

Kansas Libraries

Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

May 1999

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Groundbreaking news

April 28 marked an important milestone in the building and renovation of the Stevens County Library in Hugoton, Kansas. A ground breaking occurred on the front lawn of the current library. Members of the existing library board, the building committee, past library board members, city, county and state officials, and interested community members attended the ceremony. Construction is set to begin in mid-May.

The planned addition will add 7,875 square feet of space to the existing structure, making a total of 14,416 square feet in the completed building. It will contain a genealogy room, a computer lab, and a large multi-purpose area, as well as additional shelving, staff, and storage space.

Funds for the project include an LSCA grant and a Pioneer Electric Cooperative donation. The Board of the Stevens County Library raised the balance of the 1.1 million-dollar project over a period of seventeen years. No bond issue or additional tax liability was required of the residents of Hugoton or Stevens County.

Kansas libraries.... twenty years ago

by Bill Sowers, Kansas Documents Librarian/
Tech Services Librarian

Gleanings from different 1979 spring issues of Kansas library systems newsletters

- The new Emporia Public Library is now open. We send our congratulations to the staff, trustees and friends of the library. (NCKLS Newsletter, May-June 1979)
- Fritz Schmidt, a college drama student in Colby, went to all the grade school classes in town, dressed as a pirate, to promote the upcoming summer reading program. (NWKLS Exchange, June 1979)
- The Coolidge Library first room has a new foam tile ceiling which is very attractive. (SWKLS Newsletter, June 1979)
- Isabelle Savelius resigned as librarian at Phillipsburg City Library April 30th after 18 years with the library. (CKLS Kite, April-May 1979)
- On Sunday, April 29, 1979, the Atchison Public Library held an open-house in celebration of its 100th anniversary. (NEKLS Newsletter)

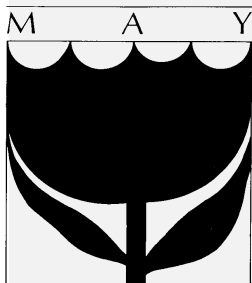


Kansas Libraries is published monthly by the Kansas State Library, 300 SW 10th Avenue, Room 343-N, Topeka, KS 66612-1593 (785/296-3296; In Kansas 800/432-3919)

ISSN 0889-2709 Page layout: Jana Bowers

Editor: Eric Hansen. Contributing editors: Roy Bird, Rhonda Machlan, Shannon Roy, and Vikki Jo Stewart.

Address comments concerning Kansas Libraries to the editor.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Murder at the Library is Murder for Pleasure in Iola

by Shannon Roy

In the last quarter century, I have seen librarians do many things to raise money and heighten the library's friendly image in the community. Roger Carswell was the first I've seen arrested for murder. This might raise some eyebrows among Roger's colleagues, since they know him to be soft spoken, honest and competent but most of them have heard of the mystery night at the library programs that are becoming increasingly popular. Actually, it was not Roger but Reed Moore who was guilty of murder.

Iola's Murder at the Library Night was a snowy March 12th. When the celebrated writer Agatha Mystery dropped dead in her fur stole, publisher Dell Doubleday, bookseller Dalton B. Walden, cynical book critic Page Turner, trashy mini-series star Alexa Dynasty and Mayor Will Slick all had excellent motives for the dastardly deed. The mystery was solved by police chief Sam Slayed and a number of Iola citizens. It is true that the public spirited citizens showed little interest in the murder until after they had consumed the sumptuous buffet provided by the Friends of the Library but a number of them did guess whodunnit although not very many of them guessed why. Kathleen Sinclair had the best police sheet and carried off the prize.

Mystery Night is a wonderful use for a

community's biggest hams. In this case, local art teacher Cecilia Orcutt played the mystery writer/corpse, school librarian Rhonda Sigg had a wonderful time as the acid tongued book critic, good mayor John McRae played the contemptible fictional mayor, board member Gena Clouch spoofed Alexa Dynasty in a tight metallic gown and police chief Rex Taylor gave a remarkably authentic performance as police chief Sam Slayed.

Many of the guests admitted to being guilty of the avid consumption of mystery novels and the event was sold out soon after the tickets were available.

Many librarians find the idea of a mystery in the library attractive but doubt their ability to craft a whodunnit. Roger could probably write a mystery (he has accepted stranger assignments) but he obtained MURDER AT THE LIBRARY from Tom and Penny Warner of 710 Sinnet Court, Danville, California, 94526. They can also be reached at 510-837-7089.

Since I've exposed the murderer in MURDER AT THE LIBRARY, other libraries might want to consider MURDER OF THE LOADED LIBRARIAN or MURDER OF THE MYSTERY WRITER.

Roger, or Reed Moore, was pushed to murder by extreme cruelty. The writer was blackmailing him for a book that was 32 years overdue. On a librarian's salary he could pay neither the extortion nor the overdue fine, so he was forced to ghostwrite her books. Personally, I'd say it was justifiable homicide.

Free MPLA Membership Awarded

Thanks to everyone who entered the drawing at tri-conference! Cheryl Sylvester, Ottawa Public Library, was the grand prize winner of a free MPLA membership for one year. Cheryl also received a logo baseball cap. MPLA members receive a monthly newsletter, can subscribe to the discussion list, and are eligible for Professional Development grants.

Mountain Plains Library Association is a regional professional organization in 12 states.

MPLA co-sponsors an annual conference in conjunction with a state library association. This year's conference is in Big Sky, Montana, June 13-16. http://www.mtlib.org/Big%20Sky%20folder/MLA_MPLA_Big_Sky_Conferenc.html

The joint conference in 2000 will be in Omaha, Nebraska, October 25-28. For more information about MPLA, contact Patti Butcher at pbutcher@nekls.lib.ks.us.

Catalyst

by Eric Hansen,
Executive Director
Kansas Library Network Board

1999 Tri-Conference

Tri-Conference is always an important event to librarians in Kansas. This year's conference in Salina was the first one at which I managed the Blue Skyways Internet Room. The booth included six iMac computers and 4 Gateway PCs, the latter of which arrived a day later than planned.



Mark Messenger helps out at the Tri-Conference Internet room

John and Susan Howell, myself, and a number of volunteers staffed the booth. Also at Tri-Conference I was very pleased to speak to the Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu on the topic "Looking Forward." And I joined Roy Bird and Sam Bennett to present "Feed Your Need: Writing Applications for Grants through the Kansas State Library."

Kansas Digital Library

The Kansas Digital Library planners have been divided into three groups: Executive Leadership Group, Content Task Force, and Architecture Task Force. Members of each group have been identified, and tasks determined. At present, the KDL is to include content of either uniquely Kansas materials or special/unique resources found in the state. The idea is to develop a prototype by December of this year.

Kansas Libraries Subscription Form

Remember to return the Kansas Libraries Subscription Form by June 30, 1999 if you want to continue to receive the newsletter in print. The form appeared on page 1 of the April issue. Point your browser to <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/KSL/admin/KLIBS499.pdf> for the form, or contact me at 800/432-3919 for a copy.



In the April issue of Kansas Libraries, BEHIND THE FACADE OF FORT RILEY'S HOMETOWN was reviewed. Several calls came to the State Library from local libraries which had tried to order it through the address provided with no success. Susan Moyer, director of the Dorothy Bramlage Public Library, Junction City, tells us copies are available from the Geary County Historical Society research room, 785/238-1666. Please excuse any inconvenience this may have caused.

An invitation

Do you have news items of interest to other librarians? An especially successful program or grant project, for instance? Let us know so that we can tell your colleagues in *Kansas Libraries*.

Branch groundbreaking

*by Rita J. Patterson, Community Relations
Coordinator, Olathe Public Library*

Over one hundred Olathe community members joined together April 15 to break ground for the new Indian Creek Branch Library. Although the ceremony, held in conjunction with the Olathe Area Chamber of Commerce Coffee, was moved to a nearby church because of high wind and rain, the excitement about welcoming Olathe's first branch library was not dampened.

The branch will be located on the intersection of Indian Creek Parkway and Black Bob Road on 4 1/2 acres of land donated by the City of Olathe. Construction is scheduled to begin this spring, with projected completion February, 2000. This Olathe addition will consist of 11,800 square feet all on one floor and a meeting room for both library events and community organizations. The windows and outdoor seating will take advantage of the park-like setting while a children's activity patio will host special programs. Many area residents have told me how excited they are to be able to stop at the branch library during their walk along the Indian Creek Parkway Trail.

The library staff is pleased to be able to offer this additional service to the Olathe community. More than 25,000 new items, including books, videocassettes, audiocassettes and CD-ROMs with an informational and recreational emphasis, will be selected. The Olathe Public Library at 201 E. Park will continue to house the reference collection, but the branch library staff will be able to obtain materials and information from the main library upon request. Many have been concerned that the main library will close, but, on the contrary, the main library will remain open and continue serving Olatheans as it has for the last 90 years! Watch for the library's special activities for the 90th Anniversary Celebration August 1.

Friends Luncheon-Lecture Series "Movies: Then vs. Now"

The Friends of the Wichita Public Library Luncheon-Lecture will be held on Thursday, May

13 from noon -1:00 p.m. at the Wichita Public Library (223 S. Main). The featured speaker is Jim Erickson, movie reviewer and retired Wichita State University instructor of film/literature. Erickson will speculate as to why some people find old studio movies more satisfying than today's movies. The lecture is free and lunch is available for \$7.00 per person. For reservations call the Wichita Public Library at 316/261-8500.

Find River Festival Treasures Only at the Library

This year, festival goers can get an early jump on the River Festival celebration, as the Wichita Public Library (223 S. Main) features two exhibits on the festival. From May 1-31, 1999 the Library will showcase this popular local festival in two exhibit areas. One display on the 3rd floor will feature River Festival memorabilia including posters, buttons, and T-shirts. A second exhibit on the Lower Level will document the history of the festival.

Truly a homegrown product, the Wichita River Festival has come a long way from its early beginnings as a one-day celebration with a dozen events, to the current ten-day celebration with over 90 events. The Wichita River Festival originally started as part of a yearlong Wichita Centennial Celebration between June 1969 and July 1970. It was so successful that an annual event was planned in 1971, known originally as the Wichitennial River Festival and Traders Day.

Five years later, the Wichitennial name was officially changed to Wichita River Festival. Community support through the purchase of Festival buttons has increased steadily over the years from 2,000 in 1972 to over 160,000 in 1998. In addition to button sales, the Festival continues to grow annually in the number of events and attendance, drawing people from around the state, across the nation, and even foreign countries.

The Wichita River Festival takes place this year from May 8th to 17th, but you can enjoy the treasures of the festival's history and heritage throughout the month of May at your Library.

Smithsonian Barn Exhibit Begins Year-Long Kansas Tour in June

In June, the Smithsonian Institution's "**Barn Again!: Celebrating an American Icon**" goes on display for the first time ever in Kansas. Exploring the barn in all facets of American life from agriculture to advertising, the exhibition opens June 18 in Lindsborg and travels the state through May 2000.

"**Barn Again!**" will visit just three states, including Kansas, on the third year of its national tour. The Kansas Humanities Council is coordinating and partially funding the year-long Kansas tour. The Council has selected eight communities that will host the exhibition in local museums, a library, and an art gallery.

The American barn is an icon of our nation's agricultural heritage and a potent symbol of American culture. "**Barn Again!: Celebrating an American Icon**" considers the origin and fate of the barn in its various roles as warehouse, factory, and legend.

At each of the local exhibition sites, there will be displays of agricultural artifacts, paintings and photographs of Kansas barns, and a wide array of activities and educational programs to accompany the Smithsonian exhibit.

In Lindsborg, the first stop on the Kansas tour, the exhibition will be on display at the McPherson County Old Mill Museum from June 18 through August 6. "Barn Again!" moves next to Colby's Prairie Museum of Art and History

(August 13-October 1) and the Stone House Gallery in Fredonia (October 8-November 26).

The Cherokee Strip Land Rush Museum in Arkansas City hosts the exhibit from December 3 through 31, followed by a month-long showing at the Winfield Public Library (January 6-28, 2000). Highland's Native American Heritage Museum (February 4-29, 2000) and Hiawatha's Brown County Agricultural Museum (March 3-31, 2000) are next stops on the tour. The final showing is at the Morton County Historical Museum in Elkhart, April 7-May 31, 2000.

Among the activities planned at the host sites are old-fashioned barn dances, barn photography competitions, oral histories of farm families, wagon rides, hay bale contests, farm animal petting zoos, and quilt raffles.

The exhibit also promises to be a catalyst for the preservation of Kansas barns. It is estimated that half of the barns in Kansas today will no longer be standing in 20 years.

The project was made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Hearst Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution Special Exhibition Fund, and the Smithsonian Educational Outreach Fund.

For more information on "**Barn Again!: Celebrating an American Icon**," contact Victoria Sherry at 800/562-8057. The complete exhibit schedule and related barn information are featured on the Council's web site at www.ukans.edu/kansas/khc/.

For more information on local exhibitions, contact the following:

Lindsborg: Lorna Batterson, Old Mill Museum, 785/227-2810.

Colby: Sue Ellen Taylor, Prairie Museum of Art & History, 785/462-4590.

Fredonia: Cassandra Edson, Stone House Gallery, 316/378-2052.

Arkansas City: Ellen Snell, Arkansas City Arts Council, 316/442-5895.

Winfield: Joan Cales, Winfield Public Library, 316/221-4470.

Highland: Suzette McCord-Rogers, Native American Heritage Museum, 785/442-3304.

Hiawatha: Marian Tubach, Economic Development Administrator, 785/742-4504.

Elkhart: Helen C. Brown, Morton County Historical Museum, 316/697-2833

KPLACE 1999 Will Be Both School and Celebration

KPLACE will be celebrating its tenth anniversary May 17 - 20 at Emporia State University.

The first class will have the traditional course of community study and customized library service, taught by SLIM faculty and state library staff. This course is called "The Community and the Library: A Wonderful Partnership." The second class will focus on "The Human Side of Libraries" with staff from Johnson County, North Central, South Central, Newton, McPherson and the state library. The third class will retain its focus on information access, collection management and leadership but there is also a new workshop on marketing and public relation, added to complete "The Tools of Excellence."

In honor of the tenth anniversary, the returning KPLACE alumni will be working with Toni Boyles on an unusual KPLACE 4: "We Are Always Under Construction." Toni will help the KPLACERS to consider priorities, goals, stress management and lifeskills during the one day program. The program is designed for KPLACERS but open to anyone who can use it.

All classes will be in the ESU Memorial Union with food service in the Skyline Room and parking in the Violet Lot behind the Union.

The traditional graduation party will be integrated with the Tenth Anniversary celebration in the Flint Hills Ballroom at the Ramada Inn. Original KPLACE designer Ernestine Voss will be the guest of honor.

The party is intended to honor all the KPLACERS and to thank the many people who have worked for the KPLACE Institute in the past ten years. There will be KPLACE Anniversary shirts presented to KPLACE presenters, an interactive website and copies of an anniversary publication called *Ten Years of KPLACERS: Memories and Gratitude*.

Kansas books

by Roy Bird

Dispersed City of the Plains, by Harris Stone. New York: Monthly Reivew Press, 1998. Hardcover, \$48.00, ISBN 0-85345-986-X; paperback, \$18.00, ISBN 0-85345-987-8.

Don't overlook this new scholarly book because its title includes the word "city" — this is not about urban areas. Nor is it strictly about architecture, although the author was a professor of architecture at KU. The late Harris Stone wrote that the ages-old idea of a central city never became a reality during the past 150 years on the plains, nor does it relate to modern life on the plains with our mobility of transportation and increasing ease of communication.

Stone began his work discussing grain elevators, barbed wire and windmills. He learned that he had cancer before this work was completed, but its final chapters finished by others at KU discuss malls, urban sprawl and suburbs. The book relates the settlement of the plains directly to the way hamlets, towns and cities have developed: first, grain storage facilities for the produce of farmers who tamed the plains, then fences to keep wildlife out and livestock in, then windmills to provide water for crops and stock. Next it describes progress from pioneer architecture such as sod houses, to the creation of schools representing permanency, to the sturdy farm houses and ranch-style homes common in rural areas today. It discusses the growth of cities from founding to political centers, from villages to commercial centers, in terms of rails, highways and telecommunications. And it explores the predilection of people in plains states toward new single-family structures rather than multiple-family reused buildings, to using personal vehicles instead of mass transit, to expand into empty space rather than reuse older urban areas.

The text is handwritten and illustrated with drawings throughout. The handwritten style may be distracting for some readers, yet it adds a quaint personal touch that increases the books appeal to lay readers. It is the fourth and last in a series of books by Stone from the same publisher. It is recommended for adult, academic and secondary school collections.

Library positions

Kansas Association of School Boards Library/Education Technology Specialist

The Kansas Association of School Boards, a state-wide, non-profit association serving public school boards in Kansas, is seeking applicants for the position of Library/Education Technology Specialist. The position will have primary responsibility for the association's educational policy and law library resources, including publications and periodicals concerning elementary and secondary education policies and practice, school management, school law and related issues. The position will also assist other association staff in research and analysis. Finally, the position will assist in the management of the association's membership services offered through educational technology. Specific responsibilities include: Develop and direct a library management plan; identify library needs of KASB and plan library operations to support needs; identify resource requirements to support, plan and manage resources as assigned; assist KASB members and departments with information needs and/or special research projects; monitor developments in technology and service to introduce new information resources; design and implement information services; assist with design and maintenance of KASB website. Applicants for this position must have the skills necessary to carry out the responsibilities outlined above, including a library science degree or equivalent experience. KASB provides the following services to its members: advocacy, legal, labor relations, research, board member and staff training, and insurance. The Library/Education Technology Specialist will report to the Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy. Salary is negotiable, based on experience. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The position is expected to be filled no later than June 1, 1999. Send cover letter and resume to Mark Tallman, KASB, 1420 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS 66604. For more information call Mark Tallman at 1-800-432-2471.

Kansas State University Instructional Support Services Librarian

Kansas State University is seeking an Instructional Support Services Librarian for a new 12-month, entry-level tenure-track, faculty position which reports to the Chair of Access Services. KSU Libraries has recently organized an Instructional Support Services program to develop and deliver patron instruction and staff training. In a cooperative work environment together with the Chair of Access services, other librarians, and staff this person will: Plan, develop, implement, and evaluate technology based instruction for KSU library patrons. Develop web based instructional resources. Work with classroom faculty to integrate information resources in the University instruction program. Provide pedagogical development and training for librarians. Organize and facilitate training for library staff in uses of library technology and desktop applications. **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:** ALA-accredited MLS. Knowledge of current and emerging instructional technologies. Knowledge of theories of information literacy. Capacity to relate constructively to students and faculty and to work collegially. Excellent communication skills. Excellent presentation skills. **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:** Teaching or training experience. Experience with instructional design. Demonstrated facility for working with technology. **SALARY:** Salaries and benefits: upper \$20's; 22 days of annual leave and excellent benefits. Screening begins May 17, 1999 and will continue until position is filled. On-campus interviews anticipated in June. Kansas State University, an original land-grant institution, is a comprehensive university with an enrollment of about 20,000, located in the Flint Hills of Northeast Kansas. The main library recently completed a \$30 million expansion and renovation. KSU Libraries use a Novell network, an ERL server, and Voyager, the client/server library system by Endeavor. Send cover letter (indicating source of advertisement); resume; and names, addresses and phone numbers of three work-related references to M. Jean Darbyshire, Director of Administrative Services, Kansas State University Libraries, Manhattan, KS 6506-1200. Phone: (785) 532-7465; e-mail: library@ksu.edu; fax: (913) 532-7415. KSU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**Head of Children's and Youth Services
Manhattan Public Library**

Provides leadership and management in bringing quality resources and services to young people in the Manhattan area. Responsibilities include: 1) collection development - both print and media 2) staff supervision - hiring, training, and evaluating; 3) program development - story times, summer reading program, etc. Candidates should have professional competencies recommended for children's librarians, including education and experience in child development, superior knowledge of children's literature, management skills, and excellent communication skills, as well as commitment to the mission of public libraries. Base salary for this position is \$31,408. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. To ensure consideration, send letter

of application, resume and list of references by April 10 to Judith Edelstein, Manhattan Public Library, 629 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502.

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