until we pay up our debts, made when times were better. Last year the levy for general fund in Kearny County was one mill. We have a tax receipt from Wallace County, and the general fund had a 2.5 mills levy up there. Outside of Lakin this county is fortunate that taxes are no higher. Our neighbors farther east do not get off so lucky, with \$100 to \$200 on a quarter of their land. And don't think that money is any easier picking than it is here--it isn't. We are all up against a hard proposition, but this county is O.K., with all funds in good standing. Some of the counties are deeply in the red paying interest on thousands of dollars of outstanding warrants. We are paying cash as we go along and getting full value for the money paid out. If we voted bonds, we already have value received and are paying the bill. If we pay salaries or fees, they are controlled by law. City expenses are in charge of the city officials and school districts in charge of the voters at the annual school meeting. The poor we have with us always and it is a problem to handle. A bigger problem than ever before. Some are poor because of misfortune, others from choice or natural weaknesses. It is hard to see dependent children or aged folks suffer through the indifference of their relatives, but if those who are responsible refuse to give them aid, the county must do it. We will not

discuss the high cost of schools here. That is in the hands of every school district. If the voters fail to attend the district meetings to safeguard their interests, they have small reason for complaint. Certainly they cannot hold someone else responsible for their own neglect. Our budget is balanced. We have had to sacrifice to do it, and we do not like to make sacrifices. The world is temporarily out of balance. We have swung from excessively high prices to extremely low prices. Neither is right, and in time they will adjust themselves to a safe and sane middle ground. There is a slight upturn in prices now. It may be permanent or it may be a campaign gesture, as Will Rogers says. At any rate, it will help while it lasts. Good times are going to come back again, and, when they do, our present distress will be remembered as a passing illness, very uncomfortable while it lasted, but not fatal.

Ed H. Stullken.

(July 22, 1932) Some don't worry about taxes. A woman discussing high taxes said taxes didn't worry her a bit--they didn't have a thing to pay taxes on. Now my sentiment is, if a man thinks so little of himself to not have enough property to pay taxes to build up the country, he ought not be allowed to vote for president or anything else. The ones that have no taxes are the most willing to vote for anything that comes up. Such people should be denied the rights of American citizenship. There should be a head tax of \$10 on everyone in a family that don't have property to pay taxes or be deprived of the right to vote. The law does a grave injustice to people who make an effort to own their own home and be self-supporting. There ought to be a Poor Farm in Kearny County and a good one. I may have to go there myself, and I think I deserve a good one. Let the old men of 80 years go there and slop hogs, the women raise chickens, have a garden, or do other light work, like milking 10 cows. If a man raises a large family, he ought to be made to get out and dig and scratch to educate and feed and clothe them without whining for someone else to do the job for him. If they are not able to send them to school, learn them their books at home like I did. I sent out of my family one of the best teachers in Kearny County.

She taught four terms, milked cows, raised chickens, and planted a garden. People that are hard up can go on a ranch-- I don't care how old they are--stick to it, milk cows, raise chickens and a garden, and all will come out right sometime, provided taxes are cut down half and we don't have to use all we have for a living, to pay taxes. Mrs. S. D. Carey.

(August 19, 1932) We are still looking for rain. Unless rain comes soon, there will be no fall crops in this neighborhood. A number of Fairview folks drove to Leoti Saturday eve to see Zane Grey's book, "The Rainbow Trail," on the screen. It was on the screen three nights, and each night the theater was packed to the limit.⁷ There still are some belated harvest crews at work in this neighborhood. The heavy growth of weeds has retarded the combine work in many fields. Some quarters that have been on the late harvesting list have averaged from two to four bushels per acre. Much of the wheat is of an inferior quality and doesn't bring the best market price.

(September 2, 1932) Feed cutting is the main topic now. Feed is not much good. Some of the big wheat farmers have started drilling. School begins Monday. It will be a strenuous time for parents and school boards to get money needed to keep things going. Banks closing and failure to pay taxes has made school funds a little slow coming in. But Fairview is fortunate. Our district's money didn't happen to be in the bank that failed.

(September 30, 1932) Fairview folks drove to Leoti en masse Tuesday morning to hear the "lonesome cowboy"⁸ and Dr.

⁷Moving pictures or movies were extremely popular in depression ridden America. While most other businesses lagged, movies prospered as Americans sought to escape from their problems. Further, movies at this time were incredibly inexpensive.

⁸"The lonesome cowboy" was Roy Faulkner, an entertainer who performed for Dr. Brinkley during the campaigns of 1930 and 1932. Faulkner sang and played the guitar. While Brinkley may have seemed a fraud to Mrs. Rosebrook in 1930, he was a legitimate candidate in her eyes by 1932. This transformation was not extraordinary. Consider for example the appeal of the radio priest Father Coughlin in the 1930's.

Brinkley. If Dr. Brinkley can put over even half the things he plans to do, it will surely help the working people of Kansas. Fairview farmers are busy stacking feed, topping maize and kafir corn, butchering, etc. No outside help is used, as the Fairview folks believe in cooperation. "You help me and I'll help you."

(October 21, 1932) Plenty of ice, white frost, and sunshine this morning. The heavy storm clouds that darkened our sky last evening decided they had made a mistake and moved on. We have had plenty of sunshine the past week. Unusually warm days. Cool, frosty nights. Last Wednesday about three o'clock a cloud of tiny flying insects resembling grasshoppers took charge of our neighborhood. They were so thick the sunshine was blurred. Persons almost needed masks. They continued flying till dark and Thursday morning the air was still full of them, but about noon they began to disappear, and besides there were thousands of full grown grasshoppers and butterflies in the air helping to make things interesting. Something unusual for fall. Politics are getting plenty interesting as election time draws near. At least, some of us are finding out a few things we didn't know before. The governor's mansion at Topeka seems to be the center of attraction at present.

(November 4, 1932) Election day will soon be here. It certainly is something serious to think about. We may think we are voting for a man that will be honest. But, when our man gets into office and sees all the opportunities of grafting, stealing, and double-crossing the people, all those opportunities backed by nice sums of money if you will only use your influence for this and that, and we hear time and time again that "our man" has fallen, is it any wonder we are losing faith. Public affairs possibly couldn't get much worse even if the governor's chair was empty. We are opposed to the now existing system. If you get a job under my administration, you must share your wages with me. There were a few brave fellows that decided they wouldn't pay any more dividends. The result was they lost their jobs by return mail. We are in favor of a new law, and this is: Wages for our public

officers and stop at that. Why should they have all their expenses paid? Most of them get enormous wages. Why should the taxpayers pay for those extravagant fishing parties, lavish bouquets of flowers on the coffin of a friend with the name of Congressman so and so fastened to it, free barber shops, all this and thousands of other things just as unreasonable as the above mentioned? Why during these times of stress and anxiety for the common class of people, doesn't some senator or big hearted congressman say something like this: "Let us pay our own expenses"? Let us do something to lower our national expense and stop piling up taxes on every conceivable thing. There is some new propoganda coming out now. From Washington County, Kansas, teachers are receiving letters warning them to vote for Landon.⁹ If Landon isn't elected, the teachers' wages will be much lower next year. We think that most Kansas teachers know by this time that local school boards raise or lower the wages as they see fit. At least, the governors have not had much to say about it in the past.

(November 18, 1932) Prices on all farm products continue about the same as for several months past, with the exception of corn, which is so low as to be almost unsalable. What we need is something that will restore prices on farm products to a living basis. But Roosevelt¹⁰ seems to think he can console us by promising free "beeah," light wines, and other intoxicants at the earliest possible date.

(November 25, 1932) TO THE COUNTY OFFICERS. When each of you take your seats as servants of Kearny County taxpayers, I hope you will do your duty by us slaves of hard toil, as you should, without any extra cost to the county. If I hire a person to work on the farm, I don't expect him to hire a substitute and get pay from me extra. If you think it is right,

⁹This is Alf Landon, Republican Governor of Kansas, 1933-1937. See Donald McCoy, Landon of Kansas (Lincoln, 1966) for the definitive biography.

¹⁰A reference to Franklin Delano Roosevelt who had been elected President November 8, 1932 and had promised to revoke Prohibition.

I for one disagree with you. Pay your help out of your own pocket; we don't have any objection. The county officers sit by warm fires all day, while my children burn cow chips, soap roots, or cut down old landmarks. Fraud is practiced in counties just as it is in Washington, D. C. Let the county officers go to work at 6 in the morning, as the farmers do, and work until 7 at night and they will need no substitute. Sit in offices, dressed up looking fine and dandy. Poor farmers come in at night, too tired to wash their hands, for an old-fashioned supper and half a one at that. Aching arms all night. Plenty of jackrabbits--too tired to run 'em down and too poor to buy a shell to shoot them. Let the county officers and the other county poor see how the country people live, and they will believe me. I am right. People right here are paying high taxes on property that they have mortgaged to get the comforts of life. I, for one, say cancel all county debts for one year, lock up the court house for that period, retain the sheriff and our two editors to write accounts of our dealings, keep the jail in readiness. If we keep up at this pace, we will need no court house, for starvation is ours. Fine ladies working at public work give 8 dollars for a permanent wave of hair, powder to kill, while me and mine do our best scraping to get a pound of soda or a can of baking powder. Mrs. S. D. Carey.

(December 16, 1932) According to our newspapers, this depression is about to come to an end. No one knows just when conditions are going to improve. Some think this depression is with us to stay, and we will get adjusted to the existing conditions and forget there could be anything different.

(January 4, 1935) Happy New Year and with that goes a wish from your Fairview correspondent that the New Year will snap out of it and that the clouds of depression, uncertainty, and drouth will be banished from us, and that prosperity and health, rain and sunshine will drive the 1934 gloom into the Gulf of Mexico. The last day of 1934 was a real street sweeper. Dirt and clouds and high wind darkened the sky till we needed our lamps to see. But, by the middle of the afternoon, the sky began to clear, the wind abated some, and all we received of that blizzard was a cold wave.



Hannah Rosebrook's Marriage Certificate. While the penmanship is illegible the picture does show the significance that the wedding ceremony tended to hold for the pioneer as well as the craftsmanship that went into producing the certificate.

(January 11, 1935) Ernest Appl left for Atwood, Kansas, last Thursday, where he will become a member of the CCC camp. ¹¹

¹¹ CCC refers to the Civilian Conservation Corps a major program of the New Deal initiated in 1933 to furnish work and training for unemployed young men and to advance a program of nationwide proportions for the conservation and building up of the country's natural resources of timber, soil, and water. The CCC operated an aggregate 4,500 camps with 1,500 the average number in operation at any one time. The average enrolled strength was 300,000, although on one occasion in 1935 enrollment reached 520,000. About three million persons were enrolled during the entire program. The CCC ceased activities June 30, 1942.

Ernest spent the past two months helping with the thistle hauling at the Rosebrook farm. Horace Downs has taken his place.

(January 25, 1935) A spell of real winter swooped down on us last Friday about midnight--snowing and blowing, snow and dirt fighting for supremacy of the air. The dirt was victorious. The intense cold did not reach us till Sunday night. By Monday morning the thermometer registered 17 below zero. Tuesday the temperature moderated some. But this morning (Wednesday) the temperature was playing hide and seek with zero at 8:00 a.m. As far as we know, there was no suffering or loss of stock in our neighborhood. Only the usual farm troubles--pumps freezing up, tanks bursting, storage cellars not adequate to keep out the Eskimo temperature. It was our first real cold this winter. A week ago Monday night there were two important events at Leoti. The most notable of the two was the Tribune Pioneers, a grade school band. They are certainly a talented group. Difficult overtures, classic, popular, Sousa's marches, our national emblem, music that was popular in '76--all were played with perfect ease and confidence. The stage was completely full of musicians. Their behavior was perfect. If you have a chance to hear them, don't miss it. The other event was Shirley Temple. You have already heard so much about Shirley that nothing remains to be said.

(February 15, 1935) Last Thursday C. W. and Mrs. Rosebrook and daughter, Goldie, accompanied by Mr. Jones from north of Syracuse, drove out to Holly, Colorado, where Goldie stayed while the rest of the family drove out on Butte Creek. We drove for miles and miles southwest from Holly, where the wire fences were completely buried in sand drifts. Saw cattle that were living on soap weeds. The weeds were pulled up by the roots, hauled in, and piled up near corrals, and fed just like ordinary roughness. That surely is one way to evade the high priced feed if it only does the work. Chopped soap weeds for feeding cattle--one does not have to go to Colorado to see soap weeds used as feed for cattle. It is being done right here on the north Kendall flats. A. I. Morgan has fed soap weeds all winter with good results. Ray Adams, Herb Kurtz,

and Claude Yates began feeding about the first of the year. If the soap weeds are chopped, cattle will consume the entire plant.

(February 22, 1935) We are still here "right side up" after last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday's attempts to land us in the Gulf of Mexico. We can't say so much for the wheat fields. Some of them lost several inches of perfectly good soil. Oh well, it all goes to make up a lifetime on the plains of western Kansas. Several years ago a young man came from the East and settled down on a homestead in western Kansas with glowing plans to carve that proverbial fortune and return home "a hero." After six months his letter home said, "It didn't rain." In eighteen months another letter with the doleful ending, "It hasn't rained yet." At the end of three years the letter came saying, "It never did rain." It seems like this episode is about to be enacted again. Basketball and rabbit drives seem to be the only things we can think of right now. Fairview folks turned out "en masse" for the drive Tuesday in the northeast part of Kearny county. From all reports it was a success, as a large number of bunnies was killed. The Fairview teacher and her pupils took in the rabbit drive Tuesday. Stock in this part are doing very well. Plenty of thistles, with a little alfalfa, beet tops, and oil cake for the stock that needs a little extra care.

(March 1, 1935) February 21st, 1935, will no doubt go down on the western Kansas weather record as something unusual. But from all reports our corner of Kansas did not get the worst end of that wind and dirt storm. As far as we have learned, there were no accidents, no buildings torn down, etc. The biggest damage was the piling up of soil where it wasn't wanted. Friday morning the sky was clear and no dirt was in sight. Saturday all day there was a humid stillness, but the atmosphere was clouded with soil, the sun almost invisible, but no wind at all. By Sunday morning a blizzard had taken possession of our peaceful flats, and dirt, snow, and wind smothered us all day. The result, we have mud drifts all the way from six inches to six feet deep around our buildings. But fields and pastures are bare. The Fairview Community Club

held an entertainment at the schoolhouse last Friday night. Through a little misunderstanding about the date, the crowd was not so large, but a splendid program was given. Those participating in the program were Mr. and Mrs. Keener, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Miss Vardie Downs, the McCowan sisters, duet and tap dancing, the Fairview quartet, Miss Coons, and Miss James. Group singing and games followed. After all it was an evening well spent. Watch for the next date and come. Ernest Appl came down from the CCC camp at Atwood and spent a mighty stormy weekend at the Rosebrook home. He reports Thursday's wind storm being much worse in that part of Kansas. Horace Downs was marooned at the Rosebrook home during the blizzard. Not much news, as we are all too busy trying to dig the mud from our windows so we can see out. Barns, corrals, granaries, chicken houses, and houses were all treated alike, filled with dirt and snow equal proportions.

(March 15, 1935) A warm, springlike morning, and for once the dirt is all down where it belongs. We have had plenty of high wind dirt storms, and it even tried to rain, which of course ended in a miserable failure as usual. Your Fairview correspondent talked to a Wichita County pioneer recently who came in '86, and he says the drouth condition this spring is the worst he has seen in 49 long years. And to say it is getting serious is putting it in a mild form. There was an attempt to organize Sunday school at Fairview last Sunday. But the dirt storm got so bad those that came went home while going was good. Everyone is invited to come next Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Maybe the weather man will be on our side. Here's hoping. Quite a number of farmers in this part of Kansas are leaving in quest of a more desirable place to live. Joel Holmes, who has made his home with his uncle, Mr. Barnes, for some time, left for Oregon a short time ago.

(March 22, 1935) DUST--TO DUST RETURNETH. Friday night distinctly the worst dust storm that ever struck western Kansas descended on Lakin marooning many people in stores, filling stations, and in their offices. Traffic was halted, as driving was impossible. A train was held over here for nearly an hour before it was allowed to slowly make its way

to Syracuse, where it was held until the storm abated. Several people were lost in an attempt to get home. Perhaps the best account of the storm can be given by Abe Whitman, a farmer west of Lakin, who along with members of his family was marooned in an open car from the time the storm struck at six until help came about ten. Abe says that if he had been out in the storm another hour he would have suffocated. Twelve cars were reported stalled near the Paddock home east of Lakin. Among these were several produce trucks and the east bound passenger bus. A school bus driven by Mrs. Krehbiel was stalled all night with all the children in it. Bob Martin was stalled until midnight, when he came to Lakin. Dick Smith, rehabilitation agent, became lost on Main Street while attempting to drive from south Main to the court house, and Ed Spence lost himself while driving from Minor's pool hall to the depot to get the mail. He became lost again later in the evening when he tried to reach home. A group of people were marooned in the drug store, Tate's store, Collins' cleaning shop, and other places about town. Flashlights were seen everywhere, carried by those who thought they could see in the storm. At the high school and grade school nearly an acre of dirt was taken out of the buildings. Damage to what wheat there was left was great. A sand hill farmer reported that his wheat that might have made twenty bushels to the acre was totally ruined. A similar storm struck in the night Monday; however, it was not as intense as the storm of Friday. Dust thou art--to dust thou (please don't) returneth.

(March 22, 1935) Wednesday morn (not bright and early, but dark and late)--Dirt so thick everywhere we are beginning to wonder how much longer we can stand it. This morning shortly after four, when the wind turned to the west, our home became so filled with soil it was difficult to breathe. Friday, after an all-day dirt siege from the south darkening the sun, about five in the evening the wind veered to the north and instantly intense darkness enveloped this part of Kansas. The intense darkness continued till about midnight, when it began to slacken a little at intervals. Many farm folks were caught out with stock, and those that were out doing chores found it

almost impossible to get in their houses. The Fairview teacher, Miss Coons, and her father spent the entire night in their car near the Wm. Bell home. But, as far as we have learned, there were no serious accidents in our neighborhood. The amount of electricity in the air Friday evening is almost unbelievable. In fact, those that didn't see it will class it with "believe it or not." Alfred Hemplar was out in his field with a team when the darkness came. After wandering around for some time, he came to a fence. The tiny light bulbs that the barbs made guided him home. Mrs. Charley Kuhlman and Irvin had quite a time getting to safety, being compelled to walk some distance to get to the Herman Kuhlman home after the storm abated some during the night. In some homes the cook stoves were so charged with electricity it was almost impossible to touch them. Johnny Holstein reports being out on his saddle horse when the darkness came. He says there was a solid shaft of electricity between the tips of the horse's ears. The continued drouth, dirt, and wind is becoming almost unbearable. Drifts of all depths are everywhere, even in buildings. Stock is suffering from having to eat so much soil with their roughness and breathing it. People are suffering from not being able to get a good, fresh breath, not always thick with soil. Tomorrow is the first day of spring. If it wasn't for the date on the calendar, we wouldn't know. Not one single thing to remind us of spring, just bare, brown dirt everywhere. We must have rain and lots of it, and it must come soon to relieve the suffering. Our endurance is about exhausted.

(April 12, 1935) TOURISTS ARE STALLED IN WESTERN DUST STORM. Four days of dust: fine, penetrating dust that fills the air like driven snow; stifling, blinding, it comes in through every crack and crevice and fills the whole house with silt, and piles up in drifts beside buildings and in sheltered places as it blows and swirls through town and country. Only one day in the past week has been reasonably fair. Saturday the rural school track meet could not be held--it was called off the second time because of dust. Sunday was clear followed by another duster on Monday. Tuesday morning

a little sprinkle cleared the atmosphere and the sun came out beautifully a few hours but the falling barometer foretold disaster. Dust clouds came in before noon. A pall of dust obscured the sun and as it grew heavier, lights were turned on and cars were driven with headlights. The wind rose before evening, and during the next forty-eight hours shifted in all directions. Two nights and all day Wednesday the dust was so thick we could scarcely see across the street. Schools were dismissed Tuesday before the storm became severe and dust holidays have been declared this week. The Lakin Rural High School is a new building, with weather strips on windows, but the dust is piled up on ledges so deep it rolls off to the floor. It will take a day's work for several men to get the rooms cleaned out again. Other buildings are obviously in worse condition. Grant Collins swept out his place of business, the old stone building on Main Street, and weighed up sixty pounds of dust. John Edson, substitute mail carrier, started on the north route. Losing the road at the Weir farm about 12 miles northwest, he wandered until his engine stalled. He remained in his car all day and all night, until Ralph Edson and Frere Smith, as a searching party, found his car on the golf course Thursday morning, and John was walking to town. It is reported the storm reached eight states. Signals being invisible, the block system was restored for train service Wednesday, until the railroad was buried in places by drifts of dust and trains were stopped altogether. Thursday, as the storm abated somewhat, the traffic resumed again. The highway patrol on U.S. 50 continued work through Wednesday's storm, helping tourists to a place of shelter. Twenty tourists from six states spent the night in Davison's garage. Bill Coerber accommodated twenty-two at the Lakin hotel. Both camp grounds were filled, and a large number spent the night at Stroud's cafe. Cattle are reported dying in various parts of the county. Lack of feed has reduced them to a weakened condition unable to stand the black blizzard. Losses have been reported from Ivor Williams, Claude Dale, A. C. Krehbiel, Chas. Browne, and Jake Sauer.

(April 19, 1935) Still we are fighting dirt. Not a minute's let-up since Sunday at 1:00 p.m., when one of the blackest

storms of the spring hit us. Intense darkness prevailed and our lamp was kept burning till we retired for the night. For some reason all our black storms have come to us from the north. Tuesday was rather freakish. While the dirt was bad all forenoon, it became much denser in the afternoon. At four o'clock the wind calmed down till there was not the slightest breeze. The air was so full of red dirt it was difficult to breathe. Darkness would come at intervals when the heavy clouds of soil shifted from one side of us to another. About an hour of suffocating stillness, and the wind came from the north, stinging and carrying clouds of soil and sand. Last week we had four terrible days. Tuesday and Wednesday it was almost impossible to get out and care for stock. Our faithful mail carrier even failed us. Stock is suffering. Some stock smothered in last week's dirt storms. Some stock drifted with the storm and starved before being found, as the only thing strayed stock could find would be fence posts and drifts. When Fairview folks get together, the main topic is comparing dirt notes--who carried the most dirt out of a certain room, and so on, etc. Most of the Fairview homes should have been replaced with new ones fifteen years ago. But we are still living in our homestead shacks. Consequently, we are enduring, fighting, breathing, and eating dirt. Time only will tell how long we can endure. Here's hoping something will happen soon to relieve suffering, not only for stock, but people as well.

(May 10, 1935) Some of the Fairview farmers attended the Pantel sale at Marienthal Monday. They report the sale as rather dull.¹² People are too much occupied with the weather to do any spirited bidding. Seems like contagious diseases are running about as uncontrolled as our dust storms. Measles and whooping cough seem to be taking the lead with plenty of pneumonia, scarlet fever, mumps, pink eye, and last but not least, the chronic blues. The only thing that will relieve the last disease on the list is a soaking rain.

¹²Auctioning of farms and animals was a common occurrence in Dust Bowl Days. Often fellow farmers and neighbors refused to bid at such auctions out of sympathy for those who seemed victims of the vicissitudes of the economy and the weather.

(May 24, 1935) Fairview farmers are busy locating machinery, tools, etc. They know their lost machinery is in a drift some place. It will take plenty of work. Not much doing in the farming line. Farmers are just a bit wary. Seed so high and no assurance there will be any results if they do plant a lot of high priced seeds. Most of the gardens in this neighborhood are ruined. Garden fences are completely buried and some gardens are just filled as high as the fence. Quite a number of ponds built by relief workers are also filled up. Now it's the AAA filling the newspapers.¹³ This week's K. C. Star tells us that Simon Fishman of the Tribune has been hired by the Roosevelt administration as a lecturer for the AAA at a salary of \$350 per month. That will surely convince the farmers.

(July 19, 1935) Dry, hot, and windy just about describes our weather for the past week, with an occasional dirt storm for a change. Prairies are brown. Flies are very much alive. Hot, dry weather seems to make them all the more so. Robert and Inez Evalyn Rosebrook, Elene Whitaker, and the McCowan brothers spent Sunday afternoon at the Scott City swimming pool. In the evening they saw the show, "The Little Minister," at the Leoti theater. Again we begin to hear rumors of war and war threats. No doubt, the ammunition kings are getting over stocked with killing materials, and it would mean so much

¹³The AAA or Agricultural Adjustment Administration was an agency of the U. S. Government. Established in 1933 within the Department of Agriculture the AAA was intended to aid stricken farmers through a program of soil conservation, storage of farm surplus products, and control of the production of farm goods. The act empowered the Secretary of Agriculture to fix marketing quotas for farm products; take surplus products off the open market; cut the production of staple crops, including wheat and corn by offering farmers benefit payments for voluntarily making reductions in the production of these commodities; impose high taxes on cotton and tobacco to discourage farmers from raising these crops; and through these restraints on production, to force an increase in the price of farm goods. In 1936 the U. S. Supreme Court declared that giving cash benefit payments to farmers who cooperated in a program of crop reductions, constituted an act of coercion and invalidated vital sections of the act which infringed upon the powers of the states.

to them if they could trump up some imaginary wrong, that in their narrow minds could be settled no other way but through war. Why not let our bosses at Washington know just how we feel about war. Our burdens are heavy enough without war. A lot more could be said and should be said.

(August 16, 1935) Dry as ever with the same southwest wind we have had the past month. Sunday was a record breaker for hot wind and heat. The nights this week have been unusually cool--refreshing. Some crops are suffering, some fields are past help. Some farmers are heading their corn. Conditions are serious. The program at the church last Sunday was a success from every angle. Mrs. Clavenger and Mrs. Anderson deserve much credit for the time they spent training the children. The Lydia Methodist Sunday school were in attendance and helped swell the crowd. A splendid dinner was served cafeteria style. Ice tea and lemonade was enjoyed by everyone. We feel that the good will and community spirit that was so much in evidence will not be forgotten soon. Charivari.¹⁴ The J. L. Whitchurch home was the scene of much merriment Sunday night when about seventy-five friends of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosebrook gathered to charivari them. After being treated to ice cream and candy the crowd departed, wishing the happy couple a prosperous journey through life.

(September 20, 1935) The weather man must have been trying to establish a new heat record for September Monday and Tuesday of this week. Tuesday, about one o'clock, the most accurate thermometer in Fairview was set out in the sun. It registered 115. Sunday we had plenty of soil in the air. We need rain. Sometimes we wonder if it wouldn't be just as well for us to speak for a permanent headline for our items: "We Need Rain." Wheat sowing is going on at a terrific rate out here. Some non-resident farmers are through sowing and have gone east for the winter. Some are sowing twenty-four hours each day. Sowing and planting year after year is getting to be rather

¹⁴Charivari or Shivaree is a celebration/noisy mock serenade to a newly married couple who are sometimes expected to furnish refreshments to silence the serenaders.

discouraging for the farmers. But most of them are following the old adage, "Try, try again."¹⁵ There shall be wars and rumors of wars. Well, this time it is rumors of war. Oh well, you know this rumor stuff. Sometimes rumors are like the western Kansas clouds, just simply look pretty promising for a short time and then sail on to parts unknown, and we are hoping the rumor this time will not materialize. We are still hoping for the day to come when the right to declare war will be taken away from our high and mighty ones at Washington. There are plenty of decent ways to settle international problems. I think the war department at Washington should be buried with messages from the people, letting them know just how the commonwealth feels about this war talk.

(October 11, 1935) Senator Capper¹⁶ says, "The price of war is death, misery, and destruction, and the people pay the price." Senator Capper also says, "Take the profits out of war." Your Fairview correspondent suggests stopping wars by not allowing the war lords to declare war. Taking guns and shooting it out isn't allowed in private life. Why should it be allowed in public life? The munition makers are the real cause of most wars. They need an outlet for their warehouses that are over stocked with death material.

(November 22, 1935) Several damp, foggy days the past week, but no moisture to speak of. Farmers are beginning to feel uneasy for fear the coming winter will be a repetition of the past winter. Wheat is needing rain. The entire west

¹⁵Basically plains residents during the Dust Bowl period were "America's Next Year People" because the majority refused to give up. For every one person who left two remained. For a fuller understanding of the Dust Bowl see Donald Worcester, Dust Bowl: the Southern Plains in the 1930's (New York, 1979); Paul Bonnifield, Dust Bowl: Men, Dirt, and Depression (Albuquerque, 1979); Caroline A. Henderson, "Letters from the Dust Bowl," in American Portraits, ed. by William and Kathryn Cordell (New York, 1937).

¹⁶Senator Capper is a reference to Arthur Capper who was Governor of Kansas, 1915-1919, and Senator from 1919-1948. A strong friend of the Kansas farmer he was also a critic of F.D.R.'s lend-lease program.

part of Kansas needs rain to keep the soil from blowing. Liberal had a black storm last Monday. The precipitation the next nine months will simply play a funeral dirge for western Kansas or put western Kansas on the road to prosperity. Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Hahn, Jr., entertained the following guests with a Sunday dinner: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Downs and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hubbard and two daughters, Opal and Erma of Leoti, Mrs. Chase Brown of Oklahoma City, and Mr. and Mrs. Aug. Hahn, Sr., of Fairview. Ott Krenzler and C. W. Rosebrook attended the community sale at Garden City Wednesday. They report a big crowd and a lively sale as usual. Texas has turned liquor loose. Oh well, maybe the Texans do have more sense than they need, and that will be a good way to curtail the surplus. The Oklahoma governor has announced war on drunken drivers, so Texas better keep their overloaded drivers at home. The AAA has placed a code on the English walnut industry in northwestern states, ruining the producers. There is just one more article they might put a code on. Just wonder if they will try it. The quints¹⁷ are coming along fine and so is Mussolini.¹⁸ Too bad someone couldn't have told his Royal Highness that he could have bought that Ethopian property he wants so bad much cheaper than warring for it, and it would have been a little more civilized, too.

¹⁷The "quints" is a reference to the five Dione daughters born prematurely in Canada. A rural practitioner made an incubator from a butcher's basket with blankets, providing necessary warmth until a proper incubator arrived. All five Dione's survived past infancy.

¹⁸Mussolini is Benito Mussolini, Italian premier and dictator who was named in honor of Mexican liberator Benito Juarez. Known as Il Duce (the leader) he was initially greatly admired for getting Italian trains to run on time. Claiming to be Italy's savior from Communism he embarked in the mid-1930's on an aggressive foreign program, beginning with Ethiopia in October, 1935. Later, in cooperation with Adolf Hitler, he intervened openly in the Spanish Civil War on the side of Gen. Francisco Franco. Expecting to score an easy victory after Hitler's initial successes, he led Italy into WW II in June, 1940. Toward the end of the war he attempted to flee Italy in disguise but was seized by partisans and shot with his mistress. His body was defiled by the Milanese populace.

(December 6, 1935) The hard times social at the church Tuesday evening was a success. The crowd numbered 86. Total receipts from the various booths were \$17.40. Expenses will be deducted from that amount. The play given by the Ladies Aid was much enjoyed, also the reading given by Miss Ruby McCowan in Negro dialect, "Mr. and Mrs. Noah and the Ark." It was one of those community gatherings where good will and friendliness reign supreme. Hope there will be more just like it in the near future. The AAA has taken charge of potatoes. Wonder if they will ever think to take charge of the munitions factories and a few other little nuisances that are left.

(January 24, 1936) The Townsend Plan¹⁹ seems to be the main topic of discussion these days. The AAA, King George,²⁰ and Bruno Hauptmann²¹ coming in for their share. Also what does England mean by preparing for war.

¹⁹The Townsend Plan was formulated by Francis Everett Townsend, a physician. Also known as Old-Age Revolving Pensions the purpose of this plan was twofold: (1) to provide support for the disabled and aged, (2) to stimulate the depressed national economy by the infusion of additional disposable income. In essence, the plan called for payment of \$200 a month to all retired citizens over sixty years of age. This money was to be spent within thirty days inside the United States. The plan--there were subsequent modifications--was to be financed by a two percent tax on all business transactions. Although there were many rival "share-the-wealth" plans advocated during the depression, the Townsend Plan met with phenomenal response. At its height the movement claimed over 2.5 million members and 25 million supporters, and was considered a strong political force in local and national elections. It has been credited, to some extent, with leading to the passage of the Social Security Act, but this act, together with general economic recovery, weakened the Townsend movement.

²⁰King George is probably King George V who died in January, 1936, and was succeeded by his eldest son Edward who later abdicated to marry the American divorcee, Wallis Wade Simpson.

²¹Bruno Hauptmann was a carpenter who had kidnapped the son of Charles Lindberg. Captured, tried, and electrocuted (the infant was found dead) Hauptmann's act culminated in the Lindberg Act which was passed by Congress. This act provided for life imprisonment for all convicted kidnapers, and for capital punishment if the victim was harmed.

(March 20, 1936) This neighborhood received a nice shower of rain last night. Although not enough to do the soil much good, it at least cleared the air of soil. For the first time in weeks, our western Kansas sky looks natural. Tuesday evening's dirt storm was an imported one. The dirt cloud looked like brick dust, but it didn't stay with us but a short time. C. W. Rosebrook and Robert Carter attended the community sale at Leoti Wednesday afternoon. Word came to us from Mrs. Josephine Jarnigan of Kingsdown, Kansas, that her mother, Mrs. Harriet Helvie, was in a serious condition. The Helvie family lived in our community for a number of years, and Mrs. Helvie's friends here will be grieved to learn of her illness. Wichita County farmers have their soil erosion program²² almost completed. Three men were appointed for every six-mile square. They were paid 05 cents per mile for traveling expenses. After the land had been examined and found blowing, the owner was authorized to get gas and go to work. Didn't have to wait for the blue print to be sent to Washington and be okayed and sent back, or some other devious route that took days and weeks; meanwhile the soil erosion was going on 24 hours per day, doing thousands of dollars worth of damage. The soil blowing is a serious proposition. It's just this much: If you don't get me right now, I'm going to get you. Too bad some benevolent minded philanthropist couldn't offer about \$25.00 bounty for Hitler and Mussolini. It might put a stop to some of the war talk that's keeping the world on nettles at present.

(May 29, 1936) We have enjoyed wonderful weather since Saturday's rain and this part of Kansas is coming back to where it "orter be." Wheat is headed out; pastures are green with luscious grass. Oh well, western Kansas can come out of

²²In 1935 the Soil Conservation Service was established by the Soil Conservation Act to combat wastage of soil and water resources, and to aid in bringing about adjustments in land use that would prevent soil erosion, establish a balanced agriculture, and reduce the hazards of drought, floods, and siltation. Its activities involved surveys and investigations to gather information to achieve these goals.

it quicker than any place we have ever known. Fairview folks have taken a new lease on life since the soil has come down to earth where it belongs. Now it's the "Black Legion" taking the big, black headlines in the dailies.²³

(July 3, 1936) Several days of intense heat the past week is hastening the western Kansas harvest. Grave fears are entertained for the effect it is having on the wheat. Some fields seem to be standing the heat better than others due to the stage of ripening. The earlier sown wheat seems to be standing the weather tests the best. Monday evening we had a dirt storm and a severe wind but it was of short duration. Not much use to tell you about our grasshoppers. Most of you already know. Gardens are stripped--even onions are gone. Shade trees are beginning to let the sunshine through. Two weeks ago they were such tiny little fellows but now they are almost grown up. We begin to wonder if we are going to have a repetition of the grasshopper plague our forefathers have told us that Kansas endured in the 70's.

(July 10, 1936) Dry and windy with plenty of soil up in the air to make harvesting disagreeable. Combines are busy all around trying to take care of the meager wheat crop. The hot, dry weather and hot wind cut the yield in two. While the wheat did not lack moisture in the soil, if the formation of the grain had been more matured when the heat wave came, the damage might not have been so serious. One field is testing 51 and another 57. The number of bushels per acre so far is about from 6 to 10. The grasshoppers have shattered our dreams of seeing our cellar shelves full of home canned vegetables, etc. Small shade trees, especially Chinese elms, are as bare as at Christmas time. They are doing plenty of damage in the corn and forage crop fields. We have all sizes of hoppers from the minute to the full grown, both with wings and without.

²³The "Black Legion" was a secret terror group symptomatic of the hate groups spawned by the anxieties of a depression. This group intimidated a wide area of the Mid-west. See Morris Janowitz, "Black Legion on the March," in Daniel Aaron (ed.), America in Crisis (New York, 1952), 305-325.

(July 17, 1936) Hot, dry weather continues. Harvesting is in full swing and a few fields have been finished. Yield about five bushels per acre. Test in the 40's. We still have our grasshoppers. Small trees are completely skinned. They are attacking posts, buildings, etc., now. Besides the hoppers we have millions of bugs, mostly black, and the way they move around they no doubt are built for speed. Jacob Goering finished combining Tuesday. He and his men expect to go home Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burns and family spent Sunday with the Aug. Hahn, Jr., and Sr., families. The C. W. Rosebrook family and Mr. M. W. Goostree and son drove to Leoti Saturday eve to see Will Rogers in "Old Kentucky." We hear very little about the primary election out here on the north flats. There are other subjects that are far more important to us than politics; viz., grasshoppers, dry weather, speed bugs, and a number of other things come first. Inez Rosebrook is helping Mrs. Ott Krenznel cook for harvesters this week.

(August 14, 1936) Extreme heat the past few days. Still dry. A few belated grasshoppers are still with us and the gray beetles are too numerous to mention. Farmers are working overtime to get all this western Kansas soil in readiness for wheat sowing. Now the big worry is: Will it rain in time for the wheat sowing? Shall we sow if it doesn't rain, etc.,? The Fairview S. S. folks entertained at Ira Downs home last Monday evening. It was an after-harvest social. Everybody was there. The young folks enjoyed outdoor games while the parents spent the time visiting. Ice cream and cake were served to the crowd. It was one of those events that our community is noted for.

(August 28, 1936) The weather still continues dry and hot. No rain in sight. The nights are cool, almost chilly before morning, and that is a wonderful relief from the heat, something our relatives in the East do not enjoy. The nights there are as hot and humid as the day. The Fairview Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Ellsworth Keener last Thursday. Most of the folks from this corner drove to Leoti last Sunday evening to see "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine." No one was disappointed. It was a beautiful picture.

(September 18, 1936) Mrs. Pearl Rosebrook Miller writes they are now located at Lockport, Louisiana, where the bananas grow. They crossed the four miles long bridge that spans the Mississippi River not far from New Orleans, the bridge that received nation-wide attention because it was through Huey Long's²⁴ untiring efforts it was placed there. Pearl says almost all the residents talk French and those that do try to talk English talk so broken it's almost impossible to understand them. Politics, war, communism, fascism, how politics are kept out of the W.P.A.,²⁵ P.W.A.²⁶ relief, etc., seems to take up a great deal of newspaper space these days. But what is more vital to us out on these western Kansas plains is what the winter will be like--will it rain so our wheat will grow? What will be the price of hog feed and chicken feed during the winter months and so on down the line? Here is hoping it will be better than the indications are now.

(October 2, 1936) Too bad that a real modern Gulliver couldn't come forth from some vague corner of the earth and

²⁴Huey Long was the flamboyant Senator from Louisiana. He represented a major political threat to FDR and according to James MacGregor Burns forced the President to move leftward in New Deal proposals. Long was later assassinated. See Burns, Roosevelt: The Lion and the Fox. T. Harry Williams has written the definitive biography of Long.

²⁵W.P.A. is the Works Progress Administration. Headed by Harry Hopkins it was established in 1935 to provide a gigantic program of emergency public employment to three and a half million jobless. Since the W.P.A. was not allowed to compete with private industry or usurp regular government work, many of its projects turned into make-work assignments of scant value. It represented a compromise in that FDR implemented it in order to move away from the relief dole while at the same time providing salaries that were less than the minimum wage.

²⁶P.W.A. is the Public Works Administration. Headed by the Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes who operated it with such extreme caution that it did next to nothing to stimulate the economy. It proved to be a failure primarily because FDR repeatedly raided Ickes' funds for money for other projects. Roosevelt never saw the value of public works as an important lever for industrial recovery for he was initially committed to a balanced budget and skeptical of the value of federal construction.

take Hitler, DuPont,²⁷ Mussolini, and a few more of those bloodthirsty war lords and bump their heads together and choke them within an inch of their lives till they would promise to forget all about war. It's as antediluvian as Noah's ark for one person to have the right to declare war just for some little pecuniary provocation that doesn't amount to anything. DuPont, our American ammunition magnate, no doubt is the real cause of all of the war excitement if the truth was ferreted out.

(December 25, 1936) Christmas entertainments seem to take up most of our time. The entertainment at the church last night was enjoyed by a large crowd. The entertainment was furnished by three schools--Miss Mildred Lindner, Miss Ruby McCowan, and Mrs. Howard Clevenger, and their pupils. There seemed to be an abundance of candy, nuts, and apples for everyone. A real city Christmas tree full of beautiful colored bulbs lighted with electricity helped make it a real Christmas entertainment.²⁸ Mr. and Mrs. Howard Clevenger are leaving today for Kansas City to spend the holidays with a brother of Mr. Clevenger's who is in poor health. Mr. and Mrs. Farnsworth and family are planning to spend the holidays with relatives in Oklahoma. Mr. and Mrs. Ott Krenzler and family spent Sunday at the Rosebrook home. C. W. Rosebrook drove to Garden City Tuesday to meet Eunice Rosebrook and Errol Misner. They came by bus from Columbus, Ohio, to spend the holidays with relatives and friends here and in Colorado. Aug. Hahn, Jr., is

²⁷One of the four DuPont brothers hailed to the stand by the Nye Committee headed by Senator Gerald Nye of North Dakota. This committee, aided by a timely publication of a striking indictment of munitions makers in the business magazine Fortune, charged that J. P. Morgan, the banker, and by implication the DuPont's had reaped unconscionable profits from munitions in WW I and had influenced American intervention on the side of the Allies. The Nye Committee helped provide a stimulus for Congressional Isolationists who pushed for neutrality legislation which resulted in the neutrality acts of the 1930's.

²⁸The celebration of Christmas on the treeless plains during the frontier period and in the midst of the Dust Bowl was distinctive. For a discussion of cultural adaption on the plains with reference to Christmas see Clyde Blackburn, "Christmas Past," Kansas Territorial, 1 (December/January, 1980).

helping C. W. Rosebrook to pull a pump today. Vadna Rosebrook spent Sunday evening at the Aug. Hahn, Sr., home. C. W. Rosebrook spent Friday in the Deerfield community on professional business. The wheat in our community seems to be all right. A little moisture just to keep the top soil where it belongs would not come amiss.

(January 22, 1937) Our national senators and congressmen howled out loud and almost branded Dr. Francis Townsend as public enemy number 2, etc. for his proposed \$200 monthly self-supporting pension. Now here is the queer part of it. Just a short time ago those same senators appropriated \$5,000 a year for Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, widow of our late president. Just one lone woman. Something for us to think about. I really think they should have kept that a secret.

(February 19, 1937) Fairview folks are just emerging from one of the severest wind storms we have had for some time. We didn't see the sun from Saturday till Wednesday noon. But the worst damage to wheat fields was done by the wind that came Tuesday night and continued till about ten o'clock Wednesday morning before it began to abate at all. It had the velocity of a tornado and so charged with electricity it was almost unbelievable. Wheat fields that had lain dormant through all our previous dust storms couldn't stand the onslaught. The damage was enormous. Farmers have been handicapped because the ground has been frozen. One farmer just over the line in Wichita County worked all Tuesday night in the blinding storm trying to save his wheat. Farmers are getting more grim faced as each day goes and no moisture in sight.

(April 2, 1937) Flash! From Washington, D. C., comes this news item: P. M. General Farley tells us the P. O. department at Washington contracted a deficit of \$88,000,000 for the year 1936. Wonder how that comes. I know we Fairview folks paid in full for every ounce of mail we sent. Oh well, the department will fix it up some way. They are starting their economic program by consolidating the mail routes where it is possible and, no doubt, they will increase the postage or something to make at least a living wage.

(July 16, 1937) The weather has not been so bad the past week. We have had some clouds, a few dusters, and a few days

that were quite warm during the noon hour. Our nights are cool and comfortable. Wheat harvest is on in full swing here. Everything is all right but the wheat--from 2 to 5 bushels per acre, some as low as 1 bushel per acre is being cut. But when we think of the weather, we have had the past ten months, well, we wonder how even the one bushel could be there. Soil blowing did it all. Mr. and Mrs. Loren McFessel and Mr. and Mrs. Vern McFessel of Rozel, Kansas, were dinner guests at the Rosebrook home Sunday. The McFessel brothers own several quarters of land in our community and their wheat is making about 1 1/2 bushels per acre up to date. News is scarce. Everyone is busy trying to take care of the wheat even though it isn't going to do much toward paying off mortgages, etc. Oh well, trading nickels is one way to keep busy.

(February 25, 1938) Wonder if Huxman²⁹ really was grieved over the irregularity of the old-age pension set-up or if he was just inwardly boiling because this gasoline dye scheme didn't work. At least, those that understand are sending out warnings to the farmers. Some counties are not represented at this extra session. Oh well, what makes the difference? Those counties will get their share of whatever is done, be it good or bad. The Community Club met last Friday evening. A good program and a social good time as usual.

(March 25, 1938) Mr. and Mrs. Hahn, Sr., and the Rosebrook family drove to Leoti Sunday afternoon to attend funeral services for Mrs. Robt. Orr. Mrs. Orr had suffered from cancer for more than a year. She was 58 years old. Before her marriage Mrs. Orr, then known as Fanny Johns, taught our school. She taught 13 terms in Kearny and Wichita Counties. The

²⁹Walter Huxman, Democrat, Governor of Kansas, 1937-1939. When Huxman took office a new source of revenue had to be found to finance programs for the needy, aged, blind, and dependent children in cooperation with the federal social welfare program. Over his protests the legislature enacted a two per cent sales tax to provide the revenue. However, much of the money was used for property tax relief. Huxman was blamed for much that went wrong with the program. He was criticized by anti-New Dealers who considered him a puppet of the Roosevelt Administration.

large attendance at the funeral was evidence that the Orr family were highly esteemed by all who knew them. Fairview folks extend sympathy to the family. Mr. and Mrs. McCowan celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary last Sunday. Besides the family, Arthur Smith and his two children, Verna and Robert, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson enjoyed the occasion at the McCowan home. Some of the Fairview men attended the community sale at Leoti last Wednesday. As usual they reported a big crowd and a lively sale. The Lakin "John Deere" man called on some of the Fairview farmers Monday. We are all very proud of "Adolf's" last conquest.³⁰ With his power it won't be many moons till just the sound of his soft, melodious voice will cause the mountains to crumble to dust. We can just see the smile that spread over Mussolini's voluptuous features when news of the glorious victory reached him. Oh no, it wasn't any surprise to him. They planned it together and no doubt they will share the spoils equally. Gerald Rogers is helping C. W. Rosebrook build fence this week.

(April 1, 1938) We have heard a number of suggestions lately about what should be done with Adolf Hitler. Oh well, Nero tried to conquer the world but he failed and so will Hitler. Hitler reminds us very much of a story Martin Johnson told about the wild animals in the African jungles. A number of wild animals of different species would often be seen out in some open space playing and being friendly. But when the lion stuck its head out through the foliage and gave a roar all the animals, both large and small, ran for shelter.

(April 29, 1938) We are having plenty of wind in spite of rains almost over the entire dust bowl. Sunday and Monday there was entirely too much soil and sand in the air. The wind Monday night piled the loose tumbleweeds against the fences, tearing them down here and there. The wheat is growing nicely. The summer fallowing is going on in our vicinity full time.

(May 20, 1938) Sec. Wallace says: "Knife to the wheat." The farmers won't care. Just so Mr. Wallace doesn't allow

³⁰A reference to Hitler who devoured Austria about this time.

more wheat to be imported than he cuts off with his New Deal knife.³¹ According to our way of thinking it isn't the surplus that's keeping the price so low. It's the millions of bushels that are imported. And why should the prospect of a crop bring the price down? It's a long way from being on the market.

(November 4, 1938) Hope you folks on the North Star mail route won't forget to vote for the man that made it possible for us to get our mail every day. He has helped dozens of farmers on these western plains. One farmer wrote to the governor and received a very curt reply. Then he wrote to Clifford R. Hope.³² The answer: "I'll give this matter my personal attention." In a few days the result was obtained. Don't forget him now. You know what he has done for us, and he will continue to do things for us. Make your vote count for Clifford R. Hope.

³¹Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace an advocate of the "domestic allotment plan." He proposed: to restrict farm acreage, levy a tax on the processors of agricultural commodities, and pay farmers who agreed to limit production, benefits based on "parity," which would give the farmers the same purchasing power they had before WW I. One of his first acts was to carry out a policy which he accepted as necessary, but did not relish: crop destruction. He reluctantly agreed to a proposal of farm leaders to prevent a glut on the hog market by slaughtering over six million little pigs and more than two hundred thousand sows due to farrow. The slaughter, and a corresponding cotton plow-up in the South, fixed in the minds of millions of Americans an image of the AAA as an agency mindlessly engaging in mass matricide and infanticide. Wallace attracted both passionate admirers as well as ardent detractors. He remained a prominent figure well beyond his tenancy as Secretary of Agriculture. Generally farmers were critical of the AAA because it did not provide immediate results.

³²Hope was a Kansas congressman concerned with agricultural problems during the New Deal. An astute politician he was by the late 1940's considered by many people to be Thomas Dewey's choice for Secretary of Agriculture, assuming Dewey was elected President. Four years later, in 1952, he was in the vanguard in pushing Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower as the Republican nominee for President. During this four year period Hope played a key role in bringing back farmers, who had strayed, to the Republican fold. See James L. Forsythe, "Postmortem on the Election of 1948: An Evaluation of Cong. Clifford R. Hope's Views," Kansas Historical Quarterly, 38 (Autumn, 1972), 338-359 for a fuller discussion of Hope.

(December 9, 1938) Now it's Jews. Something must come to make headlines for the dailies, and it might as well be Jews and Hitler as Hitler by his lonesome self. Hitler is just a modern Nero and he seems to get by with all his brutality.³³

³³The reference to Jews reflects an early awareness and sophisticated understanding of the impending policy of racial reorganization and persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany. Many individuals refused to believe that such an event could be occurring.

CHAPTER THREE
WORLD WAR II FROM THE PERSPECTIVE
OF A KANSAS JOURNALIST, 1939-1945

(January 20, 1939) Wonder if Hitler could use a partner. Well, here is a suggestion--Lewis, the labor leader. He and Hitler would make a lovely pair. Their ideas in regard to humanity are about the same, which simply means, "Do as I say or take the consequences."¹

(February 3, 1939) It looks as if the fellows at Washington are just about to discover that too much money goes for administration purposes.

(February 24, 1939) Mr. and Mrs. Howard Clevenger drove to Leoti Tuesday evening and saw the show, "Sing You Sinners," featuring Bing Crosby.

(June 16, 1939) Downs, August Hahn, Jr., and Jim McRae families, also Miss Leighton and James Bowles, all from this community, spent Sunday at the state park in Scott County. Fairview community was pretty well represented at Leoti Sunday evening. The attraction was the show, "Jesse James." No one was disappointed.

(June 23, 1939) The grasshoppers are doing quite a lot of damage in the fields the last few days. There are spots they have completely mowed down. When we think of the millions of grasshoppers that are being eaten by turkeys and chickens and the millions more that are being killed with poison, seems like there wouldn't be many left. But they are still too thick for comfort at Fairview.

¹As head of the mine workers John L. Lewis helped cultivate a new type of unionism based on industry-wide organization rather than by crafts. Despite conflict within the labor movement over this new form of organization--the older American Federation of Labor (A.F. of L.) had no enthusiasm for this daring strategy--by 1935 the Congress of Industrial Organization (C.I.O.) was already overshadowing the parent organization and setting the scene for the mass unionization that was to come in the later thirties. Continual strikes were one facet of this unionization and were a source of anger to Americans who considered such tactics illegal.

(January 19, 1940) The war in northern Europe is surely something terrible--so much suffering and freezing in the intense cold--some fighting to protect their homes and families--others fighting because their boss gives them orders to do so and they are afraid to rebel.

(March 22, 1940) Virgil Rosebrook spent Thursday and Friday at the Ott Krenzel home. Some of the Fairview men folks attended the community sale at Leoti Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. Ott Krenzel and family were Garden City shoppers Saturday. The noise of tractors and various farming activities remind us that springtime and worktime has arrived once more. We only hope our summer will be a profitable one with plenty of rain and not quite so many grasshoppers. Hitler seems to be greatly pleased over the highway robbery the Reds so successfully executed in Finland. Deals like that wouldn't work in private life, and why should it be allowed in public life? It seems like the work of uncivilized people--no, just uncivilized bosses. Should nations like that be recognized as civilized? Absolutely no.

(May 3, 1940) Mrs. Whitaker was a caller at the Rosebrook home Monday afternoon. The song says, "There is no night there." There is no night at Fairview; so now we are wondering if there are two places by the name of "there." Most of the farmers in our community are running their tractors 24 hours per day. It's a strenuous battle--but no lives lost. Fairview farmers are doing their utmost to keep the dusty top soil down on earth where it belongs. Freezing and showers seem to make the top soil rather restless when a little breeze comes along to give it a lift.

(May 17, 1940) Mr. and Mrs. Ott Krenzel, Donald, and Joy Lee spent Sunday afternoon at the Rosebrook home. They brought a freezer of ice cream and a beautiful pink cake. Mr. and Mrs. Krenzel celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary Sunday. The war in northern Europe seems to have reached an appalling stage. Wonder what Hitler is after anyway. Just wonder how long he would be allowed to run wild in private life. Just as long as it would take some sheriff and his posse to run him down and handcuff him. He is a maniac, a degenerate brute. His

highest ambition is to kill, murder, burn and destroy homes and property and terrorize innocent people with his bloody reign of brutality. Let us hope that something will happen to him very soon. Vadna Rosebrook called on Mrs. Hahn, Sr., Tuesday afternoon. Farmers are plenty busy in our community both day and night trying their utmost to keep the soil under control. Fairview community had a big day at the church Sunday. Sunday school and a sermon by the new minister, Rev. John McPheeters, and then a bountiful basket dinner. After dinner there was the usual social hour of visiting and getting better acquainted. Before going home most of the crowd drove over to the new oil well to see how things are progressing there.

(September 13, 1940) James Bowles left for Wray, Colorado, last week after spending some time here killing weeds, sowing wheat, and feeding his grasshoppers. Mr. and Mrs. Hahn, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Keener spent Sunday at the August Hahn, Jr., home. In the afternoon they all drove over to the oil well. As usual quite a number of sightseers were there. We hear all kinds of news about the oil well but, due to the fact that it isn't verified, we won't repeat it. Wonder if it wouldn't be cheaper to appropriate \$1,000,000 to get some gang to get Hitler by any means, fair or foul. The Fairview Ladies Aid had an all-day meeting at the church. Thursday was spent making plans for their annual bazaar and working on a quilt.

(October 18, 1940) Today is "conscription day" in the good old U.S.A.² A new innovation here, but for hundreds of years back it has been the law in just about every civilized nation on the globe.

(October 25, 1940) The Dierks brothers have had plenty of pump trouble the past few days. The Fairview folks had an all-day session at the church Sunday. Sunday school in the morning, a basket dinner at noon, and services in the afternoon by Rev. Zimmerman of Leoti. The mystery oil well is now a closed chapter in the Fairview history. But we

²Two days earlier Congress passed the Burke-Wadsworth bill which provided for conscription into the armed services during peacetime. Men between ages 21 and 31 registered for America's first peacetime draft.

still have plenty of excitement to occupy our spare time. The war and wondering what Adolf is going to do next. The coming election. Hope the Kearny County voters won't forget Clifford Hope on election. He has helped us in more ways than one. Not by giving free shows and entertainments but by actual service to farmers all over this territory. Don't forget that actual deeds of service are far better than a lot of promises.

(November 1, 1940) Your Fairview correspondent and family were callers at the Carl Kramer home northeast of Modoc Sunday afternoon. Going east from Leoti we didn't see much wheat or feed crops. On our way home we called at the Ott Krenznel home. The war is going on full tilt. Strange that one man-- or is he a man, we wonder--should be allowed to live and cause so much bloodshed and destruction. It seems like the whole eastern hemisphere is at his mercy. Elmer Adams was a business caller at the Rosebrook home Tuesday morning. Miss Leighton and James Bowles spent Monday evening at the Rosebrook and Aug. Hahn, Sr., homes.

(November 22, 1940) Now since the election is over we can calm down and enjoy life for two more years. I suggest that Lewis the C.I.O. labor leader get a free passport to Germany. Don't think we need him here.

(January 24, 1941) Vadna Rosebrook spent several days last week at the Otto Krenznel home helping with the work while Otto was attending the AAA convention at Salina. Virgil Rosebrook is helping Earl Weisenberger move sheep camps, haul feed, etc. In my opinion the strikers under the leadership of CIO should receive the same treatment as spies or any other fifth column perpetrators.

(March 28, 1941) Virgil Rosebrook received word from Uncle Sam to be in Iola, Kansas, on April first. He left Monday expecting to stop at Lincoln and Salina to visit relatives. Virgil has spent the past five months at the Rosebrook home. The Fairview folks entertained at the church Saturday evening in honor of the Arthur Farnsworth family who are leaving soon for Ringwood, Oklahoma. The time was spent with games, contests, and group singing. At a late hour refreshments

consisting of sandwiches, cake, and coffee were served. The well wishes of the community go with the Farnsworth family to their new home. Mussolini is very much depressed because Roosevelt is "in his opinion" dragging the U. S. into war. Too bad. But he better save all his grief and sympathy for his own dear people. He didn't seem to care anything about them when he declared war on Greece. Hon. Herr Von Hitler was patting him on the back and that was all that was necessary. On our return from Lincoln, Kansas, a few days ago we stopped at LaCrosse and spent a short time with our pioneer neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. John Stanley. We found them enjoying good health. But Mrs. Stanley was caring for a badly crushed right hand, having run her hand through the wringer. Couldn't think of the release, but reversed the wringer to get her hand out, giving it another bad crushing. The doctor found no broken bones. The oldtimers here remember the Stanley family.

(April 25, 1941) Several of the north end farmers drove to Lakin the first of the week to sign up for their parity payments. If there is an extra berth in the big rooming house at Alcatraz or at Sing Sing it would be a good idea for our government to reserve them for the fellows that are causing the disastrous strikes that are now menacing so many of our defense industries, coal mines, etc. It is nothing more than Hitlerism and should be regarded the same as sabotage, spying, or treason. They certainly don't manifest any cooperation with our country and its ideals.

(August 8, 1941) Mr. Laniere of Haviland came Tuesday to look after his farming. Mrs. Whitaker, Margaret, and Betty called on Mrs. Hahn, Sr., Monday afternoon. Harvest is finished. Wheat didn't make a record yield as many thought it would. Too much rain after the wheat began to ripen decreased the number of bushels per acre and also lowered the test. One field in our community averaged 34 bushels, while some wheat was not worth cutting. But, after all, it was a mighty nice break for western Kansas farmers after a number of years of scant or almost no wheat crop.

(September 5, 1941) What this corner of Kearny County needs more than anything else is a few livable homes instead

of 2 x 4 cook shacks here and there. We wish some of the non-resident landowners and wheat raisers would build homes for their renters. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Downs and family of Wichita visited relatives in our neighborhood the past weekend. Several families from this part drove down to Syracuse after Sunday school and attended the Sunday school convention there Sunday.

(October 31, 1941) If President Roosevelt would treat the anti-Americans the way Hitler does, I am afraid it would be a pretty long row and CIO Lewis should be at the head of the column.

(December 12, 1941) There will be an all-day meeting Sunday at the church--Sunday school, basket dinner, followed by services by Rev. Bell of Lakin. When Japan jumped on the USA they really took a pretty big bite.³ No doubt they will need something stronger than Tums to help them out. Mrs. Laura Hahn and Vadna Rosebrook called on Mrs. Hahn, Sr., Monday afternoon. The Fairview Ladies' Aid had an all-day meeting at the Jess McCowan home Thursday. They had their Christmas gift exchange and also knotted a comfort for Mrs. Dierks.

(December 19, 1941) Miss Leighton and James Bowles spent Sunday evening at the Rosebrook home. The evening was spent listening to the latest from over the Pacific. The community Christmas tree and program will be at the church Tuesday evening, the 23rd of December. The Japs, urged on by Adolph Hitler, could never have done anything if they had tried a hundred years, that would have united our nation as did that sneaking, treacherous raid on Pearl Harbor. So far Hitler's sneaking way of doing things has cropped out in every thing the Japs have done.

(December 26, 1941) We have had another week of wonderful weather. This morning (Monday) it's warm, foggy, and an east wind which might mean some Christmas weather. A little snow wouldn't be bad. The Christmas spirit is everywhere, but at Fairview it is mingled with sadness since we received word that "our boy friend," Morgan McCowan, Sorg to all his

³A reference to the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

friends, was killed in the Philippines the 10th of December. The McCowan family have the sincere sympathy of the entire community. Christmas certainly is in the air at Leoti.

Beautiful street decorations and the Christmas decorations at some of the homes are worth driving miles to see. The new theater building is being enjoyed by large crowds every night.

(January 30, 1942) We would like for someone to tell us just how many motor driven vehicles there are in the U.S. in active service. Now we hear there is going to be a shortage, maybe, of cigarette papers in the U.S.

(February 13, 1942) Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hylton have a baby girl born January 30, at the Leopold hospital in Garden City. Her name is Cynthia Kaye and everyone concerned is very happy. Walter Breitreutz went to Wichita the first of this week for a medical exam. Walter has been called to army service. Irvin Kuhlman returned home pro tem. My informant said the quarantine ward was so full there wasn't even room for one more at present. About all the north end folks drove to Leoti Sunday and Monday to see "Sergeant York." It was plenty good.⁴ Miss Leighton has 150 three weeks old chickens and two new Smith's Mother Nature brooders.

(March 13, 1942) Mrs. Ott Krenznel and Joy Lee spent Sunday afternoon at the Rosebrook home. Dee Buck, who has been on the sick list in a Texas training camp, sends word to his folks that he is OK again. Wonder what the AAA administration will decide to do with the volunteer wheat. It doesn't make sense to order it plowed under during these anxious times. I don't think it will make any difference to the hungry Russians or British if it is from volunteer crops, just so it keeps coming; and we are urged to conserve gas, oil, rubber, etc., etc. Governor Ratner⁵ is working hard to make Sec.

⁴Sergeant York starred Gary Cooper as the World War I hero Alvin York who single handedly outwitted and captured a German machine gun battalion, killing at least twenty-five and bringing in 132 prisoners. Undoubtedly, the release of this picture in 1942 was as much for propoganda appeal as it was to recount York's achievements.

⁵Payne Ratner was Republican Governor of Kansas from 1939-1943. He served two terms and instituted a number of reforms that other state governors and legislatures had merely discussed.

Wickard⁶ see the expense and destruction. Dan Casement of Manhattan says if the fellows down at Washington don't do something about it there will be a few fellows that will be looking for new jobs after election.

(May 22, 1942) Most of the farmers are buying and setting up grain bins to store their 1942 wheat crop providing it gets here. So far the prospects are good around here. But in some parts the wheat is needing moisture. Before the rationing board issues gas ration cards to Kansas folks we would like to see the Kansas oil wells turned loose and allowed to pump full capacity. Wonder if that would make any difference. At present just a small percent of the producing wells in our oil fields are allowed to pump.

(October 23, 1942) Horace Downs left for Kansas City, Saturday, to take his exam. Mrs. Downs also left Saturday to take up her work with the WAACS. Orval Hahn left, Saturday for Ringwood, Oklahoma, where he will visit friends for a few days. Mr. & Mrs. Aug. Hahn, Jr., and Dallas were callers at the Rosebrook and Aug. Hahn, Sr., homes, Monday afternoon. Most of the men in our community will attend the Sramek sale north of Leoti today. Another big wheat farmer taken. He appealed to the state board without avail. They put him in class A-1. It's becoming serious. An underfed soldier would be just about as effective facing the Japs as one with an empty gun. We haven't heard of any pool halls or liquor joints closing, have you? Maybe they are more necessary than the farms. We hear over the radio that the young farmers must be left on the farms, but at the rate they are being taken, it must be a mistake, or just idle talk to make everything sound all right. I say, close the liquor joints and

Among Ratner's reforms was a merit system for government employment which was the basis for the present state civil service.

⁶In 1933 Claude R. Wickard resigned his seat in the Indiana State Senate to join the staff of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. By August, 1940 he had succeeded Henry Wallace as Secretary of Agriculture. He resigned this post in 1945 when President Harry S. Truman reorganized the cabinet. From 1945-1953 Wickard served as head of the Rural Electrification Administration.

pool halls for the duration. What do you say? Maybe some of those fellows could come out and help the farmers if they can't be drafted for service. Did I say too much? Maybe I did, but I'm not the only one thinking the same thing. (Editors idea: We would like to see the senators and congressmen sent to the front, since they seem to be unnecessary in Washington.)

(October 30, 1942) Farmers are kept pretty busy these days, not just with farm work, it's brain work. Every family should have a lawyer of their very own. Your correspondent and husband were guests at a surprise dinner at the Otto Krenzle home, Sunday. The dinner was in honor of our 41st wedding anniversary, which is the 27th, also my birthday, which is also on the 27th. Mrs. Robert Rosebrook brought a beautiful birthday cake from Dodge City. There was plenty of strawberry ice cream, pumpkin pie and ever so many good things to eat. The afternoon was spent in taking pictures and visiting. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosebrook and son came up from Dodge City to help with the celebration. We received many nice gifts from our family. Everyone enjoyed the day very much. Did you hear Wendell Wilkie's (sic) talk? Well if you did you will have something new to think about.⁷

(November 6, 1942) Miss Leighton and James Bowles spent Saturday evening at the Aug. Hahn, Sr., home. Again we are wondering; just can't comprehend. A few months ago those boys up on Capitol hill, D.C., tearfully pleaded with us to save our precious tires, etc., etc. Just a short time ago we

⁷A lawyer, utility executive, and political leader Wendell Wilkie was recognized as one of the most astute critics of President Roosevelt's economic policies. Initially, a Democrat, he was attractive to business leaders in the Republican Party and was nominated as the GOP's Presidential candidate in 1940. An acknowledged spokesman of business opposition to the New Deal Wilkie presented the strongest challenge to FDR of any previous Republican contender, but still fell short of victory because he was unable to present a clear alternative to voters as a result of his support of and agreement with New Deal social reforms and Roosevelt's foreign policies. He subsequently lost control of the GOP because he favored a postwar organization to achieve cooperation and understanding among the people and leaders of all nations.

received orders from that same bunch to dispose of, sell, give away any tires we possessed, more than one spare. Now it seems they should have been elated if there was an extra tire on the farm, if they were so anxious about our tires. Can you explain? Farmers always have been given credit for being like so many sheets of white writing paper, i.e., take anything that is put on them. Now--you can turn your paper over and put a few things on the other side.

(January 15, 1943) Our new governor has taken his place as the first officer of Kansas, from Ness County. Well, maybe some day the eastern half of the state will find out about the western half--that it really does exist.⁸

(February 19, 1943) The community had a shower for Charles Calvin Dierks Sunday. It was a mystery shower--open a package a day. Charles is on the convalescent list. Another prosperous, hard working young farmer was called from our neighborhood to work for Uncle Sam. I guess the firing line is more important than the bread line. This time it was Arthur Kuhlman. Can we believe our radios? Well, sometimes we wonder. They will say one thing and do just the opposite. Can anyone blame us if we do doubt what we hear from our radios.

(March 12, 1943) Just now the draft commission at Washington D.C. are becoming worried about farm labor. It's just about like locking the barn after the horse is stolen.

(April 23, 1943) Miss Leighton sold 108 head of calves to John McVey of Benkelman, Nebraska, Tuesday. The calves had wintered on Miss Leighton's Fairview farm. Mr. and Mrs. Heye Wilken and family and Fred Rogers spent Sunday evening at the Rosebrook home. A lot of things were frozen by the OPA, but they have thawed out beautifully and the price ceiling, well the ceiling didn't seem to hold.⁹ The prices

⁸Historically, resentment between eastern and western Kansas, which have little in common, is deeply embedded.

⁹The OPA or Office of Price Administration was an agency of the U.S. Government created shortly before America entered World War II to prevent undue price rises and provide a fair distribution of products in short supply. It established a rationing program, beginning with automobile tires and extending to gasoline, motor vehicles, oil, meat, sugar, coffee,

soared right on through. A friend found it necessary to spend a night in Dodge City recently. His bed cost \$4.50. Just one case of a very leaky ceiling.

(June 18, 1943) Farmers are plenty busy getting ready for harvest. Most are without harvest hands and none seems to be available. But the darkest hour always has been just before the dawn, and that still holds good, or does it in war times. Wonder if the coal miners have any sons in the service. Well, even if they do, seems as if they care more for the welfare of John L. Lewis, than they do for their boys. John L. Lewis is just another Hitler, America's Hitler so it seems. He made his threats when Roosevelt was elected and he is just about to make them come true.

(July 23, 1943) The county agent was a caller at our home Monday afternoon. He came out to look over the battalion that invaded our garden a couple days ago. Well, if the allies do as well in Sicily, there won't be anything left but fences, etc. Talk about promotions! Well there are a lot of them in the headlines, and some important promotions haven't found their way to the headlines. Take black strap-mollasses for instance: a few days ago it occupied a corner in the room where the WPA boys mixed grasshopper poison.¹⁰ Some way it's just what the grasshoppers wanted. Now it has been promoted to the front row on our grocery shelves. Is there no place for the sawdust? Look any day to hear over the radio that black strap has all the vitamins from A to Z.

shoes, and other items. With the end of World War II pressure mounted to end the control program. It was finally liquidated June 1, 1947. During the war many Americans questioned its viability as many of the "rationed items" somehow were available through the black market which charged astronomical prices.

¹⁰Based on reminiscences the editor has read Kansas pioneers who had worked all their lives at less-than adequate salaries for long hours, held only contempt, derision, and outright sarcasm for the WPA "boys." Perhaps the pioneers' vehemence derived in part from envy stemming from the fact that since they had been forced to work because there was no relief they saw no reason why others should be more fortunate or expect special privileges.

(December 31, 1943) Christmas for 1943 is just a memory now, and we hope it is a pleasant memory for all. In spite of the weather Thursday evening a large crowd was at the church to enjoy the program, Christmas tree and treats. Miss Leighton and James Bowles were visitors at our home Wednesday. They came from Quinter where they had visited Miss Leighton's mother, who has been quite ill with the flu. Miss Leighton is spending this winter at her ranch near Wray, Colorado. The boys that are everywhere facing death in every conceivable form surely can have nothing but contempt for their striking dads in the USA.



Hannah Rosebrook's School Diploma Certifying her Graduation from the Eighth Grade.

(January 14, 1944) The Fairview Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Edward Dierks, Thursday. It was 'an all-day meeting and the ladies spent the day making aprons and tea towels for the hostess. Albert Buck has had plenty of pump trouble lately. Since New Years he has pulled his pump five times. Plenty disagreeable work when it's so cold. Synthetic rubber may

be tops when it comes to rubber substitute, but the synthetic products that are used to fill the wiener casings these days--well, we have several good names for them but none of them are tops.

(February 4, 1944) Not many ventured out Sunday morning for Sunday School. The byroads are pretty bad. Hitler is now getting just what he meted out to England. Nothing was spared, churches, school buildings full of children, hospitals, met the same fate. But worst is this: the one that should get a ton or two right on his head is still safe. Hitler told his people that they need never fear, no enemy planes could cross Germany's borders. Wonder what he tells them now.

(February 11, 1944) Roy Buck is home on leave. Roy is a gunners mate 3/c in the merchant marine service and has spent plenty of time on the ocean with convoys, etc. Has had plenty of experience during his 18 months of service. His father, Albert Buck lives in our community. While in Garden City, Wednesday, we were agreeably surprised to see Clem Bollig. Clem left our place a little over three years ago and enlisted in the army. He is in the MP service and has made two trips to Africa. Clem says the Africans treated the soldiers swell. He is a splendid young man and we wish him a lot of luck, and a safe return home when the war is over. Clem spent most of his life in Kearny County.

(July 28, 1944) Glorious weather anytime but harvest time. Very little harvesting done around here the past week. The weeds are getting pretty bad in most fields and it will be quite a loss to the farmers. Some barley won't be worth harvesting. Black rust has already ruined some fields of wheat. Farmers and transient harvest help are getting a little discouraged about the harvest. Thanks a million, Ellen and Joy Lee, for the beautiful bouquet we found on our table when we came home from the wedding Sunday afternoon. F. M. Swain, of Harper, Okla., and his son-in-law, Phillip Phillips of Garden City, were visitors at the Rosebrook home Sunday. We were mighty glad when the silver-tongued, leather-lunged orators at the Democratic convention finished their

convincing argument. At least they had the war spirit right with them as it took 30 policemen to keep down violence at the convention. Talk about lasting peace. Sounds all right but is hollow and meaningless. There is just one way to get everlasting peace on earth and that is to take the right to declare war away from every ruler in the world--from the mightiest to the most insignificant. Just as long as there is just one ruler left that has the right to declare war, there will be war. I say let the rulers and their helpers settle their difficulties with their neighbor nations just the same as civilians, in a sane legitimate way, not by murdering, burning and stealing. The Mecklenburgs of Kingfisher, Okla., who have been doing custom combining in our community, left for Colorado this morning. They are very nice people and we appreciate their timely help very much.

(September 8, 1944) Farmers are busy sowing wheat and feeding grasshoppers. Feed cutting will come next. C. W. Rosebrook attended the Perry public sale south of Leoti, Monday. Stock didn't sell as high as at previous sales. The people that Hitler's Gestapo officers have been tyrannizing should be given the pleasure of pronouncing the sentences that should be given them, and it should not be mild. Maybe the people of the occupied countries could use the same methods on the Gestapo that they have been using on them. There will be an all-day gathering at the church Sunday. Rev. Bell of Lakin will have charge of the afternoon services.

(September 15, 1944) The C. W. Rosebrook family were dinner guests at the home of Gene Sowers, north of Leoti, Sunday. Now Washington D.C. are warning the people they are in for an enormous loss on surplus goods, materials of every description, that will not be needed by the war department. It is hard to understand, since we know the government purchasing agents bought the very best of everything. One Fairview farmer bought a few boards the other day--the very best. They were so full of knot-holes there was scarcely room to drive a nail. Price, \$100 per thousand feet, and all Commodities are just the same. Why the enormous loss is hard to understand.

(September 22, 1944) Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whichchurch and son and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosebrook and son were Sunday evening guests at the Rosebrook home. Charles is a brother of Mrs. Robert Rosebrook. He is an aviation machinist and has spent a year in the Pacific war zone. He was in the Solomons and Marshalls when they were taken--has seen a lot but tells very little. He has a date with the army headquarters at San Francisco the 26th, when he will get his new assignment.

(November 3, 1944) Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosebrook and son came up from Dodge City, Saturday noon. They joined the pheasant hunters up here, got a few pheasants, a load of jack rabbits and plenty of excitement. James Bowles took Miss Leighton to Utica, Saturday. From there she went by train to Salina, where she is spending the week with relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McCowan drove down to Syracuse, Sunday, and brought Arthur's mother home. Mrs. Jesse McCowan had spent the past week in the Syracuse hospital. She is staying with Arthur McCowans at present. Say, all this talk about lasting peace, no more wars, etc., etc.--Well, they could just as well save breath. Ever since we have any history of the world there has been wars and more wars. Strange that 3 or 4 dignitaries haven't held a conference and put a stop to wars long, long ago. It can't be done. Just as I have said before, we always will have wars as long as there is just one ruler left in the world that has the supreme right to declare war. Now we hear that Sen. Truman would not make a very desirable president,¹¹ in case--. All rules have been laid on the shelf and there is no reason why the First Lady¹²

¹¹Senator Truman is Harry S. Truman who was chosen by FDR as his running mate for the 1944 Presidential election at the behest of advisers, who sensed like Mrs. Rosebrook that Roosevelt might not live through the end of his fourth term in office. Roosevelt's advisers considered Henry Wallace, the previous Vice-President and former Secretary of Agriculture, totally unsuited for the Presidency and therefore encouraged FDR to choose someone else. For a good, detailed history of the Truman Administration see Alonzo L. Hamby, Beyond the New Deal: Harry S. Truman and American Liberalism (New York, 1973).

¹²The First Lady refers to Eleanor Roosevelt.

could not take over and betwixt the two of 'em the government would sail along on smooth waters. The people must stop war--the rulers will never do it.

(December 1, 1944) Roosevelt's Thanksgiving is past. The Pilgrim's Thanksgiving will be tomorrow, Nov. 30th.¹³

(January 26, 1945) Mr. and Mrs. Galen Hubbell and family spent Friday and Monday evenings at the Charles Watson home. Henry Wallace made himself famous or infamous, as you like, during his reign of pig and calf killing days, and plowing up cotton. With plenty of money, why didn't the gov't bosses buy and store that surplus cotton, it would come in mighty handy now.

(April 13, 1945) Here's a mistake I want to rectify: In my items, a few weeks ago, I said Ernest William Appl was in the merchant marines. He is in the navy. I am sorry. I know not what the truth may be; I tell it as 'twas told to me. Oh well, what of it! Even the Big Three makes mistakes. The difference between the Big Three and me is just this--They never say "I'm sorry." Jerry Hahn, Kay Hylton and Dillard Dunham's infant daughters were christened during the Easter services at Fairview. Rev. Owen Paul of Leoti conducted the services. Death and destruction are still reigning supreme in the war zones. We are anxiously waiting for the end and hope that it will be soon.

(May 11, 1945) Today is VE Day.¹⁴ Sadness and gladness as a rule doesn't go hand in hand. But those emotions have mingled today and along with it we have a sort of inner fear for the future. There will be more sadness before its all over, over there. Germany is in ruins. The German people could have been happy and prosperous today if they had not allowed themselves to be disillusioned by an insane dictator. We are mighty thankful that much of it is ended. Seems like

¹³Apparently a sarcastic reference to FDR's decision to legally designate the observation of Thanksgiving on a day other than the historical date of the Pilgrim's observation.

¹⁴A term signifying Victory in Europe by the Allied forces in World War II, May 8, 1945.

Spring is slow about coming. We still have nights that are too chilly for comfort. The Fairview Ladies Aid met with Mrs. Tom Baty Thursday. There was a large crowd and everyone enjoyed the day very much. Mr. and Mrs. Baty have sold their farm and also their growing wheat crop and will move to Sublette in the near future. We are sorry to lose them.

(June 8, 1945) Farmers around here are plenty busy taking care of their summer fallowed ground, fixing fences torn down by thistles and wind, getting ready to sow and plant fall feed crops, etc. Every man is trying to do the work of two men. Is the San Francisco conference going along as it should toward the elimination of wars in the world?¹⁵ Or is there more emphasis on supreme power, politics and a few more similar items of similar importance. C. W. Rosebrook went to Garden City on Tuesday and brought home an elevator, recently purchased.

(September 9, 1945) The C. W. Rosebrook family, Miss Leighton and James Bowles attended the 4-H fair and round-up at Scott City Thursday. There was an immense crowd and the parade was splendid. Everyone had a good time. Scott City's high school band is worth going miles to see and hear. The Scott county people didn't leave anything undone that would in any way contribute to the success of their picnic. Now since the war is ended, why not turn the clocks back an hour, where they belong. Some radio announcers say peacetime, but it still is war time in Kansas. Most of the folks in our community drove to Leoti last weekend to see the show, "Thunderhead." It was good and if it comes your way, don't miss seeing it.

(September 21, 1945) There will be an all day meeting at the church Sunday, September 22nd. Sunday school followed

¹⁵The various world powers had made pledges at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and at the Yalta Conference to replace the discredited League of Nations with a new, more effective instrument of collective security. When they gathered at San Francisco during April, 1945 negotiations proved unpredictable and difficult. Friction over Poland and disputes over procedure led Truman abruptly to inform Stalin that the United States would go ahead with the United Nations project with or without the Soviet Union. Stalin relented.

by a basket dinner and preaching services in the afternoon by Rev. Owen Paul of Leoti. Clyde Garrison is home on furlough after three years spent in the various European theaters of war. He had employment at the A. E. Anderson home before his induction and he spent the week-end there, renewing old friendships. Who should rule Japan and Germany? Well, according to my way of thinking it should be left to the boys that came out alive after months and years spent in enduring tortures, hunger and all sorts of suffering in infamous prisons as prisoners of war. They would really understand how to give them "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."¹⁶ And maybe a little extra. It's hard for us to understand the unemployment situation. Surely most of the boys had jobs when they were taken into the service. Now something like 1,000,000 are gone forever, will never want any work, and many, many thousands languishing in hospitals all over the world, and the thousands that will be kept in foreign lands as occupation armies. What is the trouble? Does anyone know? Is the unemployment situation just on the radio?

(September 28, 1945) The war is ended. Now it is labor strikes that takes the headlines. Wonder if the farmers should join. No, that wouldn't do, as the strikers need food, idle or at work.

(October 19, 1945) Gov. Schoeppel is all right but somehow I think that no one has any right to change the Thanksgiving Day that has been the same for centuries.¹⁷ That day was set aside for Thanksgiving by the Pilgrims. The last Thursday in November has been all right and why not leave it that way? Some of these times we won't know just when to expect any of

¹⁶An Old-Testament dictate in which a harsh and exacting God permits the Jewish people to take revenge to the same extent as the injustice they received. The God of the Old-Testament was far less tolerant and understanding than the God of the New-Testament.

¹⁷Andrew Frank Schoeppel, Republican Governor of Kansas, 1943-1947, and U. S. Senator, 1949-1962. As Governor he proposed a sweeping plan of development for the state, including a long-range highway construction program, improvements in state agencies dealing with welfare, and the establishment of a state veterans administration to deal with post war problems.

those old sacred days to come. How about Christmas and Fourth of July? Just as well change those dates a little.

(November 30, 1945) Just a little snow last week to remind us that it is fall, almost December, and today was like a real spring day. Farmers are still busy with their farm improvements: painting, stuccoing, and repairing. It all helps, for after all the buildings almost tell what the country is doing--uphill or downhill as the case may be. Still fighting in the Orient and strikes and all sorts of disturbances in the USA. Not satisfied yet to quiet down and live like civilized people. Already we hear rumors of a third world war. Most of the ex-service men think the compulsory training for our young men is just a waste of time and money. Ten years from now war methods will be so different that training now will be of no use whatever.

CHAPTER FOUR
POSTWAR ADJUSTMENT, 1946-1952

(January 11, 1946) The Buck Bennington family drove to Garden City for the show Sunday evening. Just about all the folks from our community attended the Keener funeral at Lakin Friday afternoon. Compulsory military training for our boys. Thousands upon thousands of Europe's finest young men came to the United States to get away from compulsory military training. Shall we follow the example set by those countries whose rulers ruled with an iron hand and whose ideas of life were always war and more war? Most of the ex-service men I have talked to about compulsory military training are bitterly opposed to it for plenty of good, sensible reasons.

(January 18, 1946) C. W. Rosebrook and Aug. Hahn, Sr., spent Monday in Lakin. They attended the agricultural meeting at the courthouse. They also attended to some income tax business at Beymer's. Strikes and income tax seems to have the headlines these days. One is about as complicated to understand as the other. Joe Coyne of Garden City was a Sunday guest at the Buck Bennington home. Joe has recently received his discharge from the armed forces. He is an uncle of Buck Bennington.

(February 8, 1946) The C. W. Rosebrook and Buck Bennington families drove to Leoti Saturday evening to see the show, "Captain Eddie." If it comes your way don't miss it. Mrs. Mace had a nice day for her sale. There was a large crowd and plenty of money. A two year old canary bird sold for \$13.50 An old disk that had seen years of hard service sold for \$540. A new one just like it recently purchased by a Fairview farmer cost \$520. So you see people are funny. I don't think we want the United Nations capital in the U. S. for a number of very good reasons. Every time a bunch of prime ministers, dukes, or lords were chosen to come to the capital the U. S. would have to pay for their transportation. So it would be much cheaper for the U. S. to see to it that the new capitol be built in England.

(March 22, 1946) We had three-fourths inch of rain last week and some bad wind following but due to the rain it did not damage the wheat around here. Wheat is growing and will soon cover the ground. Rev. Owen Paul of Leoti held services at the church Sunday afternoon. A fair sized crowd was in attendance in spite of muddy roads, sickness, and other obstacles. We were mighty sorry to hear that Mrs. Edward Dierks is on the sick list. Mrs. Dierks suffered a heart attack a week ago Sunday. Hope she is getting along O.K. C. W. Rosebrook has been hauling sand from the Lakin sand pit this week. Should the U.S. feed, clothe, and loan money to countries that are still on the warpath. Poor, war-torn, and almost ruined, but still have money, clothing, ammunition, and food to keep hundreds of thousands of men prowling around hunting trouble. I say the U.S. should tell Russia in big, plain words to get their soldiers home and keep them there or they will get no help from us. And as for Germany--at the close of the war we were told that Germany had wonderful stores of food, enough to last for years. (No doubt, most of it stolen from other countries.) And now we hear they need food. Hard to decide just what to believe.¹

(April 12, 1946) Mr. and Mrs. Carlson of Burdick, Kansas, arrived Thursday for a visit with their daughter, Mrs. Dillard Dunham, and family. One by one old landmarks are being removed from their accustomed places. Don't know as it helps the looks of western Kansas very much. Non-resident land-owners have no use for buildings, and improvements call for extra taxes. Sometimes it seems that just unimproved land should be taxed more and improvements go tax-free. That might help some. As it is now the homemakers, the people that really try to make these plains worth looking at, get the heaviest tax burdens. Taxes are not bad but it seems they could be more equally distributed.

(May 31, 1946) Your correspondent and family drove over to Marienthal and the east and southeast part of Wichita county Sunday afternoon. Saw some pretty good looking wheat

¹The sentiment against foreign aid was a typical Republican outlook after WW II. Senator Robert Taft of Ohio was one of its most prominent proponents.

and this rain will do wonders for it. Now the bread and flour shortage. It's pretty hard to understand after the bumper wheat crops that have gone to market the last few years. I guess our brain is too dull or we would know the reason. Whitney, one of the labor leaders, says Truman preached his own obituary.² Well, at least he will know what it sounds like. Most of us never know.

(August 30, 1946) Former members of the Bright club and some Lydia young folks enjoyed a party and ice cream supper at the Dick Hylton home Saturday evening. Mr. Downs and the Aug. Hahn, Jr., family returned Saturday evening from a week spent with relatives in central Kansas. Miss Leighton and James Bowles spent Sunday evening at the C. W. Rosebrook home. The C. W. Rosebrook family spent Sunday afternoon at the Otto Krenzle home. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dierks and Claer spent Sunday afternoon at their Beaver Creek ranch. Wish someone would tell us where England acquired the right to keep the Jews away from their own homes in their own country.³ Now we are having rumors that Marshall Tito is taking all his orders from Joseph.⁴ We are just wondering if that is true. Poor Yugoslavia, was almost wiped off the face of the earth, isn't ready to behave yet--still fishing for more trouble.

²This is A. F. Whitney, railway union leader, who was known to be one of the most liberal of his peers. A major supporter of Truman's campaign for re-election as U.S. Senator in 1940, Whitney was alienated by President Truman's condemnation on radio of the 1946 railroad strike. The next day Truman went before Congress and requested power to draft the strikers into the army. The consensus among labor leaders and liberals in Congress was that Truman had by these actions "killed any chance of his being elected President in 1948."

³In late April, 1946 the Anglo-American Committee issued a report advocating the immediate admission of 100,000 displaced European Jews to Palestine. The British Government declined to follow this recommendation. Many thought that the British were concerned only with protecting their Middle Eastern oil interests.

⁴Marshal Joseph Broz Tito of Yugoslavia and Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union. Initially a Soviet satellite, Yugoslavia under Tito's leadership achieved at least semi-autonomous status.

Are we doing right by helping any of them? England right along with the rest of them. Politics, greed and supremacy seems to be the main objective, not world peace.

(September 6, 1946) The following item taken from a Kansas daily paper should help us to understand why we can't have the sugar we need for canning, preserving, etc.: "Port records show Friday, that 13,500,000 lbs. of sugar have been exported from here to foreign countries within the past week. Loading of a 4,000,000 lb. shipment to Finland is scheduled to begin Saturday." This item was taken from an August 30th daily. Does charity begin at home?

(September 20, 1946) The Goerings, who are farming in our community, left for their home at Galva, Kansas, Sunday, having finished their work for the present. Say folks, won't it be an inspiration for us to drive down Main street of our Kansas towns about twilight (if and when Woodring is elected) to see all those new neon signs blaze up and spell SALOON.⁵ They

⁵Harry Hines Woodring, Democratic Governor of Kansas, 1931-1933, was recognized as the Democratic leader of the state into the 1940's. In 1946 he blasted prohibition and won the gubernatorial nomination on the wet ticket. While Woodring garnered more headlines than the Republican nominee, Frank Carlson, his outspoken support of liquor angered a number of residents, particularly church groups which favored prohibition, and as a result he was defeated by Carlson. After the end of WW II the sale of liquor was the biggest single political issue in Kansas. Prohibition, taxation, alcoholism, and law enforcement were at the front of the political stage from 1946-1950. While prohibition, which was described by Time magazine in its September 9, 1946 issue as a Republican "sacred cow," had ruled Kansas for over sixty years, a number of Kansans, particularly those who were coming out of the service, sought the repeal of prohibition. The first repeal attempt failed, but continued pressure to legalize liquor prompted the state legislature to resubmit the prohibition proposition which was ready for the 1948 election. When this election was over, repeal had won by more than 60,000 votes. The margin resulted from the fact that traditionally dry counties had lost population, while wet counties had gained. Even Barber County, which was once the home of Carry Nation, went wet. Yet the repeal was not a complete departure from historical tradition. The liquor control bill enacted under Governor Carlson was very strict--one newspaper columnist noted that "those who can't quite qualify to operate a liquor store under Kansas' high-minded and stringent law may be able to make the ministry"--and did not address the issue of permitting liquor by the drink in restaurants. Later when a separate drive was undertaken to permit liquor by the drink Hannah Rosebrook fought this as ardently as she had fought the repeal of prohibition.

should be vermillion red from twilight till about 3:00 A.M. when automatically they should turn to a dark, dirty brown, and don't forget, dads and mothers, YOU are the ones that will make it possible for Woodring to get those saloons, it won't be the teenagers. Think about it? Fight it and fight it with all your might. We don't want a governor that wants free whiskey. We will need all the brain power we have to fight the ugly things that are slowly, but surely, encroaching upon our rights. I don't mean fight with blood and bullets like our rulers advocate, just brains and common sense. Here are a few of our enemies--Communism, Pendergastism,⁶ OPA'ism, power and supremacy and greed.

(September 27, 1946) Woodring will be in Garden City October 1st. I guess we should find out just what and where free whiskey will help or improve Kansas. One political party in Colorado is promising the people more taxes for roads. Isn't that strange with all their liquor licenses. The saloon keepers must not be cashing in very fast. This year the Kansas election won't be between Republicans and Democrats, it will be between law and decency on one side and free whiskey and all the things that go with it on the other side. Which side will you help? Don't be fooled folks, Woodring was our governor once upon a time. Have you forgotten?

(October 4, 1946) Since the Hon. Harry H. Woodring has brought machines, etc., into his mud-slinging speech making, we are wondering why he omitted telling us the name of the machine he is affiliated with. It must be a very prominent machine. Maybe he will be HONEST enough to tell us while he is out in our part of Kansas. At the Fairview church Sunday, October 6th, Sunday School in the morning, basket dinner at noon, followed by preaching services by Rev. Owen Paul of Leoti.

⁶A reference to the Kansas City political machine with which Harry Truman was associated. This association was difficult for Truman to overcome, particularly with Progressives and liberals, in the Democratic party. The knowledgeable citizen of the 1940's remembered Truman "as a puppet of Tom Pendergast," as an "obscure little man who," according to the Nation "had gone to the Boss to ask for the county collectorship and had received the Senate seat as a consolation prize."

(October 11, 1946) C. W. Rosebrook and James Bowles spent Monday afternoon at the Aug. Hahn, Sr., home. If Kansas goes Democratic this election it will mean another extra big star in the Pendergast flag. Strange that the Hon. Harry Woodring put some of the big things he is promising now, overboard when he was governor of Kansas a few years ago. (For reference, just look into Woodring's record.)

(October 18, 1946) The Goerings that are landowners and wheat farmers in our community, left for their homes in McPherson county last week. Well, folks, here we are--and just a short time till election. Woodring is still going strong, pouring out his sugar-coated promises by scores. I doubt if he remembers half of them right now. But he won't forget his big main promise--free whiskey for Kansas. There will be too much push and power behind that promise. And still he has not told his friends the name of the two machines he is working for. We know for sure one of them is whiskey and if Mr. Woodring won't tell the name of the other machine, well folks, just make your own conclusion. (One Kansas editor puts it this way: "Harry Woodring is obviously basing his present spectacular campaign for the governorship on the assumption that Kansas people are generally dumb and will fall for anything without taking the trouble to use what the good Lord gave them above their necks.) Since he has told us our roads are unfit for traveling, why in the world didn't he, Harry Woodring, stay in Washington, D.C., where the roads are glorious and there is plenty of whiskey. We can manage all right just as it is.

(October 25, 1946) Fay Whitney came up from Haviland, Kansas one day last week to take a look at the Whitneys' wheat prospects. Durward Whitney of Haviland and Chester Whitney of Cherokee, Oklahoma, came Saturday to finish up some work on their farmlands. They are re-drilling wheat at present. News items are scarce this week. Income tax seems to be the foremost item, everywhere. Woodring is boasting about 40,000 majority, the latest curve coming from our Democratic headquarters should give him at least a truckload of extra votes that he hasn't counted on. The editor of one

of our neighbor county papers, in commenting on my items, said the expression, "free whiskey," might cause a landslide. That expression, "Woodring and his free whiskey for Kansas people," is in evidence everywhere and Kansas people understand just what it means. It does not mean that you can go to the street corner fountain and drink till you are gloriously full, oh no, it won't be quite that easy. The free part is this--it will be available anywhere, anytime and any quantity, but the price will be as always plenty high. Folks, whiskey doesn't improve brain power and that's what we need right now, more brains, not more whiskey.

(November 1, 1946) The C. W. Rosebrook family were dinner guests at the Otto Krenzler home Sunday. The dinner was in honor of my birthday and our wedding anniversary which happens to be the same day. A beautiful birthday cake with plenty of candies, strawberry ice cream and plenty of other good things made up a splendid dinner. Now Woodring has resorted to firing. No one that is working for the state will be safe. He is going to start with the state attorney and on down to the highway workers in Kansas. He is going to fire one-third of them, as they are "just sitting in each others laps," quoting Woodring, and he is going to take the money thus saved and furnish free text books for Kansas. Just a little thankful we are not holding down a state job by sitting in someone's lap, because we might be in the firing line. It will be an awful shock to step right out of such an easy living to real work.

(December 13, 1946) Some of the Democrats are not taking the defeat of their candidates very good naturedly and are trying to get revenge on the successful candidates by starting damaging stories about them; stories with a quicksand foundation. Better save what is left for the next election. We are mighty glad the coal miners went back to work. If they had stayed away from their work a week or two longer we really would have had a dark gloomy Christmas from every angle. We are thankful for their decision, and those that have the authority had better see to it that the contracts are made and all ready by March, 1947.

(January 10, 1947) The following figures are quoted from a Washington D.C. daily edited by a fellow from the inside who should know the truth. 400,000,000 feet of lumber were exported in 1945 and more than 1,000,000,000 board feet were exported in 1946. 300,000 doors per month, 15,000,000 bricks and 3,000,000 feet of plaster board. The report also shows that 27,000 bathtubs and bathroom sets are exported each month. Is it any wonder that needy folks in the U.S. almost sweat blood trying to get decent board? Is it any wonder that American homes are being built of prefabricated packing boxes? It's just another one of those things that make us wonder if there is anything to that old saying, "Charity begins at home."

(January 17, 1947) The living members of the John and Henry Krenzels families held a reunion at Leoti the past weekend. Both families were Wichita county pioneers and 47 members were present. They had dinner at the City Hall Saturday, and in the evening, in-laws and a few old friends, including your Fairview correspondent and family, were invited to spend the evening visiting and old time dancing. A hundred folks enjoyed the occasion very much. Sunday afternoon the Krenzels went out to the Leoti airport and most of them enjoyed airplane rides. Our servants in Washington are really very liberal. They allow us \$500 exemption for living expenses for a year--1095 meals. What about clothing, etc? Oh well, guess we could dress like Sally Rand--no we couldn't, for we wouldn't even have money enough after paying for our meals to buy a bubble.⁷

(September 26, 1947) Mr. and Mrs. Roy Buck and Karen and Mr. and Mrs. Dee Buck and son from near Kendall attended Sunday School at Fairview. They were dinner guests at the Albert Buck home and in the afternoon joined the crowd at the Hylton home. It's mighty hard to understand how so many of those

⁷Sally Rand was a tart-talking blond fan dancer, whose trademark routine--a nude vamp performing behind peekaboo ostrich plumes to the strains of Debussy--vowed the public for forty-five years from the 1930's through the 1970's. Her favorite remark was, "The Rand is quicker than the eye."

European countries can think about starting another war when they are begging for food, money and clothing from the United States. If someone could take a few of those high powered dictators and bump their heads together and make them promise to behave. Greed, supremacy and power at any cost seems to be their goal.

(October 24, 1947) Mrs. C. C. Charter of South Haven is a guest at the Orville Spradling home. Mrs. Charter is Mrs. Spradlings mother. The C. W. Rosebrook family spent Saturday in Scott City. We found Scott City like all western Kansas towns, very much alive. New buildings being constructed everywhere. Surely the housing shortage will ease up before long.

(October 31, 1947) Next Sunday, November 2, there will be an all day gathering at the church. Sunday School in the morning, basket dinner and services by Rev. Paul following the dinner. In spite of all the new homes being built all over the country, the housing shortage is still acute and rent controls would not be bad. Apartment owners in the cities are renting their apartments on the "get rich quick" plan.

(January 16, 1948) Don't hardly think it will be necessary for the food economists at Washington to ration meat. The prohibitive price is doing a fairly good job of rationing.

(January 30, 1948) Mr. Truman has ordered a \$15,000 balcony built on the second story of the White House so he can sit out there summer evenings and enjoy the cool breeze from the Potomac. Well, he should have another balcony built--this one on the left wing of his Independence home. Then he could sail around over these plains and see the farmers working from 5 a.m. til 9 p.m. (and sometimes all night) in heat and dirt. I wonder if it wouldn't make him smile.

(February 27, 1948) News from Washington D.C.--Truman is in the balmy south resting up. Hope his green swim trunks are still ok,... also another scandal this time it's Myers. Will he get 25 years at hard labor or will the case just be aired enough so the taxpayers get the fumes, then be

squelched as usual. Well, your guess is just as good as mine. And another billion or two appropriation--that's about all of any importance.

(July 23, 1948) No field work has been done for several days. Wednesday afternoon of last week we had some hail and plenty of wind. There was no rain during the time the hail fell but a trace of rain fell during the storm. Hailstones were large. Most of the wheat in our community was cut so not much damage was recorded. Farmers are plowing again after a weeks delay due to rain. According to the Democrats the 80th Congress completely ruined the U.S.; according to their speeches all we have to do to make everything o.k. is to refill the White House with Democrats. Well, maybe they should have a few more years, just to show us what they can do. Sixteen years is hardly long enough to give them a fair chance.

(September 17, 1948) Vadna Rosebrook stayed with Mrs. Hahn, Sr., Sunday morning so Mr. Hahn could go to Sunday School. Dr. Horn of Leoti is taking care of Mrs. Hahn at present and she is a little better. The doctor found her suffering from a very bad case of anemia. Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Whitaker were callers at the Rosebrook home Tuesday evening. They had spent the day at their ranch. Politics, grasshoppers and Joe⁸ seem to be the main topics of conversation. Well, at least it isn't monotonous. Eggs and tomatoes one day and spoiled peaches the next, and affairs at Berlin the next.⁹ Oh well, "variety is the spice of life."

(October 1, 1948) The Fairview Sunday school crowd had a picnic supper, ice cream etc., at the Dick Hylton grove Sunday evening. Truman said "I'll give'em h-----." Don't know just who he means by "'em". He must have an unusual

⁸Joe is probably a reference to Stalin.

⁹Berlin refers to the Soviet decision to employ a blockade on Berlin in a desperate attempt to prevent the establishment of a West German republic. As a result of the blockade the U.S. and the Soviet Union appeared on the verge of war, but Truman circumvented outright hostility with the successful airlifting of supplies over the blockade.

amount of it to make it reach all around. But he might do just that. The distillery kings seem to have plenty of it both verbal and liquid, so maybe it won't be so impossible after all.

(October 22, 1948) Mr. and Mrs. Alvy Johnson of Leoti and their daughters, Mrs. Moon and Mrs. Booth of Los Angeles, were Sunday visitors at the Rosebrook home. The Johnson family lived a mile east of Fairview several years ago. C. W. Rosebrook, Jr., of Dodge City spent a short time at home Sunday. Do you still think Repeal will help Kansas? Did your favorite cow break out of the corral last night and get into your grain pile, stand there and eat 'til she killed herself? And did you tear the fence down and let the whole herd out? No, you didn't. You took some staples and a hammer and fixed that fence good and tight. Why not repeal the law against murder or any other law? They are all violated more or less in spite of drastic punishments. Don't bank too much on that control talk. The wholesaler, retailer and the fellow that drinks will be the Control Council. Keep it out. We have too much now. Beer joints are sufficient.

(February 18, 1949) The C. W. Rosebrook family spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crozier. Mr. Crozier and C. W. Rosebrook have been friends for 41 years. They met at Modoc enroute to western Kansas to make their fortune. The interlude from 1907 to 1949 could make an interesting narrative but the two families survived it all and are still here and still think western Kansas is O.K. Liquor has another mess added to its mass of messes. This time it's a political mess poured on by the Kansas legislature. Don't worry, those that are sponsoring the liquor business for Kansas will get out of this political mess and come out with flying banners. As far as liquor control laws it will simply be a waste of paper and time. There never has been any liquor control that has amounted to anything and the Kansas control law will be no exception.

(February 25, 1949) The roads are just about back to normal but people's yards are surely a headache. Snow drifted and lodged around buildings and trees. The warm sunshine

has melted the most of it and now a lot of folks are parking their cars out in the road. I didn't vote for repeal and I am proud of it and I sincerely hope all the folks that did vote for it will really get all they want. One of the big "howls" before election was that Iowa had more bootleggers than any state in the union. "A dripping wet state" and now we hear that the Kansas liquor law was copied from Iowa's law. Well, it doesn't matter if the pattern came from Russia or Iowa; it will be a dark dismal failure and a disgrace for Kansas.

(March 4, 1949) It's March once more and this March 1st could hardly be called a lamb--and it's a long way from a lion, so I guess we can call it a happy medium. A wet snow began falling about mid-afternoon Monday and at 9:30 this morning snow is still falling, however, there doesn't seem to be a great amount, 2 or 3 inches. The south wind came up during the night and caused the snow to drift some. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phillips and sons were Garden City shoppers Saturday. They took time out from shopping to spend a while at the Rosebrook home. A drizzling rain fell all day Saturday but nevertheless there were a number of families from north Kearny county in Garden City, among them were Mr. and Mrs. Ede Winkin and sons. Well, some of these days it will all be settled and the lid will be lifted. You folks that live along our Kansas borders better keep away from the highways for a few days until the rush is over. It sounds very much as if we might have a repetition of the Cherokee Strip opening, only this time the rush won't be for a homestead, they will be looking for a place to unload their barrels before the state gets flooded.

(March 11, 1949) Grady,¹⁰ capitol filibustering and Kansas liquor have taken most of the headlines in the dailies for

¹⁰Grady is probably Henry F. Grady, President of American President Ship Lines, Assistant Secretary of State, 1939-1941, Ambassador to India, 1947-1948, Ambassador to Greece, 1948-1950, United Nations supporter, prominent businessman, and involved in the five percent controversy which concerned fraudulent contract awards and graft between the American military and American businessmen. For more information on Grady and the five percenters see the New York Times Index, 1949.

some time. Grady's space must be vacated now to give room for King George VI and his operation that required nine doctors and five nurses. From all reports the monarch is getting along quite well, The filibuster space must be vacated to John L. Lewis and his latest caper, i.e. ordering the coal mines on strike because Truman appointed James Boyd as Bureau of Mines director. Well, it all helps the world go round and avoids monotony.

(May 6, 1949) Wife: "Tell me dear, what do you men talk about when you have your social club meetings?" Husband: "Oh, the same things you women talk about at your club meetings. Wife: "Oh, oh," gasping for breath, "you--you beasts!"

(May 27, 1949) Here is something that might bring a little comfort: "Who is that man?" A small boy asked his father, pointing to a gentleman standing on the dais of the House of Representatives. "That is the chaplain of the House." "Does he pray for these men?" The boy inquired. "No, son, he just listens to those men awhile, then he prays for the country."

(July 8, 1949) Dry and windy, and plenty warm, but it could be worse. Fairview had 1 1/8 inches of rain late Wednesday afternoon. The rain fell in a short time and was preceded by a dense cloud of dust. Plenty of wind and an unusual amount of electricity accompanied the rain. It was local, not extending more than a short distance in any direction. Harvest around here is in its last stages and it's pretty much of a disappointment--from 5 to 12 bushels per acre, most of it in between those two numbers. We have heard of a field now and then doing just a little better. Plenty of fields won't pay expenses. Empty heads and shriveled grains. The heat came at the wrong time, cooked the grains in the dough stage. No one seems to understand the empty hulls. Maybe some scientist will let us know, 'ere long. Now we see by the headlines that "Truman Giveth" and Truman Taketh Away. We will watch the two of 'em and if the "Taketh Away" column doesn't out-balance the "Giveth Away" column 10 to 1, I will lose faith in my arithmetic.

(September 9, 1949) LABOR DAY, 1949. A glorious morning, clouds and no wind, just right--not for fishing, but for wheat drilling. Fairview had a pretty bad storm just before daylight Wednesday morning, a deluge of rain, hail and some wind. The hail did some damage to maize, gardens, etc., however, it could have been worse as the foliage was not stripped from the trees and there were no broken windows. I don't know the extent of the damage elsewhere in the storm's path. Farmers are planning on returning to their field work this morning. The fellows in Washington are very busy these days, five percenters, perfume, freezers, probing, investigating and hush hush, if you tell on me, I'll tell on you, etc., vacations. Well they really have a busy time appropriating big sums here and there.

(September 23, 1949) Teen-agers and liquor seems to be quite a problem in some localities. Remember, folks, the teen-agers didn't have anything to say about those liquor stores that adorn the main streets of our towns, with their rows and rows of beautiful shining bottles filled with slow deadly poison. The dads and mothers and the twenty-one agers did that. Beer joints are just as bad. Teen-agers should just walk by them and not even notice they are there. Folks, giving a bad thing more rope never has been known to improve conditions. No trains at Leoti is causing plenty of inconvenience to the folks and we are hoping the railroad troubles will soon be settled.

(November 11, 1949) Wonder who is going to pay the national trillion-trillion dollar debt. No doubt the next congress will just appropriate a few of those trillions somehow, someway, and just pay it off. Seems like appropriating a billion or two is very easy for those fellows in Washington, D.C. The source is never given a thought.

(December 9, 1949) News is surely exciting these days, with Santa Claus, Christmas and all the latest news from Washington. Dailies will almost need an extra edition. Wonder what would happen if Stalin found that some of his very closest advisers had sent secret Russian information to the U.S. There

wouldn't be any long tedious probing, oh, no! Those fellows would just disappear without any ceremony.¹¹

(January 27, 1950) The C. W. Rosebrook family and Ony Rosebrook spent Tuesday at the Frank Phillips and Otto Krenzel homes. We found both families well and busy. The farmers are getting their farm machinery tuned up for spring work. Wheat looks o.k. in this corner of Kansas. We appreciate being able to pick up our home papers and not find every page emblazoned with gorgeous whiskey advertisements. How long will it be that way. The liquor interests are working mighty hard to have Kansas on their advertising list. Life magazine surely is overdoing it--thirteen full page whiskey ads in one issue--wonderful reading for the folks that like it. You folks that drink that wonderful elixir of life, or shall I say death, are paying for those wonderful advertisements.

(February 10, 1950) Sunday evening callers at the C. W. Rosebrook home were Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Woodrow. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rogers spent Monday evening with us. Mrs. Rogers' father is quite ill at this writing. Mr. and Mrs. Otto Krenzel spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phillips. Sunday afternoon visitors at the Phillips home were Mr. and Mrs. Seth

¹¹By 1949 the conflict between America and the Soviet Union had provoked steadily mounting public concern with domestic communism. The Truman administration had implemented a loyalty program to allay public fears, but the effect was just the opposite as the program implied that the administration was conceding at least a possibility that Red subversion existed within the government. By 1948 even "moderate" Republican leaders were engaging in Red smears. Thomas Dewey, for example, casually lumped the Communist Party with the C.I.O. in April, 1948 much as Mrs. Rosebrook had linked the C.I.O. with 5th column perpetrators almost a decade earlier. During 1948 and 1949 a Senate subcommittee investigated charges of espionage on the part of key U.S. government policy makers and advisers. This subcommittee gave Elizabeth Bentley, who had confessed to espionage, a public forum to repeat her charges of spying against William Remington, who filled an important foreign trade post in the Commerce Department; Henry D. White in the Treasury Department; and Alger Hiss in the State Department. (Hiss had traveled with FDR to the Yalta Conference.) Like many others, Mrs. Rosebrook believed that these officials had divulged vital secrets, and in the column above she hints that they deserved a Kangaroo Court rather than a painstaking investigation.

Reifschneider and son, Billy Mack, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Krenzel, all of Leoti. Newspaper headlines are changing so fast these days it's almost impossible to keep up with them. Communism, Hiss and all the rest of the gang that helped with the shipments of vital war material to Russia, are in the back column now.¹² Rita Hayworth and her multimillionaire husband are on the back page.¹³ Ingrid has the front row columns now. Her last picture, "Stromboli" has been banned from the screen in many states. Her Mexican divorce, etc., etc., all make interesting reading.¹⁴ Well, anything to keep the news exciting. Lawyer: "I must know the truth before I can defend you. Have you told me everything?" "All except where I hid the money and I want that."

(March 3, 1950) Tractors are beginning to hum, Meadow Larks are singing, geese are flying north, sparrows are building nests and then comes the old tradition that a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. Oh no, not in western Kansas. The young man just wonders which field he had better plow first. One writer says England is a body of land completely surrounded by hot water. If that is true, Russia must be surrounded by boiling water. Here is a GI

¹²Initially accused by Whittaker Chambers of Communist Party membership during the 1930's and later with espionage Alger Hiss was indicted by the New York Grand Jury for perjury in 1948. His case was, and to some extent still is, a cause celebre. While the evidence against Hiss was stronger than many liberals wished to admit, at the same time it was essentially circumstantial in nature and apparently legally insufficient to justify conviction. To some extent Hiss was a scapegoat of postwar fear and reaction stemming from Russia's sudden emergence as a world power and stunning ability to learn the secrets of the atom. See Hamby, Beyond the New Deal for a good, concise discussion of the Hiss case.

¹³Rita Hayworth was a famous movie actress of the 1940's who embodied exotic and erotic fantasies held by a number of men. She added to her fame in 1949 when she married the millionaire Moslem, Prince Aly Khan.

¹⁴Ingrid is Ingrid Bergman, another famous movie actress of this period. Stromboli was directed by Robert Rosellini, whom she married one year after the picture's completion and the divorce of her first husband. Her marriage to Rosellini created such a furor in America that for a time she was not allowed to appear in American films.

story: On my return from overseas, my girl's understanding parents left us alone in the living room. We didn't talk all the time and in the midst of a quiet moment I noticed her little sister in her nightgown standing watching us. If you will be a good girl and go to bed I'll give you a quarter." Without taking the quarter or saying a word she ran off but came back in a minute and held out half a dollar for me and said, "Here is a half dollar. Just let me stay and watch."

(March 17, 1950) August Hahn, Jr., and Dallas called on Mr. and Mrs. Hahn, Sr., Thursday evening on their way home from school. Have you heard this expression: "Oh, he won't be elected. He is from Western Kansas. Too far west." I can't help but wonder why. Western Kansas men and women that have college education didn't get it at Selkirk or Ulysses. Oh no, they got their education in the same colleges in central and eastern Kansas where those smart guys got theirs, and I am sure these western Kansas folks are just as capable of absorbing college education as the central and eastern Kansas folks. And I know for sure they are capable of handing it out so that everyone can understand it. So if you hear that expression, don't pass it on, just put it in the wastebasket. The old colored minister said: "Folks, the subject this evening is 'Liars'. How many in dis congregation has read the 69th chapter of Matthew." Every hand in the audience went up. The minister said sadly, "You are the folks I want to talk to for dere ain't no 69th chapter of Matthew."

(March 24, 1950) We are all hoping that President Truman and his troupe will have a glorious vacation and along with his suntan we are almost hoping he will acquire a few real good blisters. Vacations for Truman and his troupe are about as regular as the new moon.

(May 5, 1950) Cyclones, Kansas City and Russia seem to be the main topics now. Cyclones or tornadoes bring destruction, and sorrow, where ever they descend. The sad part about the Kansas City gangland stories is the fact that the word Democrat appears entirely too often in those stories and the sad part about the Russian stories is the fact that no

one knows anything about them--just all guess work. After all, it's pretty hard to see through an iron curtain.

(May 19, 1950) Fairview farmers have their summer fallowing pretty well completed. Fields are all taken care of so winds won't stir the soil to speak of. Mr. and Mrs. Hahn, Sr., were in Leoti Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Hahn are about as usual, not too well but able to be around. Mr. and Mrs. Auber Brown spent Monday evening at the Rosebrook home. Truman and his brigade have just completed a glorious and triumphant tour of the northwest section of the U.S. Before he makes his next tour, he had better take another vacation and since expense doesn't mean anything, he might as well take his troupe to the Alps in Switzerland and learn to ski. "Good morning, Mrs. McCarthy," said the doctor, "did you take your husband's temperature this morning as I told you to do?" "Yes doctor, I did. I borrowed a barometer from my neighbor. I put it on his chest and it registered 'very dry' so I got him a quart of beer and now he is back at work and okay.

(June 9, 1950) The C. W. Rosebrook family returned Friday afternoon from a visit with relatives and friends in Saline and Lincoln counties. Memorial and homecoming day was spent in our home community at Pleasant Dale. Blow dirt piled up everywhere reminded us very much of our own predicament a few years ago. Most of central Kansas received rain a week ago. The farmers elsewhere will have to learn how to take care of their soil, just as western Kansas farmers have. The folks in central Kansas were astonished to hear that our western Kansas soil was not piled up in the road ditches and fences.

(July 7, 1950) We were mighty sorry to hear this morning that our friend, Les Jones, passed away. He was our "gasman" as we called him, for many years, and he never did fail us, even though sometimes the going was mighty tough. We were always glad to see him come. Sometimes in the last years he didn't feel too well, but he could always manage to smile and say something pleasant. Now it's war and politics, both are bad. Wonder if the Kansas Governor saw and read the Round Town column in the Garden City Telegram recently. That really was a nice batch of descriptive adjectives the Telegram

fastened onto the governor's home . . . even mentioned some kind of eye trouble. To be real helpful, the Telegram should have told him there are a number of good doctors in Garden City that could help him. But what really would be nice, if the Governor's name was on the honor roll at the Democratic headquarters club in Kansas City, then the adjectives could have been really convincing. Well, it's mudslinging time in Kansas, not only in the air, but under foot as well.

(July 14, 1950) War--well, from radio reports, and that's all we have, seems like reports are not very encouraging. Hope the tide will turn soon. Truman says the war won't come to the U.S. but the way prices are soaring, it looks pretty bad, and we can't help but wonder if the soaring prices on all foods is necessary. It's going to bring more hardships for a lot of people that are just earning barely enough to live with prices as they were.

(July 28, 1950) The 1950 wheat harvest finally was finished in our community. Hail cut the yield--in some fields in the 90% bracket, other fields 6% and all the distance in between. But barring hail and too much rain after the wheat was ready to harvest, the crops would have been pretty good. Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Rosebrook drove to Dodge City Monday and returned the same day. They will do some summer fallowing when possible. Now we read the glaring headlines: "\$40,000,000 spent for Liquor in Kansas, from July 19, 1949, till July 19, 1950." It does look almost like a Ripley "Believe It or Not" story, but it is appalling. It would have paid for 4,000 \$10,000 homes, or 5,000 \$8,000 homes. Maybe the folks that drank their share of it already had homes, or maybe they decided they had too much brainpower and just had to do something to cause it to deteriorate. Now if the beer retailer would tell us the amount of money they took in during the past year, no doubt it would more than double the \$40,000,000 amount. Primary election Tuesday. If you want a governor from Western Kansas, you better vote for Mayberry. He is not putting out any soft, appealing stories over the radio, just intended for vote getters, and then forgotten.

(September 15, 1950) The late maize fields are doing their best to mature before our first freeze. There are hordes of grasshoppers here and farmers will have to start feeding them as soon as the wheat comes up to avoid damage. Harry, as the marines call him, thinks he can do just like some editors do, i.e., say anything they please about anyone or any group. Well, he, Harry, may not come out as lucky as the editors. Harry has stirred up a lot of enmity and justly so. I would suggest that Harry take another vacation. It's about time to take his troupe and go to Switzerland and learn to ski up in the Alps. Maybe there wouldn't be so many photographers up there. So he wouldn't have to worry about his domestic security.

(September 22, 1950) Foster Eskelund and son drove up to the Rosebrook ranch Tuesday morning for two truck loads of seed wheat. Monday morning we drove through the community where the flash flood and hail did so much damage. Hundreds of acres of farmland is still completely inundated. Plenty of damage to both open fields and crops. War and politics take most of the newspaper space these days, with a few minor items like car smashes, thefts, divorces, etc., in between to sort of break the old routine. One of the girls in the senior class received an engagement ring the night before but to her chagrin, no one at high school noticed it. Finally in the afternoon when her friends were sitting around talking she stood up suddenly. "My it's hot in here," she said, "I think I'll take off my ring."

(October 6, 1950) Well, Truman and his troupe are enjoying another vacation. This time they are leisurely sailing along on the placid waters of the Potomac river. Last night Kenneth Anderson talked about the present administration in Kansas being on a spending spree. Seems as if the Democrats are top hands at that business also. I think it would be better if he omits that item in his next speech. Well, who knows, maybe Kansas will be in the suburbs of Heaven if Kenneth Anderson is elected. At least that's the way it sounded last night. I guess he doesn't know that Kansas folks have been acquainted with the Democrats for a long, long time.

(October 13, 1950) Power take offs, political kick offs and candidates trying themselves to see who can tell the biggest damaging story on the other -- and Korea -- well, that's about all the news.

(October 20, 1950) Mr. and Mrs. Auber Brown of Garden City accompanied the C. W. Rosebrook family to Dodge City Wednesday. We visited our boys, Winfield and Robert, at their machine shop at 1800 West Chestnut and found them plenty busy. The gutted, blackened buildings made by the recent incendiary fires in Dodge City are surely a heavy loss and we are hoping the maniac will be found. No town or community needs people that are so depraved. Oct. 20 is the date for the annual bazaar and entertainment at the church. Kenneth Anderson is going to put a stop to that wild spending spree. Well, now, if he does he must be a black sheep in the Democratic fold or else he has wandered so far away he does not know just what the Democrats are doing. Just wonder what it cost the U.S. taxpayers for Truman to go to Wake Island.

(October 27, 1950) Since listening to a commentator this morning, I, too, am wondering why some other nation of the U.N. fold couldn't take charge of Korea. Why must it be the U.S. Let the others help bear the expense, furnish men for occupation, etc., but as usual, it will be the U.S. that will assume all the burden, nor will England and France hand over a few million to help the reconstruction of Korea.

(November 24, 1950) Another week of ideal fall weather just passed, some clouds, plenty of sunshine and just enough wind to let us know it still can blow out here, and the nights a little crisp around the corners. The main topic of conversation around here is the maize. So far it's quite a disappointment. Yields are poor and too much moisture, light weight, etc., makes it unfit for market. With all the moisture the maize just didn't seem to do its best this year in many localities. Thanksgiving Day will be Thursday. I guess we still have a lot to be thankful for even if the whole world is in a turmoil, fighting or getting ready to fight. Just wonder if there is any power on earth that can stop wars. There has been wars ever since our history began. But why

with civilization and progress, couldn't wars be eliminated? This was against the spread of communism, well, sometimes we can't help but wonder if the root of the evil shouldn't be destroyed first instead of starting on the farthest limb. It would take an awful long time to kill a tree that way. The root is pretty near Moscow, not in Korea.

(December 8, 1950) Wonder if Joseph Stalin doesn't sit rared back in his favorite chair in his sanctuary and hear all the U.N. war news. Yes, even through his so called Iron Curtain. But don't think Uncle Harry hears much of what is going on inside the Iron Curtain. Can't help but wonder if it wouldn't be wise for the U.S. to cease broadcasting every move the U.N. forces make in Korea. The Chinese people may be red but don't forget they are also yellow. Yellow color and yellow nature. If they were not yellow they wouldn't fight the U.S. now or ever. The U.S. has helped them so much in the years past and poor suffering Russia received so much help from the U.S. after world war I. They are showing their appreciation now.

(December 15, 1950) If Harry Truman really is in the mood for some "punching" maybe Joe Louis could be coaxed to take him on. Oh no, he wouldn't have time as it's so near time for another cruise on the Potomac. He is getting his name in the headlines as a letter writer too. I wish very much that every parent in the U.S. could read Capt. Eugene R. Guild's letter, a retired army officer. The letter was printed in the Garden City Telegram of December 7. It really gives the people of the U.S. something to think about. He says: "At the start of the war the U.N. should have pushed through a resolution telling Joe Stalin to stop inside of 48 hours or ready or not we would hit him with everything we had including the A-bomb. Seems like most people think that would have ended Communist fighting for some time to come."

(January 12, 1951) Korea, basketball and a few other insignificant items are headlines in our dailies today. Among the minor items are the group of religious fanatics up in Canada that disposed of all their belongings and got all ready for the world to come to an end today. Wonder if they are

disappointed. One mother phoned her son (the son was one of the group) that his father had died and she wished he would come home. The son phoned back, "It's all right. I'll see Dad in 3 or 4 days."

(February 9, 1951) The John Deere party at Garden City Monday was a howling success. The weather was ideal and an immense crowd enjoyed the dinner and the free show; even the machinery part of the show was mighty interesting and the "Happy Family" was just one big laugh from start to finish. The C. W. Rosebrook family spent Sunday evening at the Fred Rogers home in Garden City. Had a wonderful evening visiting, enjoying music and eating home grown pop corn. Now it's train crashes, taxes, and basketball. Truman says he will tax till it hurts. Don't suppose he knows that the existing taxes are hurting a lot of people whose salaries are not too much. Most folks think that all the gang in Washington that are drawing big salaries from the taxpayers, should pay income tax, including Harry Truman. They should also pay postage just as we do.

(March 2, 1951) One editor says: "Even if Russia refuses to return the 672 merchant and naval ships and refuses to pay up the debt of \$800,000,000 we should be happy we don't have to ask her (that should be Joe, not 'her') to return any American prisoners of war from the frigid Siberian slave camps." Just how sure are we that there are no Americans in Joe's Siberian slave camps, since we know absolutely nothing about what is going on inside of Russia's iron curtain?

(April 13, 1951) The Frank Phillips family spent Saturday in Garden City. They took home 200 little chicks. Elmer and Irvin Wilken opened up their new filling station in Garden City Saturday. Their place of business will be known as the Cities Service. Elmer Wilkin has operated the G. C. Whitaker ranch in the Fairview community for several years. Wayne Whitaker has taken over at the ranch. We wish them success with their new adventure. Now it's McArthur in the headlines. We wouldn't have been much surprised if Uncle Harry appointed

Anna Rosenberg¹⁵ or Dean Atchison (sic) to take charge in the dusky zone.¹⁶ Communist countries are already sending their thanks to Uncle Harry for disposing of McArthur.¹⁷ Wonder if Stalin is smiling along with the rest of 'em.

(September 14, 1951) President Truman seems to think Kansas and Missouri are not doing much toward rehabilitation after the flood. Well, he thinks charity begins in England, not in Kansas and Missouri. Reports are that England now owes the U.S. \$38,000,000,000 and all was so freely given. It's about time the British started paying or has it just been a gift? They could give the U.S. the deed to Canada. And here is a suggestion for Uncle Harry: Why not let the Kansas and Missouri income tax for this year be turned back to their respective states for flood relief. After all that income money belongs to them and those flood victims need it so desperately now. We received our first letter the other day bearing a .04 cent stamp. Wonder if it wouldn't help the post office department to balance its budget if those boys at Washington, D.C., would pay regular postage on the tons of worthless mail they send out. Much of that free mail is tossed in the waste basket without being opened.

(January 11, 1952) Winston Churchill is a guest at the Truman home in Washington, D.C. This time we hear he wants more money and steel. Well, as I have suggested before, now he could give the U.S. a mortgage on Canada. England shouldn't

¹⁵Ethel (not Anna) Rosenberg was the wife of Julius Rosenberg. Members of the New York Communist Party, they were charged with giving detailed diagrams of America's first atomic bomb to the Soviet Consul in New York City. Sentenced to die for "a crime worse than murder," they were electrocuted.

¹⁶Dean Acheson (not Atchison) was a strong supporter of Alger Hiss' proclamations of innocence. Acheson, who was Secretary of State from 1949-1953, outraged many Americans with observations such as the only sensible course for the U.S. Government to take was to recognize the Red Chinese regime of Mao Tse Tung.

¹⁷This entire paragraph is a sarcastic criticism of Truman's dismissal of McArthur as Commander-in-Chief of the U.N. forces after McArthur refused to accept Truman's policy of containment rather than total victory over the Red Chinese in Korea.

CHAPTER FIVE

TO PRESERVE OUR VALUES: A KANSAS PIONEER JOURNALIST CHALLENGES THE LEGACY OF THE NEW DEAL AND THE CURRENTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE, 1953-1980

(May 15, 1953) Economy is the theme song at Washington and they are going to start out by raising congressmen's wages from \$15,000 per year to \$25,000. It doesn't sound good but maybe it will work out all right.

(July 31, 1953) Mrs. Frank Phillips and Mrs. Rosebrook called on Mrs. Ellen Krenznel Monday afternoon. Now we hear Eisenhower is advising .04 cents postage on first class mail. Maybe that wouldn't be necessary if the boys at Washington, D.C., would pay postage on the tons and tons of mail they send all over the U.S. Much of it is just a fill-up for the waste basket. Cease fire! Now we read there are fears and misgivings that the Russians will start an all out war on Indo-China. No one seems to have much faith in the cease fire talk, but hope it will end the war.

(September 3, 1954) Rain has fallen all around us but missed Fairview. At the Otto Krenznel home they almost had a tornado. The wind was so strong it picked up some small buildings and crashed them into the trees, also hail did quite a lot of damage in that vicinity. James Bowles drove out from Colorado Springs Tuesday to look after his farm work. Mr. and Mrs. Tobe Koehn and son, Dennie, and grandson, Stevie Schmidt, spent Sunday with the Ed Koehn family at Tribune. They report good rains near Tribune as all the lagoons and low places were full of water. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook and Vadna, and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Gribble of Garden City drove to Salina Saturday afternoon. Sunday was spent in Oakdale park in Salina. The occasion was in honor of Elmer Rosebrook's 78th birthday. A picnic dinner, visiting and taking pictures took up most of the day. There were six Rosebrook families and some guests who enjoyed the day. Everything was splendid but the temperature - 107. The Garden City folks returned home Sunday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Otto Krenznel were visitors at the Frank Phillips home Wednesday.

Mrs. Hahn, Sr., is still in the Wichita County hospital. Her condition remains about the same. School began at North Kearny Monday morning. Most schools are not starting until next week. Vadna Rosebrook is spending this week with Mrs. Frank Phillips. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook and Mrs. Twila Gribble called on the Frank Phillips and Otto Krenzel families Monday afternoon. At the Krenzel home we saw plenty of damage done by Sunday's wind and hail storm. Farmers are starting to drill wheat in our community. They would like very much to get a good rain before sowing. Now we read that about the time a man is old enough to know better, you can expect the worst. A little man in a crowded cafeteria left his table to get a cup of coffee. When he came back he found a brawny young fellow sitting in his chair. "Excuse me," said the little man, "I believe you have my seat." "Oh yeah," growled the big fellow, "can you prove it?" "I think I can," said the little man, "You see, I set my pie and my dish of ice cream on the chair."

(September 10, 1954) Dealers in comic books in Syracuse have declared war on horror and crime stuff. The town's two largest comic book dealers say it will take a lot of work to eliminate the "unsavory" comics, but they mean to cut out the trash publications. They aim to keep that sort of comics from their racks. How many merchants that deal in comic books will follow the Syracuse example.

(March 4, 1955) Goodness, it must be a terrible suspense on our servants down at Washington, D.C., to not know for sure the future of the \$20.00 income tax reduction, but I'm sure there is no doubt about the \$1250.00 increase in wages for some of the dignitaries down there that are supposed to be working for the people, also plus so many trips, expense free from their home to Washington, plus tons of mail postage free. Now we hear letter postage must be raised one cent per ounce to make the postal department keep out of debt. Wonder if those fellows at Washington, D.C., couldn't remedy that extra penny by paying for their mail.

(April 29, 1955) Weather the past week has been a bit of everything, but too much of some things like wind and soil

up in the air. No rain fell last week and continual wind is sapping the moisture pretty fast. Saturday was really a bad one and damaged the wheat in some sections of the country. Mrs. Frank Phillips and children stopped in at the Otto Krenzel home Saturday morning for a few minutes. All farm folks are plenty busy these days, the men folks spent summer fallowing their idle fields, the women busy with gardens, chickens, and house cleaning. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook and Vadna helped Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kuhlman celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at their home in Garden City Sunday. Friends and relatives came from far and near to pay their respects to this worthy couple. Mr. and Mrs. Herman Gernand came from St. Paul, Minn. The Casone family came from Pensacola, Fla. Mrs. Casone is the former Mildred Kuhlman. The afternoon was spent visiting, talking over old times and taking pictures. Relatives and friends departed, wishing Mr. and Mrs. Kuhlman many anniversaries in the years ahead. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook and Vadna drove to Marysville Tuesday of last week. Western Kansas isn't the only place that has soil blowing. We drove in a pall of soil and sand all day. About six p.m. when we arrived in Marysville, such a heavy pall of soil had settled over that town darkness was almost complete. Lights were on everywhere. But the street lights looked like coaloil lamps.

(May 6, 1955) We had all kinds of weather the past week, plenty of wind, soil up in the air, and good looking clouds, high and low temperatures, and it even tried to rain. But it could have been worse. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook spent Sunday afternoon in Dodge City visiting with Winfield Rosebrook and toured the new Christian church that was dedicated Sunday. The church is simply magnificent and the Dodge City folks can really be proud of it. The Koehn family came from McPherson county Wednesday and are taking care of their farming interests in the Fairview community.

(June 10, 1955) The long drouth damaged our wheat but even at that--barring hail--there will be some wheat in this part of Kansas. Farmers are working overtime planting maize and summer fallowing. There isn't any limit to the length

of the working hours for the farmers these days. The C. W. Rosebrook family spent the memorial holidays at their old home in Lincoln county, Kansas, visiting relatives and friends and attending Memorial Day services at Hanover cemetery and later a program in the Ecklemen grove. Memorial Day is also homecoming day in that community.

(June 17, 1955) Wheat is doing its best after a long spell of torture from drouth and wind. There will be some wheat. Harvest will finish the story. Farmers are very busy as usual. Most maize sowing is finished and the idle fields are getting their going over before harvest.

(September 30, 1955) We are all sorry about the President's serious illness and even the folks that are not in harmony with his administration are hoping his recovery will be speedy and complete. During a severe Kansas dust storm a man was seen driving a combine down the road at high speed. In response to a question he said, "By jiggers, I planted that wheat and I'm going to harvest it if I have to chase it all the way to the Gulf of Mexico."

(March 23, 1956) Now when Secretary Benson and his staff gets all the idle Kansas farm acres planted to lawn grass, shade trees, and floribunda roses, well, Western Kansas will become a veritable Garden of Eden providing Benson makes arrangements for an irrigation well beside each garden.¹

(April 20, 1956) By the time this is in print, Margaret and Grace will be happily married so we hope, and maybe the newspapers will have some new headlines of interest to their readers.² Such items as Margaret's diamond studded \$650.00

¹Appointed Secretary of Agriculture in 1953 Ezra Taft Benson sought to reduce the role of the federal government in agriculture and to modify existing price support policies. The measures he attempted, such as flexible price supports, failed to stimulate farm prices and caused bitter controversy. He was blamed by many Republicans for election reverses suffered by the party in farm states. Benson and the Postmaster General were the only cabinet officers to serve the full eight years of the Eisenhower administration.

²Margaret is Princess Margaret of Great Britain and Grace is Grace Kelly, daughter of a famous millionaire Philadelphia

hose make nice reading and Grace's Prince and his 115 room palace plus his bachelor quarters, well that is interesting also.

(October 26, 1956) Still no rain. We have had some clouds the past week and just a sprinkle of rain fell at Fairview. The C. W. Rosebrook family drove to Leoti Sunday afternoon. We were guests at the Dierks-Campbell wedding at the Presbyterian church. It was a beautiful wedding and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Campbell have the best wishes from a host of friends. The Hi-Landers 4-H club had a meeting Friday evening at the North Kearny schoolhouse. The main event of the evening was the installation of the new officers. There will be an evening of entertainment, supper, cake walks and what have you at the North Kearny school. It's by and for the 4-H club. The C. W. Rosebrook family and Mrs. Philomena Witman spent Sunday evening at the Frank Phillips home. A chicken dinner with plenty of trimmings, home made ice cream, etc., was enjoyed by everyone. I guess you already know Kefauver was in Garden City Thursday evening. He told us times without number that Adlai is the man. Yes, he has everything it takes to be a good president. A few things Kefauver failed to mention that are important. Kefauver didn't think so or he surely would have told us, with smiling Harry as their pilot, they should all land safely at the White House in Washington, D. C.³

family and famous movie actress who won an academy award as Best Actress for her performance in the 1954 picture Country Girl, and still the wife of Prince Rainer III of Monaco whom she wed in 1956.

³An avowed supporter of the New Deal and the Fair Deal Estes Kefauver of Tennessee was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives where he served five successive terms. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1948 as well as 1954 and 1960. He rose to national prominence in 1950-1951 as Chairman of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee whose televised hearings on national crime syndicates and their political ties caused a sensation. Nominated for the Vice-Presidency in 1956 as Adlai Stevenson's running mate he continued to attract public attention as the Chairman of the Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee, particularly for his 1959 investigations of professional baseball and football and of alleged profiteering in the pharmaceutical industry.

(January 11, 1957) I guess all you folks are satisfied with the 5¢ postage on a letter. It's coming. I haven't seen a word from anyone protesting. Hope you've written to your Congressman? or Senator? It may not do one bit of good. But at least you could make the boys at Washington, D.C., know what you think about it. I think everyone that puts mail in the post office should pay the same price as you and I pay. I don't think it is right for our servants in Washington to send tons and tons of mail without a penny postage. I think if every one paid postage, the postal department could balance its budget without 5¢ postage on letters.

(June 14, 1957) Farm folks have really been busy the past month. Many of the home makers are driving tractors long hours the same as their husbands--not from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but from 5 a.m. 'til 10 p.m. Help is hard to find and the wages--well, almost too much for anyone to pay following so many crop failures.

(October 25, 1957) Asiatic flu and football are the main topics now in our dailies. Also a little space is given to government cutting defense appropriations to the bone. Thousands of laborers in defense plants have been laid off and thousands more are waiting for their time. No doubt all this news makes Russia smile. Just wonder how much Russia is cutting down on her defense appropriations.

(November 15, 1957) The Democrats had a wonderful get together the other day in Topeka at a \$10 a plate banquet. Oh, well, guess most of them were government employees, so we just about know who paid for the \$10 a plate feast.

(March 14, 1958) WE WERE SORRY . . . to read that Maud Whitaker Paddock had passed away at home in Riddle, Ore. Maud spent all her young life in North Kearny County. She knew all about pioneer life on a ranch. She herded cattle for her father and one time was caught out on the prairie in a terrific hail storm. She knew all the things that go with pioneering on a farm out on the lone prairie. She attended church and Sunday school at the Fairview community church. There was a little school near the Whitaker home where she attended classes. She and her mother belonged to the Fairview Ladies Aid and spent many hours sewing and quilting with that organization. Above all, Maud loved her home

and was a real homemaker. Her husband, Ralph, and her brother, Clair, are the only close relatives. She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

(May 8, 1958) 51 years ago today the C. W. Rosebrook family arrived on their homestead, 4-21-37, in North Kearny county. Our belongings were four small children, the youngest not two months old, a bunch of horses, two vicious dogs, a hole in the ground and very little money. Now we read that our governor has just about exhausted the state's bank account. One senator suggested using the state income tax and the state inheritance tax. Now that would be splendid. Here is another suggestion. George⁴ (as everyone calls him) could eliminate a few thousand of his unnecessary employees that are draining exhorbitant wages. Of course, we realize they are splendid Democrats, and the taxpayers should do something for them.

(June 26, 1958) I REMEMBER . . . Excerpts of a letter from Reinhart Kuhlman, Newell, S. Dak., to Mrs. Virginia Hicks: While Lydia is one mile north of the Wichita-Kearny county line, Kearny county history and development is not complete without notes about the people in the north six miles of Kearny county where church life centered in the southern part of Wichita county. Chas. Loueks brought the Wm. Kuhlman, Sr., and Thos. L. Rewerts, Sr., families by stage coach on March 27, 1887, from Lakin to the present Kuhlman-Rewerts community on the flats--just a quarter to one mile west of where Highway 25 makes a jog west after going north from Lakin 23 mi. These families came from Worden, Ill., where they spent two years after leaving Germany, Braunschwieg Province, I believe. No one else lived close at that time. The Kuhlman's had four boys then: William, Henry, Charles, and August (my dad, 2 years old). The Rewerts family included Sophie, Anna, Ada, Francis, Leonard, and Charles, at that time. Equipment for travel, etc., was shared. Each

⁴George L. Docking Governor of Kansas, 1957-1961, was the first Democrat elected to the office since 1936 and the first ever to serve two terms. He was often at odds with the state legislature, particularly over raising taxes, which he opposed.

family had a horse and a cow. When it was time to haul water or to go to Leoti or Lakin for supplies, the one horse was taken to the place where the partnership wagon and other horse was, and the trip started. A carefully prepared grocery or supply list accompanied the driver on the 18 hour to two-day trip to town. Water was hauled from the only well, nine miles east, the John Botts place, because there were no hills in that direction and less water was lost on the way home. The nearest water south was at the Nancy James place, almost 10 miles southeast. To their knowledge there were no neighbors to the west for quite some time. Grandad walked to Leoti to earn a little extra money when the Missouri Pacific railroad was being built. On one occasion he carried a sack of flour home on his back. He forgot to bring some coffee beans, Grandmother cried bitterly because of "no coffee." He went out to the barn, ground some barley, and parched it. They had coffee. They planted lots of fruit trees and other forest trees about their home. Water from the cowpaths to the west helped the trees grow abundantly. The boys hoed the trees. Mr. Loucks would bring his landseekers there for dinner and later sell the seekers some land or a homestead nearby on the strength of what good trees the land could produce. Fred, Herman, Alvina (Mrs. Richard Breitreutz) and Gustave A. were born after the family came to western Kansas. The main reason they stayed in Kansas is that they were too poor to leave, I guess. The Lydia post office was at their house until after 1910. Mail carried on the Lakin-Leoti star route was sorted there, and a route went to the west to the Rishel neighborhood for a number of years. The name of the post office at the end of the line was Conquest. Grandad was one of the members instrumental in starting the Lutheran church. He donated 15 acres of land next to where the Lydia post office used to be. The church was chartered in 1905, and built in 1906. Deerfield congregation hauled the lumber to help build the church. The charter members of this congregation and their dates of arrival in that area were Carl Hahn, Phillip Propp, 1905, 1904; Wm. Kuhlman, Sr., Wm. Kuhlman, Jr., Chas. Kuhlman, 1887; John

Dewald, Louis Summers, 1901. Louis Summers ran the post office, sold groceries, bought cream, and had a shop there. Only the cemetery remains of this acreage. The church was moved in 1945 or 46 to about 1/4 mile from the Fred Kuhlman home. The first death and burial in the cemetery was Joseph Hahn in 1908, father of August Hahn, Sr. The first wedding in the church was Richard J. Breitreutz and Alvina Kuhlman. The Grusings came in 1906. Also then, John and Henry Bender lived 3/8 mile east of where Eureka school used to be on Highway 25. The Fred Bender place was across the road from the school. Phillip Snyders (1901) 1 1/2 miles east of the Grusings, Jake (married Mae Warthen) Propp, Phillip, and son arrived in 1901 and lived on the Aron Bokel place, now owned by my sister Ellen (Mrs. Ede Wilken), John Hannemans and George Riffel, Sr., came in 1901. Adam Bohls came in 1906. Chas. Hoops and Phillip Michel about then also. Phillip was Chris Michel's father. Geo. lives on the home place now. The Bogers, Phillip, Paul, Jake, 1905-06, were early homesteaders there also. Pete Marquardt, John, Ernest and Charley, came at about that time. The Kuhlman boys operated a well drilling rig in the early days. They were pretty well up on the dope of where water was to be found on the flats. Later driller was Rudolph Gropp. Charley Rewerts was the doctor who at one time owned St. Catherine's hospital in Garden City. Sophie Rewerts was later Mrs. Hugh (or Wm.) Reese, owned the Leoti State Bank at one time, till about 1933. My grandad was quite a church man -- drove once a month or every other week 75 to 125 miles by wagon to get the preacher to the community. This trip started on Thursday and ended about the next Wednesday or Thursday. I wonder how many of the present generation would exert that much energy or give that much time toward maintaining a church in their community now.

(March 19, 1959) Wars and rumors of wars fill the air again. The civilized world has stood quietly by and watched Communist Russia take one small nation after another. Confiscating or rather just plain stealing their homes and belongings, sending the people to Siberia to concentration camps or labor camps, just as they pleased. Hungary was an example. It hardly seems possible that a civilized world can stand idly by and allow such devastation and brutality.

(June 4, 1959) Farm folks are putting in long hours these days, from 5 till 9 or later. Town folks just reverse the numbers. They work from 9 or 10 till 5 and call it a day, a big day. Another country school is on its way out. This time it is the Downs school, known as the Grand Prairie district. It has kept alive for several years with just a few pupils in the district.

(July 23, 1959) Now it's the steel strike taking all the headlines in our papers. And from all we read it really is a serious affair. The union seems to be pretty well provided for, if the strike should continue for some time. But strikes are bad for our country--so many idle men, unrest, crimes increase.

(November 12, 1959) Nikita, Russia's top man and his servants visited the U.S. While here they were carried around on a pink rose leaf--banquets, parades, and special recognition everywhere. No doubt the talented gentleman from the Iron Curtain gathered up a lot of precious information and he may think now that the U.S. didn't think it was very much of a crime for Russia to completely destroy prosperous Hungary--murder, burn, steal and destroy, and I wonder just how many Hungarians are inside the so called Iron Curtain today, nothing left for them but slave labor.⁵

(February 4, 1960) Income tax time. So many folks are spending all their spare time trying to get their year's business all gathered up, figured up, and getting everything lined up just so for their income tax report. Well, the income tax is bad, but, I think the inheritance tax is the limit. I call inheritance tax legalized stealing. Am I right or am I wrong? Now we hear there is a possibility of 5¢ per ounce letter postage.

⁵Apparently stirred by Kruschew's visit to America, Mrs. Rosebrook reminded her readers of the Soviet Union's decision in 1957 to send military troops into Hungary to quash that country's attempts to achieve total independence from Moscow. Prior to the invasion, Moscow offered a remarkable and often overlooked compromise--Hungarian membership in a "commonwealth of socialist countries"--but the Hungarian revolutionaries could no longer control events.

The post office department just can't seem to manage on the present postal rates. Well, maybe they can't with so many tons of postage for free mail sailing around. I have suggested that our big salaried servants in Washington, D.C., pay for their mail. But it is useless to write to them about anything, just wasting time and paper.

(November 10, 1960) There is so much tension over the election we can almost feel it in the air and of course television brings it all into our homes. Never since William Jennings Bryan ran for president can I remember such tension.

(January 19, 1961) the latest addition to Kennedy's Whitehouse crowd is Hon. George Docking, ex-governor of Kansas. Kennedy appointed Docking as director of the export-import bank at \$20,000 a year. Seems like Kennedy's heart is sort of beating for defeated and discarded candidates.

(April 20, 1961) The Communists are really stirring up trouble in Cuba. I wonder if Nikita isn't at the head of it all. It will really be an ugly mess if war should start. Communists are ruling a lot of our world today. Farming time is here again and farmers are working early and late in their fields. Soil conditions are good right now.

(May 18, 1961) Space flyers, floods, Communism, etc., are taking most of our newspaper headlines. Our president in Florida vacationing, school track meets--well it just goes round and round, doesn't change much.

(December 21, 1961) Nick Kruschev tells his people in Russia there is no Christmas, no Santa or any of those things in the U.S., it's all just propaganda talk. Nik, if you could just drop down on any town in Western Kansas, large or small, any evening about dusk between now and Christmas, I believe you would have a different story to tell your people.

(February 22, 1962) T.V.'s and radios are watched mighty close this morning. Just wonder how Glenn will make it, o.k., we hope. At 9:30 he is sailing right along and everything seems to be on schedule.⁶

⁶A reference to John Glenn who was the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the earth. He made his historic flight February 20, 1926, orbiting the earth three times.

(April 5, 1962) Politically, it would have been much better if the First Lady could have taken her famous ride on a donkey instead of an elephant. There wouldn't have been quite as much space for bells for a few bells less wouldn't have made much difference. It should have been a donkey.

(May 24, 1962) Farm folks are busy summer fallowing, plowing wheat under. Some are baling the wheat for winter forage. Gov. Frank B. Morrison of Nebraska has signed into law a bill outlawing the communist party in Nebraska. The law provides up to 20 years in prison for party members. Wonder if such a law wouldn't be all right in Kansas.

(December 13, 1962) I received a friendly letter from Helen O'Loughlin recently. She says she reads my items and is always interested in them. She leads a very busy life as assistant principal and the girls' counselor in the Pana, Ill., senior high school. Seems like the oral polio vaccine program went over almost 100 per cent all over Kearny county. Someone said, "It didn't taste a bit bad."⁷

(December 20, 1962) Christmas is a wonderful time to remember old friends, cast away the grudges and grievances. A time of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men." Well, individuals may carry this out to some extent, but not nations. Nations are always at odds--grasping, quarreling, getting ready for war, continually. Never peaceful. The civilized nations right along with the uncivilized--i.e. (like Russia).

(February 28, 1963) There has been another step forward in progress for the Fairview community. The past 11 years have brought many changes, all for the betterment in living conditions for the farmers. Rural Electrification made it possible for the farmers to have modern equipment in their homes, then came the telephones and now a school bus to the door provided by the Lakin Grade School system.

(April 30, 1964) Farmers are having quite a time trying to get their spring farming done. Sometimes so much soil is

⁷A reference to the mass distribution of the Salk polio vaccine first successfully developed by Jonas Salk. The vaccine halted the dreaded disease which permanently crippled its victims.

up in the air they can't follow their rows, visibility down to zero. Charley Browne is gone. I was going to say Mr. Charley Browne but it didn't sound right--just Charley Browne. He was everybody's friend. My husband said, "Charley Browne is a real man. I never come into his office for business but he has time for a few friendly words -- how are your crops, how is the weather, etc., and how is the world treating you?" His friends -- just everybody that knew him was his friend and had a good word for him. He will be missed. Harry Truman said recently that Missouri produced three famous men: Mark Twain, Jesse James and me. The Younger boys and the Cole boys were some more of Missouri's famous men.

(July 16, 1964) Did you know the Republican convention is on full blast at the Cow Palace in San Francisco? Don't know how you feel about it, but I would just as soon watch Captain Kangaroo. He does have an interesting wild animal now and then, while the convention just has one monotonous harangue right after another. Nothing new. I'll be glad when it's over with. As far as the results, well, it won't matter much to you and me. Our lives will go on about the same as usual. Now here is something I don't think you can beat for spelling. About 55 years ago when we were still living in our sod house, a 15-year-old neighbor girl spent the night with me. After supper she asked me for writing material. I gave her some. She spent most of the evening writing. The next morning she asked me for a stamp, .02 cents then. Then she asked me if I would take the letter to the mail box after recess. She didn't want the children to see her put a letter in the box. Walking down to the box I looked in the corner at the return address and here it is: Return to Miss-----Lydia P.O., Witchchittaw Co., Kans.

(July 1, 1965) Donald Krenzel spent Wednesday evening at the Frank Phillips home. This is a wonderful way to start getting rid of poverty. Poverty headquarters office will have a director drawing \$30,000 a year.⁸ Salaries of about 40

⁸A sarcastic but perhaps somewhat relevant criticism of the War on Poverty undertaken by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

assistants will range from \$18,935 to \$27,000 per year. Well, at least poverty won't bother a few of 'em. Mr. and Mrs. Otto Krenzel, grandchildren, Sheri and Steve, and Mrs. Rosebrook spent Sunday afternoon in Dodge City looking over the destruction the flooding Arkansas river has done. Many places along the highway between Garden and Dodge the river was still almost to the railroad track. Winfield Rosebrooks were heavy losers. The water was 38 inches deep in their house -- ruined everything. Their basement is still full and don't dare pump it out for fear the underflow pressure would cave in the basement walls. After the water left the house, the silt, sticky, compact mud was 8 to 10 inches deep. A group of Mennonites came Friday and cleaned the silt from the floors. A constant stream of water along with pushing and shoveling, did it. Large fruit trees in the orchard were washed out and tipped over. I may over-estimate, but I think I can say at least 500 families had the same experience. On their way home Sunday evening the Krenzels saw many combines at work along Highways 83 and 96. The Frank Phillips family are out on the farm at Fairview. Their boys, Terry and Kerry, have been living out there for some time, trying to farm between rains. Sometimes it rained every night or every day so farming was slow. Frank is slowly recovering from his long illness and two major operations. Wheat that looked almost hopeless before the rains has come out and barring hail will make some wheat.

(January 19, 1967) We have a new governor. He plans to turn our state upside down (verbally that is). So many promises made before election that are completely forgotten afterwards. Nationally we have had such promises as lowering the taxes, balancing our national budget, end unemployment, and so on all down the line. Well, nothing happens, or none of those things happen. Increasing our taxes seems to be it right now.

(February 16, 1967) We are all more or less disturbed by the Viet Nam war. If a peace treaty would be signed what would we have accomplished? Seemingly nothing. I suppose it would end up with the Communists owning and ruling a part of the country much the same as exist today in Germany and Korea.

(February 23, 1967) Now some wise man is suggesting drink by the glass for Kansas. I say fight it. It would only mean more drunks on the street, more worries, more crashes. I would like to see that fellow's name in big print headlines. I am sure some millionaire distillery baron is sponsoring that idea. We are not sending servants to Topeka to work or propose anything like drink by the glass. Talk against it and write against it. The bottle is bad enough.

(August 10, 1967) Seems as if the whole world is upset. War on both sides of us and almost in-between. Hope things will calm down. Those destructive riots by dissatisfied, disgruntled people are almost as bad as war.

(December 21, 1967) What are you folks doing about the new, wonderful liquor law that is proposed for Kansas? Are you just doing nothing and hoping it won't pass? Well, don't be misled. The liquor industries are in Topeka working with our servants early and late, not just with their glorious talk but with pockets full of money, trying to convince our servants how glorious it would be if Kansas could just have "liquor by the drink on every corner and a wonderful beer dump in between." No sane person in Kansas can possibly want such a law. We send those men to Topeka to do something that will help us, and make Kansas a better state for us to live in. I wish someone would ask that senator or representative that is sponsoring that "Liquor by the Drink" bill if his community sent him to Topeka to work for the liquor distilleries.

(March 7, 1968) Politics -- well, is there anything more important right now, that is, to some special persons. We are waiting. We have our war -- a serious problem for us all. Our nation going in debt by leaps and bounds, prices on everyday commodities, rising wages, strikes, riots. . . is there anything else that could come to us? Unrest and dissatisfaction seems to prevail in all walks of life.

(March 14, 1968) The sunflower has been the official Kansas state flower since 1903. It is believed that sunflowers were first brought into the state by freighters on the Santa Fe Trail. Seeds fell from the hooves of horses pulling the freight wagons.

(May 30, 1968) The Poor People's camp at Washington, D.C., has not been very pleasant the past week with mud 6 to 8 inches deep, but they are happy, singing and clapping and shouting. I think they had better stayed at home and tried to do something to help make their living. Idleness will never bring them food and clothing unless our government hands it to them on a platter. I believe they expect the latter.

(June 20, 1968) I wonder if the Poor People's army are looking for work. I think an offer of work would scare them. They are just looking for a hand-out from our government. i.e. the taxpayers, the people who work for their living. I think doling out to them should stop.

(February 6, 1969) Inez Phillips made a business trip to Liberal Tuesday morning. I wonder how soon it will be until some of our servants in Topeka will introduce a bill for saloons for Kansas. Now it's a bill for liquor by the drink coming closer all the time. I am sure the liquor industries are doing everything possible to make Kansas a saloon state. Is that what we need to make Kansas a better place for ourselves and our children? It's time all those who are opposed to free whiskey for Kansas to do some talking, writing, and pleading. It's plenty bad as it is. Don't forget, the liquor industries are busy early and late -- busy with their glorious language. We all know it would mean millions to them. What would it mean to Kansas? You can figure that out for yourself -- sorrow and misery. Do everything you can help Kansas, but don't help the millionaire liquor barons.

(July 31, 1969) Plenty of excitement for our newspapers: The moon landing,⁹ the Kennedy crash¹⁰ and the price of wheat

⁹A reference to the first landing on the moon by human kind. As millions watched Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to touch the lunar surface.

¹⁰In July, 1969 Senator Edward Kennedy drove his car off an unmarked bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, Massachusetts, and his companion, Mary Jo Kopechne, drowned. Though not held responsible for her death, he pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of the accident. As a result of the publicity and unanswered questions raised in peoples minds Kennedy was temporarily derailed from Presidential aspirations and politics.

going down, down. The last item is of more interest to the farmers than the first two.

(October 2, 1969) Farmers are busy sowing wheat as fast as the fields are dry enough to work. The roar of spraying planes can be heard overhead, trying to control the infestation of worms that are in the volunteer fields of wheat as well as pastures of buffalo grass. Quite a few acres of newly planted wheat were taken by the worms before the farmers realized the infestation was present and no end of damage was done to volunteer wheat. Some areas seem to be far more heavily infested than others. The worms travel fast and devour the new wheat swiftly, taking whole fields in a few days time. Spraying is supposed to control for a ten day period. We wonder, what then, as it seems the big worms are leaving the baby worms behind. From the description of the many types, sizes, colors, etc., of the worms, your reporter questions if they could be going for their Last Round-Up!

(November 20, 1969) Ronald Downs spent the weekend with his parents. Ronald has employment in Denver. Now it's taxes. They are bad but how can they be anything else? Every public officer is clamoring for higher wages. Teachers are striking here and there. Our servants in Washington and Topeka raised their own wages. . . didn't need any consent from us. The taxpayers pay it all some way. Bad crops and low prices aren't helping out much.

(January 22, 1970) The Immanuel Circle met with Mrs. Ray Sonderegger Thursday morning. Seven members were present and Mrs. Horace Downs presented the lesson. Sheri Krenzler spent Friday and Saturday last week at Hoxie. Sheri is a member of The WCCHS debating team and attended a regional tournament. Terry Eugene Phillips left Garden City Friday, Jan. 9, for his long journey to Viet Nam. He was accompanied from here by a camp buddy, Thomas Lasson, of Jamestown, N.Y. The two boys had been in the same class at Fort Monmouth and I am hoping they can be together. We had word from the boys from Honolulu and from Wake Island, but not since. Now we read that mini skirts make girls and women look taller, and men look longer.

Are you going to vote for it this fall? I mean our accepted drug, alcohol. If you vote for liquor by the drink you are just voting for a wide open saloon and won't those big saloon signs look beautiful all over Kansas towns? Think . . . and talk against it.

(February 26, 1970) The biggest news these days is the flu. Some are having quite a battle with it while others get by fairly easy, but either way, it is plenty disagreeable. Our grandson in Vietnam seems to be making out o.k. so far. He says it's about like midsummer in Kansas, so it's plenty warm. Drinking drivers caused over two-thirds of the car crashes in the District of Columbia in 1969 -- 6827 accidents. 3,740 were drinking or drunk. Are you going to vote for it this fall? Is that what Kansas needs? Think and do some talking before election time comes.

(May 14, 1970) The minister had just married two Hippies. He looked at them puzzled and said, "Will one of you please kiss the bride?"

(May 28, 1970) I just had a nice letter from my grandson, Terry, in Viet Nam. He says sometimes the way the wind and dust blows it reminds him of Kansas. I think if the college students would study and try to do something to help themselves, it would be much better than traveling around in gangs, destroying. Our President didn't start this war, he just fell heir to it.

(November 19, 1970) I want to thank all the voters in Kearny County that helped keep the ugly saloons out of our county and state. All that glorious talk about lower taxes was put out by liquor firms and people that planned to make a fortune from saloons. Every saloon in your town would put at least 10 more families on welfare. Because the money that should be spent for food was spent in your saloons. Be proud of your vote, and just keep those Saloons out of Kansas.

(November 26, 1970) The Immanuel Circle met with Mrs. Horace Downs Thursday morning. Mrs. Edward Dierks presented the lesson. Mrs. Otto Krenzel showed slides from Viet Nam sent to her by her nephew, Terry Phillips. Scenes were taken

by Terry of a nearby orphanage and mental institution. Our boys in Viet Nam are interested in such places and are trying to do something to help them. The Immanuel Circle recently sent a box of clothing and toys to Terry Phillips for the orphanage he is so much interested in.



Hannah Rosebrook's Bulletin Board Displaying Her Journalistic Significance.

(December 17, 1970) Terry Phillips spent Saturday evening with his Grandmother Rosebrook. He came home from one year spent in war torn Viet Nam Friday. He is okay and isn't doing much talking about his experience. He has one more year in the service and hopes to be sent to Germany. A candidate for Congress rose to national heights as he assured his not too enthusiastic audience, if he were elected to Congress, "the taxpayer would not be let down." "That's fine," yelled a man from the audience, "But do you think there is any chance of letting us up."

(November 9, 1972) By this evening a great calm will settle down over our U.S. There will be something else to talk about and maybe we won't be bothered with Dockings bewitching smile every time we turn the T.V. on. Kansas women and that oversize smile may put Docking back in the Governors mansion again.

(August 2, 1973) Everyone is completely innocent in the great Watergate scandal. So evidently the Devil must be the guilty one. He has been found the guilty one in the food price splurge. No one else has anything to do with it.

(August 16, 1973) Wheat prices during the upper 20's went as low as 25¢ per bushel. One extreme always follows another. So its about time for a change. This happened in our own home during sod house days. At that time my husband was using chewing tobacco. We were also using prairie fuel. Chewing tobacco and prairie fuel were pretty much the same color. One of our little girls happened to be standing near her daddy when he decided to take a bite. She saw the plug and came to me all excited and said, "Mamma, daddy is eatin a cow chip."

(August 23, 1973) Now there is a new song coming out. I'm sure it will be very popular, "Sing a song of Watergate, a pocket full of lies, etc., etc. I'm sure it will be "the hit" for a few days.

(November 22, 1973) A beautiful performance "Anything Goes" by the W.C.H.S. vocal music department, directed by H. H. Stockebrand was enjoyed by a large and appreciateve audience. "Anything Goes" brought to attention the charm and glamour characteristic of the 1930's musical extravaganzas. Kathy Krenznel and David Breitreutz of Fairview neighborhood participated in the program. The musical received curtain calls and a standing ovation.

(October 17, 1974) How can the President please every one. Some want the wheat exports stopped; saying in case of a complete wheat crop failure, there wouldn't be enough wheat in storage to feed the U.S. citizens. Others are angry and want a wide open export on wheat. I think such imports as meat and

meat substitutes should be stopped and there are a few other imported articles we do not need. It's not easy to accomplish all those things and I think the citizens of the U.S. are doing too much complaining and howling. When my grandson was stationed in Germany he said, "The complainers at home should come over here and try it awhile." Who and what is right?

(May 15, 1975) There is plenty both for and against the Vietnam invasion of refugees. I don't believe it will help our unemployment situation very much, but some one must help these people driven from their homes by communism.

(August 28, 1975) Did you like Mrs. Betty Ford's TV talk? Well, according to my newspapers most people thought it would have been much better if she had kept still. A First Lady with such low ideas of life won't help us any. I am glad there are still a lot of civilized people living in the U.S.¹¹

(October 2, 1975) Football and Patricia Hearst seem to take about all the newspaper space these days. The papers don't seem to have much room for politics. I hope they have good secretaries in Washington, D.C. that really understand how to take care of all the business, since our real manager is away from home so much. Some of the women on the west coast are really trying to get rid of our president. They should be at home getting ready for winter--sewing, canning, keeping their children in school, etc.

(January 22, 1976) Inflation, instead of showing signs of improvement, seems to be getting worse. I think we are all contributing our bit in various ways. There surely will be a stopping place soon, I hope. But at present it seems almost hopeless.

¹¹ Approximately two weeks earlier President Gerald Ford's wife had appeared on CBS's "Sixty Minutes." In her interview with Morely Safer she described the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion as "the best thing in the world . . . a great, great decision," and had mused that as a girl, she "probably" would have tried marijuana had it been widely used. Her most scandalous admission however, came when she indicated that she would not be surprised if her daughter announced she was having an affair and that she would try to counsel her. The interview set off a 1950's style furor. See Newsweek, August 25, 1975.

(August 26, 1976) The Republican Convention is ended. It was sure a noisy affair. I still think the U.S. is ready for a change. The taxpayers are not hiring those fellows to just raise their own wages. We would like to see a group in Washington that would work for the people that feeds the world.

(December 8, 1977) You owe it to yourself to become a success, and then you owe it to the income tax collector. I'm proud to be paying taxes in the U.S. The only thing is I could be just as proud for half the amount.

(January 19, 1978) The reason a lot of people do not recognize an opportunity when they meet it is that it usually goes around wearing overalls and looking like hard work.

(January 26, 1978) After an accident, a man was told he would need a partial brain transplant if he was to live a normal life. The doctor told him he could get Christian brains for \$25.00 an ounce. Agnostic brains for \$50.00 an ounce or Atheist brains for \$100.00 an ounce. He remarked that seemed awful high for Atheist brains. "Yes," the doctor told him, "but you are not taking into consideration how many Atheists we have to go through to get an ounce of good brains."

(March 23, 1978) LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. Earlville, Iowa, March 13, 1978, Dear Sir: Please renew my subscription to the Lakin Independent for another year. Enclosed find my personal check for nine dollars (\$9.00). Would you please tell Mrs. C. W. Rosebrook we especially enjoy her Fairview news. We hope she will not discontinue her remarks about the weather and crops and her bit of spice at the end of her columns. Yours truly, William G. Dittmer.

(June 22, 1978) If the liquor by the drink gives you a chance to vote, be sure to vote NO. We don't want liquor by the drink in our restaurants. Good FOOD is all that's necessary.

(August 31, 1978) If some liquor promoters bring you a petition to sign for liquor by the drink in our restaurants, please sign NO. There is too much liquor available in our town as it is now. So many liquor stores and beer parlors (dumps) on every corner. Please don't let it get into our

restaurants. Some energetic citizens seem to be joined to circulate petitions to get citizens to promise to vote for the cursed stuff. Think before you sign. Besides the unpleasant weather we have been having, we also have a bad infestation of crickets--everywhere and I'm sure they are doing plenty of damage. Spraying helps, but they still keep coming.

DIAL KUPK-TV CHANNEL 13
Tuesday at 6 p.m.

**For an interview with Western Kansas'
oldest reporter:**

Mrs. Hannah Rosebrook

who writes for the
LAKIN INDEPENDENT
Lakin, Kansas

Interviewed by KAKE-TV
Larry Hatteburg
on

"Second Tuesday"

Turn to KUPK-TV, Channel 13
Tuesday at 6 P.M.

Newspaper Publicity for a Televised Interview with Mrs. Rosebrook.

(January 11, 1979) Inez Phillips was a lunch guest at my home Saturday. The main topic of conversation during the meal was "the weather" and inflation. How much worse can it get? Talk about inflation in one northwest United States city. The plumbers are charging \$100.00 for the first hour and \$50.00 per hour afterward. I wonder who they think they are working for--Ted Kennedy or Nelson Rockefeller?

(January 25, 1979) Our new Governor said that he might have something in his legislative message regarding submission of an amendment to remove the ban on the open saloons from the state constitution. Please folks, write to him and tell him to find something better for Kansas. What would saloons bring to Kansas? More sin, more crime and more trouble. The only one it would benefit is the liquor industry. Now the papers are full of tractorcade news.¹² Can it help the present situation? Will it help to stop inflation? Inflation today is the worst situation the U.S. has ever known.

(May 10, 1979) The inflation is still our big problem. It seems to be getting a little worse all the time. I have one acre of vacant ground and I don't like weeds. So I keep it plowed. Last spring it was \$35.00 the first time, \$40.00 the second time, \$45.00 the third time. The other day it was \$55.00. Just one acre! What would you call it? Saturday I

¹²Militant farmers angry over declining crop prices and rising costs demanded one hundred per cent parity. "Mad as hell" members of the American Agricultural Movement descended on Washington, D.C. in their tractors which they drove to the capitol steps to remind the Carter administration of its promises of top dollar prices for farm products. Ironically many of their complaints were a result of the "free market" philosophy practiced by Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz during the boom years 1973-1975. (Butz recently pleaded no contest in fraudulently understating an income tax return.) This philosophy worked well during good times but agriculture is a cyclical business dependent on weather and foreign demand. By 1978 foreign demand had slackened considerably. Grain farmers were particularly hard hit as wheat prices fell to a level only slightly higher than at the end of World War I. A high percentage of these farmers were involved in the tractorcades. See Newsweek, April 17, 1978.

paid 81 cents per gallon for gas. We are promised \$1.00 per gallon before the summer is over. Now I can't help but wonder if it's necessary. Washington, D.C. sure has a bad time. Now the nuclear protestors have taken charge of Capitol Hill. I'd like to help them protest.

(September 27, 1979) Strikes of all sorts seems to be the worst problem right now. The worst of them right now is the teachers' strike and the Rock Island Railroad strike. Hope all can be peaceably settled soon. There are reports of infestation of grasshoppers in some areas but in most places it seems that for the present the grasshoppers have disappeared. We do need rain.

(October 11, 1979) Now it's liquor and airplanes, I say intoxicants should not be allowed on airplanes. They cause plenty of trouble down here on earth. Up in an airplane the danger would be much worse. And I think the state officer that suggests liquor on airplanes should have his head examined.

(November 1, 1979) I am now starting year 105. Not a dull moment so far. Now most of my news is seasoned with politics, every candidate trying his best to find something to tell on his opponent. October 27, is Hannah Rosebrooks' birthday, but as the years have added to her age, the whole month of October has become birthday time for her. Each mail day brings piles of cards filled with good wishes and every few days a beautiful bouquet of flowers or a lovely plant arrives and so many phone calls. One phone call that highlights her birthday time is the call that comes on her birthday from relatives in Sweden. Her family joins with her in saying "thank you" for all your thoughtfulness. You make her birthday very special, (By daughter, Ellen).

(November 8, 1979) By Tuesday morning, all schools were closed in Wichita county because of a blizzard warning and they stayed closed all the rest of the week because of power outage. By 8 o'clock that evening the storm hit in all it's fury. Strong winds, snow and ice on wires and poles caused them to start snapping. Telephones were out in the country most all the rest of the week. Through the years, we have

all been encouraged to use more and more electricity. Experiences like the ones we had the past week, show us that we have been wrong to let ourselves be placed in a position where we are so dependent on electrical power. It could just be possible that we'd be better off going back to a few of the things of the so called "good old days." (Ellen Krenzel).

(November 29, 1979) The Iran crisis and politics seem to occupy most of our dailies. Time alone will tell us the answer. Will Rogers says, "I tell you folks, all politics is applesauce."

(January 24, 1980) The world news is still bad, seems like everybody wants to fight someone. Our country seems to be willing to settle problems peaceable. I really feel sorry for our President, look who he has to deal with. No wonder he looks worried, the embargo wasn't enough, the latest trouble is the Olympics. We are hoping for a sensible solution to all the problems. Two local residents of a drought-stricken area were discussing their plights, "It could be a lot worse though," one finally admitted. "I hear that out west they ain't had rain for so long, that the Baptists are sprinklin' and the Methodists are using a damp cloth, and the Presbyterians are issuing rain checks."

(January 31, 1980) Our big news is that Mrs. Hannah Rosebrook was interviewed by Larry Hatteberg, photographer from KAKE-TV in Wichita last Tuesday morning, January 22. This interview will be shown on the program "Second Tuesday," which will be on TV the second Tuesday of February on Channel 10.

(February 7, 1980) Talk about tension, seems like just about every nation is having a seige of tension. Sure hope something will happen soon. Canada sure played a clever trick on Iran. Keeping those six Americans hidden all that time, and then their escape home without being caught.

(March 6, 1980) Conditions don't seem to be improving in Iran, Pakistan or Afghanistan. I wish Russia would stay at home instead of trying to push herself in where she isn't wanted. Time will tell but I'm afraid some of those small

countries will gradually fall into the hands of Russia. Now Columbia has joined the hostage parade. It may become an epidemic.

(June 5, 1980) Fairview News by Ellen Krenzel. The Fairview news column will be discontinued with this issue of the Lakin Independent. Mother is no longer well enough to write the news. It has been very important and of great interest to her these many years to have the Fairview items in the paper each week. Mother (Mrs. Rosebrook) wishes to thank each of you in the community for your faithfulness through the years in contributing your news. Without your help, there could not have been a Fairview news column. Thank you so very much. Very little rain the past week in this area. Farmers are busy in the fields and the wheat looks wonderful. Ramona Krenzel left Sunday morning for Hays where she will attend the summer session of school at Fort Hays State College. Mr. and Mrs. Horace Downs and Ronn Downs of Las Cruces, New Mexico, spent last week vacationing at Lake George, Colo. Ellen Krenzel spent Tuesday afternoon with her mother, Mrs. Hannah Rosebrook, of Garden City. Visitors of Mrs. Laura Hahn the past week were Mrs. Merle Bishop, Friday afternoon, and Mrs. Inez Bishop, Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Horace Downs attended the 50th anniversary reunion of her high school graduation class at Pretty Prairie on Saturday. From there she went to Wichita and her sisters. Alma Sargent and Marie Baty returned home with her for a visit. Steve Krenzel of Wichita spent the weekend with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Donald Krenzel, and brother, Troy. The Phil Scheels of Leoti were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Art McCowan. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dierks drove to Eads, Colo. on Thursday to look after cattle they have on pasture there. They reported a wonderful drive with the wheat fields and countryside beautiful all the way. Jimmy and Dixie Summers of Garden City visited their grandmother, Mrs. Vardie Buck several days during the past week.



MRS. HANNAH A. ROSEBROOK, the oldest newspaper correspondent in the nation, was presented a plaque Sunday by Mr. and Mrs. Monte Canfield, publishers of The Lakin Independent. Mrs. Rosebrook proudly shows visitors the memento which reads: "Hannah A. Rosebrook on her 103rd birthday, in appreciation for more than a half century of service to The Lakin Independent." She was honored at an open house at the home of her daughter, Inez Phillips, in Garden City. A host of friends visited during the day. (Staff Photo)

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EPILOGUE

During the last three years of her life Hannah Rosebrook was interviewed and written about by fellow journalists because she was interesting material. A perfect illustration of the rugged individualist refusing to be swallowed up by huge forces such as modern technology she held her own against modernization as evidenced by the fact that she always wrote her column in ballpoint pen on lined paper rather than turning to the typewriter.

Mrs. Rosebrook remained mentally alert throughout her entire 104 plus years. She continued to read voraciously even though her eyesight was failing. Daily she read "The Hutch News, because it's newsy, and the Garden City Telegram."

Before she went to the hospital for the last time, she was fretting over the news coming out of Iran. She was "afraid the U.S. is going to fool around not with the Moslems but with the Communists. First thing you know we'll be surrounded."

She got the bulk of her columns from "neighbors, reading," and from "listening." She always verified what she heard, however, because she knew one "can't always depend on what people tell you."

When she arrived from Sweden, she knew three English words: yes, no, and ticket. But she did not know what they meant. Like many others who came to Kansas she believed that her education constituted a central part of her life and played an important role in the development of her character. She noted: "I had so many good teachers. Our education was so thorough. When we left a book we knew it. It's not that way now. We had McGuffey's schoolbooks and they were wonderful."

Like many other pioneers she loved the country because it seemed to instill within the settlers and their children a sense of sturdy independence, pride in remaining free from debt, and responsibility to God, country, and one's job.

In an interview conducted just before she died she commented: "Any kind of life is a battle to win. You can't

stop. You got to keep going. We never had a mortgage all those years. A farm is the best place in the world to raise a family (they raised nine children--seven are living). They learn where their eggs and milk come from; they learn to work. How is it for town children? They have the street. I feel sorry for them."

"I have no answer for" modern women. "It's terrible. Morals are slacker. People get away with things they wouldn't have tolerated fifty years ago. We endured hardships and my family didn't complain because they didn't know any better."

Proud that she never drank, smoked, or danced and pleased with the fact that she was the oldest pioneer in Kearny county, Hannah Rosebrook was as relevant to the ethos of the Mid-West and its heritage in 1980 as she was in 1918.



