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THROUGH THE YEARS

1885 to 1975

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NONCHALANTA

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DONATED BY:

MARY L. HALL

4 MARCH 1997

GE
 Bindery
 3-7-97

Family Heritage of Southwest Ness County
as researched, recalled and written
by people of the community
1975

This book is a project of the Tri Circle Jaynes Homemaker Unit. The members this year are:

Agnes Beck	Pauline Neill
Diana Copeland	Georgene Nuss
Laurie Copeland	Wiletta Pember
Rachel Dinges	Avis Rothe
Donna Goodman	Clara Rothe
Mary Eggers	Edna Schlegel
Dorothea Hoss	Grace Schlegel
Donna McCray	Wilma Shauers

The Community Project Committee of 1973-74, composed of Edna Schlegel, Diana Copeland, and Pauline Neill, presented as one of several suggested projects, "To gather and compile historical information of our community."

The Community Heritage Committee appointed included: Laurie Copeland, Ch., Agnes Beck, Wilma Shauers, Edna Schlegel, and Clara Rothe. This committee asked each member and every family of the community to contribute an interesting event or family history.

Selected facts from this book are to be used in a community program which is to be presented during Old Settlers' Reunion, 1975.

Dedicated to all who contributed stories, time for planning, typing, copying and assembling--to the perseverance of our ancestors and to the promising future of our children!

STORY OF THE BEGINNING OF NONCHALANTA
Taken from Ness County News

About 1885 or 1886 many people moved to the southern part of Ness county, twenty-two miles southwest of Ness City (29-20-25). Among these came Charles McCandish, of Missouri, and opened a small country store, hauling his goods largely from Spearville. He did good business and made some money, as people from all sections came long distances to trade, part in cash and part in eggs, butter, etc.

It was a friendly neighborhood and good will prevailed among all the people. Corn, wheat, and barley were planted and for a few years did quite well. The country soon filled up with people from all parts of the country so that nearly all quarter sections were occupied.

All this prosperity inspired Lewis Odom, a good-natured, hard-working man who owned a quarter adjoining the site of McCandish's store on the west, and he conceived the notion of starting a town.

One morning while I was drawing water on my place from a shallow well--the well was only fifteen feet deep on the bank of Plum creek, which was dry most of the time, but became a raging torrent in rainy weather--he came to me and said: "Doctor, I'm going to start a town over on my place and I want a good name for it." I asked him what kind of a name he desired. He replied: "I don't care a damn what kind of a name it is just so it is a taking name." I at once thought of the French word for the same idea, 'Nonchalant' (Non-sha-long). I spoke the word Nonchalant, then Nonchalanta. It came on the spur of the moment. He asked me to write it down for him. It sounded good to him and looked better in writing. He went home rejoicing and was soon at work on the new townsite.

The town of Nonchalanta grew very rapidly and prospered. Soon there was a Methodist church and quite a large two story parsonage. The southwest Kansas conference formed the Nonchalanta circuit and supplied it with a preacher. This church on the plains accomplished much good through its weekly Sunday school and preaching.

Mr. Odom built a good stone residence and store room. The town boomed. Soon there were a couple of general stores, Mr. McCandish moving onto the townsite, a lumber yard, a drug store, livery barn, eating house, and a hotel conducted by a man who afterward became governor of the state of Washington; hardware store, printing press, tinner, ect. Two additions were made to the thriving town, one on the east and one on the south.

A deep well was bored for the purpose of forming a large lake in a large and deep depression to the northeast of the townsite. This was a failure as it turned out to be a dry hole. A large two story stone schoolhouse was build. A thriving post of the G. A. R. was formed and had frequent meetings. There was supposed to be good prospect of a railroad being built through the town. A big rally was held with a fife and drum corps and eloquent speeches by local talent and others. But it ended in a "dry hole" like the deep well.

But those were glorious days and everybody was happy and lived in visions of great things. The motto adopted was: "Veni, vidi, vici," "I come, I saw, I conquered." But fate ruled otherwise. The town lots were turned back to a simple quarter of western Kansas land and all that remains is a country post office called "Nonchalanta".

There is nothing left of Nonchalanta, but the name.



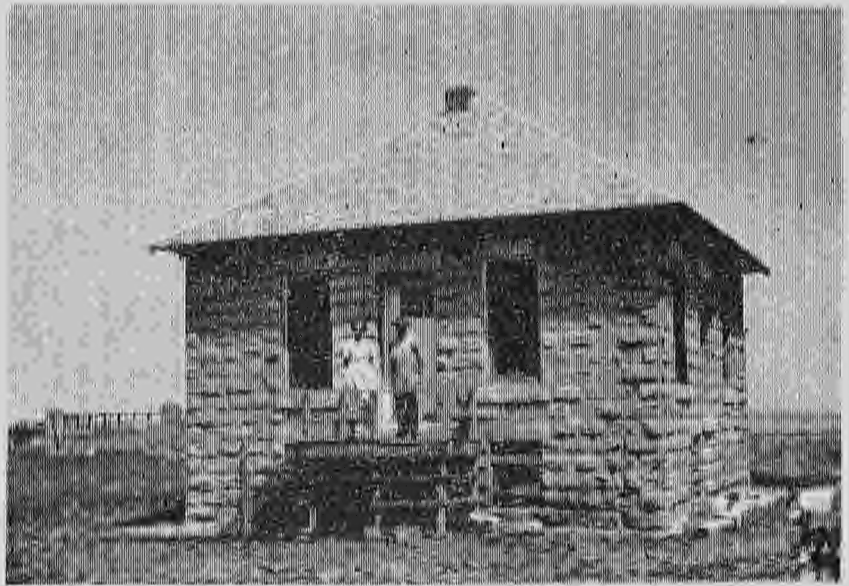
Early day school bus to Pember school



Buda school—1880-1921. Township cemetery adjoining—used as voting precinct for years



Typical farm of 1908—showing springwagon and new home of George Capeland, Sr.



What remains of old Nonchalanat Hotel

THE ALLEN AND ANN COPELAND FAMILY

(from Red Cloud Nebraska to Johnson Township in 1885)
Notes from "Research Papers of Mildred Copeland Roats"
By Laurie Copeland

Allen and Ann Copeland, grandparents of Ted and George Copeland, came to Ness County in the summer of 1885 and filed for a homestead at the landoffice at Wakeeney, Kansas on the 27th of July. Their son, George, and daughter Lucinda also filed for land. Grandpa built a sod house (NE 25-20-25) and a sod barn, then went back to Nebraska intending to move to Kansas the next spring. However in January of 1886 came the "great blizzard", well known in history throughout the plains area, and they could not come until March. There was still so much snow left on the prairies that they often drove over fence posts, etc. George Senior stayed in Nebraska and did not come south until two months later when Grandpa went back to help drive thirty head of cattle to their new home.

Their sod house was 20' x 30', eventually there was a stable, smoke house, hen house, two granaries and a shed. That summer they "broke out" thirty acres of sod. Each year, from 35 to 65 acres was ploughed for cultivation. In those days corn was planted with a hand planter. There was enough moisture under the sod to result in a good corn crop. A well was put down in the draw and they found a good supply of water at a fairly shallow depth.

In August of 1887 Grandpa applied for the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the homestead section as a timber claim. Although he planted from 5 to 10 acres of Black Locust seed each year, when he was finally awarded the quarter section in 1889 he stated on his government form that "no" trees are now living.

Grandpa built a frame house in 1892, hauling the lumber across the country from Wakeeney. Grandma must have thought it was a palace compared to the old one. It was said that everything that lived in the sod, in its original state, was still in it when it was put into a house, including spiders, small snakes and all kinds of bugs. The sod house had a steep roof, which was not usual for that type of house in Western Kansas. When the first strong Kansas wind came along it blew the roof off and from then on their house had a flat roof like all the others. They had brought seed corn with them from Nebraska. When the sod house was taken down, after standing forty years, some of the corn that had been carried off by rats was found hidden in the walls.

The nearest town was Nonchalanta, which was about four miles west of their home. It had a bank, school, hotel, stores, church, newspaper and a number of residences. It was hoped the railroad would go by; however these plans did not materialize and the town eventually disappeared, as did many early day towns. The "hotel" and schoolhouse, made of native stone, are still there. The land is now used for pasture and has grown back to native buffalo grass.

Grandpa and Grandma were very faithful to their church. Grandpa helped build the Methodist Church in Nonchalanta. The church was on a tall stone foundation with stone posts used for hitching the horses. There were revival meetings each fall with the church filled. Some of the old pews are still in the old Buda Schoolhouse. Grandma liked company, old issues of the Nochalanta newspaper often tell of guests for dinner on Sunday at the Copeland home. Early day circuit preachers usually stayed at the Copelands when they were preaching at Nonchalanta.

The church was built in 1887 and continued until about 1919, the building being taken down in 1926. It was always on a circuit with other churches and in 1910 was included with five other churches. No minister is listed there in the Conference Journal after 1919. N.C. Galway was there for three years beginning in 1898, and it was he who conducted Grandpa's funeral. He wrote in the newspaper "Wednesday last we paid our last sad tribute of love to the memory of Grandpa Copeland. Never before has it been our lot to witness on such an occasion

such unmistakable evidence of an hallowed presence. Grandpa was dearly loved by all who knew him." The services were held in the church Grandpa had helped to build and where he so much loved to worship. His funeral, says his obituary "was the largest ever held in this part of the country."

Grandma was so tired of traveling by the time they got to Kansas that she said she would never move again. Do you blame her? Since their marriage in 1853 in Jefferson County, Indiana, they had lived in Springfield, Ill.; Garnett, Ks.; Lawrence, Ks; Conway, Iowa; Elko, Nevada; Malvirn, Iowa; Kansas City, Mo; Conway, Iowa; Red Willow County, Neb; Red Cloud, Neb. and finally in 1885 Johnson Township Ness County Kansas.

Grandpa evidently still had a bit of wanderlust left in him, for in the late 1850's he wanted to see Missouri again. He hitched a horse to a two-wheeled cart (Ted still has it) and drove there and back by himself. This was his last trip. After his death in 1901 Grandma and Lucinda continued to live on the farm until 1908 when they sold the farm and moved to Ness. Grandma died two years later and Lucinda lived there until about a year before her death in 1934 when she went to live with her brother George.

Other families who have lived in the house that Allen Copeland built were: John Mairs, related to Kerrs; Bill Bird; Conrad Litzenberger, Alez Litzenberger; Coon Litzenberger; Emanuel Borger, 1934-1972. This place is now vacant and deteriorating fast, as most vacant places do.

HOMESTEADERS: GEORGE AND EVA COPELAND SR.

By Laurie Copeland

George Copeland Sr. was born at Madison, Indiana, October 28, 1860. He came with his dad, Allen Copeland, to his homestead NE 25-20-25 in 1886. He homesteaded SE 24-20-25. He married Eva E. Tyson of Ansonville, North Carolina, on August 3, 1899. Eva came to Kansas in 1896, when 20 years of age, with her brother Erie. They returned with Mr. Balau, who at that time was buying and shipping horses to North Carolina. Erie worked on the ranch several years for Mr. Balau (who lived at the old town of Harold) before going to Ness City, here he worked for Mr. Biggs, a black smith. He later bought the shop. Blacksmithing was his business until cars created a demand for a garage. His garage was later converted into the Tyson Machine Shop. The building is owned today by his son, Dr. S.M. Tyson of Ellinwood.

Eva worked for the Balau family on the Pawnee and then for Grandma Pember before she was married. Eva and George were married in Allen and Ann Copelands home, and lived with them until after Ted was born. Someone went for a doctor but Ted got there before the doctor did. Grandma Thomas was there to assist. When the later children came along no one bothered to send for a doctor. Mother Wunderlich, a neighbor and midwife assisted with each of these: Arthur of Alamosa, Colo; Mayme Klein of Dodge City; George Copeland Jr. and baby Myrrl, who drowned in the Walnut Creek near Ness City when the wagon and team were washed downstream as Eva attempted to cross in a spring wagon in June of 1909. Fortunately Eva and three other small children were rescued by her brother, Ira.

When George and Eva first moved on their homestead they lived in a one room house which they had bought from Grandad Pember. They lived in this until Oct. 1908 when a frame house was built. Ted built a second room on the one room house in 1930. George Jr. and wife, Laurie, lived in this two room house from 1932-35, when they borrowed money from the Federal Land Bank to buy the quarter to the north and began to build. They moved in during the dust storms.

George Copeland Sr. was news correspondent for many years. The following is from his obituary: "For something like fifty years George Copeland has been

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sending his column from Nonchalanta for each weeks paper. The paper has changed hands several times but from the time the News was started by J.K. Barnd, Mr. Copeland's column has been there. He was always a great reader and posted to date on all current affairs and this was evident in his column. He had a style of writing all his own and this was what kept his many readers interested each week in seeing what he would say. In most of his writings his pen name was Lon Swift and at times he also wrote under the name of Slasher. Besides his writing and farming, Mr. Copeland served as township trustee, census taker for his locality, and during his lifetime held some other positions of trust."

THE WUNDERLICH SOD HOME
Information from John and Eunice Fercking
Written by Diana Copeland

When early pioneers came to the newly opened areas of the United States to settle they were forced to build their homes out of whatever materials were available. As land claims were made in Western Kansas and families moved onto these claims they found no trees to make a "proper" frame home or even a log cabin. Instead, they soon realized they had to turn to the one abundant material of the plains--native sod.

Fred and Louise Wunderlich (now spelled Wunderly) came to this area in April of 1886 to create a new place for themselves. They took out a land claim at the present John Fercking farm location. Another man also had his eye on the same piece of land and had actually made himself a small dug-out in the hillside south of the claim. He did not make his claim before the Wunderlich's and so had to move on. The Wunderlichs were of German origin and had come to Kansas from Pennsylvania. Most likely they first lived in the covered wagon that had brought them so far. They soon made plans for building a large sod house.

From descriptions the soddy built by Fred and Louise was unusually large and quite well constructed. It measured 20' x 40' and consisted of only one room. A bedroom on the north was added later, then torn away again while the house was still in use. The walls were made of two foot thick layers of plowed up sod, making good insulation for warmth in winter and coolness in the hot summers. The heat produced by a single lamp kept the family warm in the winter. The inside walls, although rough, were kept up by white-washing them at frequent intervals. Lumber to build a flat-topped roof was brought all the way from Larned. Soil from an area east of the homestead was then thrown over the boards to complete the roof. Two windows (one on each side) had large glass panes and the one wooden door was homemade.

At first living in a sod house was quite typical of pioneer means. Cooking was done on a wood stove and water was carried from the outside. Cow chips had to be gathered for the fire. However, the Wunderlich sod home was used for a long while and eventually improvements were made. In its later years of use, running water was put into the house.

Hubert Fercking a young man who came from Germany to Ohio with his parents as a child, later came to Kansas to visit some of his Fercking relatives. While here in the area he met the Wunderlich's daughter, LaVina, and they were married. They made their home with LaVina's parents in the sod house. To them were born three sons, John, August and Albert. All three of the boys were born in the sod house.

Over the years various changes were made so the family could all have sleeping quarters. At one time a grocery store from Nonchalanta was moved to the east of

the soddy and renovated to use as bedrooms. Meals were still prepared in the sod house. At another time a building was moved to the farmstead and put across the driveway to the north for use as bedrooms. The coolness of the sod home was so welcome during the hot days and much more pleasant for cooking the meals.

In August of 1931 Eunice Davison came to Kansas from Oklahoma. She and John Fercking were married in May of 1932. A small red building was placed to the south for them; though Eunice prepared their meals in the sod house too. Eventually two rooms were added to the building moved from Nonchlanta and it became the main house--the sod home was no longer used.

By 1942 it became so difficult to obtain the right sod to make necessary repairs that the sod house was torn down. It was the last one used in the area and also most likely kept up the longest.

An Elm tree still standing in the yard north of the present John Fercking home (built in 1952) was once planted near the accomodating Wunderlich sod home.

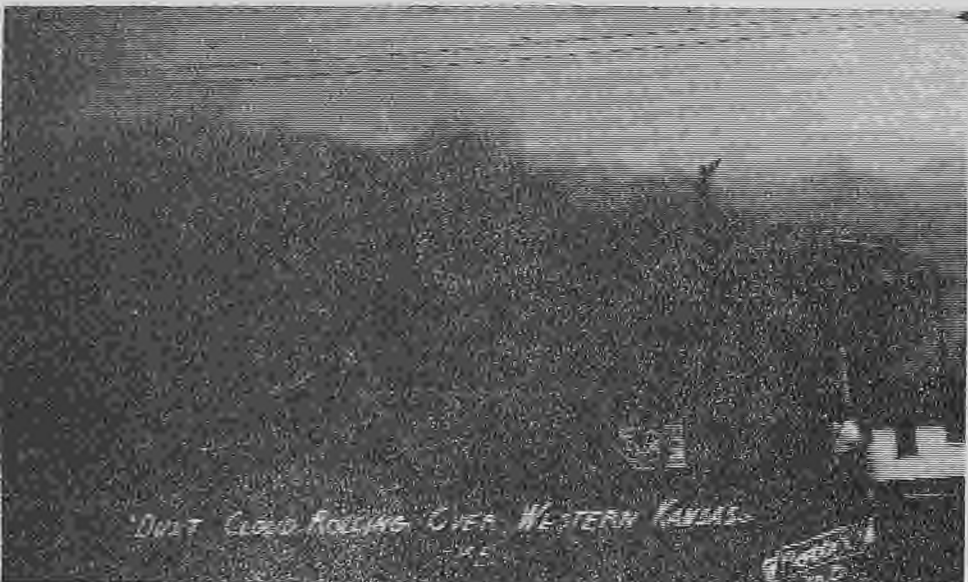
DUST STORMS

Dust storms have been recorded as early as 1884, but none compared to the ones in the 1934 and 1935.

Few crops were grown in the 34's and 35's as mother nature came up with a tremendous drouth, and the top soil became so loosened any sudden wind picked up and carried along its front a big black cloud. The dust storms came up so quickly that many people would get stranded or take the first shelter they could get to for it would be as black as night. People would hang wet blankets and sheets up to the doors and windows, trying to make it easier breathing and sleeping. No matter how tightly your house was built it still came in. The dirt would drift up along side buildings as high as the roofs, and then maybe in a few days we would have a strong wind from another direction and it would whip and shift the dirt in a drift somewhere else. The wind was so strong close to the ground it would just cut what little vegetation there was off, leaving the fields and pasture as bare as a plowed field. People listed their fields and stripped listed their pasture to try and keep them from blowing. Every one had to sell or nearly give away their livestock. A lot of people bought and hauled in wheat straw to bring to hold on to a few cattle, while others shipped theirs to distant points and put them on pasture in Eastern Kansas

GRANDMA'S FEATHER BED by Connor

It was nine feet high and six feet wide
and soft as a downy chick.
It was made from the feathers of forty-leven geese,
took a whole bolt of cloth for the tick.
It'd hold eight kid's 'n four hound dogs
and a piggy we'd stolen from the shed.
We didn't get much sleep but we had a lot of fun
On Grandma's feather bed !



Dust blown around Hubert Fercking home, 1934-35



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A THIRD GENERATION
By George and Laurie Copeland

We bought our home quarter, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, 24, 20-25, August 1934, from Grace E. Thompson.

A Government Drought Well was put down on this land in September of 1934. Guy Edwards and Lucy Slaughter of Beeler did the drilling. Water finally came in at 484 feet deep. It was like a life line for awhile. Eventually so many problems reoccurred with broken rods and rusted pipe until it was abandoned. Plentiful water was located $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east and piped to home.

Building began on our place in 1934. George and Ted dug the basement with what machinery they had plus hand shovels. The basement blew full of dust three times and had to be scooped out by hand before a cover could be put on. A severe dust storm halted the running of cement for the basement walls--(When it was about two-thirds finished). As a result a crack continues to appear as a grim reminder.

Prior to our building, this was pasture land. Hay was usually cut in the draws each fall by Hubert and Lavina Fercking. Anyway snakes were most prevalent during the time of building and a good sized pile of dead snakes accumulated. Ecology may have felt an unbalance but human nerves were steadier.

I had read of fleas on the prairie--well we experienced those too. Fleas would cover all bare legs in the new barn and got so thick on our cats until some died before we eventually had them under control with fly spray.

Then grasshoppers descended, and, as other neighbors, we were kept busy putting out poisoned bran; however the grasshoppers succeeded in eating all crop and pasture before moving on.

During dry years the cacti thrived over the pastures. Many farmers, somehow, cut these, put them in a silo until the spines softened then fed them to the cattle.

Another thing I remember were the mud balls that built up on chicken toes and pig tails when-ever a little rain fell. These would become so large and so hard till we had to catch the victims and crack the ball with a hammer.

Before sanded roads, I taught three years at Valley School, seven miles southeast, in Hodgeman County. My car was stuck in the mud one solid week one winter. That helped me make a decision--either we both farm or we both teach.

To have a happy Christian home and family, and hopefully, help make our community a little better place in which to live have been my main goals in life. Our children, Carolyn and Lane, have helped fulfill those goals. Carolyn is married to Joe Lankford. Their children are Mitchell and Tonya. They live in Englewood, Colorado. Lane married Diana Larson of Brownell. Their children are Teresa and Gerome. They have a home here on the farm near us, making

FOUND

The body of little Myrrl Copeland who was drowned in the creek Monday of last week was found by her Uncle Ira Tyson Friday morning about ten o'clock one and one-half miles below the ford. The brother of Mrs. Copeland, Eric and Ira Tyson, who had made a continuous search for the body were on the creek alone and had been since early morning, the water having fallen very low. They were searching every nook and crack thoroughly and when they reached a large sandbar in Queen's pasture just north of the house they sat down to rest, meanwhile searching the creek up and down, when Ira spied some thing lying just at the edge of the water. Calling his brother's attention to the object, they proceeded to examine it and found the body face down and partly buried in the sand.

The body was brought to town and in the afternoon was taken to the Buda Cemetary in Johnson Township where the remains were laid to rest.

LIFE IN SOUTHWEST NESS COUNTY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE 20th CENTURY
Written by Lloyd Webb

After living in Cloud County, Kansas, our family moved to the Ozark region and spent nine unprofitable years on an Ozark farm. My father, A.E. Webb then traded for a half section of land in the southwest corner of Ness County. He had considered himself a transplanted Kansan in the Ozarks and felt that he was at home in Ness County. The neighbors, however, felt that he was a rank newcomer, and as such, he should not advocate change. However he was quite vocal in advocating open roads, a mail route, and a new school house. These changes were not liked by people who were obliged to build fences to make room for roads.

We were not true pioneers here but by today's standards this was still a primitive area. There was not a mile of road graded in Johnson Township. Few section lines were open roads and it was not possible to drive to Beeler without opening seven gates.

There was no mail delivery, save as neighbors brought the mail to those at home, when in town. When an inspector from the postoffice was asked to recommend a mail route he stated that when we had an open road, he would establish a mail route. So it must have been about 1917 or 1918 before we had mail delivery. Evidently the concern of the early settlers was how to survive the rigors of a new country, rather than the conveniences of life. My father had been used to mail delivery in Cloud County, Kansas and Camden County, Missouri since about 1902.

We arrived here in 1915 and the residents were not the same as now. Among those who are not living here now are Mr. and Mrs. Alex Tough and daughter May. To the west were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Offerle and sons Fred and Charles. Southwest of their place lived Mr. and Mrs. John McKinley and family. North about two miles lived Mr. and Mrs. Filmore Prose, twin sons, Bid and Fill, and daughter Ruth. East from there lived the Bert Prose family and still further east lived the Geo. Stiawalt and Charles Stull families. The Noah Johnson family lived about two miles northeast, to the south lived the Ezra Goodman family. The John Young family lived where Warren Sherwins now live. Alvin Youngs family lived on a part of what is now known as the Long View Ranch.

In the year 1914 was grown the best wheat crop in the history of the country, up to that time. The shadow of World War I had cast its shadow and prosperity was rather general. Wheat sold for \$1 bushel during the winter of 1914-15. Optimism was general and we now lived in a community of friendly people which one year before we did not know existed.

At that time the motive power for farming was horses exclusively. As travel on the roads was also by horse power, communities were regarded as smaller than now; it was no fun to travel a few miles for recreation or social contacts. There were three places of worship in the area, namely Beeler Methodist Church, the Methodist Church of Nonchalanta and the Catholic Church in the Fehrenbach neighborhood.

When we came to Ness County, some of the early settlers had lived here thirty years, which I considered in my youth as the ultimate in living in one place. Now I have lived twice thirty years and have lived to see the death of my parents and sister, and no less than forty of the people living here when we arrived in early March of 1915.

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY
By Edna Schlegel

James Ellsworth, son of Thomas and Margret Alexander, was born Dec. 10, 1865 at Ringold, Ohio.

Ellen Josephine, daughter of Michael and Sarah Cleary, was born Jan. 31, 1873 at El Paso, Ill.

They were married Sept. 27, 1894 at Rantoul, Ill. Making their home there until Feb. 1901, when they with their family, moved to a farm near Mooreland, Okla., in Woodward county. They remained there until 1918.

To this union 12 children were born, four of whom died in infancy. In Aug. of 1918 the family moved to Ness County, Kansas in Johnson Township, near the Manteno community. They bought the E $\frac{1}{2}$ section of 14-20-25.

My Dad and brother Mike made the trip by covered wagons, which took them about a week. At night they would camp along streams or wells, to have water for the horses and replenish their water supply. They would sleep under their wagons and at times there were some tense moments, when large herds of cattle would come close to the wagons bawling and pawing the dirt.

The night before they reached their destination, they camped by the Pawnee creek, it was on a Saturday night and on Sunday morning as Ben Fehrenbach was on his way to church he saw them, so Ben told the people at church that he had saw some horse traders and they were heading this way, but instead they were going to settle about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of the church.

As there were not many roads at this time they just followed trails across the country.

My dad and brother built a small frame building for the family to live in when they arrived. Mr John Honeywell was the first neighbor they met, he lived 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles south west of us, so Mike stayed with him while dad returned to Okla. by train to help the family move to Kansas. One daughter Marguerite and one son Joe remained in Okla. My dad, mother and family, Ted (now deceased) Florence, Garnett, Ellen and myself came by train. The house hold goods, machinery, and some cattle were brought on an immigrant rail car to Laird, Kansas, where we were met by Mike to take the family to their new home. The cattle were drove on foot and the wagons hauled the other supplies. After helping the family move Ted returned to Okla.

The livestock had to be herded until fences could be built. A barn with a hay-loft was the next improvement that was built, when it was completed the family moved into it, giving us more room. It was about this time Joe joined the family. Dad broke out 50 acres of sod on the $\frac{1}{2}$ section he had bought and 60 acres on the south west quarter of section 14, which he had rented, with a walking plow which was probably 16 inches wide and was pulled with 3 horses. A year or so later dad and Garnett broke out 160 acres on the north west quarter of section 15, with a walking plow and a sulkey, which had a seat on it and a person could ride and it took 4 horses to pull it.

The winter of 1918 was very cold and had lots of snow. One day Joe and Mike went to Ness City, which was 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, for supplies. They planned on staying at Ness City over night and returning the next day as it would make along hard trip for one day as the roads were real bad. While they were in town someone saw Joe and told him there was a telegram for his folks. Joe got the message, it was from a cousin saying Ted was real sick with the flu and wasn't expected to live. He was at Blackwell, Okla. After receiving the message Joe caught the train for Okla. to be with Ted. It was almost a mircale, as the train only ran one way aday, but it happened to be in Ness City at the time and was going east in a short time. When Joe arrived at Blackwell, Ted had passed the crisis and was improving. That was

the winter the flu was so bad and took so many lives.

Mike decided that he was going to try and make it home the same day, but before he started home he called Paul Kerrs, who had a switch board in their home, they switch onto a barb wire fence line and called Mrs. Fercking, Mike told her about the message and that he was coming on home, Mrs Fercking sent Henry over to tell the folks. Dad got on a horse and went to meet Mike, as he knew he would have a heavy load and might have trouble. Dad met Mike and they got with in 5½ miles of home and they had to leave the wagon as the roads were so bad and the horses were worn out. They rode the horeses home getting there in the wee hours of the morning. They returned the next morning with a different team to bring the loaded wagon home. Mr. Honeywell had been hired to build a two story house which took several months. It was tore down in 1949 and the lumber was used to build the present chicken house.

As there was no well on the place water had to be hauled for house use and livestock for over a year from the neighbors, Mr. Honeywell, Mrs. Ferckings and Eli Kelenberger, the present home of Stanley Moss.

Many test holes were put down trying to find shallow water, but to no avail, so the only thing to do was put down a deep well. Mr. Schumber was hired, he had a Standard rig. He went down 466 feet before he hit water. It was a good well, the water came with in 200 feet of the top. The well was started in Aug. and finished in Oct. of 1919. The some of the neighbors would haul water from our place to do their washing with. In 1967 the pipes rusted out and a new well had to be put down. This time it only took a couple of days. Rozenkrantz from Great Bend put it down.

We attended school at Manteno, which was a mile and one-half from our place. The mail route was a mile and one-half east, but years later the route was changed, going one half mile west of our place, where it still is to-day.

My brothers did a lot of hunting and trapping in the winter time, It was an income as well as a sport, especially coon hunting when several of the neighbors would go along. Sometimes some of them would fall in the creek and get wet, then they would build a fire and dry them selves. Once in a while cattle would take after them and they would take out for their vehicle or maybe climb a wind mill tower if one was close by.

My mother passed away May 27, 1938 at the age of 65, and dad passed away Oct. 13 1940 at the age of 75. He was always known as Dad to all his neighbors and friends, old and young alike.

My brothers and sisters have settled in many different states. I married Roy Schlegel Aug. 1, 1942. Roy served his country from Sept. 11, 1942 till Dec. 20, 1943, when he received a medical discharge. He was stationed at Camp Kohler, Sacramento, Calif. We bought my home place after Roy was discharge from service and rented a farm from Mr. Lundy and lived there till 1949. In the summer of 1948 we started building a new house on my home place. My brother Garnett laid up the basement with cement blocks and George Fercking was the carpenter, they were assisted by Roy, and his brothers Ben, Walter, and Pete. We had planned on having it completed by Thanksgiving, but due to a huge snow storm, which Geo. was stranded there for a day and a half before he was able to walk over to Henrys. So we didn't get it completed and moved till Jan. 30, 1949.

We had one boy: Kenneth Roy and 3 girls: Myra Lynne (Mrs Tom Ring) Glenna Cheryl (Mrs Wayne Keller) and Marilyn who is attending college at Hays, Ks.

Roy passed away Dec. 4, 1971 of a heart attack. Kenny, his wife Jean, and two daughters, Tamara Dawn and Kristina Ann, are living on my home place, and I am living in Ness City, Ks.

Myra has a step daughter, Lisa Marie, son Bobby Lynn, two daughters Brenda Leigh and Rhonda Kay. Glenna has a boy, Scott Wayne.

HISTORY OF EZRA AND BELLE GOODMAN FAMILY
 Written by Edwin Goodman - March 25, 1975

I am the youngest son of Ezra and Belle Goodman and will try to put in writing what I know of their early life in Kansas.

Ezra and Belle Goodman were born, raised and married in Coles County, Ill. In February of 1898 they decided to come to Western Kansas to make their home. At that time they had four children--Laurel, Ivory, Clifford and Clara. They came to Kansas on a train and the trip took them two days and two nights. Their first home in Kansas was in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 27-20-26 and that was one mile south of the Buda cemetery and was in the southwest corner of Ness County. Their home was a split level two story stone house and in earlier days was a hotel. There was no well near their house and they had to haul their water for house use. The Hackberry creek was near by and it furnished water for their livestock. Father was a rancher and farmer.

While living at this place Father took a homestead one fourth mile east of where they lived. He built a one room house and a small barn on his homestead and lived there enough to call it a home. After living there the required length of time he became the owner of 160 acres of good land. This was his first Kansas land as he only rented the place where they were living. While they lived at this place Laurel, Ivory, Clifford and Clara attended the Buda School.

In the fall of 1903 my parents bought a quarter of land one fourth mile east of the old stone Buda school house. This land was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 23-20-26. The house at the new place had two nice stone rooms and two rooms made of wood. In earlier days the south one of these stone rooms contained the Buda postoffice. It was in the room that was formerly used for a postoffice that I was born Jan. 5, 1904. I lived in this house until I was 21-years-old.

In 1914 a three room addition was added on the west side of the stone house and also a large barn was built nearby.

Father bought some coal each fall but the majority of their fuel in the early part of their Kansas life was cow chips and what driftwood they could gather along the Hackberry creek. They endured the droughts, hail storms, blizzards and prairie fires as well as enjoying the good years.

The first real tragedy to befall our family came in April of 1910. My oldest brother, Laurel, was a 19-year-old school teacher and was nearing the completion of his second term of school. In company with my brother Ivory and two other boys (both good friends) they were on a sight seeing trip to Castle Rock. While on this trip Laurel was accidentally shot in the heel with a 22 calibre rifle. He was shot by one of the friends. A doctor at Utica dressed the wound and said it wasn't serious but two weeks later he died a terrible death caused by tetanus. In those days there was no vaccination for tetanus and it was fatal. Laurel was buried in the Buda cemetery.

Like most of the early settlers Father became the owner of quite a bit of land. He owned 2820 acres. He helped organize the Beeler State Bank and was president of this bank at the time of his death. This bank is now the First State Bank at Ness City.

Ivory married Martha Fercking in November of 1914. Ivory died in October of 1956 and is buried in Ness City cemetery. Martha lives in Ness City.

Clifford married Kitty Murdock in July of 1926; and Clifford's death was in March of 1948. Kitty died in July of 1960 and both Clifford and Kitty are buried in Ness City cemetery.

Clara married Jim Russell in February of 1917. Jim died in August of 1971 and is buried in Dighton cemetery. Clara lives in Dighton.

Father passed away in February of 1924 at the age of 56. Mother's death was in October of 1956 and her age was 88. Both are buried in Buda cemetery.

On January 11, 1925, I married Lella Collier in Berryville Arkansas. We came back to Kansas and during the summer and fall of 1925 we built a house across the road from where I was born and raised. We have lived in this house for almost 50 years and hope to live in it as long as our health permits.

Our only child--a son named Fred was born and raised in this house. Fred was born May 29, 1929 and married Nadine Schwartz on October 19, 1956. They have four children--Roger, Steven, Tim and Lynett and they live six miles west of us.

HISTORY OF THE ERNEST AND ANNIE McVICKER FAMILY
Written by D.D. McVicker

My father, Ernest McVicker was born in Indiana in 1881. In the spring of 1905, my grandfather came to Ness County and purchased some land for he and my father. There was some wheat on one quarter so at harvest time, my father came out to see about harvesting the wheat and to work in the harvest. He went back to Indiana in the fall and returned the next summer to make his home in this country.

My mother's father, George Slagle was postmaster at Nonchalanta and my father met my mother when he went to the post office for his mail.

My mother, Annie Slagle was born in Ohio in 1881 and came West by rail with her parents in 1884. They left the train at Sterling and went to Stafford County where they lived for more than a year and then drove to Ness County in March of 1885 and homesteaded in Johnson Township. They had enough money to buy two cows in Stafford County and brought them and a team to Ness County. Their first home was a real hole in the bank which served until a sod house could be built.

When my mother was old enough for school, she, her older brother and her younger brothers and sisters, as they became old enough for school, drove a horse to a buckboard four miles to the town of Nonchalanta. In a few years, her father sold the homestead and bought a home closer to Nonchalanta.

At the Nonchalanta school, there was a large bell in the belfry on top of the schoolhouse. The teacher would ring the bell at the half hour and again closer to school time. The half hour bell would ring longer than it would shortly before school started. The children would stop the horse to listen to the bell to decide which bell was ringing. The horse soon learned to stop on his own when he heard the bell start to ring.

When my mother was grown, she took her normal training and taught ten terms of school. However, some of them were not full length terms like they were in later years. After the work was done one fall, when she was teaching the Eureka school, she had six young men come to school that were six feet tall. They came to learn and caused her no trouble at all.

My mother was one of the few women who homesteaded in Ness County. She had a one room shack on her homestead and her younger sister stayed with her.

My grandfather kept grey hounds to use in hunting coyotes. One year when my mother was staying at home and driving a horse and buggy to the Manteno school several miles away where she was teaching, two of the hounds would ride to school with her and help keep her warm. One day a large herd of cattle were driven past the schoolhouse and when she got ready to go home that night, the hounds were gone. Several weeks later, one of the pupils came into the schoolhouse and said, "Teacher, there is someone outside that

wants to see you." She went outside and there was one of the hounds, guant and footsore but acted real tickled to see her. When my mother was almost home that night, one of the family saw her coming and told the rest of the family that Annie was bringing someone home with her. When she got there, they saw it was one of the hounds that had disappeared. My grandfather was one happy man to have his hound back home but the other one never showed up.

I have heard my father tell of his first experience of using stone posts to build fence. He had set a corner post and was stretching the wires to it. He had the wires partly stretched when the corner post snapped off. He had to dig the post out and tried three times, having the same thing happen each time. When he came in that night, he was tired and discouraged. His boss asked him how he had gotten along. He told him his experiences and the boss said, "I should have known that you can't stretch wire to a stone post that is full of frost."

My father and mother were married in June of 1909. My father purchased a quarter of land that year that was to be their home the rest of their lives.

My father took his turn serving as a member of the school board for many years and was still on the board at the time they closed the Nonchalanta school. He also served as township trustee along with others of the community.

MEMORIES: 1928 - 1975
by Irene Blakely

Dwight and Irene Blakely, formerly of Pratt County, Kansas, decided to "Build a Sweet Little Nest--Somewhere Out in the West, and let the Rest of the World go by." So they started housekeeping in the home they are presently living in October 23, 1928. At that time it was owned by Harry T. Smith, now deceased, of Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Smith was a wonderful landlord for 31 years.

A little daughter, Dwilette, blessed this home by arriving December 10, 1929, in the St. Anthony Hospital at Dodge City, Kansas. She and her husband, Dale Paulsen, live in Stafford, Kansas. Dan, their oldest child, now married, is in the school of Veterinary Medicine at K-State. Deana is a Sophomore at K-State, majoring in Home Ec. and Journalism. David, Dawn and Darla are in grade school.

As for a bit of nostalgia: This house was built in 1917 and was then owned by the late Harry T. Smith's father. The first family to live in the newly built house was J. M. Gillette's. They had three boys and two girls. One of their sons died in this house of diphtheria at the age of 20 some years.

The Bill Mauch family was next to occupy the house. Mrs. Mauch's elderly father lived with them and he passed away while living here. Next came the Charley McKinley's. Mrs. McKinley passed away in this house also. We were led to believe the house was "haunted" by the death angel, but we were young and determined, so didn't scare easily. Dwights folks, the George Blakelys, moved to this house in the spring of 1927 and then to Dodge City in the fall of 1928.

We were also told there were no good water wells on this farm, but we had perserverance and decided to find out for ourselves. An abundance of fine well water was found. Soon, the farmstead which had only one lone cottonwood tree, was abounding with trees, shrubbery, flowers--especially roses--and a garden.

The Blakelys' planted their first crop of wheat on this land in the fall of 1927, bringing with them from Pratt County, Super Blackhull Seed wheat. It so outyielded the neighbors Turkey wheat that the Blakely wheat was in great demand for seed wheat the next year.

We came, we toiled, we stayed, through all kinds of weather and as Edgar A. Guest put it: "It takes a Heap of Livin' In a House to make it Home" and home is what this house is to Dwight and Irene Blakely.

CARRYING THE MAIL IN THE EARLY 1900's

By Mrs. Agnes Beck

In about 1903 bids were let for the mail route southwest of Ness City, Kansas. This included pickup and delivery of mail to the Manteno, a school house; Nonchalanta, now a ghost town; and Ness City post offices. Later when mail-boxes were installed rural delivery to about 15 boxes in the country was also included.

Steve Fehrenbach submitted a low bid of \$24.50 a month. In 1907 he received another four-year contract at \$32.00 a month.

Steve carried the mail alone on horseback during the cold winter but in the summer his sisters helped him. First Kate, and later, when she was old enough, Mary.

The route covered the distance from the Fehrenbach home to the Nonchalanta post office then to the Manteno post office and on to Ness City. This made a round trip of approximately 60 miles. The trip was made on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Two sacks of mail were carried. One for the postmaster was locked and only the postmaster had the key. The other was mail for the rural boxes. The first box erected was that of the Koester family.

Because of the distance and time schedule, draft or work horses could not make the trip, so lightweight, frisky, young ponies were driven. Add this to the fact that from north of Manteno to Nonchalanta there were fifteen barbed wire gates to open and you have a problem. You didn't push a button to open the gates, but got out of the buggy, opened the gate, led the ponies through, then closed the gate and got back in the buggy if it was still there.

In the summer time when the flies were bad, the ponies would fight them with their tails. Frequently they would get their tails over the reins and the harness buckle would gouge the pony. The best defense of the pony was to kick and run. Buggy tongues were a frequent casualty and a trip to a repair shop was in order.

Other expenses were for the ponies to be watered and fed at the livery stable. The carrier would go to the restaurant for lunch. The tickets were for 21 meals and cost \$3.50 for the month. The ticket was punched when the meal was eaten. When you think of that price--the Good Old Days were not a bad time.

(I am indebted to Ted Copeland for the two following adventures experienced by Steve and Mary)

Steve was carrying the mail on horseback in the winter time. It was very cold and snowing. He stopped at the home of Bill and Charles Mellies. Bill asked Steve to stay all night, but Steve replied he wasn't cold and would go on home. Mr. Mellies lifted Steve off the horse and carried him into the house. Steve was so cold he couldn't sleep. He spent the night shivering beside the stove. Later Mr. Mellies told Ted Copeland that Steve would have froze if he hadn't taken him off the horse.

People sometimes had the carriers purchase and bring needed articles to the patrons. On this particular occasion Mary had been asked to deliver an article. The ponies were ready to leave so she had a man holding them while she was in the store. Mary could see the man was having trouble holding the ponies. She quickly made the purchase, ran to the buggy, threw the package in as she jumped in the buggy, and left town with the horses running at top speed. So possibly drag racing didn't originate with the younger generation and their autos, but with the older generation with their ponies.

A WAR OF LIFE
By Wiletta Pember

When I was one and eighteen
And in the bloom of youth,
I was out a dating,
Advice to me meant poof!

We became the greatest gamblers
And we nearly lost our brain,
Eating Campbells Soup Manhandlers,
Keeping up with the price of grain.

My college days were numbered,
And too, my new career,
And even when I slumbered,
Thoughts were of him so dear,

And then the days of Nixon
With prices so irrational,
Came many days of friction,
We didn't feel so national.

My maiden name was altered
As I sit here and remember,
Could I have then faltered,
As I was now a Pember!

With tired, aching feet
And backs becoming bent,
Of days we fought the heat
We say, "they've been well spent."

Time would tell the story
Of the life among the sticks,
Of the sunsets and their glory,
We called ourselves the hicks.

Our motto "Rise and Shine",
Believing, "Thy Will Be Done",
With help from the Divine
We've had a little fun.

Over the sod we trod
Among the chips and dips,
This living was no fraud
With all our numerous trips!

And as the days go by
Some people say we're crazy,
So in the bye and bye,
They sure can't call us lazy!

FORGOTTEN
By Mildred Copeland Roots - 1969

Written after seeing a lone grave in George Slagle's pasture on a Western Kansas prairie. Ted Copeland took Mildred Roots to see the grave of George Darbin in Darbin's Draw. Ted says there are two stories about this man's death. One is that he was herding cattle, a rattlesnake bit him, he died and was buried on the spot. The other is, that he saw the snake's tail sticking out of a crack in his sod house and as he pulled the snake out he was bitten and died.

How came you to be on the prairie so bare,
What caused life to end for you here?
From whence had you come and for what were you bound,
Who was it who held you so dear?

When was it you died, and what was your name?
Were you mother or father or child?
What were the thoughts of the ones that you left,
As they traveled on mile after mile?

Today there are stones to mark the drab spot,
Where they placed you so long, long ago,
These questions I ask, 'tho I guess there's no chance
The answers I ever will know.

FACTS AND REFLECTIONS
By Laurie Copeland

December 1, 1931
A long tough ride
Brought me to the farm.
Every thing was different.
Every thing was new.
I had a lot to learn
That was true.

Why did I Come to Kansas?
That, I've often wondered why.
It was before Womens's Lib
Women went where
Her man wanted to live.

You won't believe it, but it's true.
George said we'd teach as a team for years through.
Can you imagine this cow man
Who grew up in wide open spaces
Cooped up with children, chalk and trace's ?

You've guessed it.
We've lived on the plain
With many a struggle, strife and strain.
We moved on a bare prairie in 1934,
Little knowing all that was in store,
Through the dust of the thirties, grasshoppers and fleas.
We milked cows, fed steers, drilled wheat
And managed some-how to have some thing to eat.

Do for your self or do without,
Helped us to know what life was about.
Whether Courage, bravery, ignorance or bliss
The struggle to survive took us thru all this.
"To the Stars Through Difficulty" I do agree.
But where in the World Could you feel more free?

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HISTORY OF HENRY FAYETTE WHIPPLE FAMILY
Written by Mrs. Virgil Whipple--March 1975

Henry F. Whipple was born in a sod dugout on his fathers homestead south and east of Bazine, Kansas. Henry was a member of one of the pioneer families of Ness County. He spent three years in McCracken, the rest of his life was spent in Ness County. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Whipple had the distinction of being the first couple married in Ness County.

Martha Jane Neal, Henry's wife, was born in Pine Knot, Kentucky. She came to Kansas with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Tom Neal, they settled in McCracken.

Henry and Martha were married April 18, 1906. They lived on a little farm north of McCracken for a while where Henry and his brother-in-law ran a butcher-shop and Martha worked in a Hotel Restaurant, which her parents ran.

Later the Whipple's moved southeast of Bazine, where they lived until the spring of 1913, when they moved to the farm they had purchased south of Beeler. Four of their children, Velma, Virgil, Dorothy and Ethel were born before they came to Beeler. When the family moved to Beeler they loaded their belongings in a wagon and tied their machinery on behind. Henry drove the team and wagon, Martha drove the horse and buggy and had the children with her, and a friend, Ed Schaben, drove the cattle.

There was a two room sod house on the quarter they had purchased, sixty acres of which was broke out. Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Moore were living on the farm but moved over west into a stone house in the bank.

The Whipple family moved into the sod house located south east across the draw known as Guzzler's Gulch. In about 1915 they built their four room frame house across the draw from the sod house. Several years later they added two more rooms and a basement which the family enjoyed for several years. Glen was born in 1920.

There were a few families living around here when Whipple's came. The Frank Pickerll family lived east where the Willis Tenny family once lived. Frank Moores lived in a 1½ story sod house where Moores steel shed now stands. The John Shover family lived on the Adam Hinkel place, which later belonged to Irvin Hinkel. Noah Johnson lived northwest, up the draw from what is now known as the Noah Johnson place where Jim Cline now lives. The Conard family (Ira Conard and Birdie Finkenbinder's parents) lived north east in a stone house. Later a man by the name of Ball bought it, but didn't live there much. Floyd's got the land and sold the buildings to Sim Doebbling. They built a shop out of the stone house which is part of the Doebbling brothers shop now.

The families visited with each other nearly every Sunday. There wasn't any other entertainment. The Whipple's made a living by farming, raising cattle, milking cows, raising chickens and turkeys for eggs and to eat. They usually dressed their turkeys and sold them.

Nearly all families took Friday afternoon off and went to Beeler to buy their weeks supply of groceries and to sell their cream and eggs, and there they met their farmer friends to visit with.

During the early days the road was only a trail that can still be seen in different places along the road today. North of Rex Whipple's the trail went around east to miss some of the gullies. Sometime in the early twenties Henry Whipple and Davy Jones laid out the road which now runs from Buda to Beeler. The road hasn't been changed much over the years, except for improvements.

Fenton Whipple tells about Davy Jones driving down the road in his Model T Roadster, after the road was laid out. He was smoking his pipe as usual and sparks from his pipe set his car top on fire. He just unhooked the top and tossed it in the road ditch and the car top caused more fire. It set Jake Whipple's pasture on fire and burned off several acres north of Jake Whipple's house.

Don Hogsett graded the road at the time it was first laid out. The telephone was put through in the early days, which was a very important item for the early settlers. Bill Devina was the promoter of the telephone. Mrs. Albert Moats was the first telephone operator in Beeler, located in the old hotel on the west side of Main Street. Some of the families on this party line were: Lawrence Brocher, Curt Brocher, John McKelvey, Jake Whipple, Henry Whipple, Noah Johnson, (Daddy) Nelson and Bill Devina.

Davy Jones was Kay Sheafers Grandad, who was a hog buyer, and lived on the Jones place east of Buda. It would take him two days to drive the hogs he bought from his place to the Beeler Stockyards. He always stopped at Henry Whipples place to rest his hogs and stayed all night, then went on to Beeler the next day. Neighbors, relatives and friends were always welcome at the Whipple home, meal time or anytime. The Whipples were always willing to take time to help a neighbor or friend who needed help. Martha Whipple was called upon several times to help deliver babies.

In the late twenties Henry started to buy and sell cattle which he enjoyed doing very much. The cattle he bought would be shipped from Beeler stockyards on Saturday morning so he could have them in Kansas City, Mo. for the monday market. Henry also witched for several water wells around in the country. He didn't always find water, but in a lot of cases they got water when they hadn't been able to find it before.

Joe Fehrenbach was the first mail carrier that Virgil Whipple remembers they had. He had a mail wagon he used and sometimes delivered mail on horseback.

The Whipple children went to the Eureka school, which set on the corner about half mile south of Rex Whipples home. The Eureka school was also used for entertainment. In the early thirties there were several literary programs held there, which about everyone took part in and all enjoyed very much. When the school was closed the children of the district went in to Beeler. The school house was sold. Virgil Whipple purchased it and made it into a milk barn on his home place.

During the middle thirties there were several rabbit drives in this area. The rabbits, in large numbers, were rounded up from a large area and drove into a wire netting fence, there they were clubbed to death. They were disposed of for mink feed, bone meal and etc.

During the thirties there was a baseball team organized and a ball diamond was laid out in Henry Whipple's pasture west of their house, up near the road, where several ball games were held on a Sunday afternoon.

Martha, the wife and mother, was a very busy lady raising her family and helping with the outside work when she was needed. She and her children helped with the chores such as milking cows, caring for the chickens, turkeys and etc. Aside from all these chores Martha baked angel food cakes and churned butter for Mrs. George Johnson or any one else whenever they wanted either one. Martha liked to sew, embroidery, crochet, piece quilts and quilt them. She was also well known for her prize sour milk biscuits and gravy.

In the late twenties Martha helped to organize a social club. She was a charter member of the Sunflower Club and remained a member until she passed away in 1971. Henry passed away in 1944 and Glen passed away in 1948 after serving in WW II.

When the family no longer used the farm buildings, the buildings were torn down or moved off. The old home was torn down by Rex Whipple and used in the addition to their home.

Whipples attended church and Sunday School at Beeler. Martha and her children became members of the Beeler Church. Velma and Dorothy shared their musical talent by playing the piano for church and Sunday School, Ethel often sang a solo.

Velma and Dorothy now live in Dighton, Kansas. Ethel lives in Defiance, Ohio, and Virgil lives on the original farm northeast of the old family homestead. The Henry Whipple family has grown to thirteen grand children and thirty great grand children.

JAKE WHIPPLE FAMILY
by Hazel Prose

Jacob Earl Whipple was born in Bazine Township in southeastern Ness County in 1889. He was the fourth child of Ira and Jennie Whipple. They were the first couple married in Ness County, so they were pioneers of this county.

Jake, as he was called by everyone, received his schooling and grew to manhood in this Bazine Community. He married Gertrude Schaben on May 4, 1912. They lived southeast of Bazine four years and it was here that Clarence, Fenton and Hazel were born. Jake decided it was time for him to get a place of his own so he could start improving it and get settled so his children would have a place to go to school.

He bought 2 quarters and an 80 south of Beeler. In the spring of 1916 he moved his wife and children to the Eureka school house, which was on part of his land. This was their home through the summer until he could get a small wash house built. They lived in this small building until he got the two story house built that his son, Rex, and family live in at the present time.

There were many hardships as the family grew and became a part of the new community. Wayne and Ruby came to bless this family and then tragedy struck hard. The mother was taken away during the winter of 1920, when the whole community was stricken with that terrible influenza.

Bernice Gilmore Starner taught the Eureka school in the fall of 1920 and the spring of 1921. She had a small son, Thayne, who had to be taken care of while she was teaching school, so a Mrs. Renolds who lived in Beeler was Thayne's baby sitter. She and Jake became acquainted, real good friends and were married on September 8, 1921. This family was reunited and began life in this two story frame house.

They saw the telephone become a reality, graded roads were built and a mail route was established for this community. The town of Beeler progressed and grew. At one time there were three grocery stores, a creamery, a blacksmith shop, a barber shop, Hotel and Restraunt, Bank, Lumber Yard, Post Office, Elevator, Repair Garage, Church, Grade School and High School in Beeler.

Jake and Bernice's family consisted of LaVerne, Jimmie, Donald, Jennie, Rex, Tom and Paul. The whole bunch worked together and made a living by farming, raising cattle and hogs, milking cows and selling cream and eggs. The children went to grade school at Eureka and High School in Beeler. In later years the Eureka school was discontinued so they took all their schooling in Beeler.

In the fall of 1944 as Jake and his family were returning from Bazine, where they had spent the day visiting his mother, Jake was repairing a flat tire on his car when he was hit by another car and killed.

This family has all grown, married and went their many ways. Rex is still living on the same location, in the same house, with some additions and a lot of improvements.

Bernice now lives in Phoinix, Arizona but returns often for visits with her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

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ST IGNATIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH
By Agnes Beck

The early rural churches made a tremendous contribution to the growth of the community and our country. The Nonchalanta Catholic Church was dedicated in September of 1902 and was named St. Ignatius in honor of Conrad Fehrenbach's father, Ignatius Fehrenbach of Baden, Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Fehrenbach and their family emigrated to Ness County from Baden, Germany in 1893. They attended church when possible in the McKittrick neighborhood not far from McCracken. Later the priest would come from Marienthal, Kansas by train, and Mass was held in the Kunze home south of Ness City, then later in the Fehrenbach home.

Mr. Fehrenbach donated land close to his home for a church and cemetery. He with his son Steve, and other neighbors, including the Nick Goebels, Schauveleges, and Adolph Beck's helped the carpenter, Julius Nonnast built the white frame church. The priest came from Marienthal and was met at the railroad. Later the priest came from Ness City to hold services. Mass was usually held every third Sunday, and people came from miles around to attend. This was an event in the lives of these people as they brought their lunch and everyone had dinner in the Fehrenbach home. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed visiting. All attended vespers held in the afternoon, then departed for home.

The first marriage in the church was that of Vincent Fehrenbach and Emma Beck. The first burial in the cemetery was Mrs. Addie White, age 21, mother of three small sons, the youngest three weeks old. Mrs. White died of typhoid fever brought on by drinking water from a spring during a dry season. Her descendants now reside in Nebraska.

Starting in the early 1920's a mission priest held services alternating Sundays with the O'Brien Church in Highpoint Township. Then services were held at each place on Sunday, being early (8:00) at one place and late (10:00) at the other. A special treat at Christmas time was midnight Mass. This also was alternated between the two parishes.

St Ignatius continued to grow and at one time as many as twenty families belonged to the parish. A number of young people were married in the church. A triple wedding was held in the small church. The participants were members of the Stramel family. They included Ida Stramel and Earl Davis; Katie Stramel and Austin Kropp of Spearville; Andrew Stramel and Arlie Sorem of Jetmore.

In 1952 the congregation celebrated its golden anniversary. Several former pastors and the priest held services in the morning. A number of former members also attended. Following church services a picnic basket dinner was held in Sherwin's grove in Western Ness County. Everyone also enjoyed the afternoon renewing old acquaintances, visiting, playing horse-shoes and baseball.

In the latter 1950's the assistant priest at the Ness City parish held services for the church. During the latter part of this time a priest from Ransom parish came and said mass and the parishioners again drove to get him.

Owing to the scarcity of priests the church was closed in 1962. Bishop Forst of Dodge City conducted the last services. The congregation now attend church at Sacred Heart in Ness City. The church building was sold and torn down. Mr. and Mrs. Fehrenbach, some of their descendants, other parishioners and their descendants lie at rest in the St Ignatius cemetery.

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DECREE WILL CLOSE NONCHALANTA CHURCH
Copied from the Ness County News November 1961
By Agnes. Beck

Nonchalanta---St. Ignatius Church in Ness County and a mission attached to St. Aloysius' Parish, Ransom, will be closed Sunday, November 26, 1961, by a decree issued by Bishop Marion F. Forst.

Bishop Forst will celebrate a Pontifical Low Mass in the church that day, thus marking the formal closing of the parish.

The congregation that has dwindled to 13 families (66 souls), and the territory of the parish have been assigned to Sacred Heart Parish, Ness City, of which Father James Tainter, is pastor.

St. Ignatius' Parish, established in 1902, began in a humble way. A parish-house was purchased in Ness City for \$135 and moved to a farm owned by a certain Mr. Kunze, seven miles south and 3/4 miles west of Ness City. The second story of the house was used for religious services for a short time, while a new location for the church was acquired and church was built.

This is the building that will be closed November 26. It is now situated on a tract of land belonging to the Konral Fehrenbach family farm seven miles west and ten miles south of Ness City. Konrad Fehrenbach donated six acres and in 1933, Stephen Fehrenbach donated an additional acre.

The church was built by Konrad Fehrenbach and other pioneers of the parish. and blessed by Father John Henry Tihen, then Chancellor of the Diocese of Wichita. It was one of the 97 new churches built in the first 25 years the diocese was in existence. Bishop John J. Hennessey made his first visit to the parish September 20, 1911.

The Capuchin Father had charge of St. Ignatius' Parish from 1905 to 1958. Before the coming of the Capuchins, priests from Olmitz, Claflin, McCracken, and other parishes attended the parishioners several times a year. Among the priests were Fathers John Sklenar, John Huna, J. Mages, Francis Joyce, George Reinschmidt, J. Schroeder, and Bernard Drath.

The first Capuchin Father in charge of St. Ignatius' Church was Father Bernard Kuhlmann, pastop of Marienthal. The parish remained attached to Marienthal until 1924 when it, together with Bazine and Ransom, was designated a mission to Sacred Heart parish, Ness City.

In all, 28 Capuchins served the Nonchalanta parish from 1905 to June 17, 1958. That year Bishop John B. Franz appointed Father James Tainter, a diocesan priest, pastor of the Ness City parish with St. Ignatius, Nonchalanta, and St. John's Bazine, as its missions.

The last Capuchin priest to serve St. Ignatius Parish was Father Kenan Crowley. The Bazine parish closed September 15, 1960, and on the same day St. Ignatius' Parish was made a mission to St. Aloysius' Parish, Ransom. While a mission of Ransom, it was attended by Father Schinstock and Father Corelius Leunissen.

St. Ignatius' Parish observed its 50th anniversary September 1, 1952, with a solemn High Mass of Thanksgiving. Father Cyprian Gehrling, O.F.M. was celebrant. Father Jordan Hammel, O.F.M., was deacon; Father Leander Yoest, O.F.M. Cap., Subdeacon; and Father Camillus Schridt, L.F.M., master of ceremonies.

SIM DOEBBELING FAMILY
by Velma Doebbeling

Sim grew up near Craig, Missouri and attended a Lutheran school as a child. He married Mary Miller and they moved to Ford County for awhile and later to Harper, Ks. He moved to Ness County in 1917 and located on the Beardslee place 6 miles southwest of Ness. They farmed and raised cattle and in the winter the men put up ice for summer use. The ice was cut in large cakes with a hand saw, then packed in straw in a cave and would last for a good part of the summer. That winter was dry and it got down to 30° below zero.

They moved to the Nonchlanta neighborhood in 1918 on the Floyd ranch. George Slagle's family lived near, the Goodmans to the west and Roy Roths a mile east. Sim and Mary had six children, Henry (who was killed in 1924) Grace, Clarence, Irving, Edward and Kenneth. They had a large herd of Herefords and raised feed and grain for the cattle and to sell. A blizzard on April 9, 1919 made spring planting a little late.

Harvesting then was done with a header pulled by horses. The grain--wheat, barley and oats was cut and hauled to the header by header-barge, and pitched off so it took everyone. The boys could drive the wagons while the older ones pitched the hay. It meant long hours, getting up at the crack of dawn to feed the horses and harness them. No wonder they thought they had it made in 1923 when the first combines came out. Three were shipped to Ness and so with their new "Deering" they harvested in style! Sim's nephew, Neal McCoy, used to come out during the summer, from Oklahoma, to help with the work. After he got out of high school he came out and stayed as he liked it out here. The boys spent most of their spare time in the shop, repairing their machinery and occasionally for the neighbors. Another new improvement about this time was electric lights, even if it did take a bunch of batteries to make it, it was bright!

On a balmy day the last of November in 1925 some men were driving cattle by and asked to corral them for the night. A blizzard blew in that night and it was 2 weeks before the men and cattle got on their way. It was a Howard Brown of Larned. Sim joked about running low on meat and having to butcher. At least they had plenty of help.

Entertainment those days was like most everything else--homemade. It consisted of Sunday dinners after church with the neighbors, horseshoe pitching, baseball and a few rodeos, in someones pasture. Sim played a violin and banjo and the boys guitars and many a day during the dust storms they stayed in the house and played music with their caps on so their hair wouldn't get dirty. The women hung wet sheets over the windows to keep out some of the dust.

In the late twenties Sim started to build improvements on his land two miles east or just south of old Nonchalanta. A large shed was erected from the lumber and tin from the old Hopper place a mile west in the pasture. At one time Bert and Faye Wilcox lived there and later on the Tuttlés. In 1934 they started on the house. They laid it up with stone posts picked up in the pasture. It was back-breaking, hard work and the weather was hot! We're still living in it and I'm real proud of my native stone home with it's 12-inch walls--holds heat in winter and cool in summer. The shop was built next, also of stone posts but we ran out and had to get those up by Virgil Whipples on the Ball place. In the past years we have built on to it twice but the last time with lumber.

Sim served as county commissioner from 1932 till he moved to town in 1947, due to Mary's failing health. She died in 1949 and he in 1960. Grace married Conrad Litzzenberger and their children are Arlene, Clifford, Morris, Janice and Karen. Clarence and Velvyn's children are Mary Ann, Dee and Kay. (Donald, the oldest died from rattlesnake bite in 1934). Irving and Garnet had Mildred, she has 5 children. Ed, Kenny and Velma live on the home place, farming, raising cattle and keeping shop. 1975: We've come a long way this last half-century but to Dad, Mom and God thanks for standing by through snow, dirt, hail and high water!!

NOTES OF NESS COUNTY SCHOOLS

By Agnes Beck

The following accounts of schools has been taken from various sources. Items were taken from Minnie Dubbs Millbrook, History of Ness County. Records in the county Register of Deeds office, The Nonchalanta Herald, Published from 1887-1889. Also from various individuals.

Early record are scarce, but a few items were taken from an early book. The notations in the book were in pencil, however, the first records at the county seat were made by N.G. Carpenter. According to this book, school was first held in the county beginning in April 1879. The territory of this school covered eighteen sections-4-33 sw north to sec. 6 back to ne of 4-33.

Miss Green was not qualified to teach therefore her salary was paid by subscription.

Tiny M Forbes taught in district 7 a 3 month term beginning Nov. 17, 1879. She received \$18.00 per. month.

First school in disrtict 15 commenced Nov. 24, 1879 and was taught by George S. Redd for \$19.33 per. month. This opened Dec. 9th in 1879.

In 1880 after the organization of Ness County, Frank F. Goodridge was elected Superintendent of Public Instruction.

County Institute was held in the summer of 1887.

In checking through various records and talking to people there is a contradiction of events and dates. So if dates conflict we know that dates and events are remembered differently.

Among the first County Superintendents were: Frank F. Goodridge, N.C. Carpenter, O.L. Lennen and Edith M. Salisbury.

Report of Nonchalanta School for the month ending May 27, 1887.

No. of pupils enrolled for the month--41

Average daily attendance --23

No. of visitors during month--0

No. of visits from the County Superintendent--0

Estella Robinson, teacher.

The annual school meeting will occur this year the 30th of June; Bear this in mind and attend your school meeting. It is directly of more importance to you than voting for president.

The globe that Miss Muldrow purchased with the proceeds of the school entertainment has come and much interest will be added to the recitations in geography.

The scholars of Nonchalanta school have organized a society they call L.W.K. and we understand it is a grand success. The meetings of this society are Friday afternoons and it would be a good plan for the patrons of the school to drop in occasionally. It would stimulate the scholars and greatly encourage the teacher.

The L.W.K.'s contemplate giving a public entertainment due notice of which will be given in these columns.

RECORDS OF THE FIRST TEACHERS INSTITUTES

By Agnes Beck

Institute was also known as normal school.

First school elections in Ness County were Aug. 14, 1879 in dis. 1 and 2 in Highpoint township.

Teachers Association Sept. 21, 1901.

Roll call giving don'ts for teachers.

HISTORY OF THE PEMBER FAMILY

This information of Arthur E. and Rhoda Ann Pember's Families was written and compiled April 1975 by Oma Burns and Willetta Pember

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Edwin Pember-- Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Pember were among the early settlers of Ness County. Arthur E. Pember was born March 29, 1858 in the town of Willett in Courtland County New York. He was a son of Sanford and Salome (Glover) Pember. His paternal grandfather was Parley Pember who was born in Connecticut and was a farmer. The Glovers were Pennsylvania German people. Sanford Pember lived most of his life on a farm. He was also a carpenter. Sanford moved to Ringgold county in Iowa, and lived there until the death of his wife. At this time he returned to Courtland county, New York where he passed away.

Arthur E. was the oldest of his parents' children. A brother Irvin B. Pember also lived in Ness county. His brother Parley Pember lived in Broome county, New York. A sister Eva was the wife of Ed Thomas. They lived in Elgin, Oregon. Eva Thomas, before moving to Elgin, Oregon, had the Arlington Hotel in Ness City for sometime.

Mr. Arthur E. Pember married Rhoda Ann Smith in Ringgold county, Iowa on Feb. 22, 1876. They were married several years before they started west for Kansas. Rhoda Ann's father was John B. Smith. He was born in New York state and was an early settler in Iowa. There he married Lydia Miner. Rhoda Pember was born in Freemont county, Iowa Dec. 18, 1857. She was the oldest of the Smith children. Her sister Elizabeth was the wife of Charles Tarman, of Ness county. A brother George lived in Ness county and a sister Lucy J. Pember lived in Kansas City. Sister Lura is the widow of John Zickafoose. They lived in Coffee county, Kansas. Another sister Rose was the wife of Herman L. Mellies of Ness county. Rhoda's two youngest brothers were James W. and Friend A. Smith, a minister. He and his wife Hattie lived in Carnegie, Oklahoma. James W. and his wife Oma lived in Warrenton, Oregon.

Arthur E. and Rhoda Ann came to Kansas in 1882 from Ringgold county, Iowa. They spent nearly four years in Butler county before arriving in Ness County in October, 1886. On March 10, 1886, Arthur E. settled on his claim. His homestead was located on the S.E. quarter of section 17, township 20, range 24. The early settlers could tell many interesting stories about their coming to Kansas, and how they managed to live on what they brought with them.

When Arthur E. and his wife Rhoda came to Ness county he brought two teams and sixteen head of cattle, and a little cash. With this equipment and good management he lived on and improved his homestead--in time that became the basis of his subsequent large holdings of land in Ness county.

After coming to Ness county he and his family lived for a time in a sod house. This was a typical palace on the western prairies of Kansas and no family was thought any worse of because they lived in such a home. The three Pember sons were born in the sod house.

A rude structure of frame timbers was set up for a barn for the horses. The first year they had to depend on their cows and chickens. They were successful in raising a good crop that year also. In fact it was a time of special prosperity for Ness county. Millet grew waist high and they raised a good crop of corn without weeds. Arthur E. had to adapt himself to special needs and circumstances--he cultivated with a home-made harrow, constructed out of fence posts. For several years the hay crops were especially good. Livestock was his mainstay through all the years, especially horses and mules. Later he engaged in growing grain. Every year out of the first thirty that he had spent in Ness county, he managed to

cut some crop from his farm, but there was one exception. In the fall of 1893 he did not even hitch up to his mowing machine at all. He managed to winter his livestock with the buffalo grass and a little mill feed.

Arthur E. and Rhoda's first addition to the homestead was a tree claim. In a few years he began buying adjacent land. He purchased some of this land from entrymen and some he acquired under mortgage sales.

His own material affairs did not engross all of his time and attention. He joined other progressive men in Ness City to advance business and civic organizations. He was one of the original stock-holders of the Citizens State Bank and was a director in it and the Citizens National Bank. He was also treasurer of the Ness County Agricultural Association for several years. He was a Councilman of Ness City and one of the four dealers in coal for five years.

He made no special effort to mix in politics, but was a stalwart republican and at different times he represented his party at state conventions. He was a delegate to the Wichita Convention which nominated Governor Hoch. Mr. Pember cast his first vote in 1880 for President Garfield.

Arthur E. and Rhoda were a couple of great faith since they had their share of hardships. While still in Iowa they lost their two first born sons prior to coming to Butler county Kansas. They were members of the Methodist Church. At one time he was a trustee of the Ness City church. He belonged to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and was an entered apprentice in Masonry. His personal supervision was given to his farm and ranch until 1911, when he retired to Ness City.

As a stockman he bought all kinds of livestock and shipped from Ness City. He established a feeding barn in Ness City and this was used for mules and horses. He was one of the raisers of fine horses and cattle and exhibited much of his stock at local fairs. Mr. Pember also owned a half section just west of Ness City. This land was used for farming and feed lots. He had developed the Pember ranch in Franklin Township too consisting of thirty-seven quarter sections. He had four separate farms of which three were occupied by his three sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Edwin Pember had three sons Irvin Arthur born Dec. 16, 1886, Perl Edwin and Earl Edward, twins born Dec. 4, 1889. Mr. Pember died in 1928. He was a dealer of John Deere Implements at the time of his death. His wife Rhoda Ann passed away in 1934.

Irvin A. Pember--Irvin A. the oldest son of A.E. and Rhoda, lived on part of his father's ranch and was married to Minnie Koester May 2, 1911. They had four daughters, Oma May, Valdah Lois, Mary Elizabeth, Dorothy Corrine, and a son Arthur Irvin Pember. Their oldest child Lavern Irvin was stillborn. Mary passed away when she was twenty years of age.

Irvin Arthur Pember and his wife Minnie lived for two years on what is now the Raymond Pember ranch. Then they moved to the home place which is now the residence of Arthur (Art) Pember. They lived there until their retirement when they moved to Ness City in 1947.

When Irvin was a child he contacted spinal-meningitis which left him almost entirely deaf. With this handicap he managed, with the help of his family, to hold his portion of the ranch together despite the duststorms of the dirty thirties. Irvin was a hard worker and he and his wife Minnie gave each of their children equal opportunities for college educations. Three of the daughters became teachers and Dorothy is still teaching as a profession.

Irvin served on the Methodist church board for a short time while his wife Minnie was a school board member for many years. He owned one of the first and largest combines in the community--a Holt Caterpillar with a 20 foot heddar. Irvin's main enjoyment was to work, ride, and watch trained, well-bred horses. He was faithful in assisting with tractor driving, working cattle, and riding his Palomino mare until about three years before his death. At the time of Irvin's retirement, Oma and Clyde Burns lived on the Pember farm until Arthur was married and the Burns family moved to Ness City. Irvin passed away in

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Oma Pember taught Buda school two years (1937-39), Pember school one year, Cleveland two years, and a year teaching fifth grade in the Ness City school system. She then sought employment in Wichita. On May 7, 1944, she was married to Clyde E. Burns. He attended Salt City Business School in Hutchinson and was employed by the Internal Revenue for seven years. Clyde was the first president of the United Credit Union, managed it for six years and has been associated with it for a total of eighteen years. He was Probate Judge in Ness county for two terms after which he resigned to work for the Right Co-op in the agricultural department. Oma attended Fort Hays State College in Hays, Kansas and works part time for the Credit Union. Clyde, along with his regular jobs, has been involved with income tax returns. They had three children, Linda Kay (Burns) Boyd, Charles Irvin Burns, and Janet Mae (Burns) Betz.

Linda, her husband Lavon J. Boyd, and daughter Mary Michelle are living in Mission, Kansas. Lavon is employed at J.C. Penney Co. Linda works for a Floral Company. Linda and Von both attended Kansas State University in Manhattan with Von receiving a degree in Agri-Business. They were married August 6, 1966.

Charles I., his wife Lana Joye (Herman), and son Chad Edward live in Wagoner, Okla. Charles and Lana work in the Wagoner hospital. He is an Inhalation Therapist. Lana is a Registered Nurse. They attended college in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They were married June 21, 1969.

Janet and her husband Denny L. Betz live in Overland Park, Kansas. They are both working at K.U. Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas. Janet is a secretary and Denny is an Electronic Computers Technician. They attended college in Denver, Colorado. They were married May 27, 1972.

Valdah Pember was married to Waverly Franklin Burns on March 26, 1944. They live in Dodge City, Kansas and have two sons, Ronald Kent, a senior in High School, and Robert Eugene, an eighth grader. Valdah also received her teaching certificate from Fort Hays State College in Hays, Kansas. She taught for six years in the various schools: Pleasant Valley, Nonchalanta, Fellsburg, and Dighton. Waverly and Valdah have been in the field of business since their marriage with Valdah working as a secretary and bookkeeper for Fairmont, Durr-Meng Motor Co., and Mayflower Van Lines for a number of years. She with her sister Oma, was also employed in Wichita in the IBM dept. a short time. Valdah is now employed as a receptionist at the Dodge City Medical Center. Waverly was employed as a cashier and bookkeeper at Fairmont for 21 years until they went on a computer program. He is now employed at Fort Dodge. Ronnie and Robert have both been active in the Boy Scouts receiving many notable awards.

Mary Pember passed away in May, 1942 while attending a business school in Wichita. She was a devout reader of the Bible and hardly ever missed reading it before she went to bed at night. She played violin in the Ness High School Orchestra.

Dorothy Pember married Milton Schriock, a farmer, in Ness county on July 22, 1945. She attended Fort Hays State College and taught school several years at Harold and Schoharie. They had two sons Eldon Dean and Marlin Gene. Dorothy worked very hard helping her husband with chores and field work hoping to build a nest egg so their sons could carry out their dreams for college. She then decided to go back to college and get her education and commuted back and forth to Hays receiving her B.S. in Education. Milton, also putting in long hours, farmed his own land, rented, and had a job at the Humburg Ranch. After Dorothy taught a year in Topeka, she and Milton learned to love it's surroundings and were planning a home there when tragedy struck. He was killed in a farm accident at the Humburg Ranch. Dorothy has courageously carried on with her teaching and going to summer school receiving her M.S. Degree in Art which she is now teaching at Jay Shideler Jr. High in Topeka. Since Milton's death in August 1970 she has carried out his wishes--a beautiful new home in Southwest Topeka, and helping their boys through school.

Eldon is attending Northwestern Medical School in Chicago, Illinois, after graduating with honors from Kansas University. He plans to become a medical doctor. His forthcoming marriage in June (21), 1975 will be to Beth Verchota of Gurnee, Illinois. She is also an honors medical student at Northwestern.

Marlin Gene Schriock was married to Cynthia Jean Sheppard in July 1974. They are students at Washburn University and working at State Savings and Loan. Marlin plans to graduate with a degree in Certified Public Accounting. He and his brother Eldon received many State and National awards in 4-H throughout the years.

Arthur Irvin Pember was married to Wiletta Mae Grusing, June 12, 1953. Arthur and his wife moved on the home place homesteaded by his grandfather Arthur E. Pember. Art, with the help of his parents, wife, and two daughters Myrna Elaine, and Marianne Adele, has built the Pember Ranch into a place which his grandfather Arthur E. would be proud of. He has participated in conservation programs, built a feedyard, acquired irrigation and bought another ranch near Beeler. He is Vice Pres. of The Farm Management Assoc. Dist. 5 in the State of Kansas. He also served on the Fair board and Right-Co-op board many years. Both he and his wife are active in the Methodist church. Wiletta was organist for nearly 12 years. She attended Fort Hays State majoring in music and taught music in the Bazine School System 1952-53. She teaches private piano and organ lessons. Myrna Pember (Dingman) was married to Doyle D. Dingman on March 9, 1974. She and Doyle are living on the Pember ranch helping operate the feedlot and cow-calf operation. They also raise Suffolk show sheep which Doyle brought back from his home in Michigan. Myrna attended Kansas State University and was an outstanding athlete on the Wildkitten Track Team winning some national awards. Doyle received a degree in Animal Science from K-State last year. Marianne A. Pember is attending Kansas State University. She, along with her sister Myrna, is a dedicated horsewoman. The sisters have received many trophies and awards showing and training horses. Marianne and her horse "Leo Duchess Buck" received third and a silver bridle, in the National Youth Finals in Tulsa, Okla. in 1974.

Perl E. Pember was married to Emma Louise Koester, May 2, 1914. They lived on part of the original land homesteaded by Arthur E. Pember (What is now the Bernard Hoss residence). Their children are Lavern Perl, Geneva Bernice, Verda Adele, Gertrude Irene, and Lela Virginia. Perl raised, bought, traded and sold livestock for many years. It was recalled that when he was seventeen years of age he shipped a load of cattle to Kansas City. He would receive a direct telephone call every Monday morning from Kansas City informing him of the markets. He was a tall, lanky, stalwart man always ready to reach out his hand to meet and greet another person. Emma, his wife, was known for her green thumb and had a beautiful rock garden, flowers and a lily pond. People came for miles around to see her gardens. She was a person of deep faith and taught Sunday School in the Methodist church for years before joining the Assembly of God church. She taught the Pember school one year. Perl and Emma moved to Ness City because of Emma's failing health. She passed away in March 1, 1944. Perl E. passed away April 12, 1966. Lavern Pember married Vera May Burditt Sept. 30, 1936. He is a minister of The Assembly of God Church. Lavern and Vera have five sons, Vyrl Lavern, Larry Myrrl, Arlyn Royce, Merrill Dean, and Marvin Gene. He and Vera lived on the Harold Humburg Ranch for a short time. Lavern attended a Springfield Theological College. Vyrl L. Pember married Ila Mae DeYoung August 15, 1958. They live in Wichita, Kansas and he is pastor of Bethel Assembly Church. They have two children Gary and Michelle. Larry M. Pember married Sandra Marvin August 25, 1962. They live in Portland, Oregon and have a daughter Larisa, a son Lorin. Larry is a professor in N.W. Pacific College. Arlyn R. Pember married Linda Warner, June 9, 1963. They have two children, Richard and Linette. Arlyn is Circulation Manager of Assemblies of God. Headquarters are in Springfield, Mo. where they reside. Merrill Dean Pember married Vicki Warwick, November 20, 1971. They have a daughter, Angela. Merrill is Advertising Co-ordinator of Gospel Publishing House in Springfield, Missouri, where they live. Marvin Gene Pember married Tonya Newby, December 28, 1974. He is an accountant for Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Missouri where they have made their home.

Geneva Pember was married to William Stamp, July 27, 1944. They have two daughters Diane Arlene, a school teacher, and Carol Louise, a Jr. College student. They reside in Newport, California. Geneva is a secretary for Kapps Accounting Firm. Her husband William is a Certified Public Accountant.

Verda Pember was married to Barney McCoy, September 6, 1942. They had a daughter, Sharon Kay (McCoy) Harris, who lives in Osburne, Idaho. Sharon is a secretary for Helca Mining Co. and she married Wayne Harris in June 1974. He is a Lab. Technician for Sunshine Mining Co. A son Garie Wayne McCoy married Joanne Cross October 4, 1974. Garie is a mechanic and they live in Wallace, Idaho. Verda lives in Wallace, Idaho and works in the Clerk of Court office at the courthouse. Her husband Barney is deceased.

Gertrude Pember married Everett Elliott, January 25, 1942. They live in Wichita, Kansas and have two children, Marilyn Jean, and Royce Wayne. Gertrude is a bookkeeper in a McDonald Store. Everett is a district manager for the Wichita Eagle and Beacon paper. Their daughter Marilyn Jean married Ralph Snook, November 5, 1966, and she was employed as a legal secretary. Ralph is a business manager of "His Place" Coffee House in Elizabeth, New Jersey where they reside. They have two children, Gregory Allen and Charlene Kristy. Royce Wayne Elliott married Penny Ann Gibbs, November 8, 1969. They have a son Dorian Royce and live in Wichita, Kansas. Royce is an accountant and works for Ireland & Ireland Co. in Valley Center, Ks. His wife Penny is a secretary for Koch Industries Inc.

Lela married J. Victor Miller, June 15, 1945. They have two sons, Van Victor, Gary Lynn, and a daughter Sheryl Louise. Lela and Vic live in Wichita, Kansas where she is a unit sales leader and demonstrator for Stanley Home Products. Her husband Victor works at Cessna Aircraft in Wichita. Van lives in Kansas City, Mo. and is employed at the University of Missouri of Kansas City. Gary married Deborah (Dobbs) Blanchard, November 5, 1972. They have a daughter Shanna and live in Lawrence, Kansas. Gary is a county engineer for Douglas County. Deborah is a secretary. Sheryl is a senior student at Kansas University in Lawrence.

Earl Edward Pember was married March 28, 1911 to Lucy Maude Cowles. They lived on one of the farms homesteaded by Arthur E. Pember. (What is now the Raymond Pember Ranch). Their children are Glen Alfred Pember, Garnet Irene (Pember) Donohoe and Raymond Earl Pember. Earl Pember was a successful farmer, rancher, and businessman. He was a Director on the Larned Production Credit Association Board for many years and he and his wife Lucy were active in the First Baptist Church in Ness City. When they moved to Ness City in 1944, they owned and operated the Pember Locker for many years. Earl, a rancher by nature, still kept an interest in livestock and farming. Lucy passed away in April 8, 1959, Earl May 12, 1959.

Glen A. Pember married Helen Steinert, February 8, 1932. They live on one of his grandfather's original farms located a short distance N.W. of Ness City. Glen and Helen have two children, a son Marion Delano Pember and a daughter Juanita Kay (Pember) Parker. Glen maintains a quality of leadership and working for the betterment of his community, city, and church. He has served on the Ness County Fair board for many years helping make the Ness Co. Fair the successful event of each year. Glen is a farmer, rancher (he owns a ranch near Beeler), and Lay Minister of The First Baptist Church. He spends much of his time traveling and spreading the Gospel to other areas. Marion Pember attended Ottawa University and Berkeley Theological Seminary. He is a Chaplain in the U.S. Army and was recently promoted to Army Lieutenant Colonel as installation chaplain in the 172nd Infantry Brigade. He married Carol Ann Kern, June 9, 1952, and they have a son Kenton Leigh Pember and a daughter Kimberly Sue Pember. Marion is stationed at Anchorage, Alaska, and the family will be moving soon to California.

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Jaunita Pember married Arlan Dean Parker June 16, 1957. They have a son Harlan Duane and a daughter Patricia Ann. Harlan is a Jr. in high school active in music and business. Patricia is a Jr. High student and will graduate from the eighth grade. Jaunita graduated from Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia. She also received her Masters from Emporia and holds nine hours over a Masters Degree from Emporia and Fort Hays State College. She attended Ottawa University 1954-1956. Her husband Arlan is an employee at the Right Co-op in Ness City where they reside.

Garnet Pember married Ivan John Donohoe May 23, 1937. She taught school in Ness county seven years: three years at Happy Hollow, one year at Cleveland, and three years at Manteno, while she and Ivan lived on the Andy and Milton Boyd ranch. Ivan worked at Cessna in Wichita before moving to Ness City. He owned the Massey Harris dealership for several years which was located at what is now the Co-op building. He and Garnet then took over the Pember Locker Plant and sold it to Storys in 1963. They have built a new home in Ness City where both are active in the First Baptist Church. Garnet has taught in the Baptist Sunday School for some twenty years and is still teaching. She is also active in W.C.T.U. Ivan is employed at the High Plains Journal in Dodge City, Kansas where he commutes. They have a son Cecil Dale Donohoe and a daughter Anita Marie (Donohoe) Stirling. Cecil married Maxine (Koker) Cartwright, May 23, 1971. He has three step-daughters, Debbie Cartwright, a freshman in high school, Monica Cartwright and Lauria Cartwright, students in grade school. They live in Tucson, Arizona where Cecil is an employee of Wholesale Foods. Anita Donohoe married James A. Stirling April 6, 1974. They live in Wichita, Kansas where she is secretary of Finance Division at Coleman Manufacturing in Wichita. Her husband James is employed with the Wichita police department. Anita graduated from Fort Hays State College in Hays, Kansas

Raymond Earl Pember was married to Jessie Lorne Stewart, November 2, 1941. They are living on the farm that his father farmed. It was also one of Raymond's grandfathers's farms, A.E. Pember. Raymond has lived on this farm all his life. Raymond and Lorene have five children, Duane Royce Pember, Carol Joyce (Pember) Harfmann, Verna Faye (Pember) Hale, Raymond Dennis Pember, and Kevin Stewart Pember. Raymond's dedication to his farm and ranch cannot be surpassed. The welfare of his family and the building and maintenance of his farm has played an important role in his life. Raymond and Lorene built a beautiful ranch style home which replaced the original home that Irvin and Minnie first moved into in 1911, and in which Raymond's parents, Earl and Lucy, raised their family. Grandfather A.E. Pember would certainly be pleased if he were here to see it today. Lorene has been active in the Methodist Church in women's groups and as a church school teacher. She is also an active extension worker. Duane Pember married Sharon Ann Heersche, July 5, 1964. They have a daughter Dora Kay, and a son Dale Eugene. Duane is a farmer and T.V. repairman. He farms near the Pawnee River in Hodgeman county where they live. Sharon was a Home Extension Agent in Ness county for several years. She is still active in extension work and holds a degree from Kansas State University in Home Economics. Duane also graduated from K-State in Manhattan with a degree in Animal Husbandry. Carol married Eric Harfmann, June 12, 1966. They have a beautiful new home in Hays, Kansas where Eric is a High School instructor and a interior painter. They both graduated from Fort Hays State College. Carol is an accountant working at several jobs. Verna married Clifford Dwain Hale, August 4, 1967. They have a son, Bruce Dwain Hale. They live in Wichita, Kansas where Verna is head of Customers Service General Office for Rock Island Motor Freight. Her husband Dwain does dry-wall texturing of all types and is also a mechanic. Raymond Dennis Pember married Kim Annette Wendler October 11, 1970. They have a daughter Wendy Dawn Pember. Dennis and Kim live at Emporia, Kansas where he is self-employed doing Parking Lot Maintenance. He is also a carpet and brick layer. Kim is a bookkeeper. Kevin Pember is in the 5th grade in the Ness City school and is a lover of nature which he certainly must have inherited from his great-grandfather!

In October 1885 the Fillmore Prose family moved from central Ohio to Kansas. His wife, Octave and their children remained in Stafford County while Fillmore and two of his brothers came to Lane County and located their claims. The family moved to the Lane County homestead in March 1886.

Times were so hard during the winter of 1893-94 that they moved to the old Slagle place in Johnson township, Ness County and Fillmore carried the mail twice a week between Nochalanta and Ness City. Bid and Fill were born January 1, 1894 while the family was still living on the Slagle place. Sometime that spring they moved back to their home in Lane County.

After they were grown Bid and Fill bought a quarter of land in the southwest corner of Ness County. On December 2, 1917 Bid enlisted in the Army and left for the service. He was discharged on June 23, 1919 and returned to farming. Sometime later Bid bought Fill's share of the quarter in Ness County.

On June 15, 1922 Bid and I were married. After a brief trip to Colorado we returned and stayed at Bid's home in Lane County with his mother, his sister Ruth and the twins--Ruth and Grace Stull--until our 3 room house was built. Bid and his brother Bert, who was a carpenter, built the house. The Foxworthy house had burned down and there was only a windmill left on the place when we moved here. Harvest came early that summer and so the house was not finished until August when we moved in. I taught school at Buda that term. Bid and Bert built the barn and corrals. Until they got them finished we turned the horses into the pasture at night and kept them tied to the wagon during the day.

We harvested with headers drawn by horses and header barges and stacked the wheat for the threshing machine. Later a threshing crew would come and thrash out the grain. It was hard work for the men and it wasn't easy for the women either. There were usually 14 men to cook dinner and supper for and often the threshing crew of 4 stayed overnight. There was no method of refrigeration, but most people had a cooling system. This was usually in a milkhouse built near the windmill. Water was pumped through a trough with an overflow. Milk and butter or anything perishable was kept in containers in the cool running water. Meat for summer was mostly canned beef, home cured pork or chickens, which everyone raised.

In the "dirty thirties" when the wind blew dirt so badly, there were no crops raised. Even the grass was covered with dust until cattle either died or had to be shipped out and pastured somewhere else. Dirt drifted over fence rows and around buildings in huge drifts. It is said that the cactus, which everyone hated, saved enough of the grass (because the cows couldn't get at it) so that when the rains finally did come the grass spread out from the cactus and recovered the land. Muslin was tacked to the outside of windows to help keep out the dirt but, even so, sometimes during a dirt storm the dust was so thick inside the house we went to bed with wet washcloths over our nose and mouth so we could breathe. If the storm was in the daytime we sometimes had to light kerosene lamps to see by.

There were no trees here in 1922. We planted over a hundred locust as a wind-break, most of which survived. We also planted peach, apple and cherry, a cottonwood and an ash. The ash and some of the locust are still living.

After all these hard times, which everyone shared, things gradually got better. Men bought new machinery and farming became more profitable. With the coming of electricity womens work became considerably easier too.

CLUB NOTES FROM WAY BACK

In the early 1920's there was little socializing or recreation for women of the rural communities and so a few women of the Nochlanta area got together and formed a club. Marie Slagle was hostess for the first meeting and members of the club spent the afternoon quilting for the hostess and visiting. Refreshments were served by the hostess at the end of the afternoon. Members of this first club were Marie Slagle, Ivy Slagle, Erma Slagle, May Roth, Belle Goodman, Annie McVicker, Amanda Prose, Mary Doebbling, Mary Slagle, Lena Stremel, Blanche Jones and Grace Doebbling.

New members were added, including those of the Buda community, and by 1927 membership had reached 20 so they named the club the Jolly 20. Other women of the communities wished to join but it was difficult for one home to contain this many, so on October 24, 1935, it was voted upon to divide the club at the Buda School House. Those east of the road formed one club called Nochlanta Sunflowers and those west of Buda, with only a small portion of their membership still intact, renamed themselves the Western Remnant.

On November 6, 1935, the Western Remnant became an "all day" club with Irene Blakely hostessing the first meeting. The members husbands were invited to attend and a big meal was served at noon with each member bringing a covered dish. The hostess furnished the meat, potatoes and coffee for the club members and their husbands. The club purchased embroidery hoops, scissors and thimbles for the use of their members and these are kept in a "club box" that is sent home with each hostess, as are the trays and a large coffeepot. Once a year names are drawn for "mystery friends" and gifts are given on Birthdays, Anniversaries and at Christmas time. Great pains are taken not to reveal just who a mystery friend is until the Christmas meeting when everyone answers roll call with who they think their friend is. Those lucky enough to guess correctly receive a extra gift.

Women of the club have tied comforts for the Red Cross, served meals at Farm Sales and donated money to various organizations so the club serves a worthwhile function as well as a social one.

Over the years new members were added and on October 16, 1949, as membership again neared 20 the club could hardly be considered a "remnant" any longer so it was voted to change the name from Western Remnant to Stitch and Chatter Club.

In 1975--some 50 years since the original club was formed and in spite of several name changes--it is still in existence. Quilting frames have given way to embroidery hoops and only a few charter members remain but club members still meet every two weeks--come rain, sleet, hail or blizzard--from October to May, for a day of visiting with their neighbors.

THE HAPPY HOMES CLUB

The Happy Homes Club was started sometime before 1926. Nearly all the ladies in the community belonged. They met twice a month. The afternoons were spent making comforts, piecing quilts, quilting and doing fancy work for the hostess.

At the end of the day the hostess served refreshments. Occasionally there was an all day meeting, with each member bring a covered dish. The club ladies were always ready and willing to help any one in need.

The following ladies are probably charter members: Connie Stick, Mary Hoss, Frances Kerr, Anna Fercking, Ida Kerr, Zilpha Kerr, Emma Pember, Anna Coker, Minnie Pember, Erma Slgle. They organized the club and called them selves The Happy Homes Club.

Other members joined later as the years passed were; Laurie Copeland, Mary Stick, Lillie Fercking, Lena Stecklein, Agnes Beck, Pauline Betz, Eunice Fercking,

Mary Eggers, Eldora Borger, Edna Schlegel, Violet Ruff, Mabel Hoss, Pauline Neill, Emma Grumbein and Ella Fehrenbach.

As members passed away and other moved away or dropped out the club disbanded in 1971, after being in existence at least 49 yrs.

EXTENSION CLUB HERITAGE

by Laurie Copeland

During the thirties there was a club, called Farm Bureau at that time, rather than Extension. I can find no record of this but I did belong and some of the members I recall were:

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ivy Day | May Roth | Clara Schlegel |
| Belle Goodman | Mary Hoss | Marie Beck |
| Annie McVicker | Frances Kerr | Laurie Copeland |
| Marie Slagle | Connie Stick | Ella Fehrenbach |
| Amanda Prose | Lillie Fercking | |

MANTENO HUSTLERS

1945-1953+

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Agnes Beck | LaVera Stull | Florence Kerr |
| Marie Beck | Lena Stecklein | Marjorie Stick |
| Laurie Copeland | Marie Slagle | Alta Williams |
| Mary Eggers | ElNora Yeager | Marjorie Depee |
| Ella Fehrenbach | Alice Zuehlke | Fern Leiker |
| Lillie Fercking | Dorothea Hoss | Leona Betz |
| Mabel Hoss | Oma Burns | Fern Ann Leiker |
| Mary Hoss | Carleen Fehrenbach | Mary McCoy |
| Amelia Kautz | Vera May Feuers | Neitha Slagle |
| Zilpha Kerr | Margaret Hoss | Mary Stick |
| May Roth | | |

A skit used by members to influence non-members giving a summary of the 1947 program revealed a high quality of work and material. Some of the lessons were: Nutrition and its relative prevention of tuberculosis; Varieties of apples and ways of using; New Treatments and New Medicines. Landscaping and Gardening; Snake Bite Serums, Artificial Respiration, Up-to-date School Legislation, Textile Painting, Study of Kansas and Historical Places and Making of Dress Forms. Here's a reference to the latter "Such laughing and teasing as we did before the lesson on dress forms-- after our forms were made, one husband so highly complimented our work as to declare that he would recognize his wife's form if he saw it lying on a street in Ness City."

This song tells how the members felt about themselves:

Manteno Hustlers hustle all day
Manteno Hustlers work and they play;
Manteno Hustlers hustle around
Manteno Hustlers are the talk of the town.

We Manteno Hustlers aim to do what's right
We scrub and we mop to keep our home bright;
We try to prepare the proper kind of food
Striving always to keep our family's health good.

TRI-CIRCLE JAYNES

Tri-Circle Jaynes was organized in 1969. This unit continues the Extension Home-maker Heritage in southwest Ness County. Our State Universities reach out, teach and inspire thru specialist and materials and individual members of units helping our quality of life to be better.

Those who were members but are not now enrolled were:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Lucile Doebbeling | Delma VonLehe |
| Barbara Slagle | Lynn Huff |
| Mary Davison | Essie Copeland |
| Helen Schiffner | |

PRAIRIE SCHOONER'S 4-H CLUB

To Make the Best Better are the famous words of the 4-H Club motto. The club has been in existence since 1953. The first few years our projects were cooking and woodworking, but it soon grew to livestock, sewing, room improvement, crops, electricity and reading.

The requirements of 4-H has helped many boys and girls become capable of talking in front of a group or an audience.

Ifye-International Foreign Youth Exchange. We all worked for the opportunity of Mari Ann (Hoss) Depperschmidt to get to go to Venezuela as an exchange student. This was a very interesting talks of her many happenings. The Ernest McVicker Family were host and hostess for an exchange student during the year 1974-1975. The 4-H members all enjoyed visiting with her.

The Prairie Schooners' 4-H Club is continuing along the same manner it has worked for the past number of years. We don't have as many members but we still have fun.

by Dorothea Hoss

Country Sunday School

Country Sunday schools continued long after churches were built in the towns. They met in schoolhouses and were attended by the people of that and adjoining districts. One of the most famous of all was the one at Buda. Three settlers, working in a stone quarry in 1879, agreed among themselves that the community ought to have a religious service of some kind. These men: J.W. Anderson, Alex Newby and Fred Roth, represented the Methodist, Baptist and Christian churches. They organized a union Sunday School. When Nonchalanta came into being, slightly to the east of Buda, others came into the group. Long after Nonchalanta was gone the Buda Sunday School still went on and so effective was the dedication of this school to Christian living that it produced eight or ten ministers, most of whom occupied prominent positions in western churches. Buda Sunday School is still attended regularly by many of the residents of that area.

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Beeler Church
By Mrs. Daisy Thompson

The first church services at Beeler were held in the old rock building south of the railroad track which also served as a school house.

The meetings were conducted by itinerant ministers traveling through the country stopping here and there for a few days and living off the hospitality of the friendly people. There was not much going on in those days and everyone went to church, even the cowboys with their jangling spurs.

In 1886 the frame school buildings were built over the county so that everyone might attend school. Even some married women who had not had much education attended school. The requirements for teachers were not so high as now. When a person as young as sixteen years old passed the county examination they might also pass a teacher's examination and obtain a third grade certificate to teach. The wages were only \$20 to \$30 a month. Church was held in these school buildings, too, so Beeler organized a Sunday School and church services were held regularly.

The Methodists sent a pastor who pioneered in holding church services in many places. He had three points to preach each Sunday. On the west of Ness City there was Nonchlanta, Beeler, North Star, or Laird, part time, every two weeks. On the east end each two weeks services were held at Bazine, Riverside and Kitterville (that was south of Buda.)

The pastor lived at Ness City and rented rooms. About 1905 the places where the minister held church services decided to build a parsonage for him to live in, and they met and worked along with the minister and made a home in Ness City for him.

These ministers drove horses, or rode on horseback from one point to another. They seldom stopped to eat dinner anywhere on Sunday as some points were far apart.

Church services were held at Beeler every Sunday. There was a Free Methodist minister or a Wesleyan Methodist preacher who preached on the Sundays the Methodist pastor was on the east end. The Free Methodists built a parsonage in Beeler on the lot west of Mrs. Day's home. There were several ministers who successively lived in the parsonage. The Wesleyan Methodists expected to build a church of their own, but the minister, Perry Miller, was sent to another charge so nothing came of that intention. In 1907 Lawrence and Lillie Brocher donated a plot of ground for a Methodist church building where our church now stands.

Guy Reeves, father of the present Guy Reeves, was the contractor who worked with the minister, Reverend Hudnall, and the farmers to build the church. The ladies and men of the community gathered money to pay for material. There was not enough money donated, so the Methodist Church Extension loaned some money. It took several years to pay off that loan. The church was furnished with some chairs and homemade benches, a homemade pulpit and a coal stove with kerosene lamps on the wall for lighting the building.

The day of Dedication of the church was very windy, but people came from far to attend the all day services. A basket dinner was the delight of many of the people. About 4 P.M. a terrible storm of wind and rain came. Some people started home, others remained. Mr. Irvine had a store and people were invited to stay there. Some stayed in the homes in Beeler. Many stayed until morning because the night was very dark and creeks were overflowing.

One time the church was blown off the foundation, and the men of the community built a foundation under it where it was. About 1945 we decided a basement was needed, so the community excavated a place and moved the church over it. The walls on the west caved in, so we had to rebuild them. Hardwood floors were installed, pews replaced the chairs in 1935. The windows have been fixed several times. Once we had Mr. Cummins to stipple them with white paint. Once we bought paper intended to decorate the windows and shut out the glare.

The church has been replastered and painted and tiled ceiling replaced the old ceiling boards, that was put on when the church was built. Carpets have been put down to deaden the noise when walking on the floor. Water has been piped into

the basement, electric lights were put in as soon as electricity came to Beeler.

Our first musical instrument was an organ. In 1915 money was raised by the young people having a play, and putting on musical programs to buy one.

The Women's Society of Christian Service has done work through the years for church improvements as well as donations from the people.

We all recognize that the church has been a beacon of light guiding us all to live Christian lives.

EARLY HISTORY OF BEELER, KANSAS

Some of the names of the early settlers in Beeler were: Beeler, Rineley, Wrench, Pearce; and around the Beeler neighborhood lived George W. Carver, a bachelor colored man, who has become famous for his work in science, White, Stewart, Brocher, Moore, Pickerell, Shiner, Shover, Thompson, Baker, Bloomer, Finkenbinder, Ferris, Johnson, McLeish, Munson, Miller and many others. Mr. Daniel Rineley used to take strangers who wanted to settle on government land to show them the pieces of land they might get to live on. He donated the land for the present Beeler cemetery and was the first to be buried there. He was Earl Edwards' grandfather. Boliver Beeler had the land now owned by Ivy Day. He put up a sod hotel and post office north of the railroad track. On this land Jessie Thompson as a young woman worked for the Beelers. Mrs. Beeler read all the mail that she could, that came to the office so that she would not miss any of the news.

When the Santa Fe railroad came, (around 1887) a depot was built in the location of Beeler because water was very scarce farther east and plentiful in the town.

The Beeler family left Beeler, but the town kept their name. A man named Wrench had the first store. He and his wife were both very small people. They kept only groceries and a few necessary articles for the home. They bought eggs and butter from the nearby homes in trade for their store articles. Simon Hayes, an uncle of Rex Whipple's mother got his first store experience working for Mr. Wrench. He bought the store from Mr. Wrench and kept it for many years. He was the father of Iris Johnson. When the Beelers left, Abe Pearce, the father of Kenneth Pearce, took over the post office and he, with his family, kept it for many years.

The first school house in Beeler still stands. It was the rock building east of Eldon Slagle's house and south of the railroad track. It contained no desks, only benches to sit upon, and their books were placed on shelves around the walls or under the benches. Reading, writing, arithmetic, history, grammar, and geography were taught. Every child had a slate to write upon, no paper usually was used. The black board was made of foot wide boards and painted black. Boys and girls attended sometimes until 18 to 21 years old. Four of the Pearce young folks taught in schools nearby Beeler. Most of the teacher's wages were \$15.00-25.00 a month. Board at rural homes could be had for \$1.50 to \$2.50 a week.

Young folks played baseball, crack-the-whip, pump, pump pull away, or prisoners base at school, during recesses and the noon hour. Nearly everyone carried lunches and the older girls made quilt blocks or hemstitched during the noon hour if they did not want to run in the games.

In the rock school house on Sunday the folks would come miles together for Sunday School in the earliest days of Beeler. Often the cowboys in their spurs would jingle them to the songs as they sang, for the music they afforded. They studied from their Bibles and talked about what they read.

Sometimes a minister passing through the country would hold services and stay in homes who welcomed him. The minister was welcomed in this countryside and enjoyed the fellowship of all the people.

By Mrs. Daisy Thompson

IVORY AND MARTHA GOODMAN FAMILY

by Charles Goodman

Ivory, son of Ezra and Belle Goodman, was born in Coles County, Ill. and came with his parents to Western Kansas in 1898.

Louis and Anna Fercking from Cincinnati, Ohio, who eventually settled in the Manteno community, were Martha's parents. Her brothers and sisters were Francis (Kerr) Ben, George, Emma (Coker) and Henry and Ann.

Ivory and Martha were married in 1914 and moved to the place 1 1/2 miles south of the Buda School house. I think I remember hearing that a family named Harmer homesteaded this place but didn't stay here very long. My folks later added a basement and Martha's brother George did his first carpentry adding a wooden addition to the stone building. This house burned down in March of 1943 and none of the contents were saved. This was during WW II and they had to get a building permit to rebuild. During that summer the family slept in a newly purchased brooder house and did their cooking in the milkhouse. George Fercking built the house that we live in now. He finished it before winter of 1943 and we moved in as soon as it was completed.

In the mid-30's the haymow in the large barn on the place was sometimes the center of activity with neighbors coming from miles around to the barn dances. They usually started fairly early in the evening and everyone brought a lunch. At intermission time, around 10:30 the lunch was served. Music for the dance was often provided by brother-in-laws Fred and Walter Coker, or other local talent.

Martha and Ivory had 6 children all of who went to grade school at Buda, and walked this mile and a half to and from school each day. They all graduated from the High School at Beeler and went their separate ways. Agnes married Ed Shade and lives at Wild Horse, Colorado. They have 4 children. Annabelle married Vic Wadhams, they have 6 children and live at Las Animas, Colorado. Marie married Willard Davis, they have 4 children and live in Gove County north of Shields. Margaret married Frank Moody, they live at Los Animas, Colo. and have 4 children. Charlene and Charles were twins. Charlene has 8 girls and lives at Ranson, Kansas. Charles married Gloriann Berens from Trego County and they have lived on the home place 1 1/2 miles south of Buda since 1950 when they were married. They have 7 children.

HERB STOUT FAMILY

by Dorothy Stout

Herb and Dorothy Stout moved to the Plum Creek school district March 1931 onto what was known at that time as the Bill Deveny place. This place was owned earlier by Ollie Salisbury, but at this time was owned by Frank Stout.

Herb worked on roads and helped put in a number of fills, using horses, as well as farming while living there. We moved in 1934 to Laird and later to Finney County. In 1937, buying what was known as the Wm. Pickerell place, Herb, Dorothy, Lee and Donna moved to their new home. Tony Zimmerman was living there at the time we purchased it. Later, the Luke Pembleton quarter of land to the east was purchased.

In 1946 the Plum Creek school house was purchased and moved to the Stout farm for Dorothy's mother to live in. While living there Herb did a lot of road work and farmed. He served on the Buda school board for several years, was on the township board and was also township assessor.

Another son, Ronnie, was welcomed to the family in 1944. Because of Herb's health, we moved to Dighton in 1953 and rented the farm to Cecil Richards until Lee came home in 1955 after serving in the Army. Lee moved to the farm and he, his wife Myra, and their five children are still living there. (June 1975)

The Lazy Cattle Dog
By Wilma Shauers

Years ago when our neighbors moved to town they decided against taking their old dog, Jack, with them and left him with us. My sister and I had the job of bringing in the milk cows each evening. In the contrary way of cows they always managed to be at the farthest corner of the pasture when it came time to get them.

With the arrival of Jack, we felt a new day of life was dawning. Jack had been trained to bring the cows in by himself. Instead of the weary walk after the cows each evening, now all we had to do was take Jack out north of the barn, point in a general direction and say "Cows home, Jack." He trotted happily out by himself and brought them in. We could hardly believe in our good fortune.

Jack was already an old Collie when we got him and, as time went on, he still faithfully brought the cows in but it took him longer and longer. One evening we were in a hurry to get the chores done early and go somewhere. To speed things up, Dad consented to let us take the old truck, with Jack comfortably ensconced between hood and fender to get the cows. We dropped him off and he had the cows home in half his usual time. Unfortunately, after this first taste of better life, Jack absolutely refused to go after the cows on his own. He had to be hauled out in the truck every evening.

One bitter cold night when it was raining and sleeting, just to be nice to the old fellow, we allowed him inside the cab with us for the ride out to the pasture. We should have known better! The next evening the weather had improved but Jack refused to ride on the fender. With much effort we forcibly hoisted him into his old place but he jumped off as fast as we could put him up. Dad couldn't believe it and he, too, in a no-nonsense way, placed Jack on the fender and commanded him to stay. Jack, reluctantly but firmly, refused. I remember, yet, how Dad shook his head in disgust and said "O.K., but don't ever let him drive!"

The Pember School
By Willetta Pember and Oma Burns

As the settlers were busy homesteading and putting down their roots in the various communities, more and more children came into being, and with them the need for education. Even though many children were needed to help at home, most of them attended when at all possible. The early day buildings were crude, small, but surprisingly solid with neatly stacked brick shaped sod and earth. The ceilings were made of boards, dirt and some tree branches.

The first Pember school was such a building standing proudly against the prairie skies. To determine the location of the school, Sig Spangler and Arthur E. Pember flipped a coin to see whose land it would be built. The Pember coin was lucky and the school was constructed on the Pember land.

One of the first teachers was Elsie Hamilton Thompson. The following people were among the first students: Irvin Pember, Lavina Wunderlich (married Hubert Fercking), Elsie Hamilton (Mrs. William R. Thompson) teacher, Louise Wunderlich (Mrs. John Dartch), Leota Weber (Mrs. Gaine Harkness), Ivan Thomas, Perl Pember, Bessie Thomas, Earl Pember, Albert Kuehn. The Thomas children were cousins of the Pembers.

A wooden frame building replaced the soddie when the need for more room became apparent. Otis Stone was remembered as one of the outstanding teachers, and was a special help to Irvin (Irvie) because of his deafness. He also taught Perl and Earl. Some other teachers were: Edith Stone, Madge McMahan, Lavon Funk Mauch (Geo.), Avy Masterson, Mary McCoy, Oma Pember Burns, Amanda Prose, Lois (McDonald) Borger, Emma May Mellies, Mrs. Daisy Wright of Jetmore, Vivian Burditt Howard (Bill), Tillie Fehrenbach, Mattie Baldwin, Marie Berg and Emma Koester Pember.

Several of the teachers boarded at the Pember Ranch and other neighboring places because of the distance to and from town.

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Some students of the Pember School Dist. No. 74 were George Copeland, Ted Copeland, Mayme Copeland, Marshall Slagle, John Fercking, August Fercking, Albert Fercking, Children who lived on Spangler Place including: Elkingtons, Rummels, Tentons, Victor Rohr, Emil Rohr, Ben Rohr, Florina Rohr, Leo Rohr, Herman Rohr, Carrie Rohr, Harold Rohr, Henry Litzenberger, Leah Litzenberger, Kathryn Litzenberger, Carl Litzenberger, Louise Stremal, Charlie Bird, Mabel Bird, Daisy Bird, Lavern Pember, Geneva Pember, Verda Pember, Gertrude Pember, Lela Pember, Oma Pember, Valdah Pember, Mary Pember, Dorothy Pember, Arthur Pember, Dewain Betz, Lowen Betz, Gerald McElroy, Bob Copeland, Adam Sanders Ignatious Sanders.

Another early day teacher who taught at the Pember sod school was Maude Liteer who was a neice of George L. Copeland Sr. She was sixteen years old when she drove "Topsy" to buggy from Allen Copeland's home to the school. She taught before Ted was born--in the nineties.

Other teachers who taught the frame school who have been recalled are : Gertrude Tarman, Edith Tarman, Lucy Cowles Pember, Bill Wallace, Pearl Schoonover, Loretta Lamoree.

A clipping found from 1929 read: Mary McVicker-Teacher
School Board-Mrs. Emma Pember, Clerk
J.F. Slagle, Director
Mrs. Minnie Pember, Treasurer.

Mary McCoy, Amanda Prose, and Oma Burns, Lois McDonald Borger, and Vivian Burditt Howard are former teachers still living in Ness county. Mary McCoy (McVicker) grew up in Southwest Ness county and still lives in the county on a farm. Amanda Prose lived in Southwest Ness county (Buda district) until she and her husband moved to Ness City where she still resides. Oma Burns grew up in Southwest Ness county and also attended the Pember school until the 8th grade. She now lives in Ness City. Lois McDonald Borger, (Mrs. Wm.) lives in Ness county on a farm. Vivian Burditt Howard (Bill) lives in Ness City.

Memories At Pember School Dist. 74
By G.L. Copeland

We lived approximately two miles southwest of the school and rode horseback most of the time, part time on a burro, who never failed to throw us off at least once going to school. We tied the horses and burro inside the school yard fence. I was kicked by one of them once and spent a week in the hospital in Great Bend. When released from the hospital I missed the train to Ness City so had to stay in Great Bend overnight at a relative's home. As I was leaving I stepped on a throw rug, slipped and hurt my head again. (Have a nice dent in my head to this day.)

I remember when John Fercking jumped from the roof of the school house and hurt his knee. He still limps from this injury.

The Litzenberger family used a spring wagon to drive to school pulled by a locoed horse.

Lavina Fercking took John in a cart hitched to a Tennessee Walking Horse.

Enrollment varied greatly. One year only my two older brothers, Ted and Arthur, and my sister Mayme attended. The largest attendance was about fifteen.

I went to Manteno School for a short while as the Pember teacher quit for some unrecalled reason. The only thing I remember about Manteno was Mike Alexander, age 20, bringing in a can full of red ants and dropping them in back of the collars of other kids. School let out for the rest of the day!

I ran a trap line to school. Many a day I sat in the hall all day because I had killed a skunk.

... There, R. B. ... and had to look for the ... y for the ... in ... with ...

... after settling in the ... school ...

... during the ...

Pember School

Right: Recess time. Create your own fun having a circus



The Kerrs'

The Kerr Brothers, R. B. (Byron), Harry and Paul came to Kansas in 1902. Their grandfather, Thomas Mairs, had sold his farm in Missouri and had decided to seek the opportunities of a newly settled country for the remaining members of his household. Thus he came to the Manteno Community accompanied by his three grandsons, their mother, Alice Kerr, and another daughter, Mary Mairs. Mary remained with the group until 1909 when she married Thomas Pickerill.

Thomas Mairs obtained at least a part of the land from S. S. Spangler and on this property established a home at the location two miles east of the present Manteno Community Center. This home was later occupied by Paul and Frances Kerr and their sons Wayne and Howard. Upon Mr. Mairs death two years later, the land was left to the two daughters and the three grandsons. Most of the original property is still owned by family members.

After settling in the area Harry and Paul attended the Manteno school when possible for the next five terms. In 1905, Byron was elected to the school board on which he served for approximately thirty years. In later years Paul served in this capacity. Still later Paul's son, Howard, was a member of the board until he and his family moved to Ness City shortly before the school was closed. The remaining family member to serve was Pauline Neill for the last year the school was in operation.

During the early years in Kansas the three brothers lived on the home place where they raised registered Percheron horses, Hereford cattle, and Poland China hogs along with general farming. In 1913 Byron brought his bride Zilpha, of Newtown, Missouri to join the family. By 1916 they had moved a quarter mile south where a home had been constructed for them on land then called the Holdridge Place. In 1918 Byron moved his family to their permanent home one-half mile east of Manteno. They bought additional land and spent the remainder of their lives at this location. They were the parents of two daughters, Marybel who lives in Dodge City and Pauline, who with her husband, Vernon J. Neill and family returned to the home place in 1949. Pauline taught at Manteno the next three years. The Neills have four daughters who grew up in the community and attended Manteno School. Susan of Ness City, Sally of Kansas City, Sharon who lives in Garden City and Cathy, a student still at home.

Harry Kerr married Ida Fehrenbach in 1915. They established their home about a mile northwest of the original homestead. Here Harry farmed and Ida taught at Manteno for a time. Their children are: Robert now living in Minnsota, Larry of Dodge City, Madeline who lives in Pa. and Rita who makes her home in Florida. Like their parents the children all received their grade school education at Manteno. Ida had had poor health for a several years and died in 1931. After the children were grown Harry moved to NessCity where he was City Marshall for a time. In 1951 he was killed in an automobile accident.

Paul married Frances Fercking in 1919. They made their home at the original homestead. Alice Kerr continued to make her home with Paul and his family until her death. The two sons of Paul and Frances are

Wayne and Howard graduated from Manteno. Wayne married Elvira Schneider, served overseas in World War II, then made farming his career. Later they moved to a farm east of the Manteno area before moving to Ness City. They have two children, Gloria and Mark, both of Ness City.

Howard married Florence Gabel. They built a home on the original homestead and lived there until 1965. Later they moved their house into Ness City where the children attended school. Howard and Florence operated the Eagles Club for several years and continued to farm. Their children are Galen, Franklin, David, Leigh Ann and Rick, all of whom had attended Manteno before moving to town.

Paul and Frances moved their house into Ness City in 1960 when Paul retired. He died in 1967. Frances continues to live in this home.

LOUIS AND ANNA FERCKING FAMILY

by Pauline Neill

In 1902 the Louis and Anna Fercking family moved to the Manteno Community. They had previously lived in Cincinnati, Ohio where they had operated a dairy and creamery. They came to a farm between Kinsley and Windhorst where they lived briefly. When they came to Johnson township they first lived in a rock house a short distance north and east of their later home. This house by the Laird Road was soon torn down. It was used with other stones and material from an old school building at Nonchalanta to build the home which still stands, now vacant, on the property.

A Manteno school register for the 1902-1903 term listed the two older children, Martha and Frances as enrolled that year. Other children were Ben and George born before coming to Ness County, now both deceased. The three other children, Anna, Emma and Henry were born in this community. All of the children made Ness County their home most of their life except Ben who moved to Arlington. Their mother moved to Ness City in later years where she spent the remainder of her life.

Martha married Ivory Goodman and lived in the Buda Community where their son, Charles, now lives, until they retired to Ness City. Frances married Paul Kerr and lived in the Manteno Community, later retiring to Ness City. George was a carpenter and built many homes in the area, also churches and other buildings in Ness City. Anna and Walter Coker lived for a time in the Manteno area but moved to Ness City where Anna continues to live. Emma, now deceased, and her husband Fred Coker also lived in Ness City. Henry and Lilly Fercking lived on the homeplace while their children, Roy, Ray, Doris and Dorothy were growing up and attending school. Later they moved to Ness City. After Lilly's death, Henry stayed there and continued his work with water wells. He later married Avis Buck and they now reside in Ness City.

THE STICK PLACE

by Pauline Neill

There were a number of families that lived for a time on the Holdridge and Cummins property after the house was built for the first renters, Byron and Zilpha Kerr. Some of these were a family by the name of Crone and then the Jake Oblander family. For a few years Mr. and Mrs. Rankin and their daughter Alice lived there.

In 1925 Ray and Connie Stick moved to the farm and made that their home for eleven years before moving to a farm near Ness City. They were well known in the community. They had three children, Gladys, Harold and Irene. Irene attended the Manteno school for a time.

In 1936 Ray and Connie moved to the farm near Ness City and Harold and Mary moved to this farm where they lived until 1969 with the exception of a brief interval spent in Ness City. Their children, Bob, Donna, Dolores and Keith grew

up in this community where they attended school both at Manteno and Ness City High School.

The Philip Fehrenbach family are the last ones to occupy the house. They lived in the community for a period of time then bought the house from Sticks and moved it to its present location about six miles south of Ness City.

EDDIE BETZ PLACE
by Pauline Neill

About 1880 a Government Patent was issued to Joh Engel for the property where Eddie and Leona Betz make their home. A 1906 land-ownership map shows several parcels of land near by was owned by John, George or C. Engel. At least two Engels men were living there in the early years just after 1900 when other places near by were settled.

In the years that followed other families lived there for varying lengths of time. It is believed that Bill Cranstons' lived there at one time. In 1915 W.O. Tanner built a house on the property and stayed there until about 1922. Another family that made their home there was the John Rohr family. They were followed by Bill Betz who lived there several years. Next the Otto Stoppel's lived there until 1948 when Eddie Betz bought the farm and has continued to live there since. Over the years several of the children of the various families attended school at Manteno.

THE CHARLES EGGERS FAMILY
by Mary Eggers

Charles Eggers and Mary Rupp were married in the Nonchlanta Catholic Church Feb. 28, 1938. We lived at Garden City for 6 years, where two children were born, Donald Lee Dec. 30, 1938 and a daughter Judy Ann Aug. 15, 1942. We only had Judy 4 months when she passed away.

We moved to Johnson Township on the Harry Kerr farm in Nov. 1943. We had a real bad winter, lots of snow. It started to snow and snowed every other day for a week. There was about 12 to 14 inches of snow on the level and it sure made it hard to get around.

Kenneth Eugene, better known as Kenny, was born March 13, 1944. Gary Wayne was born Nov. 2, 1946. Donald had an appendicits operation and complications set in and he passed away in Sept. of 1947, after having attended Manteno school for 1 1/2 years.

The fall of 1948 we bought the Adam Wagner farm, which is 3 miles north and one mile west of the Manteno School. Kenny and Gary also attended Manteno School. They are both married and live else where

THE PAUL STULL FAMILY
by Grace Schlegel

The Paul Stull family came to the Manteno community from Iowa in 1876. The family included five boys (Walter, Joe and Charley, other two names unknown) and one girl (Mary). Joe, Walter and Mary never married. They were farmers, and also planted an orchard on their place and later supplied fruit to the neighbors.

As a side line they raised and trained race horses. They followed the season going all over the country entering races. Ben Fehrenbach, Velma Doebbeling's father and Carl Fehrenbach's uncle, was a small man and a good jockey. Stulls had a race track in their pasture. It left a visible mark many years until the sod was plowed up in the early 1940's.

They lived in a two story stone house, which remains standing at the present time.

At one time the Manteno Post Office was in the Stull home.

RABBIT DRIVES
1936

Rabbits became so numerous and were destroying crops by eating the plants into the ground. The farmers decided something had to be done to control them, so they struck up the idea of having rabbit drives. All the people, men, women and children would gather at a designated place, and then they were taken in a truck, some being dropped off as they went along forming a huge circle, which would cover several sections of land. Every one started walking over the fields and pastures toward the center point where the trap was made of woven wire or snow fence. As the lines moved forward the rabbits would be scared up and run ahead of the lines. As the people came closer and closer together, the lines might be two or three deep. It was always exciting finish to see hundreds of rabbits being trapped in a small pen, but as the men with clubs moved into the trap to kill the rabbits, many women and children looked the other way. Some of the farmers would take some of the rabbits home with them for their chickens and dogs, while others were loaded on trucks and hauled to distant towns and sold to milk farms or to be made into bone meal. They did a good job of reducing the rabbit population as there are very few rabbits seen today.

The following is taken from a clipping of a Lane County Paper, pertaining to a rabbit drive Feb. 21, 1935.

Some women called the governor, Alf M. Landon, to protest the "barbaric slaughter". The sheriff and two deputies appeared on the scene, took one look at the crowd, returned to their office to wire the governor: "If you want us to stop it, you had better send out a whole regiment of soldiers".

When the governor learned the scope of the operation and why it was being staged (to save crops) he told the farmers to continue but the next time to let him know so he could participate.

About 20,000 rabbits were killed. They were shipped to the Salvation Army in Chicago and New York where they were distributed to the hungry.

TIMBER CLAIMS
By Clara Rothe

Timber claims played an important part in the lives of some early settlers in Ness County and Western Kansas. The settler could obtain a quarter of land by planting and taking care of ten acres of trees. Black Locust seed was used in many cases. Honey Locust, Osage Orange and Black Walnut were also used.

In dry years they could not always obtain a good stand, so they sometimes planted again the next year. After planting and trying to raise trees the second time they could obtain possession of the land by getting an affidavit, signed by two neighbors, to the effect that the work had been done, even though the trees didn't grow. The "Deed" to the land called Timber Culture was then issued for the cost of \$5.00.

In bad years many settlers needed to supplement their income by going away to work. They often hired a friend or neighbor to care for their trees. In some cases one settler would care for two or three timber claims while his friends were gone. Most, if not all of the timber claims planted in the eighteen hundreds or the early nineteen hundreds died in the Dust Storms of the 1930's.

The idea then was that there is more rain where trees grow. Whether or not it brought more rain, it was a way the settler could obtain land with very little money and a lot of hard work.

46
46

4-148.

Final Receiver's Receipt No. 2177

Application No. 13980

TIMBER CULTURE.

Act of June 14, 1878.

Receiver's Office, _____

APR 1 1899, 189_____

Received of Otto Petersilie the sum

of Four dollars _____ cents, being the

balance of payment required by law for the timber-culture entry of the _____

North East Quarter

of section 13 in township 20 S of range 24 N 6 P meridian N 6

containing 16 0 acres, under the act of June 14, 1878,

entitled "An act to amend the act entitled 'An act to encourage the growth of timber on the western prairies.'"

J. W. King
Receiver.

4 00

1 00 testimony fee received. Number of written words, 665 Rate

per 100 words 15 cents.

Oliver Ness

1891

Hesston Kansas July 30
Mrs Petessillie

Kind Sir, your letters were received and the reason of my negligence was on account of sickness we had quite a long expense during my sickness and that is the reason we did not send the money to you yet. but you shall have the money first block loaned this fall and put in just as much as will fullfill the law we got the rize of the House through jacob Burkhardt you will please let us know the rize, Burkhardt may not know rightly. do you think there is any chance to sell the

house and lot. How is Harold
as dull as it was the past
2 years? how many families
are living in Harold's place to
let us hear from you
again and be sure to put
in good locust seed so that
there will be a chance to have
the full number of trees when
the time comes to grove up on it
which will be in a couple years.
How are those other timber
claims which you tend. I
suppose your claim is very
nice as the trees all were started
nicely already when I was out
there.

Mrs Susan Northcutt.

Berston

Kansas

OLD BUDA SCHOOL - DISTRICT 28

By Edwin Goodman

I will endeavor to put in writing what I know of the early day school of Buda. First I want to thank Mrs. Dorcas Cole and Mrs. Rex Clouston of the county school superintendents's office and Mrs. Marjorie Laas of the Register of Deeds. All of these ladies assisted me in securing records and dates. Also Lloyd Webb and my sister, Clara, were a help to me and I Appreciate their help too.

The old stone school house was built in 1880. It is located in the SW portion of Ness County in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 27, T20, R 26. It is two miles north of the Hodge-man county line and 3 3/4 miles east of the Lane county line. At the time the building was erected it was on government land, and was not homesteaded until 1885. Charles A Cowley received his final papers from the government on this quarter section of land May 11, 1885. After proving up on his homestead Mr. Cowley moved to Plol, Mo. The Buda school district received a deed to the two acres of land where the old stone building still stands on Oct. 27, 1885. The cost of the land was \$20.00. At the present time Dwight Blakely owns and farms all the rest of this quarter of land, except the five acres owned by the Buda cemetery association, and this included the two acres formerly owned by the old Buda School.

Following is a list of the teachers, years they taught, and their salaries. As you can see some of these records are not complete, but the following is what the records show. The salaries are monthly salaries:

1.	Jennie Findley	Mar. 14 1881-- June 4, 1881	\$15.00
2.	Jennie Findley	Oct. 3, 1881 - Dec. 23, 1881	20.00
3.	Jennie Findley	April to June in 1882	15.00
4.	Jennie Findley	Oct. to June 1883	25.00
5.	Violet M. Sevedge	Jan. to Apr. 1884	25.00
6.	C. P. Lynn	Nov. 3, 1884 -Jan. 23, 1885	33.00
7.	J. M. Paul	Oct. 1885 - Dec. 1885	no record
8.	Frank Lennen	6 months in 1886	no record
9.	Wm. F. Doyle	Sept.19, 1887 - Dec. 19, 1887	33.00
10.	Edna Robinson	1889 - 1890	no record
11.	Myrtle Pearce	1890 - two months term	25.00
12.	Retta Pearce	Sept. 1, 1890 - Jan. 1, 1891	25.00
13.	G.T. Pearce	6 months, 1891 - 1892	30.00
14.	Clarence Squier	Sept. 12, 1892 - Feb. 24, 1893	30.00
15.	Rhoda J. Harlow	Sept. 1893 - Feb. 1894	30.00
16.	Edith M. Salisbury	Sept. 1894 - April 1895	25.00
17.	Edith M Salisbury	1895 - 1896	25.00
18.	Edith M. Salisbury	1896 - 1897	25.00
19.	Edith M. Salisbury	1897 - 1898	25.00
20.	Pearl Pearce	1898 - 1899 4 mo. term	25.00
21.	Edith M. Salisbury	1898 - 1899 3 mo. term	25.00
22.	Edith M. Salisbury	1899 - 1900	30.00
23.	Edith M. Salisbury	1900 - 1901	30.00
24.	Edith M. Salisbury	1901 - 1902	30.00
25.	Annie Slagle	Sept. 1902 - Mar. 1903	30.00
26.	Luanda Foote	Sept. 1903 - Mar. 1904	35.00
27.	Edith M. Salisbury	Sept. 1904 - Mar. 1905	40.00
28.	Bessie Staley	Sept. 1905 - Feb. 1906	45.00
29.	W. H. Zuinn	Sept. 1906 - Mar. 1907	45.00
30.	Leroy Burnett	Sept. 1908 - Mar. 1909	45.00
31.	Leroy Burnett.	Sept. 1908 - 1909	45.00

Board School (continued)

32.	Golda Mail	Sept. 1909 - Feb. 1910	\$45.00
33.	Raymond Pearce	Sept. 1910- April 1911	45.00
34.	Jessie Browning	Sept. 1911 - April 1912	45.00
35.	Lucy A. Wallace	Sept. 1912 - April 1913	45.00
36.	Ivy Prose	Sept. 1913 - April 1914	45.00
37.	Clifford Goodman	Sept. 1914 - April 1915	45.00
38.	Pearl M. Swanson	Sept. 1915 - March 1916	50.00
39.	Lloyd A. Webb	Sept. 1916 - March 1917	55.00
40.	Lloyd A Webb	Sept. 1917 - March 1918	55.00
41.	Lloyd A. Webb	Sept. 1918 - March 1919	60.00
42.	Lester M. Cross	Sept. 1919 - March 1920	65.00
43.	Lester M. Cross	Sept. 1920 - March 1921	100.00
44.	Lloyd A. Webb	Sept. 1921 - to later in fall when moved to new brick building, 3/4 mile west to finish term	110.00
45.	Amanda Prose	Sept. 1922 - March 1923	90.00
46.	Vina Wagonseller	Sept. 1923- April 1924	85.00
47.	Pauline Jackson	Sept. 1924 - April 1925	75.00
48.	Velma Whipple	Sept. 1925 - April 1926	75.00
49.	Velma Whipple	Sept. 1926 - April 1927	85.00
50.	Velma Whipple	Sept. 1927 - April 1928	90.00
51.	Myra Roth	Sept. 1928 - April 1929	90.00
52.	Margaret Shover	Sept. 1929 - April 1930	90.00
53.	Margaret Shover	Sept. 1930 - April 1931	95.00
54.	Mary McVicker	Sept. 1931 - April 1932	95.00
55.	Mary McVicker	Sept. 1932 - April 1933	85.00
56.	William Bray	Sept. 1933 - April 1934	50.00
57.	William Bray	Sept. 1934 - April 1935	50.00
58.	Garnet McDaniels	Sept. 1935 - April 1936	50.00
59.	Oma Pember	Sept. 1936 - April 1937	45.00
60.	Oma Pember	Sept. 1937 - April 1938	55.00
61.	Lucille Eggers	Sept. 1938 - April 1939	60.00
62.	Lucille Eggers	Sept. 1939 - April 1940	65.00
63.	Lillie Burnett	Sept. 1940 - April 1941	60.00
64.	Lillie B. Heath	Sept. 1941 - April 1942	70.00
65.	Opal Snider	Sept. 1942 - April 1943	100.00
66.	Martha Belle Russell	Sept. 1943 - April 1944	125.00
67.	Martha Belle Russell	Sept. 1944 - April 1945	160.00
68.	Maxine Prose	Sept. 1945 - April 1946	160.00
69.	Bernice Whipple	Sept. 1946 - April 1947	185.00
70.	Cecelia Tokoi	Sept. 1947 - April 1948	185.00
71.	Nettie B Hackler	Sept. 1948 - April 1949	240.00
72.	Nettie B Hackler	Sept. 1949 - April 1950	240.00
73.	Nettie B Hackler	Sept. 1950 - April 1951	240.00
74.	Lester O Gillette	Sept. 1951 - April 1952	300.00
75.	J. Dean Scheideman	Sept. 1952 - April 1953	325.00
76.	J. Dean Scheideman	Sept. 1953 - April 1954	345.00
77.	Issolee Pearce	Sept. 1954 - April 1955	no record
78.	Maud Borthwick	Sept. 1955 - April 1956	400.00
79.	Maud Borthwick	Sept. 1956 - May 1 1957	425.00
80.	Maud Borthwick	Sept. 1957 - April 1958	437.50
81.	Theresa J Sims	Sept. 1958 - April 1959	400.00
82.	Theresa J Sims	Sept. 1959 - April 1960	400.00
83.	Varo P Shores	Sept. 1960 - April 1961	437.50
84.	Varo P Shores	Sept. 1961 - April 1962	468.75
85.	Varo P Shores	Sept. 1962 - April 1963	531.25
86.	Varo P Shores	Sept. 1963 - April 1964..	531.25

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EZRA GOODMAN STORY
By E. E. Goodman

My parent, three brothers and my sister came to the Buda community in Feb. of 1898. My oldest brother had attended school in Ill. before coming to Kansas, but only a term or two, and received the rest of his common school education at Buda. My other two brothers, my sister and I all received our common school education at Buda. I was born and raised $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the old Buda school house.

At this time I would like to tell a little about some of the early day events that took place at Buda. Ivy Prose taught a term of school from Sept. 1913 to Apr. 1914 and I remember there were six girls and I was the only boy. The Temple school in Lane County had a basketball team composed of the following girls: Letha Doll, Hetty Prose, Ruth Prose, Lila Thomas, Gertrude Thomas and Letta Thomas. Buda did not have enough big girls for a basketball team so they borrowed two girls from Nonchalanta and that made them a team as follows: Bernie Slagle, Roma Slagle, Clara Goodman, Ivy Prose, Bess Young and Gladys Young. These girls from Temple and Buda had several games of basketball and of course on outside courts on Friday afternoons. It would seem strange now to see girls playing basketball wearing long sleeved blouses and big bloomers.

Jessie Browning taught the term from Sept. 1911 to Mar. 1912. She boarded at our house and we had two real bad blizzards that winter. One in Dec. and one in Feb. I believe it was the Feb. storm that I am thinking of now. I remember that morning and it was snowing, and very much against my mother's advice, Jessie went to school. The storm got much worse and before noon my father and my oldest brother, Ivory, then 19 years old, started to walk up to the school house to bring Jessie home. I remember seeing them lead her in through our kitchen door. All of them were covered with snow and awful cold. They said the only way they were able to make it at all was for one of them to walk next to a fence and keep his hand on the fence. They were all holding hands. Before the day was over no one could have walked that distance in the storm.

My brother Clifford taught from Sept. 1914 to Mar. 1915. For about the first half of that term, I was the only pupil. Around Christmas Jake Myers moved to the Sweet Home ranch in Hodgeman county and his three children started to school at Buda. I believe their ages were: Alfred 10, Raymond 8, Greta 6. They drove one horse to an open buggy and faced the cold north wind three miles north and then $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west each morning. That trip to school and back home again each day was paying a good price for their education.

Pearl Swanson taught from Sept. 1915 to Mar. 1916. One Sunday, I think Easter Sunday, a prairie fire started about forty miles west of here and a strong west wind brought the fire to us. I well remember how frightened Miss Swanson became and I also remember that I wasn't nearly as brave as I wanted her to think I was. A group of men had burned a back-fire guard out west of our buildings so the fire divided when it got to this guard and I will never forget seeing the big head fires go by, one to the south and one to the north of us. It was truly a frightening sight and I still believe they were traveling as fast as a horse could run.

I went to school three terms to Lloyd Webb. He rode a horse to school and that $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile ride each morning was certainly miserable when the temperature was low; but never once did I ever know him to fail to have a good warm fire going in the old cast iron pot-bellied stove, when the kids got to school.

The final closing of school at the old stone school house was in the fall of 1921 and the two acres of land and the building were deeded to the Buda cemetery association in a short time after that.

At the present time Johnson township cares for the building and grounds. There is now a good well and windmill on the old school grounds, but when I attended school there, all water was carried or hauled in by someone. One term of school I carried two buckets of water a day to school for drinking water for all of the pupils and the teacher. I carried the water a quarter of a mile. I brought a bucket of water with me when I came to school of a morning and then went and got a bucket of water at noon. I used a three gallon open bucket with a cloth

tied over it to keep out the dirt. For carrying this water I received five cents per day. Later when I brought water only for myself I learned to get by on very little water, as I only took a pint of water to last me the entire day.

The district never spent a dime for playground equipment all the years I went to school. We made our own entertainment and while we played ball a lot, it was up to us to furnish the ball, bat and ball gloves.

At the present time the main use for the building is for elections, but it has been used for many different things. I myself have attended all sorts of school activities, church, Sunday School, funerals and political meetings, also literary. I remember the Sunday was not complete for me unless I went to Sunday School at Buda and it was in the afternoons.

The present township board members are: Floyd Slagle, George Copeland, and Rex Whipple. With the exception of two summers I have been trying to keep the grass mowed for the past nineteen years. My intentions are to mow the grass again this next year. One of my most difficult tasks is trying to keep the gophers poisoned.

This was written in December of 1967 and is correct as far as I can find out.

More information has been found out in 1975 for the above story on Buda School. Varo P. Shores taught two more terms of school, 1964-1966. Mr. Wilson taught two terms, 1966-1968. At this time the school was closed and the children were bussed to Beeler and Ness City.

MANTENO SCHOOL

Manteno School was organized December 4, 1880. School was first held in a private home located north of the present Manteno Community Building. Later a sod school house was built one-half mile west of the home. Then a small frame school house was built on the northeast corner of NE 10 20 25. In 1920 a new school house was built. It was a much larger building. The Stull, Robinson, Mandeville, Wait, and McMillan children were the first to attend Manteno School.

There was no water at the school, so it had to be carried about one-fourth mile from a farm home, usually by the children. Later a well was put down in Beck's pasture and the water was piped to the school house, this led to the installation of rest rooms.

A pot bellied stove was used for heating the building. A coal house was built right north of the school house. The school board laid in a supply of coal for the winter months. Later a gas furnace was installed.

As many of the children were either riding or driving horses to school, a barn was built, so the horses wouldn't have to stand outside in all kinds of weather.

In the first frame school building double desks were used, two pupils would sit together, but when the new school was erected they got new single desks.

From records 30 was the highest enrollment and 8 the smallest. In the spring of 1966 it was voted to discontinue school at Manteno and bus the children to Ness City schools.

Manteno school building remains standing as a community building today. Township elections, 4-H and club meeting and many special occasions are held in the community building.

The following is a list of the teachers that taught school at Manteno during the 86 years of existances.

<u>TEACHERS</u>	<u>MONTHS TAUGHT</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>SALARY/MONTH</u>
Estelle Robinson	-	1887-	\$
Gertie Champman	-	1894-1895	
No record	-	1895-1896	
F. E. Wood	6	1896-1897	25.00
Edith M. Salisbury Stone	5	1897-1898	25.00
Flora Pickerill Tenny	6	1898-1899	25.00
Nannie Salisbury	6	1899-1900	27.00
Nannie Salisbury	6	1900-1901	27.00
Nannie Salisbury	6	1901-1902	30.00
Della Quimby	6	1902-1903	28.00
Annie Slagle McVicker	6	1903-1904	30.00
Martha DeWitt	6	1904-1905	38.00
Annie Slagle McVicker	6	1905-1906	40.00
Alice Gordon	6	1906-1907	40.00
A. D. Delp	5	1907-1908	40.00
Laurel Goodman	6	1908-1909	40.00
Dora Lott	6	1909-1910	40.00
O. O. Stone	6	1910-1911	45.00
O. O. Stone	7	1911-1912	47.50
Otillea Fehrenbach Hoss	7	1912-1913	45.00
R. C. Bruner	7	1913-1914	45.00
Ida Fehrenbach Kerr	7	1914-1915	50.00
Otillea Fehrenbach Hoss	7	1915-1916	50.00
Nettie Schumacker	7	1916-1917	50.00
Elenor Lennen	7	1917-1918	50.00
Dove Stull	7	1918-1919	55.00
Ida Fehrenbach Kerr	7	1919-1920	85.00
Kda Fehrenbach Kerr	7	1920-1921	100.00
Stella Mishler	7	1921-1922	100.00
Perry R. Davison	7	1922-1923	110.00
Otis Stone	8	1923-1924	125.00
Otis Stone	8	1924-1925	125.00
Otis Stone	8	1925-1926	125.00
Avy Masterson	8	1926-1927	115.00
Katie Tenny Brent	8	1927-1928	125.00
O. O. Stone	8	1928-1929	125.00
O. O. Stone	8	1929-1930	125.00
Mabel Temple	8	1930-1931	100.00
Edith M. Stone	8	1931-1932	100.00
Agnes Hoss	8	1932-1933	80.00
Agnes Hoss Beck	8	1933-1934	62.50
Willis Tenny	8	1934-1935	60.00
Willis Tenny	8	1935-1936	65.00
Willis Tenny (10 weeks)	8	1936-1937	65.00
Ruth Almack (22 weeks)			
Ruth Almack	8	1937-1938	70.00
Garnett Donohoe	8	1938-1939	70.00
Garnett Donohoe	8	1939-1940	80.00
Garnett Donohoe	8	1940-1941	90.00
Garnett Donohoe	8	1941-1942	80.00
Filicitia Gerstner	8	1942-1943	100.00
Mabel Maranville Hoss	8	1943-1944	110.00
Donna Hiramman	8		

Bessie C. James	8	1944-1945	150.00
Bessie C. James	8	1945-1956	166.00
Dorothea Pavlu Hoss	8	1946-1947	225.00
Elsie Derr	8	1947-1948	250.00
Velma Rank	8	1048-1949	250.00
Pauline Kerr Neill	8	1949-1950	325.00
Pauline Kerr Neill	8	1950-1951	260.00
Pauline Kerr Neill	8	1951-1952	260.00
Mary Long	8	1952-1953	300.00
Mary Jane Britain	8	1953-1954	300.00
Mary Jane Britain Yaeger	8	1954-1955	325.00
Harley R. Holladay	8	1955-1956	400.00
Reva Holmes Klitzke	8	1956-1957	425.00
Reva Holmes Klitzke	8	1957-1958	450.00
Reva Holmes Klitzke	8	1958-1959	450.00
Lillian Darwin	8	1959-1960	450.00
Lillian Darwin	8	1960-1961	400.00
Mabel R.Y. Hoard	8	1961-1962	437.50
Mabel R.Y. Hoard	9	1962-1963	
Mabel R.Y. Hoard	9	1963-1964	510.00
Mabel R.Y. Hoard	9	1964-1965	
Mildred Sinclair	9	1965-1966	500.00

CATTLE RUSTLING

From the Nonchalanta Herald, July 1887

J. B. Spidell, a member of the board of county comm. of N.C. was at the instance of some parties from Dodge City, arrested the 1st of the week on a charge of stealing cattle. He made application before Judge Nickolson for a release on a writ of Habeas Corpus, but the judge did not see fit to grant the request so he was taken to Dodge City for trial on the charge stated above. This will be a very fine paragraph in the History of Ness City and immortalizes the name of Spidell which otherwise in the causes of time might have sank into oblivion. We do not know of course what the developements in the cattle case will be, but hope they will be such as will effectually put Mr. Spidell out and keep him out of all places of honor and trust in Ness City. We have no use for him in Johnson township and it is hoped the sentiment prevails throughout the city. For the sake of the fair name of our city, for the sake of economy and good government all such men should be retired to the shades of private life.

HOW NONCHALANTA BOOMS

Mary had a little lot
 And thought she'd better sell
 She placed it on the market,
 And the way it did -- Well
 It sold four times within a week
 And everytime it went.
 Lucky men that bought it
 Cleared 99%

What makes lots go flying so
 The eager buyers cry
 Oh, Nonchalanta is on the boom
 The agents do reply,
 And so the agents mark them up
 Yet the buyers do not squeal
 But run impatiently about
 For fear they'll lose a deal.

Written by Punch

HISTORY OF THE BUDA CEMETERY
By Edwin Goodman

I am writing this May 5, 1967 and I will try to give the history of the Buda Cemetery as best I can.

The Buda Cemetery is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 27, T 20 and Range 26W. This is in the southwest corner of Ness County and is two miles north of the Hodgeman County line and 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles east of the Lane County Line.

At the time the first burials were made here, this was still free government land, but since the Buda school house had been built three years before and was nearby, I suppose this had something to do with the first burials. In fact, there were seven burials in the Buda cemetery before the cemetery association was able to secure ownership to the land now in the boundaries of the cemetery.

The first burial was Jereriah Newby on Ja. 22, 1883. He and his dog became lost in a severe blizzard and both froze to death. I do not know this to be a fact, but I have heard that the boy and dog were buried in the same grave. In the year of 1884 there were six more burials in the Buda cemetery. The boy first buried was the son of a minister and at that time they were living on the Sweet Home Ranch in Hodgeman County. He was twelve years old.

Charles A. Cowley homesteaded the quarter of land in which the Buda Cemetery is located and received his final papers from the government on May 11, 1885.

After proving up on his homestead, Mr. Cowley moved to Polo, Missouri.

The first cemetery board of directors were elected in 1885 and was composed of W.S. Beck, Fred Roth, James W. Anderson, William Warnock and L. Oodm. These men secured a charter for the Buda Cemetery on July 21, 1885. I do not know who was governor at this time, but the charter is signed by E.B. Allen, Sec. of State. This charter is for a term of 99 years. I had this charter recorded at the Ness County register of deeds office on Feb. 25, 1960.

On Sept. 23, 1885 the board of directors of the cemetery association met at the Buda postoffice and decided to buy 5 acres of land from Mr. Cowley for \$50.00. Since both the cemetery and school house were on the five acres of land, the north two acres were sold to the Buda school district for \$20.00. It is interesting to note that later on the remaining 155 acres of land was sold to Laurel Goodman for \$150.00.

In the spring of 1896 the first trees were set around the outside of the cemetery. These trees were mulberry and locust set alternately. Dry weather, insects and prairie fires killed all but one of these trees. One locust tree still stands. At the present time there is a row of cedar trees along the north and south sides of the cemetery and chinese elm trees on the east and west sided. The trees are watered by a windmill and these trees are visible for many miles.

The cemetery is laid out in lots 20 feet square with a 6 foot alley completely around each lot. There is room for 8 graves in each lot and have always sold for \$5.00 per lot. There are 154 lots.

At the close of the last term of school at the old stone school house, the school board deeded the building and the two acres of land to the cemetery association and that was back in 1921.

I don't know the exact year that the township took charge of the cemetery but I do know they came to me in 1948 and asked me to mow the grounds. Since that date, with the exception of 1953 and 1954, I have done the caring for the cemetery and I have been assisted from time to time by my wife, Lella and my son, Fred. I intend to do the mowing again this season. Gophers are very difficult to control and I am always on the watch for them the entire year.

All but two graves have been dug by hand and without charges.

At the present time the remainder of the quarter of land, where the Buda

cemetery is located, is owned by Dwight Blakely.

In 1967 Township board members were: Floyd Slagle, George Copeland and Rex Whipple.

Since there is not a complete set of records that may have been some other interesting dates, but this is right as far as I can find out.

Have you been by the Buda Cemetery recently? You should. It's care is the pride of Johnson Township. We owe it's meticulous care to the Edwin Goodmans. The cowboy who wailed "Bury me not on the Lone Prairie" might have some second thoughts upon viewing this well cared-for peaceful plot.

PRAIRIE FIRES
by Marie Beck

Talking about prairie fires, yes, I have seen too many. I will mention two in particular. I won't tell on a young boy that wanted to help his parents by cleaning off the garden on a windy day.

One Saturday afternoon before Easter in 1915, while the train was going from Garden City to Scott City the engineer saw a fire starting from a smoldering strawstack. He stopped the train and tried to stop the fire, but the wind was too strong from the West. That prairie fire burned the rest of that day, all that night, all day Sunday and Sunday night and until Monday morning about seven o'clock. The wind shifted some time Sunday night and the fire fighters put the last of it out near Nonchalanta. Several back fires were started, but the wind was too strong; the fire always got away.

The back fire I remember was started on a corner of Steve Fehrenbach's field southeast of the Honeywell farm. Sometimes the fire burned faster than a horse could run. On the section 22-20-25, north past the Manteno School House and a quarter of a mile north to the Beck field. How near the fire came to the Manteno School I don't know for in the day time it was too dark from dust, smoke, and ashes to see. At night we could see the fire, but couldn't see just where it was. If there were any farmsteads burned I don't know.

Another prairie fire was started by lightening, just west of what is now the George Hoss farm, one morning about seven or eight o'clock. With a strong wind from the south, it burned most of the day until it was finally put out by the Santa Fe Railroad track west of Laird.

What made those fires so hard to control was very little ground was plowed, there was pasture for miles with the grass dry as tinder. With a very strong wind, it was almost impossible to stop them. Sometimes when the fighters thought they had the fire under control, they would look back and see a smoldering cow chip start again.

There was a fire guard plowed west of our house that turned one fire before my time.

No, there were no fire engines nor big water tanks. Each carried a bucket with water to wet the gunny sacks and occasionally somebody followed with a lumber wagon and water barrels.

Fighting prairie fire was hard, hot work.

MYRRL COPELAND TRAGEDY

By Laurie Copeland

Monday morning, Mrs George L. Copeland^{sr} of Nonchalanta with four little children came to Ness City to do some shopping, remaining until after dinner. At about two o'clock, after persuading her brother Ira Tyson who is here from North Carolina for his health to accompany her, she started for home. When they reached the creek at the old Sidney crossing where the iron bridge was washed out in the freshet a couple of weeks ago, Mrs. Copeland noticed that the water was somewhat higher than it was in the morning when she crossed there. She told her brother that she would drive through the stream as she was better acquainted with the ford than he. They were almost across the creek, but when they reached the main channel where the current ran swiftest, the spring wagon either went into a hole, or turned over, throwing the occupants into the water.

The two little boys, Arthur and Teddie, about seven and eight years of age, caught around their uncle's neck, nearly strangling him, but he managed to reach the shore with them and after catching his breath re-entered the water and succeeded in reaching three year old Mayme, who had floated down stream a short distance and lodge in some rubbish not far from shore, to all appearance drowned. He then gave Mrs. Copeland a helping hand, directed her to the bank. Mayme was resuscitated with considerable effort. On the wagon with the party was little baby Myrrl, eight months old, who was lost sight of when the others were plunged into the water and her fate was unknown, further then that she had been swallowed by the fierce swirling current.

The cries of the stricken party calling for help was heard by Mrs. C.F. Hermon and she telephoned to town that some one was in distress at the ford, and immediately every available team and man was on the way to the scene of the tragedy, but they were too late to rescue the child.

The crowd immediately started down the creek on the run but did not go far, until a halt was called for consultation and arranging of definite plans. Two young men set out to follow the creek on foot, the main crowd turning back to the scene of the accident. The two young men were about three miles along the creek bank scanning the water closely, when they too turned back, but carefully watching for some sight of the missing child.

Ropes and wire were sent to the scene from town and as soon as possible a woven wire was stretched across the creek about a half of mile below the ford, and at the latter place a rope was thrown across the stream held by men at each end, and to this searchers clung while making as close an examination of the creek as possible considering the depth of the water and the strength and rapidity of the current. About twenty swimmers thus sustained fathomed the depths as best they could, searching every foot of the space, examining every rock, bush and drift and carefully feeling over the sandy bottom.

For about four hours men faithfully struggled against all obstacles to find the body and when sundown put an end to further hopeful search, reluctantly gave up the quest, hoping that during the night the water might so recede as to make their work lighter than the previous evening, as nothing could be done except to patrol the banks in hope of finding the lost one in that way.

The father, George L. Copeland, was at his Johnson Township home at the time of the accident and every effort was made to reach him by telephone, but without avail, and later the sad news was broken to him by messenger but not in time for him to come to town that night, as the heavy rains made it necessary for him to travel horseback and he did not reach the city until Tuesday morning. Tuesday the creek continued to raise all day and night and was ten feet higher than the previous day. Although an effort was made to find the child, it was of no avail.

RIDE WITH BANK BANDITS On FEB. 13, 1934
By Geo. Copeland Jan. 1975

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On Feb. 13, 1934, a neighbor, Albert Fehrenbach was helping me put a up a radio aerial wire. Having completed the job about 11:00 A.M. I proceeded to take him home, 2 miles west. One mile west of home we saw 3 men in a hay field. Supposing them to be hunters. We stopped and waited for them to come on to the road. One man being supported by the other two. Before we knew what was taking place they had guns on us; and ordered us out of my old 1929 Buick. We complied readily.

The three got in the car but try as they would they couldn't shift gears. Buicks had opposit shifts in those days. So after a few desperate trys they order me back in to drive. The wounded man, later identified as Jim Clark, got in front with me. Albert Fehrenbach was order in back of pickup, with the other two robbers.

The man had a cocked 45 caliber pressed to my side but I persuaded him to put it down after about a mile. We proceeded straight east 5 miles to Earl Pembers farm.

Earl knew who they were, as law officers had left only minutes before. Earl told them his car was broke down but they could have a team of horses if it would help.

From there I drove south into Hodgeman County where the men saw a nice v-8 Ford in the yard of John L. MacNaire's. One of the robbers went to the door and told a friend was hurt and asked if he could get a car to get him to the Dr. The Cappers Weekly salesman, Kilpatrick, whose car we saw, said he would be glad to take them to a doctor. The bandits all got in his car. The last I saw of them they were crossing the bridge on the Pawnee, with the car going at a terrific speed.

On our trip home we met the posse of about 50 cars which were only 2 miles back of us. We found out our captors had robbed the bank at Goodland; had had a gun battle with Ness County Sheriff, Clayton Libby, and Richard Floyd about a half a mile from where we picked them up. Sheriff Libby was shot through the leg. One bandit had his heel shot on his left foot and big toe off the right. A lot of blood was left on the floor mat in my car. The wounded man had a pillow case full of something that rustled like paper.

Several months later Jim Clark was arrested in Okla. He was an escaped prisoner from Lansing. He was convicted and sent to San Quentin. Frank Delmar, another escaped convict from Leavenworth, was one of the other bandits. Kilpatrick was released near Cedar Vale, Kansas, where the bandits were picked up by an accomplice, Goldie Johnson. This gun doll was arrested with Clark, and she was returned to Ness County and convicted on a charge as an accessory after the fact. After a short stay in jail the state reversed the conviction and she was freed. The other bandit was never identified.

I never got scared until after the bandits turned us loose, then I was so nervous I could hardly talk. Albert Fehrenbach said he prayed all the time they had us.

The bandits apparently missed a road some where near Laird. There by missing the accomplice Goldie Johnson and running out of gas where Sheriff Libby and Richard Floyd came up on them.

THE WIFE'S VIEW
By Laurie Copeland

The day the bandits picked up George I was home listening to the radio hearing about the bandits who were near Beeler according to the news report. When I heard a car drive in I rushed out to tell George what I had heard, But it wasn't George. It was a car load of men with guns. Even then I thought they were hunters. They asked where George was. I told them that had gone to take Albert Fehrenbach home. The only person I remember was Harry Kerr. He said "No, he hasn't. The bandits have him."

Things happened so fast after that till all I recall is that Ted got his gun; he and I drove to Ferckings where a road block was being formed. As we stopped by the gate Lavinæ Fercking came to tell us that a call had come saying the bandits had gotten into another car at John MacNairs and that George and Albert were on the road home. Not many seemed to have heard this news in all the confusion. The radio continued to broadcast about the bandits in the old strip-down buick for some time. So it was no problem for the new vehicle to leave the country without being noticed.

Any way, Ted and I came home. I was helping Dad Copeland get the cows from just northwest of the barn when an air plane came searching up the draw. The cows scattered in all directions. We later learned this was the sheriff from Garden City. The plane landed in a field at Ferckings, a most unusual occurrence in 1934.

Soon we learned the details of the gun battle just west of home. After our sheriff, Clayton Libby, was shot Richard Floyd took him to the nearest home for help. This was Steve Fehrenbach's home. His wife, Ella did not know these men. She supposed she was putting a bandage on the bandits.

As George was coming home I met him at our drive in as did many others. I was so glad to see him; it was a relief for the bandits to be gone and for there not to have been another gun battle.

STONE POSTS

In early day it was free range, than as more people came they started fenceing there pastures in to hold their livestock close to home.

Stone was the only thing available, it had to be dug from rock quarries. A straight row of holes was drilled into the limestone then steel pegs were driven into these holes, forcing the stone to break in a straight line. The long piece of stone was cut into blocks and used in a building. Smaller strips of stone are left just as they are quarried. They are used as stone posts that would last through ages. Posts were a foot square and five foot long. It is a mystery how they lifted them as they probably weighed 150 to 200 pounds. They were loaded and hauled to the holes where they were to be placed. A piece of smooth wire was used to tie the barb wire to the stone posts. As the years passed, wooden posts has replaced the stone posts, now there are a lot of steel posts being used. The stone posts are almost an antique item. The barded wire that was used in fences years ago has changed some what from what it is today. Several people have barbed wire collections. Walter Rolfe and Carl Fehrenbach both have wire collections. Walter has 500 different kinds and there are approximately 800 or more different kinds.

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PROSE-DILLON STORY
By Maxine McVicker

(Part of this was taped as Ray Prose told his daughter, Essie Ellis, when he was in the rest home in Colbran, Colorado. The rest was stories our parents told us years later. Stories told to Frank Prose by his father, Bert Prose, and stories told to Maxine McVicker by her father Bid Prose).

One beautiful day the 23rd. of September 1832, in a small log house around Bluefield, West Virginia, our great-grandfather (Samuel W. Dillon) was born. He married a girl just two years younger, Temperence or Tempy Dillion. They were married June 5, 1851, and lived very happy until the Civil War. Samuel was called into the army. By this time they had five little girls, three of which pioneered to Kansas, and homesteaded in Ness and Lane County.

Samuel, Tempy, Octave and her three sisters skipped beside their father as he carried baby Jenny, to see their daddy off to war. They went with Samuel as far as they could go. Then Tempy and the girls turned back to the lonely home alone. Samuel was killed fighting July 1862. Then Tempy took the five girls and moved in to southern Ohio.

When Octave was ten or eleven years old she went to live with a doctor's family and took care of his invalid wife. She later went on calls with him, and learned a good deal about doctoring and care of the sick.

She married Millard Filmore Prose January 19, 1875. They lived in Gallia County, Ohio. He and Octave had four children there, Essie, Bert, Bessie, and Grace. In 1885 they and Fil's brother Tex, and his family, Jenny and Jack Lanam and his family, in other words, there were three sisters (Meg., Octave, and Jenny) came to Kansas.

They shipped their household goods, cows, plow, chickens and some seeds to Raymond in Rice County. Then, shipped in an "Immigrant" car the railroad gave very cheap rates. The railroads went farther west but they didn't know just where they would settle. The three men walked on out to what is now southwest Ness County and southeast Lane County and decided to take homesteads there. They had to walk to Wakeeney to file on the land. They then cut across country towards Raymond where they had left their families. They had gone part of the distance when a bad blizzard caught them. They were lucky enough to find a ranch house. There the man told them they could not stay there. Ranchers hated the "nesters" or homesteaders. Fil was good natured enough that he would have gone out into the storm again. Tex, an older brother had been around a little more and told them they weren't going to go out into that storm again, that if they forced them to leave they would burn down every building they had. The rancher reconsidered and by the time the blizzard was over they were good friends, but from the exposure of the storm Jack Lanam contracted pneumonia and died.

Aunt Jenny and her two children weren't going to turn back now, so they came on west with her two sisters their husbands and families. They stayed around Raymond for a while the men worked on farms. Fil bought a team from a farmer a horse and a mare. They bought other horses and supplies for the journey west. They had a span of mules, two milk cows, they drove through the entire distance. One mule died so they hitched a cow with the other mule, alternating cows each day.

When they arrived in western Kansas they built sod houses and other sod buildings. Being from wet Ohio they made the mistake of building on a hill top. There was no water there, so it had to be hauled in barrels from springs three miles away, for household use.

Ray was born in that sod house January 1886. A year before the big blizzard in 1887. The blizzard killed most of the settlers livestock. The blizzard also killed most of the rabbits and antelope.

Meg. and Tex Prose with their family gave up their homestead, and went back to Ohio.

A terrible typhoid fever epidemic broke out in the country, probably from the bad water and the barrels it was hauled in to the house. The family all had it, clear down to the baby, Ray. He didn't get it but the mother Octave, was dreadfully ill so the neighbor women took turns keeping the baby and nursing him along with their own babies. Finally Octave's sister Jenny and two children came to help. Jenny contacted typhoid fever and died. (She was one of the first persons to be buried at the Buda cemetery). Until she became ill Octave had worked constantly, nursing and helping neighbors with their sick ones. There was sort of a doctor that had taken a homestead not far away, he did what he could. Luckily they didn't lose any of these five children.

In years to come they had four more children, Hettie, Ivy, and the (twins) Fill and Bid before they moved down not far from Nonchalanta.

After Fil proved upon the homestead the family moved onto the Roth place where the children could go to school at Nonchalanta, although they had been in school up farther west. Times were very hard so Fil hauled mail from Ness City to Nonchalanta, Mr. S Slagle had the post office in his basement at this time.

A fellow named Herwig had a place that joined the Prose homestead on the north, he had a good sod house right on Spring Creek. The blizzard had killed all of his stock but one mule, he was discouraged and wanted to go back east. So Fil traded the big stallion he'd raised from the Raymond, Kansas mare for the quarter section of land. This was another sod house with a dirt floor. Those dirt floors got so hard and packed, the women put water on them and packed it, until it was really quite clean. Fil built a stone barn and chicken house. There was good water but when it rained the well would fill up with mud and would have to be dug out again, Fil went twenty feet from the house and got good water, about ten feet deep. It seemed pure luxury to have a good well so close to the house.

While the family lived on this place they became acquainted with O. D. King, the homesteader that wrote the very popular song "Home On A Government Claim".

Fil and Octave had one more child (Ruth) four years younger than the twins.

Fil and his sons dug a great number of wells in the country for people. They would dig down in a sort of spiral round shape and used a tripod and bucket.

Cattle began to come up trails from Texas, headed for grazing grounds in Montana, Wyoming and various places.

There were no fences so five or six families put their herds together each morning with a boy from each family to help herd them. In the evenings they would separate and take each cattle herd home for the night.

One day they were amazed when some cowboys came and ran all the cattle away from the spring and told the boys to keep them away as a big herd was coming through and they would lose their cattle if they got mixed with the big trail herd. So the boys held their cattle away and watched in astonishment as the cattle herd came. When the first ones reached the spring, they were still coming over the hill to the southwest four miles away. There were about fifty cowboys and they tried to string them out so the first ones could drink and go on out of the way. Still they ran a stream of cattle abreast hundred feet wide. The spring ran out of a solid rock it looked like. There was a big pond below the spring where a horse could swim for two hundred yards. (George Stiawalt home is on the bank of that pond). The cattle stayed three or four days and drank all the water. The cattle were on the long journey again. It wasn't unusual for fifty head of dead animals to be in the mud when they were through. The cowboys always drug them out of the pond into a low place several hundred yards from the spring. All the neighborhood men would come with their knives and skin the cattle as the hides could be sold for a little cash. This went on for several years.

Later the family built a stone house on still a different place, again near the creek. Fil traded a steer calf for a two story stone house about twenty miles away, over on the Hackberry Creek. They lifted the roof off, (a hip roof), put it on wagons and hauled it across Hackberry Creek, and Spring Creek. Then they tore down the stone house and hauled it and rebuilt the two story house and put the roof back on the house.

One day while Bert was herding cattle for neighbors, just for clothes for his back, was all the pay he received, but the lady of the house decided he wasn't working hard enough to earn the clothes, so she sent the big butter churn to the pasture with him, he could sit on the hill side and churn for her while herding the cattle. He would have to leave the churn and run his cattle down when one would stray.

Of an evening after supper dishes were done the family gathered in the parlor and sang. Fil had a tuning fork to help everyone find the tune, when they had the tune all was well, they would sit and sing for their evening entertainment.

The closest doctor was in Dighton, Ness City, or Jetmore. There had been a Doctor Yingling at Nonchalanta, but he had gone back east at this time. Octave was doctor and nurse, using many of the herbs and home remedies she had learned from her foster father and from her own experience.

Octave acted as midwife for many many a family. The number of babies she acted as midwife for is not known.

Once this neighbor man of several miles, came after Octave to come and act as midwife, while Octave went to change clothers, the man had to circle his wild team of horses in the yard. The horses were so wild they wouldn't stand still with the man holding the reins. Octave grabbed her bag jumped in the back of the spring wagon, the one moment he had the horses stopped. When the man brought Octave home Fil told the man he didn't mind if Octave went to help anyone, but after this don't bring such a wild team or she couldn't go to their home again.

Fil looked after most of the funerals in the community. He got a three seated spring wagon, he could take out two seats to carry the casket and still have a seat to sit on himself. Otherwise with a regular two seated wagon the driver had to sit on the casket. Fil often gave the sermon or helped with it.

There were cottontail rabbits, but no jack rabbits at that time. The prairie fires were terrible things in those days. The grass grew tall everywhere few small fields not making much of an impression. When a fire got started it traveled sometimes for hundreds of miles. Everyone went to fight them. The women drove the wagons and cooked for the men. Everyone got so black with smoke they couldn't be recognized. They hauled barrels of water and soaked gunny sacks and rags, fought with them by hand, and tied them to chains that were drug between two horses. Men would go for days, then crawl into the nearest wagon and sleep for a while, then get up eat and go on again. When it finally stopped, everyone washed, if there was water left, gathered up their families and headed for home. Perhaps when they got there everything they owned had been burned and they had to start all over again.

One day when Octave's family of boys and husband were gone her duty was to check the wild life traps along the creeks, and to her surprise, this one morning she found a coyote in a trap, she had nothing to kill with so she ran back to the barn to find the ax to use as a weapon, she would swing the ax jump back then swing at the coyote again until she had mastered her victory.

In about 1902 the house burned, Octave the girls (Grace, Hettie, and Ivy) were getting dinner while the twins, (Bid and Fil) were playing around the house with Ruth.

The men were just coming in for dinner, so Ray raced his team on ahead, hooked on to the porch and pulled it away from the house and it was all they saved of the house. Hettie ran to the barn jumped on a horse ran her horse up to John Thomas'es so excited she couldn't talk when she got there. John got on his horse and quickly rode down to the fire just dropping the reins when he got there and running to help. The horse decided to make his way home, but to his surprise Essie grabbed the reins jumped on his

back and they sped to the fire. Bert saw the smoke and came from another direction got there just in time to hear his shot gun and riffle shells go off, it sounded like a war.

Bert Prose took a homestead (one that had been abandoned next to his parents farm on the east). Spring Creek ran through it, and there was this big spring, Parker Spring on the place. The one where all of the cattle had drunk from in times past. Many many people hauled water from this spring.

One brisk cool day in the fall of the year Bessie was teaching school she saw her first Russian Thistle come through the school yard, from somewhere so she preceded to burn it, which started a small fire, but she got that thistle.

Octave was a true pioneer woman and had come through so much, but this one evening she went with her family to a Christmas Eve program at Brown Hat School house, everyone was having a good time enjoying the program when the candles on the Christmas tree caught on fire and then caught the curtain on fire. Octave fainted while the rest put out the fire.

Fil, Octave and their families attended church at Nonchalanta, then for a time they would have church at the home school house, (Temple).

Fil died of cancer of the stomach at sixty years, October 23, 1915, after spending most of his life in southwest Ness County and southeast Lane County.

Their son Bid, a grandson Leslie Thomas, a grandson by marriage Carl Knuaf, a neighbor boy Zack Thomas, Clifford Goodman and Cliff Jones, Ray Salisbury and George Rayburn from the Long View Ranch, went into the service during World War I.

Essie married a neighbor boy John Thomas, Bert married Blanche Basom from Rush County, she had moved out to Lane County to live with her brothers. Bessie married Charles Stull, they had race horses or Charles family had a number of race horses and a race track around Manteno. Hettie married Bert Hottinger and moved to California. Ivy married a boy from a pioneer family, Vern Slagle. Fill married a girl from south of Beeler, Myrtle Schrier. Bid married a girl that came from eastern Kansas to teach school, Amanda Wagon seller. Ruth married a neighbor boy Charles Offerle. Ray married Eva Offerle, a neighbor girl.

In the summer of 1925, Reverend Schwartz came out to southwest Ness County to visit relatives. He along with a lot of other people started Sunday School at Buda, Octave was happy to see church start again in the neighborhood. It was her peace and joy to see the neighborhood thrive as it was, after those years of pioneer, life and the dirty thirties. She has now gone to her reward.

THE HENRY SCHLEGEL FAMILY

By Mrs. Walter Schlegel

Henry Schlegel was born and raised at Otis, Kansas. There he met Scharlotta Kerbs at a Sunday School Convention in Otis where he was playing the organ and Scharlotta was singing in the choir. Lottie, as everyone knew her, was born in Weissenmuellar, Russia and came to the Russell community as a young girl with her mother, brother, and sister.

Henry and Lottie were married in November, 1901 at Otis, and lived there until 1919 when they and their five children, Rosa, Ben, Leo, Roy, and Clara, moved to Oregon. The wet climate proved to be too much for Lotties' health, so in 1921 the family moved to Ness County.

When the family moved to Oregon, Henry had traded their home at Otis for a quarter of land located eleven miles west and five miles south of Ness City (SE 29 19 25). Then in 1921 he also bought two quarters (S $\frac{1}{2}$ 36 19 25) of land from a Mr. Handhardt who had offered to give the land to his son if he would live on the land, but the boy refused.

While their home was being built the family lived in an apartment west of the courthouse in Ness City. Ben, who was 15 at the time stayed out of school and helped built the family home. Mr. John Schlegel from Otis also helped.

It was a two-story house with a screened-in front porch that faced the east. Downstairs there was a living room, a big dining room, kitchen and bedroom. Upstairs there were two bedrooms and a very large room in which were two or three large beds. In the early 1940's a bathroom was added as was a cellar that they had to hand-dig under the house.

This home was sold in 1959 by the youngest son Wesley to a Mr. Lloyd Harkness, and moved near Friend, Kansas. A new blond brick home was then built.

The first winter that Henry and his family were here, he struggled to make a living for his family. He heard that Bazine had an opening for a cream station, and as Ness City already had four, he decided to open one there. On Monday mornings, he would walk to Ness City and on to Bazine, it was very rarely that he could catch a ride. He would stay in Bazine all week and walk, or catch a ride back on Friday evenings. He operated the cream station from the middle of September in 1921 to the end of May in 1922.

Henry loved to play the organ and violin. He taught music lessons to neighborhood children, at no cost, until his hands went bad and he couldn't play. Walter Coker came over at times and they would enjoy an evening of music together. Walter would play his guitar and Henry the fiddle. Clara wanted to learn to play an instrument, but by the time she was old enough, her father couldn't teach her.

The family was hard working religious people. They were members of the Methodist Church. They were farmers, raising wheat, milo, and feed for their cattle.

Lottie always raised chickens and geese, and a large garden. She did all her own preserving as long as she was able to do it. They did their own butchering, as in those days there were no other places to do it.

Three more children were born to them after they moved to Ness County. They were Viola, Walter and Wesley. Three children died when quite young. Their first child, Solomon, lived for a month and died of pneumonia. A girl, Lillian, was stillborn. Another boy, Henry, died at the age of nine years from the after effects of scarlet fever.

Henry's health began to fail during the depression and he passed away in October of 1940 at the age of 61 years. With the help of her sons, Lottie continued to run the farm.

World War II broke out and Roy was drafted into the Army. He was stationed in California. He received a medical discharge about the time he was to go overseas. Later Walter was inducted into the Army and was sent overseas. He was attached to the hospital unit in Pusan, Korea. Wesley went into the Army during the Korean War. Because his mother was seriously ill, he was called back from Korea and finished serving his time at Ft. Riley. Lottie died of cancer in April of 1953.

This is a great neighborhood to live in. Whether there's a fire, illness, or if you just need help, someone is always there to help. Roy's appendix ruptured in June of 1949. He was taken to a hospital in Dodge City, where he was in critical condition for a number of days. Area and neighboring farmers brought in twelve combines and a bunch of trucks to cut his wheat. The twelve combines cut 370 acres of wheat in seven hours. The neighborhood ladies provided and served the lunch for them.

The Schlegel children all went to the little country school at Manteno and graduated from there. Part of their grandchildren went there until the school was closed in the spring of 1966.

Rosa married August Litzenberger, and they live on a farm south of Jetmore. They had five children, the eldest, Vernon, died in infancy. Orland and his family live in Missouri. He married Catherine Baker, and they have four children, David, Paul, Richard and Diana. Wayne married Mary Howard, from Garden City, they farm south of Jetmore and Wayne is also employed at the Light Plant in Jetmore. They have three children, Debra, Kevin, and Kristie. Vada married Ralph Lang, and he's employed in Dodge City. They have four children, Steven, William, Gregory, and Rhonda. Vera is married to John Tweedy who make their home in Dodge City. They have one boy, Rodney.

Ben never married, but spent his life as a farmer and cattleman. He passed away on April 7, 1972 of heart failure at the age of 65.

Leo married Hannah Litzenberger, sister of Rosa's husband. They farm and raise cattle in Finney County. Their telephone is out of Beeler, and their mailing address is Alamota. They have three children, Mrs. Charles (Jean) Vandagriff of Perryton, Texas; Mrs. Jerry (Lottie) Newcomb of Springfield, Maryland; and Vernon Schlegel, a Highway Patrolman stationed at Liberal, Kansas. Jean has two children, Sharon and Darrell. Sharon is married and has a little girl, Jean Adelle. Lottie and Jerry have two children, Debra and Kevin. Jerry works for the Interior Department in Washington, D.C. Vernon married Vanita Nelson, from Garden City, and they have two sons Micheal and Merle.

Roy married Edna Alexander and they lived on a farm southwest of Ness City until Roy passed away in 1971. Their son, Kenneth, now lives there. Kenneth married Jean Bain and they have two little girls, Tamara and Kristina. Myra is married to Tom Ring from Wright, Kansas. They have four children, Lisa, Bobby, Brenda and Rhonda. Tom farms and also works for the Farmland Industries at Dodge. Glenna is married to Wayne Keller, they have one little boy, Scott. They live in Wichita where Wayne is employed by Kansas Gas and Electric. Marilyn is a student at Fort Hays State College.

Clara married Herbert Schlegel, no relation, but someone told them they were 32nd cousins. Herbert works for Northern Natural Gas, and they live in Ft. Stockton, Texas. They have two daughters, Lola and Scharlotta. Lola is married to James Squyres; and they have two little girls, Shelly and Kelly and live at Eldorado, Texas. Scharlotta married Robert Smith, they and their two little girls, Tammy and Holly, live at Jal, New Mexico.

Viola and her husband, Edgar Felzein, make their home in Ness City; where Viola has worked for the Toggery for 19 years. Edgar works on a farm in the Ness City area.

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Walter married a Ness City girl, Evelyn Langer, and they live a mile west of the home place. Ben helped build their home. They farm and raise cattle. They have three children; Lynette, who works at the bank in Ness City, and Bonnie is a senior in high school, and Douglas, a sixth grader.

Wesley, better known as Pete, lives on the home place. He married a girl from Jetmore, Grace Tuttle, and they have three girls. Jan and Patricia are high school students and Betty Jo is a seventh grader. Pete also farms and raises cattle.

Henry and Lottie came to Ness County when times were hard, and not many conveniences. They had a large family to raise, but with faith and hard work they struggled through the depression and on to better times.

HENRY SCHLEGEL FAMILY
by Grace Schlegel

Henry Schlegel traded his house in Otis, Kansas, for a quarter of land in southwest Ness County and moved his family (his wife, Lottie, three boys and two girls) to Oregon. They stayed in Oregon nine months. The climate was too humid for Mrs. Schlegel's rheumatism, so they decided to come back to Kansas.

Mr. Hanhardt had a half section in Ness County and two boys. He offered the land to either of the boys under the condition that they live on the land. The boys didn't want to live so far from civilization (as they saw it), so their father sold the land to Henry Schlegel.

The land Henry bought had a run down house about one-fourth mile from the road. It wasn't a very good house, so Mrs. Schlegel and the children lived in Ness City in some apartments west of the court house while Henry and the carpenter built the house on the farm. The old run-down house was later moved to the farmstead and converted to a barn.

Shortly after returning to Kansas, another girl joined the family, followed later by two more boys. The house Henry built was sold and moved to a farm between Scott City and Garden City and a new one-story house was built on the home farm. The old barn was also moved away to make room for corrals.

OIL FIELDS
by Avis Rothe

The first test for oil in Franklin Township was the L. Goodman No. 1 Sec. 21-19-23w. The Texas Company has the lease, Tregg Drilling Co. did the drilling. Drilling was started November 17, 1934 and was completed March 26, 1935. This test took over 4 months. Total depth 5047 feet. Production dry.

First producing field in Franklin Township was the Petersilie Field opened in 1957. Is still producing. By 1972 2,432,376 barrels of oil had been pumped from this field.

There are several producing fields in Franklin Township. Petersilie Field, Hair Field, McDonald Field, and the west side of Riverside Field.

Formations that produce oil in Franklin and Johnson Townships are: Lansing (2 wells) 2 miles west and south of Ness City. Marmaton, Fort Scott, Cherokee sand. Cherokee sand is sometimes called Conglomerate. Most wells are in the Mississippi formation. First test for oil in Johnson Township was the J.G. Collins No. 1 Sec. 24-20-26w. Mid Continent Petro. Corp. had the lease. Drilling was started June 18, 1938 and completed July 27, 1938. This test took over a month. Total depth 4555 feet. Dry.

First producing field in Johnson Township was the Manteno Field. This field had 5 wells. 3 wells on Bowman and 2 wells on Gantz. The Manteno Field was opened in 1945 and was in production until 1957. This field pumped 56,158 barrels of oil.

Some of the producing fields in Johnson Township: McVicker Field, Sunshine Field, Guzzler Gulch Field and Buda. My thanks to Lorin T. Peters for this information.

THE VINZENZ FEHRENBACH FAMILY
By Miss. Mary Fehrenbach

Some relatives were early settlers in Ness County, from the Village Reute, Baden, Germany.

The first was Florian Fehrenbach. A brother came with him, but didn't stay and they never heard from him again.

In May 1893 Mr. and Mrs. Conrad (Agetha Bierer) Fehrenbach and eight children, Ben, Steve, Joe, Vince, Mary, Kate, Otillea, and Ida, came to the Manteno Community.

In 1896, Adolph Beck and his daughter Emma came to Ness County, living near Manteno School. His wife and one daughter, Anna, died while they were living in Germany. Two step-daughters remained in Germany, while one step-daughter, Mary, came to the USA with Mr. Beck, she now resides in Jasper, Indiana.

Three years ago, Mary's grandson studied in a seminary in Rome. During Easter vacation he went to Reute to visit relation, and when he was ordained a priest he said his first mass there, with his parents and other relatives from Jasper, Indiana, present. Mary gave me a picture of the house where Adolph Beck lived. Relatives are living in the house now.

In 1902 St. Ignatius' Church was built and Vincent Fehrenbach and Emma Beck were the first couple to be married in the new church.

To this union, eleven children were born. Albert, Anna (Mrs. Clarence McCray), Carl, Adolph, Theresa (Mrs. Matt O'Pat), Mary, Catherine (Mrs. Harry MaGuire), Tom and Bill (twins), Frank, George, Philip. Theresa and George are now deceased.

ADOLF BECK FAMILY
by Marie Beck

My father, Adolf Beck, was born in Baden, Germany. He married a window with 3 daughters, they had two more daughters--Anna and Emma. His wife died in Germany and also his daughter Anna.

My father came to the United States to Indiana. After working in Indiana a few years he went back to Germany and later came back with Emma in April 1894. After working in Indiana two more years he came to Ness County, Kansas and homesteaded the quarter of land that I am still living on.

The Kunzes were also from Germany and lived in the wilderness of Tennessee for seven years, then came to Ness County in a covered wagon in 1879. Adolph Beck married the daughter, Mary, of this pioneer couple. Three children were born to this marriage, Joseph, Marie and John. When they got to the Ness County homestead, the grass was all burned off and grand father had to go back to Rush County, where they had rented some ground to farm.

The first man he met in Ness County was Rudolph Switzer looking for his horses which had bolted during the prairie fire. They had all of the hardships and tragedies of pioneer life, including losing a four-year-old son on the first day they came out here. He fell off the wagon and was killed.

LIGHTING SYSTEMS

The big improvement for the rural people was when electricty was installed into their homes.

The Lane-Scott Corperative Incorporation was put in the Manteno and Buda area in August 1950. Shares had to be bought in order for electricty to be installed in ones' home. Shares were sold at \$5.00 a share.

This corperation still supplies these communities today.

JOHNSON TOWNSHIP

Taken from Ness Western County - Millbrook

Johnson township is located in the southwest part of Ness County. Johnson is the one township in the county to be named for a Ness county citizen, John F. Johnson.

In population Johnson has always been the smallest township in the county, but with the exceptions of the period of the boom at Nonchalanta, the population has shown less fluctuation. In 1880 there were 170 people; 1887, 653; 1931, 325; and in 1975, 136.

Johnson Township officers in the 1880 and 1975 are:

Trustee	(1880) Fred Roth	(1975) Lee Stout
Treas.	E.B. Fisher	Virgil Webb
Clerk	Wm. S. Beck	W. P. Schlegel
Justices	R. L. McMillan	
	W. E. Burris	

Some of the early settlers were: Nelson Peckham, Mandeville, Theodore Bason, Philip Stone, McVarland, Jasper Davis, Jeff Womack, The Whitemans, T. C. Rush, Salisburys and Stulls.

The anticipated railroad, the Denver, Memphis and Atlantic, was popularly called the "Darling Mary Ann" and every town in southern Ness County was yearning for it.

Present Johnson Township Residents

John Beck	Ness City	Laurel Goodman	Beeler
Marie Beck	Ness City	Bob Gross	Ness City
Howard Betz	Ness City	Lydia Hinkel	Beeler
Randy Betz	Ness City	Stanley Hoss	Ness City
Dwight Blakely	Beeler	Elmer Nuss	Ness City
James Cline	Beeler	D. D. McVicker	Beeler
George Copeland	Ness City	E. E. McVicker	Ness City
Lane Copeland	Ness City	Del Roy Moore	Beeler
Ted Copeland	Ness City	Vernon J. Neill	Ness City
Kent Davison	Ness City	Kenneth Schlegel	Ness City
Lyle Davison	Ness City	Walter Schlegel	Ness City
Joe Dinges	Ness City	Wesley P. Schlegel	Ness City
Ed Doebbeling	Ness City	Thomas E. Shauers	Beeler
Kenneth Doebbeling	Ness City	Warren Sherwin	Beeler
Charles Eggers	Ness City	Paul Schniffer	Beeler
Adolph Fehrenbach	Ness City	Lee Stout	Beeler
Carl Fehrenbach	Ness City	Lloyd Webb	Beeler
Mary Fehrenbach	Ness City	Virgil Webb	Beeler
Otto Fehrenbach	Ness City	Rex Whipple	Beeler
Charles Goodman	Beeler	Virgil Whipple	Beeler
Edwin Goodman	Beeler		

GUZZLERS GULCH

Guzzler Gulch runs through the Manteno Community. It begins close to Beeler, continuing down through Johnson township, emptying into Pawnee Creek. The gulch received it's name during the early period of trial driving cattle from Texas through Kansas to the north. A man opened a small store in a dug-out on this creek liquor was the product the man sold and it is not known if Guzzler's Gulch was named for the man or for the soldiers and cowboys who were his customers.

A story-- A pioneer bachelor lived along this draw. He drank so much that neighbors referred to him as The Guzzler and to the draw as Guzzler's Gulch.

Written for May 30th, 1867

Oh! strew ye with flowers the tombs of the brave
Who suffered and died for their country and you;
Bring garlands of roses for each lowly grave,
With fragrance of blossoms their mem'ry imbue.

Bring flowers, sweet flowers as emblems of love
To mingle with tears o'er the graves of the true,
And rev'rently looking for strength from above,
Allegiance to freedom and justice renew.

Tis mete that the nation this tribute bestow,
For tender remembrance is due to the dead;
And holiest gratitude ever should flow
In mem'ry of those who for liberty bled.

Come fathers and brothers, strew flowers around;
The hope of your age, and the stay of your youth
Now mouldering lies here beneath the cold ground;
Oh! grudge not your gift on the altar of truth.

Come sisters and wives bring flowers they planted,
The rose that they cherished, the lilies they loved;
Yes tenderly strew them and think how undaunted
Between you and danger, their constancy proved.

Come mothers too, and bring choicest of flowers,
Fit emblems they seem of your long withered joys,
But know that above mid perennial bowers,
Are builded the homes of your hero boys.

Oh! miss not one hillock that covers their dust;
And think ye of these lying low neath the sea;
And pray that the wild waves may guard well their trust;
Bright corals and shells their fond tribute shall be.

And they who unknown mid the forests are sleeping,
Who dies all alone in the enemy's land;
The sweetest of wild flowers around them are creeping,
And summer will strew them from out her fair hand.

Thus year after year, while seasons shall roll,
We'll cherish each memory that betters our hearts;
That warms our affections, enlarges the soul,
And lessons of freedom and justice imparts.

And pray that the God of all nations will keep
And shield us from war and its horrors and woe;
And hasten the day when o'er mountain and deep;
Where rich valleys rest, and where grand rivers flow;

O'er city and hamlet, and isles of the Maine,
Shall echo the song of the angels again;
And nations and kingdoms all catch the refrain;
On earth it is "peace and good will among men".

Martha Michener Taylor Williams as my Great-grand-mother on my Daddy's side.
She was born March 14, 1825 in Ohio. Married first time in Ohio, 1844
to William Nott Taylor. He died Feb. 6, 1845 before their only child
May Elma was born in Oct. 1845.

Martha Michener Taylor married again in Ohio, July 18, 1845 to Allen
Williams, M.D. They moved to Kansas in 1872. There were nine children
in their family, the youngest being my Grandma Johnson, nee Sarah Anna
Williams, Born April 5, 1866. She married Henry Johnson, Dec. 23, 1889
At Lawrence, Ks. These are my Daddys's parents. This Martha
Michener Taylor Williams is also the Great-grandmother of Avis
Rothe, as ~~she~~ her mother and my dad were brother and sister.