

Buffalo Tales July/August 2011



100 Years: *United States Post Office to The Museum of Nebraska Art*

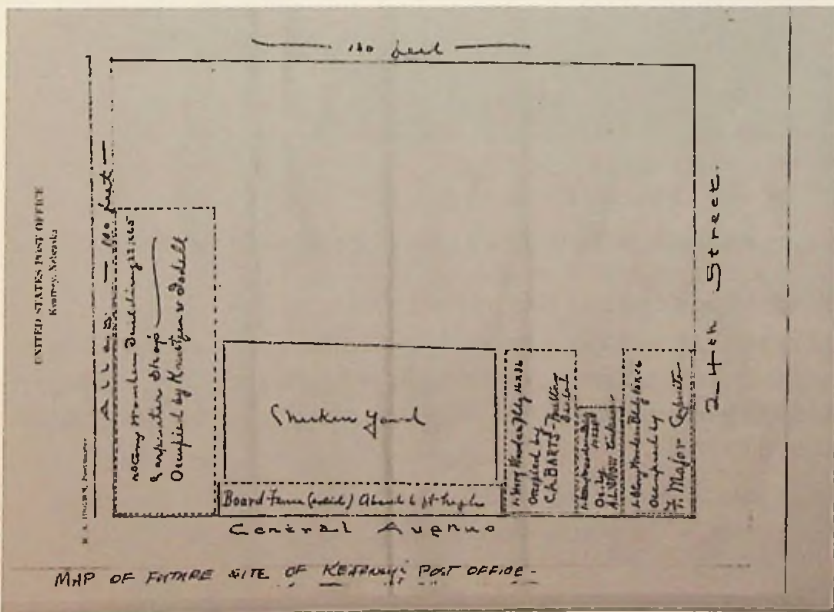
Compiled by Katherine Wielechowski



Sketch of the future Kearney Post Office, circa 1910. Caption: U. S. Post Office, Kearney NE, James Knox Taylor-Supervising Architect

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In 1907, the U.S. Government purchased lots at the corner of 24th Street and Central Avenue from J. K. Lowe. Since construction of the post office did not start for two years, Lowe was paid \$2 a month for rent until construction was started.



Map of the future site of Kearney's Post Office



Caption: Starting foundation to new Post Office Building, Kearney, Nebr.

Postcard property of the Buffalo County Historical Society. Used with permission.



Post Office, Kearney, Nebr.



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In 1975, the idea that led to the creation of the Nebraska Art Collection was conceived.

And in 1976, a board was organized by KSC President Brendan McDonald and the first artworks were purchased. They were six paintings by Clarence Ellsworth purchased for \$3,000. They were added to the few works already donated by KSC.

Finally, in 1985, negotiations for the purchase of the former post office building began. The purchase took place in 1986 at a cost of \$120,000.



**Postcard property of the Buffalo County Historical Society.
Used with permission.**

1986 was when the Board applied and received National Register of Historic Places designation for the former post office building.

October, 1991 brought the ground breaking for the remodeling and addition.



**Postcard property of the Buffalo County Historical Society. Used
with permission.**

Early in October of 1993, construction on the building, expansion and sculpture garden was completed. The final cost was \$4.5 million. Dedication ceremonies took place later that month.

Now in 2011, one hundred years after its humble beginnings as a United States Post Office, there are more than 5,680 artworks in the MONA Collection.

A Note from the Editor

You may have noticed some format changes in this issue of Buffalo Tales. We have decided to do things a little differently and I hope that you like them.

I am still working on getting all of the back issues caught up and sent to you and I appreciate your patience.

I am always accepting more stories for Buffalo Tales, so if you have any stories, memories or pictures about Buffalo County that you would like to share, please e-mail it to me at bchs.buffalotales@hotmail.com or send it to the BCHS, PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848.

Thank you again for your patience and your support of BCHS and Trails & Rails Museum.

-Katherine



Ghost Hunting with MPI

The next Ghost Hunting classes with Midwest Paranormal Investigators at the Trails & Rails Museum will be on July 29th and August 26th. 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.

Pioneer Cup



BCHS will be hosting the first ever Pioneer Cup Golf Tournament on Friday, August 26. It is \$260 per team or \$65 per person with tee off at 10 am at Prairie Hills Golf Course.

5th Annual Trivia Contest and Soup Supper

Mark your calendars for the 5th annual Trivia Contest and Soup Supper on September 27th from 6-9:30!! It is \$10 a person for teams up to 6 people. Prizes for the winners plus raffle drawings throughout the evening.



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

2010 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

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, 2012: Bernie Hascall, Janice Martin, Dan Speirs, Gary Straatmann

Term expiring June 1, 2013: Vicki Bissell, Chad Henning, Lynn Rauner, Jim Cudaback

Term expiring June 1, 2014: Mary Beth Lowe, Sharon Martin, Duane Muhlbach, Mike Peak

Officers (1 year term)

President.....Dan Speirs

Vice-President.....Sharon Martin

Secretary.....Mary Beth Lowe

Treasurer.....Lynn Rauner

2011 Calendar of Events

Friday, August 26th from 10am-?: Golf Tournament

Tuesday, September 27th from 6-930: 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 68848

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

We appreciate your support!

Director's Report

-BCHS was asked to attend the Crane Fest planning meeting. This is a new group trying to organize a community wide celebration of the Cranes in March. The last week in March, with both weekends surrounding it will be the 2012 designated time for this festival. More details will be given as they are ironed out.

-A Kearney Area Community Foundation grant was submitted on July 1 to complete the cabin project. The grant was awarded in the full amount of \$6452.13. (the largest grant they have ever awarded). Matt O'Callaghan will be overseeing this project.

-I met with the UNK Americorp representatives and was told that a grant was awarded through them to have an Americorp person hired to share between the museums that signed on.

-I attended the chamber's non-profit director's meeting in July and we, as a group, are looking into possible insurance umbrella going through community foundation that we could all tap into. More info. will be available after the September meeting.

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



Trails & Rails Museum

Buffalo County Historical Society

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Kearney, NE 68848-0523

Visit us at

www.bchs.us

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