Officers

Term expiring June 1, 2017: Kelly Krier, Mary Beth Lowe, Mike Peak, Dr. Jinny Turman

Term expiring June 1, 2016: Dr. Roger Davis, Lance Hehner, Matt O’Callaghan, Jan Rodehorst

Institutional Membership

Family

Individual

Student

$10.00

2014 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

BUFFALO TALES is the official publication of the Buffalo County Historical Society, a non-profit organization, whose address is P.O. Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848-0523. Phone: 308.234.3041

Email: tchc.us@hotmail.com

Katherine Wielechowski, Editor

2014 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

Student

Individual

Family

Institutional Membership

Supporting Membership

$10.00

$35.00

$40.00

$50.00

$75.00

Directors

Term expiring June 1, 2016: Dr. Roger Davis, Lance Hehner, Matt O’Callaghan, Jan Rodehorst

Term expiring June 1, 2017: Kelly Krier, Mary Beth Lowe, Mike Peak, Dr. Jinny Turman

Term expiring June 1, 2018: Pat Armst, Pat Neff, Corene Phillips, Robin Smith

Officers (1 year term)

President: Dr. Roger Davis

Vice-President: Lance Hehner

Secretary: Corene Phillips

Treasurer: Mary Beth Lowe

Buffalo Tales

Looking into the Past 2016: Photo Project Partnership with UNK Small Group Communications (part 1)

By Kylee Johnson, Holly Green, Molly Anson, and Yamin Zou

For the Looking Into the Past Photo Project, students from Dr. Messersmith’s UNK Small Group Communications class partnered with the Buffalo County Historical Society to choose old pictures of places in Kearney. They spent many hours combing through the archives looking for photos, made copies of the originals, and extensively researched the subjects of the pictures. They made the extra effort to use historical sources, such as old documents, to learn about the places and to help locate them. Once the research was done, the students took the copies to where the original pictures were taken. They painstakingly worked to line the historical photo up with the location today (taking into account the time of day of the original), then took a picture featuring the photo.

Look at the picture of the Kearney Canal below:

As you can see, the main focal point is the top edge of the Kearney Canal dam. However, you will also notice how the trees are no longer in the image, along with the bottom part of the canal not matching up. This will happen. Many of the sites will have had restorations or additions so it will not be uncommon to only have one focal point line up. This picture was also chosen as the example because it had to be cut in half. The picture was a picture of the entire Kearney Canal dam, so in order to have the picture taken, the copy was cut in half as to show the present day picture.

Kearney Canal

The dry years of the 1870s inspired W. W. Patterson’s idea of providing irrigation to farms in the Platte Valley. Patterson planned to build a canal from the Platte River to the Kearney reservoir. This canal would provide irrigation to the farms and generate power. The Kearney Canal and Water Supply began construction in 1882, however, because of lack of funds, the construction stopped.

George Frank bought the company and was able to complete the project in 1886. In April of 1888, the Canal Company finished construction of the power plant and electricity began flowing to Kearney. This hydroelectric facility is the oldest in the state and only has one generator that is from 1920. This hydro plant has been renamed Spillway Park and Museum and its preservation is set in three phases. The first phase was to restore the area by planting trees and shrubs, completed in 1997. The second phase is to fix or replace the bridges to make the walkways more scenic. After that is done, the final phase (no set date) is to turn the plant into a museum.

The Nebraska Student Union is the home of administrative offices, student, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests that come visit the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The Nebraska Student Union is the home of administrative offices, the office of Multicultural Affairs along with student activity offices, UNK food service and operations, campus bookstore and also has conference space available.

Fine Arts Building
The Fine Arts Building, locally known as "The FAB", is home to the department of Music and the Performing Arts. The building houses several theaters and a recital hall that are used for performances throughout the year. Because this building was to house the Fine Arts and Humanities classes, some reconstructing and an addition consisting of classroom on the west side of the building for art students along with practice rooms for music students was needed. Between the recital halls and the classrooms lie a coffee shop for those passing through on cold days to warm up in between classes, catch up with friends or study in a quiet environment. The Fine Arts and Humanities has some of the greatest opportunities for their students provided by the public in form of endowments and private funding. One of these programs is the UNK New Music Festival, started in 2002, that allows music students to perform their own music to professionals. Another way funds are created are through the many ties for their students provided by the public in form of endowments and private funding.

Library
Built in 1963, the library was the center of the Kearney State College campus. It was used for studying and gathering information before the technology era made everything attainable at the touch of a mouse. The library was added on to between 1981 and 1982, doubling its size, and was renamed for English professor, Calvin T. Ryan. Fast forward nearly thirty years, the library now has enough room for over a thousand users. It holds a coffee shop lounge, several computer labs, study rooms, a reference desk, individual computer stations, and also a lounge areas. There are currently over 210,000 print titles, over 130,000 e-book titles, over 600 print subscriptions, and over 120,000 periodical volumes. The 3rd level is home of the writing center and tutors where students of the University of Nebraska at Kearney utilize the help to better themselves academically. In addition to all the wonderful tools mentioned, the library also publishes its own bimonthly newsletter titled In Brief to let anyone interested know what is happening at the library.

Eva J. Case Hall
On June 9, 1930, the cornerstone was laid for the Eva J. Case Hall, the first residence hall to be built on campus, then called the Nebraska State Teachers College at Kearney. In September 1930, Eva J. Case Hall was named after Eva J. Case who was the first woman head chairperson of the College of Education. As a board member who helped raise funds, a dorm room was named after her. The cost to have room and board was $6.50 per week. Case Hall was named after Eva J. Case and opened for 180 freshman women. The original Eva J. Case Hall, the first residence hall to be built on campus, was destroyed to make room for Nester Hall, renovated in 1978, however, in 2006 Case Hall was renovated in 1978-1979, however, in 2006 Case Hall was destroyed to make room for Nester Hall.

Museum of Nebraska Arts - MONA
In 1976, the Nebraska Arts Collection Board of Directors had the dream of a place to display fewer than 30 pieces of art which showed the unique artistic heritage of the state. After the Nebraska Legislature passed the bill that would allow the collection to be displayed, renovations started on the building which had been the Kearney Post Office since 1911. MONA, the Museum of Nebraska Art, was dedicated and opened to the public in October of 1986. Today, MONA has over 5,000 pieces of artwork that display the historical significance of the state and collects, preserves, and enhances the quality of life of each of those pieces. In addition, MONA also has workshops for students and adults each year.

Nebraskan Student Union
The Nebraskan Student Union was opened in the year 1964 and in 2002 a 25,000 square foot renovation was completed. The Nebraskan Student Union is for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests that come visit the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The Nebraskan Student Union is the home of administrative offices, offices of Multicultural Affairs along with student activity offices, UNK food service and operations, campus bookstore and also has conference space available.

2015 Calendar of Events
September 11: Walk in the Cope Shoes Event. See the calendar on our website, bchs.us, for a list of event.

October 3: Fall Festival at Trails & Rails Museum 10am to 2pm. Family fun, children’s activities, food and drink. FREE admission, donations accepted.

October 16: 2015 Paranormal Experience with Synergy. Class begins at 7pm at Trails & Rails Museum, $40/person. Sign up at bchs.us or in person at Trails & Rails Museum.

All of November: Christmas Decorating (during regular business hours) First two weekends in Dec. (Dec.5/6 and Dec. 12/13) from 1-5 pm - Open to the public. 20th Annual Christmas Tree Walk. *** Saturday, December 5 from 12-12pm: Members Only Preview of the 20th Annual Christmas Tree Walk*** check out dozens of trees decorated by area not-for-profits that tie their mission into this year’s theme, Santa’s Workshop.

Education notes:
Trails & Rails Museum closed April 28 through May 9 for Kearney Public Schools.

Listen to Mardi Anderson on KGFW 1340 AM at 9 am on the last Friday of each month for a fabulous story about Buffalo County!

January: Place Names in Buffalo County
February: The Dark Side of History
March: The Art of Weaving
April: National Soil House Society
May: On the Road to
June: Chautauqua

Fabulous Fridays are held on the 2nd Friday monthly at 2 pm. Locations vary, so check the web site.

We hope you enjoy these stories about Buffalo County. We would love to have a stock pile of Buffalo Tales ready so they can go out in a more timely manner. Please submit your memories and stories to us by e-mailing them to bchs@bchs.us or sending them to the post office box: BCHS, PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848.

We appreciate your support!

Director's Report

We received a letter on 9/11/15 letting us know the City of Kearney awarded us $900 from Kearney Keno funds to help seal the exterior of the Blacksmith Shop. Jerry Marlatt is in charge of this project. We are hoping to utilize YRTC guys to help with the labor. An e-mail has been sent to YRTC and we are waiting to hear back from them.

The Kearney Army Air Base sign that we worked on the wording for has been sent to YRTC and we are waiting to hear back from them.

We are hoping to utilize YRTC guys to help with the labor. An e-mail has been sent to YRTC and we are waiting to hear back from them.

The Kearney Army Air Base sign that we worked on the wording for (and the City of Kearney is funding) has arrived in Kearney. I am not sure when they plan to install it, but BCHS should be there during that ceremony.

Linda and Tom, her husband, have been coming down almost weekly to work on the garden area by the front gate. They do a terrific job and we have many compliments on it throughout the year.

BCHS will be participating in this year’s Walk in the Cope’s Shoes event by holding five activities that are FREE and open to the public. Please visit the calendar on our website, bchs.us, for a list of activities.

Be our friend on Facebook: "BuffaloCounty HistoricalSociety"