

Buffalo Tales

MAY/JUNE 2011

100 Years of Twisters:

A Photo Journal of the 1908 and 2008 Tornadoes

Compiled by Katherine Wielechowski

Funnel clouds were spotted between four and six pm on the evening of June 4, 1908. The single resulting tornado would end up causing thousands of dollars in damage to homes, barns, livestock, and other property.



*"The morning after Kearney's first cyclone of June 4th 08. Made by M. Swan"
Property of the Buffalo County Historical Society. Used with permission.*

*Tornado June 4 '08-Niles
Postcard property of Buffalo County Historical Society.
Used with permission*



*"Mr. Salgreen's Res. After cyclone at Kearney Neb 6/4th 08. taken by H. Swan"
Postcard property of Buffalo County Historical Society. Used with permission.*

*"E.J.
Woolworth's Res.
Damaged by
Cyclone 6/4th 08.
Kearney, Neb.
Taken by Swan"
Property of the
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Historical
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with permission.*



*"All that was left
of Mr. Jenkin's
Place near
Kearney Neb.
By the cyclone of
June 4th 08."
Postcard property
of Buffalo County
Historical
Society. Used
with permission.*

Funnel clouds were spotted around five pm on the evening of May 29, 2008 approaching Kearney with what would be the most destructive storm in recent memory. It produced many tornadoes that caused extensive damage to homes and businesses in and around Kearney.



*Damage at Baldwin's-stacks of pallets
blown over
Photo property of Todd Pickering,
used with permission*



*Damage at Baldwin's-down
power lines
Photo property of Todd Pickering,
used with permission*

Tornadoes are some of Mother Nature's most destructive and unpredictable forces, something that Midwesterners have known for centuries. They are a feature of every spring, summer, and fall that we live with. Some batten down the hatches while others stand on the front porch



*Remains of the Expo Building at the Buffalo County Fair Grounds
Photo property of the Kearney Hub,
used with permission*



*The Expo Building at the Buffalo County Fair Grounds
Photo property of Todd Pickering,
used with permission*



*Tree blown over by tornado at Harmon Park
Photo Property of the Kearney Hub,
used with permission*



*House that was damaged by tornado
Photo property of the Kearney Hub,
used with permission.*

to watch them approach. Tornadoes are a destructive nuisance but after the ones that have left their marks on Kearney, we can never forget the awesome destructive power that they are made of.

Note from the Editor

I was not a Kearney resident when the 2008 tornado caused so much destruction to the area but I did see much of damage a few days later while passing through the area. I want to say a huge thanks to Todd Pickering and Dan Spiers for finding the great pictures from 2008 and to Todd and the Kearney Hub for allowing me to share them.

If you are interested in learning more about the 1908 tornado, please see the November-December, 2007 Buffalo Tale, "Winded: Kearney's Cyclone of 1908" by Heather Stauffer, Vol. 30, No.6.

Did You Know...?
 ...THAT THE LOG CABIN AT THE TRAILS & RAILS HAS A HISTORY SHROUDED IN MYSTERY. IT WAS DISCOVERED INSIDE A FARM HOUSE WHEN THE OWNER WAS TEARING IT DOWN.
 SEE YOUR WORDS IN PRINT!
 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY OF... MOTHER'S/ FATHER'S DAY. DID YOU AND YOUR SIBLINGS DO SOMETHING HUGE OR WAS A FAMILY DINER OUT PART OF YOUR TRADITION?
 E-MAIL US AT: BCHS.BUFFALOTALES@HOTMAIL.COM



Ghost Hunting with MPI

The next Ghost Hunting classes with Midwest Paranormal Investigators at the Trails & Rails Museum will be on May 13th and June 17th. Prices for this year are \$40 a person or \$75 for a couple. Contact the Trails & Rails Museum to register or for more information at 308-234-3041 or bchs.us@hotmail.com.



Buffalo County Stampede

Join us for the 4th Annual 1/2 Marathon on June 12th! Registration begins at 6am at the Trails & Rails Museum with the race starting at 7am. Registration fees are \$35 until June 1st and \$40 dollars after that. Registrants will receive a tee-shirt and goodie bag filled with items donated by area organizations and businesses. Run like a Buffalo is chasing you!!!



26th Annual Wagons West Celebration!

Join us for a day of celebrating the movement west at the 26th Annual Wagons West Celebration. We will be having a fiddle contest, exhibitors, pony rides, "Buffalo" Bingo, and other fun activities! Come to the Trails & Rails Museum on June 25 from 10am-2pm and have fun with history!

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: bchs.us@hotmail.com

Katherine Wielechowski, Editor
 2011 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

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|--------------------------------|---------|
| Individual | \$35.00 |
| Family | \$40.00 |
| Institutional Membership | \$50.00 |
| Supporting Membership | \$75.00 |

We have replaced the word 'Basic' to 'Family'.

Directors
 Term expiring June 1, 2011: Dr. Mark Ellis, Sharon Martin, Duane Muhlback, Barb Riege
 Term expiring June 1, 2012: Mary Kenny, Janice Martin, Dan Speirs, Garry Straatmaan
 Term expiring June 1, 2013: Vicki Bissell, Jim Cudaback, Chad Henning, Lynn Rauner

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Officers (1 year term) | |
| President | Dan Speirs |
| Vice-President | Sharon Martin |
| Secretary | Barb Riege |
| Treasurer | Lynn Rauner |

2011 Calendar of Events

Date/Time TBD: Don't Come Event

Saturday, March 19 from 1-4: Celtic Festival

Sunday, April 10th from 1-3 pm: BCHS Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 12: 4th Annual ½ Marathon: Buffalo County Stampede—Reg. @ 6 am, Race begins @ 7

Saturday, June 25 from 10-2: 26th Annual Wagons West Celebration **Includes fiddle contest**

Date/Time TBD: Golf Tournament

Tuesday, September 27th from 6-9:30: 5th Annual Trivia Contest & Dinner

Saturday, Oct. 22 (time TBD): Old-fashioned Halloween Party

Saturday, December 3rd from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 24th Annual Christmas Tree Walk

The first two weekends in December (3rd/4th and 10th/11th) from 1-5 pm: Open to the public: 24th Annual Christmas Tree Walk

Volunteers and sponsors are still needed for these events. Please contact any staff or board member to help!

Education notes:

March hours: Monday-Saturday 1-5 pm daily (crane season)

Wild Science Thursdays will return in the summer!

Ghost Hunting classes-check the web site for more info.!

Kearney Public Schools have the museum reserved for two weeks: May 2-14, 2011

Volunteers, chairpersons, and sponsors are still needed. Please contact the office for more information on supporting your Buffalo County Historical Society!

PO Box 523, 710 W. 11th St., Kearney, NE 68845
(308) 234-3041 www.bchs.us bchs.us@hotmail.com

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.us@hotmail.com or sending them to the post office box: BCHS, PO Box 523 Kearney NE 68848.

We appreciate your support!

Director's Report

-Hotel floor donation by an anonymous donor

-I have met with Mike Peak a couple times about the ½ marathon and the event is listed on a couple major running web sites and participants can actually sign up on two different web sites and those sites will just forward BCHS the info. and the registration money. We have been working with the web site workers to get the front page of the web site ready for the participants to sign up.

-I attended the May cultural director's breakfast and learned from Audrey about MONA's 100th anniversary plans. They are requesting BCHS's assistance with some research.

-Mary Beth and I met with two potential Eagle Scouts and shared the list of project ideas. One gentleman is excited to tackle the brick laying under/around the train to reduce weeding and to allow for an extra path along the west and north side of the engine. He has already been out getting measurements. The other gentleman was going to see if his church had projects, too, and then get back to us.

-A former employee wrote out a dinner theater skit and she invited her friends to come and participate. They donated \$60 to BCHS. This is the second time she has organized this.

-I submitted a 2010 Kearney Keno grant application for \$2659.76 to repair the log cabin. The grant was awarded in the full amount. Jim Miller will oversee this project.

Be sure to Join the Buffalo County Historical Society group or the Buffalo County Historical Society/Trails & Rails Museum fan page on Facebook!



Trails & Rails Museum
Buffalo County Historical Society
710 West 11th Street Box 523
Kearney, NE 68848-0523

Visit us at
www.bchs.us

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