

Buffalo Tales

November/December 2015

Looking into the Past 2014: Photo Project Partnership with UNK Small Group Communications (part II)

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.

Harmon Park

Harmon Park has had many changes throughout the years. In 1876, Thomas Perkins and James Harford gave the city of Kearney a block to create the Third Ward Park. The park consisted of trees, grass, and flowers with some drinking fountains and benches. A new portion of the park was added on the



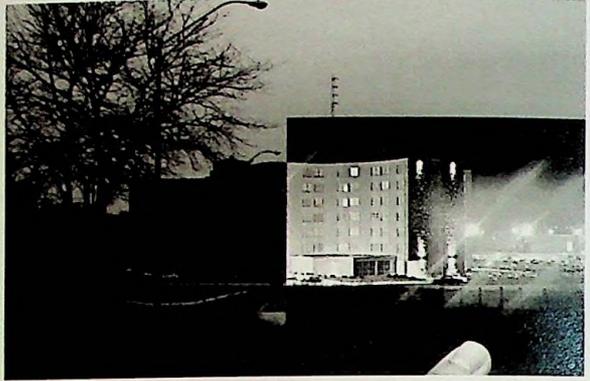
north edge and called Lincoln Park. From 1907 to 1924 Chautauqua had a section of the park and called it Chautauqua Park. In 1924 William E. Harmon from New York City wanted to organize the Harmon Foundation which would offer financial assistance to Kearney in the hope of opening a playground. From 1924-1937, Harmon Park also had 14 ponies that children could ride. These ponies were owned by the city but were kept at a nearby farm, however, these pony rides were discontinued in June of 1937 when the pool and bathhouse opened. In 1938-1939, the Rock Garden was formed and on June 21, 1938 the Sonatorium was dedicated to Harmon Park to use. The light house was constructed in the summer of 1940. As of today Harmon Park remains much the same as it did back in the 1930's, just with a few new additions.

- "Harmon Park." *Harmon Park*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Nov. 2014.

Centennial Towers East & West

Centennial Towers East & West (CTE and CTW) were built in 1967 and 1968 on the North and East side of campus. Each tower has 7 floors, making them the tallest buildings in Kearney. These halls house 383 students each. They were unique for their time because they were the first to offer suites for residents,

contrary to regular two person rooms with community bathrooms. Each suite included two person rooms on each side of a full bathroom. When the Centennial Towers first opened, they were only for female residents, however, the halls were later turned co-ed. Starting in 2012, these buildings were renovated, adding fire sprinklers, new windows, and carpet. Renovations were finished and CTE opened back up in April 2014.



- "UNK News." *UNK News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Oct. 2014. <<http://unknews.unk.edu/2013/07/24/unk-welcomes-community-to-come-on-in/>>

The Frank House

In 1886 George William Frank Jr., designed a house as a gift to his parents. Due to the Panic of 1893 (the most severe economic crash up to that point), Frank's parents only lived in the house until 1900 because of the loss of financial standings. This house was the first house west of the Missouri River that was wired for electricity.



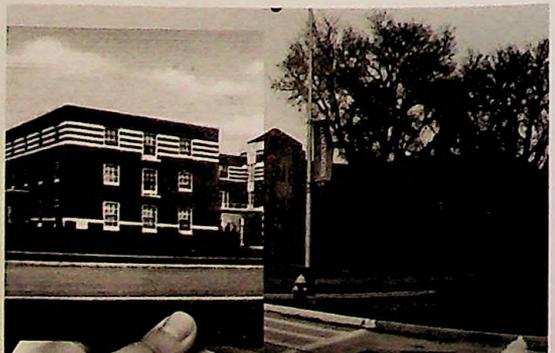
It also featured steam radiators and indoor plumbing. Today, it still has 7 of the 10 original fireplaces that had tiles that were imported from Holland. In 1907, the house was purchased by Ole and Georgina Grothan who eventually turned it into Grothan Elmwood Sanitarium. In 1911 the Grothan's divorced and the house was sold to the state of Nebraska to become a part of the State Tuberculosis hospital.

This was the living headquarters for the staff of the hospital until 1971. Then, in 1973, the Frank house was put on the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Frank House." *The Frank House*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Nov. 2014.

Men's Hall

Men's hall was built in 1939 for Kearney State College (1950-1980). President Franklin D. Roosevelt provided the school with a \$175,000 WPA grant (in order to build roads and buildings and also create more jobs) to help fund the hall where it was designed to be able to provide 110 students with the dining hall located at the east wing of the first floor. In September 1943, the college's first student union was opened in the basement of Men's Hall which was also known as the Kampus Kave,



it had a fountain-style "bar" and Ping-Pong tables. Not only was Men's Hall one of the first places to house the Union, but it was also home to the library, faculty offices, and residence housing (it's intended purpose) in its lifespan. In the

1965-66 school year. Men's Hall was opened to women to offer a co-educational environment but it was used to house mainly Honors Program students. It was renovated in 1953, 1983, 2008, and again in 2010 to update the style but keeping it as historic as possible.

"Office of Residence Life." *Campus Housing Options: Men's Hall*. N.p., n.d. Web 30 Nov. 2014. http://www.unk.edu/offices/reslife/hall_options.php.
<http://library.unk.edu/archives/docs/MensHall.pdf>

University of Nebraska Kearney Alumni House

The University of Nebraska Kearney Alumni house is the oldest building connected with UNK. Before it was the Alumni House, it served as the home of Dr. A. O. Thomas, the first president of the college. On February 21, 1907 Dr. Thomas and his family moved into the beautiful home. In the year of 1980, the Alumni Association attained the house from the H.W. Swan family. It is located one block south of UNK campus where the house has undergone \$300,000 of renovations and projects throughout the years. The Alumni House offers displays of memorabilia that create a sense of history with old yearbooks, newspapers, and pictures from



the past. It can also be used for corporate events, such as meetings, retreats, conferences, seminars, training, retirement parties and much more.

"Alumni House." *UNK Alumni Association*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Oct. 2014.

CHI Good Samaritan Kearney, NE

On July 24, 1924 Good Samaritan Hospital opened its doors. The hospital was established by the Sisters of Saint Francis and in 2014 went through a name change from Good Samaritan Hospital to CHI Good Samaritan Kearney which is a part of the Catholic Health Initiatives. The hospital has a 268-bed regional referral center and Nebraska's first accredited Chest Pain Center along with a Level II Trauma



Center and an AirCare emergency helicopter transport. In 1988 Good Samaritan took over the emergency medical service and is now in charge of EMS calls for Kearney and the surrounding area. The hospital has gone through several renovations throughout the years. One of the biggest renovations was in 2005 when the \$21 million West Tower was opened. In October of

2009 Good Samaritan made the decision to invest \$65 million in private patient rooms, new operating rooms, and an improved cardiology facility. CHI Good Samaritan serves as both a medical facility and a community partner, taking care of today's patients.

"CHI Health Good Samaritan - Kearney, Nebraska." *CHI Health Good Samaritan - Kearney, Nebraska*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Nov. 2014.

Gibbony, Sara. "Kearney Hub." *Kearney Hub*. N.p., Jan. 2010. Web. 13 Nov. 2014.

Soon, all of the pictures from the Looking into the Past Buffalo Tales will be available for viewing in color on our facebook page.

2015 Calendar of Events

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: 28th Annual Christmas Tree Walk *** **Saturday, December 5 from 12-1pm: Members Only Preview of the 28th 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:

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!

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

January: Place Names in Buffalo County

February: The Dust Bowl Days

March: The Art of Weaving

April: National Sod House Society

May: On the Road to _____

June: Chautauqua

July: Teas from Native Plants

August: Tea Party

September: 100 Years of 4-H

October: History of Canning Jars

November: History of WWI Poppies

December: Sing along with Jim Cudaback

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

-Trails & Rails Museum will be closed the week of November 23-27 for Thanksgiving and December 24-January 1 for Christmas and New Years. We will reopen at 1pm, Monday January 4, 2016.

-I signed BCHS up for the KACF's Give Where You Live event for Dec. 3.
 -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. UPDATE: I received an e-mail 10/19 that the blacksmith volunteers and possibly the YRTC boys would be here on 10/20 at 2 pm to tackle this.

-Valley Pharmacy borrowed some pictures to enlarge and display in their business. They are very supportive members and will be prominently acknowledging BCHS.

-Marsha Wilkerson, with CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital borrowed some of our artifacts for a nice display. The dedication was held when I was out of town, but Mary Beth Lowe represented us and said Marsha was very complimentary of BCHS and she was glad she went.

-The Blacksmiths have created several items for us to sell in the gift shop.

-KCP Mall Advertising opportunity: I am spearheading a cooperative marketing opportunity for the Kearney Cultural Partners to create a poster that looks just like the magnet. We decided to go for 14 months and hit two of the Mall's busy seasons that way. 13 organizations agreed to participate. I sent out invoices on 11/2, as we paid the Mall upfront and Eakes has billed us.

Be our friend on Facebook: "BuffaloCountyHistoricalSociety"



BCHS Gold Engineers

Cash-Wa Distributing
 Frank Cepel
 Ron Eckloff
 Ft. Theatre Dentistry/Dr.
 Walter Martin
 Lance & Chris Hehner
 Jerry & Tami Hellman
 Fred & Betty Kempf
 Elbert & Betty Lowenstein

Jerry & Edith Marlatt
 Janice & Bill Martin
 Sharon & John Martin
 Midlands Contracting, Inc.
 Corene & Errol Phillips
 Eric & Debbie Rosenlof
 Leonard Skov
 Joe & Jean Widdowson

BCHS Silver Engineers

Ace Irrigation
 Arby's & Motel 6 of Kearney
 George & Roxanne Bascom
 Elaine & Michael Batenhorst
 June & Steele Becker
 Jim Berglund
 Vicki Bissell
 Gerald & Genevieve Brandorff
 Butch & Margaret Brown
 Kenneth W. Carmann
 Dora Day
 Jim & Marsha Fairbanks
 Thomas Gallagher
 John & Mary Haase
 Galen & Marilyn Hadley
 Harnagel Farms
 Cris & Heidi Hehner
 Tom & Mary Henning
 Robert Heyd
 Carol Copeland Huntington
 Mr. Robert Jones

Howard Kolbo
 Sharon & Gary Mason
 McDermott & Miller PC
 Duncan & Janice McGregor
 Jim & Jan Miller
 Nelson's Furniture
 O'Brien-Straatmann-Redinger-Funeral
 Home
 Dick & Glenda Prascher
 Kimbera & Ronny Roberts
 Dr. Charles & Vickie Schaepler
 Rob & Tova Shaffer
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 Trenton D. Snow, LLC
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 Douglas & Emily State
 Stubblefield, Inc.
 Carlene Waldron
 David H. Weir, MD
 Dave & Beth Westesen
 Roger Worlock

A Huge Thanks to our Silver and Gold Engineers for their support of the BCHS/Trails & Rails Museum

(Contact Trails & Rails Museum for more information on becoming an Engineer)

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Email: bchs.us@hotmail.com

Katherine Wielechowski, Editor

2014 Annual dues, payable January 1, are:

Student.....	\$10.00
Individual.....	\$35.00
Family.....	\$40.00
Institutional Membership.....	\$50.00
Supporting Membership.....	\$75.00

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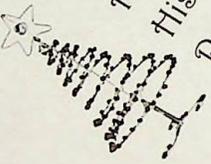
Trails & Rails Museum

**Buffalo County Historical Society
710 West 11th St. P.O. Box 523
Kearney, NE 68848-0523**

Visit us at

www.bchs.us

Return Service Requested



*Merry Christmas and Happy
Holidays from Buffalo County
Historical Society and Trails &
Rails Museum!*

Non-Profit Organization

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Kearney, NE

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