



Buffalo Tales



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The Love Letters of Bertha Alice Haug and Ora Oscar Hayman Part II

Bertha has given up her teaching position in the Holdrege public schools to spend a year living at home in Shelton during her engagement to Ora, an instructor at the Holdrege Business College. Since the exchange of letters noted in the last *Buffalo Tales*, Ora has traveled to Quincy, Illinois to take post-graduate classes at Musselman's Business College. He has written that he expects to return to Nebraska on July 20, but before his return he plans on traveling to Saint Louis to see the Worlds Fair. The following letter is from Bertha, in Shelton, written around June 24, 1904.

**Letter #14 Mailed: about Friday,
06/24/1904**

**To: Mr. O.O. Hayman,
829-1/2 Spring St.
Quincy, Illinois**

From: Shelton, Nebraska



My dear Boy:

It is 9:45 p.m. That is just about my bed time so I fear this epistle will be more brief than some you have received. Mamma will probably go to town tomorrow and I want to send this letter to town.

Your letter was the best I have received or is it simply that I read each one more carefully than the last and thus think it better.

I smiled when I read that you were writing when you was lonesome. I have concluded, my boy, that you must not get lonesome very often. If I did that I should write every day and then some more. The evenings are most lonesome but they are quite short for there is always something to do until bedtime.

I am glad you have so good a place to room. May I ask why the lady of the house has taken such a fancy to you? I hope she isn't a Mrs. Adams. Enough of jesting. I know I can trust my boy in spite of all the Mrs. Adams's in the world so what is the use of my talking so?

I am so glad you have decided to go to St. Louis before returning. Everything of that kind which one can visit is a wonderful help in many ways, principally think in the broadening of our views of life etc. Then any true man or woman is sure to derive good and become better simply by looking at and coming in contact with all the beautiful things there.

I have always imagined myself to be quite practical and yet the beauty of

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WITH THE SOCIETY

A Note from the President:

Time for another Buffalo Tales and a President's message to go with it. Where has the summer gone?

The fund-raising committee for the new exhibit and archives building has met several times this summer getting ready for a big push this fall. We have prepared a video about the museum's history and where we want to go in the future. This video is about 11 minutes long and we are ready to present a program for your organization to let everyone know about our fund-raiser.

Another project at the museum that has taken some of my time is the gazebo. The YRTC shop class under the direction of Keith Gress was progressing nicely on the gazebo, but the June graduation depleted his class and he has not been able to come up with enough boys to come down and work again, so we have come up with plan B and this is using the knowledge of Merlin Burgland and John Deterding and some good volunteers. As of this writing it actually looks like a gazebo and we are now trying to get a crew together to put on the sheeting and shingles. After the roof is on the next major step is to stain the entire gazebo. We will be calling on volunteers for this job also.

I want to personally thank Merlin and John for coming forward and giving so much of their time and talent to make this project a success. This was not a project that could be done without someone who was a skilled carpenter.

-Larry Nansel, President

Special Request from the Editor: Our Hispanic History

I wish to take this opportunity to ask the *Buffalo Takes* readership to help with some historical research. The Nebraska Educational Television Council is in the process of assembling material for a video program to be entitled, "La Vida: A Journey of Latinos Throughout Nebraska." Program producer Jayne Sebby is searching for images and momentos, and information of Latin experiences in Nebraska. Within the tri-county area of Buffalo, Hall and Dawson counties the Hispanic or Latino population has been a constant and growing part of our communities. In 1950 the Hispanic population for the three counties numbered over 220. By 1970 that figure tripled to over 650, and by 1990 that figure increased nearly six fold, totaling over 3,900 Hispanics in the Platte Valley. Undoubtedly these figures represent many families, and generations, who contributed to the history of central Nebraska. Up until this moment however, that history has not yet been recorded. Your help is essential in assisting both the Buffalo County Historical Society and the Nebraska Educational Television Council find and tell this story.

Please send me whatever information you can come across regarding our Hispanic families and heritage. Any information will be shared with Ms. Sebby for their program as well as contributing to the enrichment of the BCHS.

Please send materials or communications to: Dr. Roger Davis, History Department, UNK, Copeland Hall, Kearney, NE 68849. Phone: 308-865-8771. Email: Davisr@unk.edu.

We are on the Radio

On the last Friday of each month KGFW (1340 AM) radio devotes the first half hour of "Talk of the Town" at 9 a.m. to the Buffalo County Historical Society. Some time is spent on summarizing the latest activities of the organization and its museums. The rest of the time is devoted to discussion of some usually little known aspect of this county's history. Mardi Anderson collects these tidbits and stories and brings them to our listeners. Topics have included the not so gay Nineties in the county, early sheriffs, Ted Bolte and the first automobile, stables and the horse and buggy days in Kearney, personal property taxed in the 1870's, and early cemeteries, just to name a few. We never know what the topic will be from month to month. It depends on what surfaces in the archives or has come to Mardi's attention. If you have any ideas, or if there is something special you would like to hear about, you can contact via email at cottonmill@kearney.net or by phone at 237-7339. So, on the Final Friday of the Month, don't forget to listen in!

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a picture, a flower, or the melody in music appeals to me always rather than the real value.

So I am glad that you can go. It will do you so much good just to see the beautiful for a few days and feel the spiritual inner nature rather than to think of business cares and plans.

By the way an inspiration comes to me and as I am where you can't see me I'll make a little request. Bring me a little souvenir from St. Louis, just some odd little thing made in some foreign country or something. Then I'll make people believe I too saw the Expo., but it will probably be only through your eyes. Jamie wants to go and it is possible, though not probable, that we may go in the fall.

You had so many good things in your letter but best of all was the good better, best news. The idea of you planning to keep the good news from me when you knew that every few days I studied the calendar and wondered how many days more there were.

The 20th of July. That is just 27 days more. And you know you must come and see us just as soon as your mother can spare you. And please do ask her not to keep you long.

Your quotation was good. Do you know who wrote it? It is quite thrilling. I have concluded that you must have a choicer list to select from than I.

Sunday afternoon I took "Black Rock" to bed with me and read it through again for about the fifth time, I guess. You see when I don't have new books to read I just content myself with reading some of my favorites. I admire that book so much I want to read it to you some time. There are one or two places that I could feel were almost told of myself. I am very fond of Conner's works. He portrays human nature so well. You feel in reading that the men all live and you would like to be with them and learn of some of them.

It is probable that in life men meet with some of those characters which we so admire in books. I often think it is sad that we cannot realize it and profit by it. They are ships that pass us in the night.

"Ships that pass in the night and speak to each other in passing
Only a signal thrown, then darkness again and a silence."

So many ships pass us by that we do not appreciate or make use of. I think I realized that for the first time when I graduated at Peru. It seemed I could not come home that spring and leave all my classmates, knowing as I did that we would never meet again as a class. Since our commencement I have not met more than a half dozen of them and in fact we are scattered around in all parts of the U.S. from east to west. How much good we might have secured we did not! How many opportunities were wasted! How many signals were thrown that were followed only by darkness and a silence!

I can't gossip to you tonight, Ora. I seem to be in a philosophical sort of mood, so please bear with me!

I am so sorry your letter did not reach me until Tuesday. I went to church at home Sunday eve when I should have preferred to go with you and have the boat ride afterward. But then it is pleasant to be wanted even if you don't know it for two days. I expect about that time I was wishing you were out three miles west of Shelton (*i.e., the location of her parent's home*). The vanity of human wishes! Now what better would it have been for me to be in Quincy according to your desire and you in Shelton in answer to mine. We would be just as far apart as ever.

I think I am becoming quite a mathematician. That is quite a problem I have

thought out. My only trouble now is to tell what it would come under, algebra, Geom., Trig., etc. Suppose you figure that out and let me know.

You asked when I expected to send some dressing sacs your way. I can't say. It keeps me busy to supply mamma and myself. Then too I am afraid I couldn't make them fit you, not having your measurements, etc.

I haven't done much but waste time and practice a little lately, but have made new resolutions again. I painted the stairs today, made one of my skirts shorter so I could wear it to school and mowed all the south side of the yard. I feel I deserve a tin medal for putting forth such great effort.

I am becoming quite a pie baker. I am becoming encouraged again. Last Saturday I baked 2 lemon pies and yesterday a mince pie. They were all very good, because papa said so, and the rest all ate them quite readily.

My dear boy, I should think you would tire of reading my letters filled with cooking, sewing, etc. But I am just too dull and sleepy to do better this evening. It is 10:45 now. Don't you think I had better stop? Mamma will have a terrible time waking me in the morning. We have breakfast at six now since Mr. Love came so you see how (early) I must rise.

I picked and picked over about 7 quarts of gooseberries yesterday. Maybe you think there were not a few thorns in my fingers. The mulberries are getting ripe but what we can of those won't take much time. Mamma is about as fond of them as you are. I am sorry you can't come and see us now when you could have lots of them to eat. Aren't you?

We go to town generally every Tuesday and Saturday. Now if you want to be a good boy you should write a letter about Sunday and Thursday so I would always get one on those days. Aren't you delighted to hear that? You know you are so fond of writing.

Almost 11 o'clock. For tonight sweet dreams.

Thursday eve.

Your little girl,
Bertha A. Haug



TERRY'S 1904 WORLD'S FAIR PAGE

Want to go to the St. Louis World's Fair with Ora?

You have probably noticed that Ora was planning to attend the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. If you would like to visit the Fair and see what he would have seen, there is a wonderful web site that will allow you to do just that! The 1904 World's Fair Society presents a site that will let you see the eleven palaces constructed for the Fair—including the Palace of Agriculture, Liberal Arts, Machinery and Horticulture. You can see the palaces built by each of forty states! (Nebraska was one of only six states that did not erect a building.) You can visit "The Pike" – the mile long thoroughfare crowded with people hoping to enjoy the fun house, the railroad ride, or visit the British Pavilion. This is a wonder virtual visit to the St. Louis Fair. To access this site find a computer that is hooked up to the internet and type in this address: <http://www.inlink.com/~terryl>, and you are off to the Fair! See if you can spot Ora!

Historical Vignette: John Saup, Jr.

by Jennifer Erickson
UNK Senior - Clarks, NE

In November of 1922 Woodrow Wilson was recovering from a recent stroke. The cure for leprosy had been found. Henry Ford was recorded as the wealthiest man in America. Bootleggers were out of control in Omaha. The price for land in Gibbon was ranging anywhere from \$8.50 to \$32.50 per acre.

In this same year, John Saup Jr. decided to end his life. According to his obituary in the Kearney Daily Hub, Saup suffered from a stomach ailment for which he had surgery on November 27, 1922, only a few days before the suicide. His family apparently was unaware of this ailment or of his surgery at the Presbyterian hospital in Omaha until after his death.

John Saup Jr. had never been married, but had dated in the past. In this same month the family had noticed that a former sweetheart of Saup's was incessantly calling him on the telephone. The Hub reported that she was trying hard to bring back feelings that Saup did not feel for her. The article said that these were a few reasons that the family suggested might explain why he took his life.

John Saup Jr. was born and raised in Kearney, Nebraska by John F. and Lea Saup. John Jr. graduated in 1905 at the age of 16 with honors from Kearney High School. He attended Boyles College in Omaha the next fall. He graduated two years later, in 1907, and then worked as a bookkeeper for the Omaha Casket Company. He maintained that employment for 16 years, up until his death.

Veterans' records show that Saup enlisted and was a member of the Omaha Ambulance Corps, serving overseas in World War I. He served the military from September 28, 1917 through May 1, 1919.

After a Thanksgiving dinner with his family at their Omaha home on November 30, 1922 gunshots resonated through the Saup household. John Jr., at the age of 33, had shot himself through the right temple with a 38-caliber revolver.

John Jr. was brought back from Omaha to be buried in the Kearney Cemetery the following Sunday. He was buried with military honors. His two brothers and his mother preceded him in death.

John Saup Jr. was an active member of many clubs and organizations in Omaha. He belonged to the American Legion, the B.P.O. Elks and the Townsend Gun Company baseball club. In his obituary, some of John's friends from the war commented that, "We never knew of him showing any signs of anger during all the service overseas, and when there was discord among the men he was always called upon to settle the disputes. We always found him to be 100 percent man."

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Dr. Roger P. Davis, Editor

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TRAILS & RAILS MUSEUM

It seems that we just started summer and it's half over. We still have a couple of displays from Collection Day, the Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy display is still in the depot. Our next day will be the Living History Day, August 18th. We will be doing things as a family. Come and join the fun; games, singing, candle dipping and much more. Watch the Kearney Hub for more information.

Attendance has been good even with the heat

The Garden Club has been active and will have a display at the Fair. The gazebo is coming along. We have a new look at the entrance which will soon be finished. Everyone has been very busy.

-Margaret Hohnholt, Volunteer Director

Trails & Rails Museum 706 West 11th Street (308) 234-3041

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