



TRAILS TO TURNPIKES



CHISHOLM TRAIL MUSEUM
502 N. WASHINGTON
WELLINGTON, KANSAS 67157

1871 - 1971
Wellington, Kansas





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Wellington Municipal Golf Course

DEDICATION

100

One hundred years is both a very long time and a very short time, it all depends on viewpoint. To recapture adequately the past would be to relive the past and this we are not privileged to do. To remember some of the events of the past one hundred years, we can do. This commemorative booklet is written to help us to recall "how it used to be" with the hope that our history can inspire us to improve in our generation, and to hope that our second hundred years will be as worthy of commemoration as was the first hundred years.

So to the first Wellingtonians whose efforts started it all —

to those whose foresight and planning has served us so well —

to those who invested their lives and their resources in the development of this community —

to the ones who succeeded and to the ones who failed, for both are a part of our heritage —

for those whose teaching of ethics and principle has created an enduring bedrock of decent human behavior —

to the founders, the teachers, farmers, housewives; the ministers, merchants, doctors, students — to all the men and women who established a prairie homestead community and nourished it with their sweat and tears — to them all — we humbly dedicate this effort.



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Herman Zoglmann - Mayor — A.B. Preston - City Manager

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26 Mar 2013

CREDITS

Bird's Eye View of Wellington, Kansas.



Looking NE from the spire
of the old county Courthouse

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In Appreciation

We wish to say THANKS for: all of the wonderful people who worked so hard to make this book possible — the “old-timers” whose memories are invaluable — the priceless pictures and documents entrusted to us — the writers whose skill made the stories live — and the artists who made the stories lively — the business and advertising staff for their contribution and everyone — who has helped in any way in the preparation of this book. We are truly sorry for any omissions that may have occurred.

“to err is human . . .
to forgive is divine.

The Centennial Book Committee

Slogan:

Sally Davidson

Seal:

Ron Parker

POEM - Salute to Wellington

A hundred years ago, this day
A town was born. Let's homage pay.
To Wellington then we snap a salute;
She well deserves an earnest tribute.

Born in August in seventy-one,
Cradled by winds, nurtured by sun,
Fathered by strong men, faltering never,
She met all crises without a quiver.

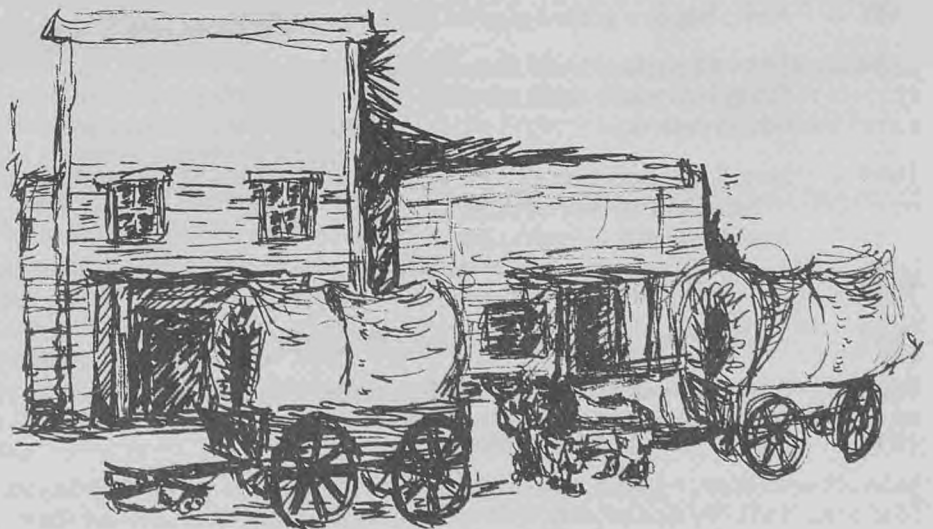
Wellington has lived with blizzard and heat,
Indians, settlers, railroads, wheat,
Blacksmiths, grist mills, sod, buffalo,
Cowboys, chautauqua, saloons, calico.

From seventy-one to seventy-one
Through horrible drought and dread cyclone,
Through fire and fear and discouragement, too,
Wellington lived, and brought us all through.

Our town is a matriarch, proud and tall;
She stands like a fortress, sheltering all.
She's more than a town; she's a light in the sky
Which leads us all upward to pinnacles high.

Wellington, personified, would wear a crown,
For royal she is, though only a town.
So kneel or bow, curtsy, and such;
A sovereign queen deserves as much.

Wellington, our town, we honor you here.
We proudly acclaim you; it's you we revere.
Strength, pride, and courage be yours as of yore.
We wish you at least a thousand years more.

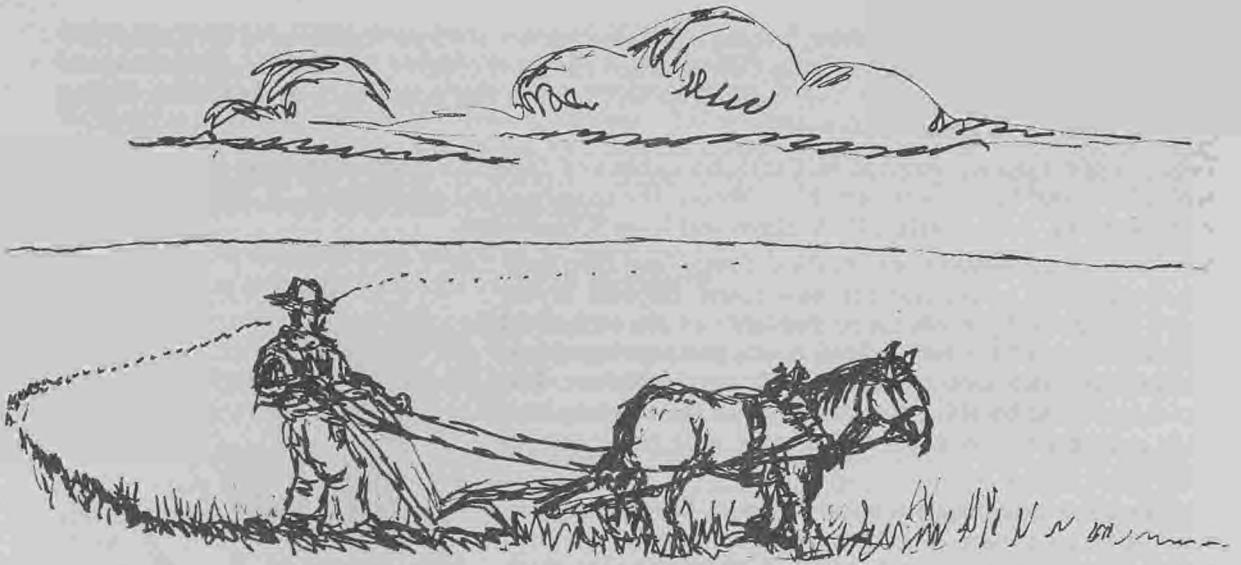


HISTORICAL CALENDAR

Prepared on occasion of City's Birthday by Wellington Chapter of D.A.R.

- 1871 – April 2, Eight men selected site for city.
April 4, Townsite surveyed by Capt. Meyers.
April 9, First Church services held.
June, Town Company organized.
June 26, Tri-weekly hack line between Wellington and Winfield established.
July 4, First Fourth of July celebration held.
Sept. 26, First County Seat election.
- 1872 – April 9, Wellington chosen county seat.
April 10, First session of court, 13th Judicial Dist.
Nov., First public school organized – 9th and E Sts.
Dec., First newspaper, "Wellington Banner."
- 1873 – Oct. 4, Special election to issue \$5,000 in bonds to erect a township hall and courthouse.
Nov. 13, Wellington incorporated as third class city.
Nov. 30, First city election. D.N. Caldwell elected mayor.
Methodist and Presbyterian churches organized.
- 1874 – July, Indian scare.
July 25, Grasshopper raid.
Aug. 29, Old Stone Courthouse and Township Hall, Washington and 7th Sts.
- 1878 – Methodists built first church.
Hunter Mill built.
- 1879 – Santa Fe Railroad came into Wellington.
Baptist church organized.
- 1880 – Southern Kansas Railroad came.
Aetna Mill built.
Fire Company organized.
Feb. 20, Wellington became a city of the second class.
- 1881 – Nov., Big fire gutted part of business district.
- 1884 – 1884 Christians built their first church.
Complete water works put in.
Gas installed.
- 1885 – May 5, Completion of new courthouse on 10th St. 25 public lamps erected on principal streets of city.
Streetcars put in operation.
- 1886 – Jan. 4, terrible blizzard.
- 1887 – Rock Island Railroad came into Wellington.
- 1888 – Lutheran and Congregational churches organized.
- 1892 – May 27, Wellington cyclone.

ORIGINS



Dear Ellen,

We are happy to hear that you are starting another historical novel, and glad you have asked for what information we have on the founding of our town. There are some things which distinguish our story from that of other midwestern towns, and you are welcome to use anything we tell you for the town of your novel. In fact, we would be flattered! Take what information you need, and if we recognize that part of your book is the story of Wellington, we will be happy to have set down here a few facts and legends.

As in anything which happened a hundred years ago, there is a variance on the details but on many points there is agreement. From old clippings I have, stories from pioneers and from other sources this is the essential information.

In 1876, the Great and Little Osage Indians had for some time been permitted to possess a tract of land in central Kansas, 30 miles in width, and bordering on Oklahoma territory. An act of legislature on March 3 that year carved out several counties from this Osage reserve, one of which was Sumner. The county was named for Charles Sumner of Massachusetts and the honor was opposed by his friends who had never seen the area, saying that it would be an insult to give his name to a treeless and tractless piece of desert.

But soon the Kansas Pacific Railroad was completed as far as Abilene from the north and east, and huge herds of cattle were being driven over the Chisholm Trail. It crossed Sumner County at a point six miles west of what is now Wellington, and the drovers were amazed to find here a rich grazing land and a plentiful supply of water.

A few hardy travelers stopped in the area and lived in dugouts or crude cabins, and two small settlements resulted, Sumner City and Meridian.

Then in 1871, a small group of men from Paola, Kansas, arrived at a spot near these settlements. They had realized that the boundary line just north of Indian Territory would be a logical place for a town. It would draw homesteaders and would serve as a gateway to these unsettled lands to the south, against the time when those lands would be available for settlement. The Paola group met along the way other men, including Captain L. K. Myers, recently returned to his home in Brookfield, Missouri after the war, and now looking for a new land to which to bring his wife and children.

John P. McCulloch was already living in a rough cabin approximately where Cedarview Nursing Home stands today, with his wife and three children. The McCullochs had left their farm near

Fort Worth some months before, joining a wagon caravan of 75 persons headed for California. The group had reached only as far as Denver when the snow covered mountains and the intense cold caused many of them to turn back. The McCullochs had come back as far as Slate Creek, on whose banks they were now living.

Finally eight men gathered at McCulloch's cabin and formed a town company. In addition to McCulloch and Myers were Dr. P. A. Wood, the county's first physician, C. R. Godfrey, Major A. N. Randall, A. A. Jordan, R. A. Davis and John S. McMahan.

Mrs. McCulloch served the men their dinner, and then they proceeded east to lay out the new town. Captain Myers was a surveyor by profession, and laid out the streets 60 feet wide except for two central north and south and two central east and west streets, which were 100 feet. The block bounded by these four streets was the town square, later cut up for lots when the county seat battle was in progress.

The location was simply a wide sweep of Blue Stem grass, waist high to a man. The only trees were along the river banks, so a plow went easily through the rich soil to mark the streets and boundaries of the town. Between Slate and Hargis Creeks, the site was a small ridge, high and dry, a safe distance from both waters. The founders chose their town lots and took also adjoining claims at the edge of the area.

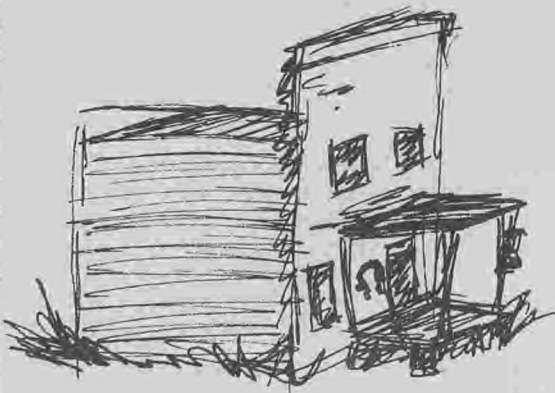
R. A. Davis, a great admirer of the Duke of Wellington, the English general who had defeated Napoleon, gave the town its name. Now the real work began. Trees had to be felled for cabins, dugouts had to be made for some of the men to live in, two of the group hastily procured supplies and established a small trading post and general store.

Lumber had to be shipped in by rail or river as far as possible but in either case it had to be brought on to the new townsite by wagon. In their eagerness to get their homes built, some men felled cottonwood trees on river banks and built with those, not knowing that cottonwood never ceases to warp and shrink. What had appeared to be good floors were soon a series of slats through which snakes poked their heads, and walls became things like venetian blinds.

As soon as Captain Myers' cottonwood cabin was finished, Mrs. Myers, with her two children and her beloved negro nurse, Lottie Butler, arrived, having traveled from Brookfield to Cottonwood Falls by train, then to Wichita by stage and on to Wellington in a spring wagon. She was the first woman to keep house on the townsite, although Mrs. McCulloch had been established in her cabin on Slate Creek's banks for several months.

A few miles west of the townsite the Chisholm Trail was now being used regularly to move cattle, which brought \$3.00 a head in Texas, but were worth \$30-40 in Chicago and New York. More than three million cattle were moved as far north as Abilene, where they were shipped by railroad.

Sumner City, Wellington's main contender for designation as county seat, was on the Trail. In



order to increase trade and population in Wellington, a daring plan was put to work. The founders took their teams and plows to a point well south and west of the townsite and plowed a great curving furrow across the prairies, swinging away from Sumner City and straight into Wellington, curving back to the Trail again near what is now Clearwater. Guides were posted at the beginning of the furrow and at the end, and all travelers, riders and drovers were told that they should follow the furrow. It worked. Sumner City was left high and dry and Wellington was named the county seat a short while later.

In 1964, a re-enactment was staged of plowing the furrow, the ploy which had worked many years before in bringing trade and traffic to Wellington.

Now the men began harvesting their first crops, and hauled wheat to Wichita and brought lumber back in their wagons. The few straggling residents of both Sumner City and Meridian loaded their cabins and household goods onto wagons and some of them re-located in the town that had duped them, their claims free of cost to salve the consciences of Wellingtonians.

In September of 1871, D. N. Caldwell arrived, and in the first election in 1872, received all of the 66 votes cast to make him the first mayor. Abb and John Shearman are said to have been the first merchants, and H. W. Andrews came soon after and opened a grocery and dry goods store.

Many names appear in the early history whose descendants are still living here today. The judgment of the frontiersmen who chose the townsite was good when they had decided, "It will be a fine place to live!"

There was danger to be met every day and it took great determination and courage to withstand drought and flood, prairie fires and grasshopper infestations. Desperadoes and strangers who caused suspicion were frequent visitors in town, and several historic incidents tell of a sudden demise on the city's perimeters. Indian scares were frequent, one of major proportions resulting in some of the less hardy inhabitants leaving the town forever. Residents were not unaccustomed to seeing Indians frequently, and usually after being given food, the Indians would continue their journeys. But in July of 1874, there were rumors that the northern Cheyennes were making trouble at Fort Reno, where they had been gathered by the government. Word came then that the Indians were approaching on the cattle trail toward Caldwell, and Sumner County residents were terrified. The danger became very quickly magnified, and although the men hastily formed a military company and started south to meet the Indians, none were ever seen, and we can only guess that a grateful militia returned to their homes within a few days.

In 1879, the Sumner, Cowley and Fort Smith railroad completed its tracks to Mulvane from which a branch line was built to Wellington. This soon became a part of the ten year old Santa Fe system. By 1887, the Rock Island, which also had a branch to Wellington, contracted to ship 30,000 cattle from Caldwell to Chicago. The fact that there were not yet tracks laid from Wellington to Caldwell seemed a small obstacle and within thirty days the tracks were laid. In 1892, both railroads cut their passenger fares to a penny a mile throughout Kansas and Oklahoma, in an effort to get workers for the Kansas wheat fields.

On the first Fourth of July in the new town, the men brought timber and brush from Slate Creek and built a pavilion in the town square. The women made a flag 10 feet by 20, and the Ninnescah banks provided a flagpole. Nineteen men 13 women and a few children had a basket dinner and a square dance in celebration.

A well had been dug for the use of everyone at the intersection of what is now Washington and Lincoln. The original town included the portion between the present 1st and 15th Streets, and between A and H.

C. R. Godfrey was the first postmaster and he was also the druggist, a necessary merchant then as now. Gertrude Caldwell, later Mrs. L. L. Swan, was the first child born in Wellington. The

first county courthouse was built in 1874, and there were six students in the first school graduating class of 1886.

Frontiersmen, pioneers, sturdy stock founded the town. How long would you or I last today under such conditions and privations as were endured then?

Do send us a copy of your novel when it appears, and we will look for traces of our history in its pages!

Lovingly,
Your Kansas Cousin

There was a husking bee down near Mt. Pleasant the other night. One of the young ladies present rammed her hands into the husks and hauled out a snake as long as a whip lash, and too cold to take much interest in the festivities. She fell over on her back and screamed and shrieked until she was black in the face, but everybody thought she had only found a red ear and they laughed at her, while the snake got inside her ruffle and crawled painfully and rheumatically down her back. She was understood at last, and the snake was dragged out and killed, but she says if she lives a thousand years she couldn't scream half as much as she wants to.

*copied from
The Wellington Banner
January 4, 1877*



This page sponsored through courtesy of

**First Federal Savings and Loan Association
Renn and Company**

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Osage Trust lands,
Certificate
No. 8888 } Whereas Robert W. Thompson, of Sumner County, Kansas
has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States a Certificate of the REGISTER of the LAND OFFICE at Wichita, Kansas
whereby it appears that FULL PAYMENT has been made by the said Robert W. Thompson according
to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the
north east quarter of section thirty-one in township thirty-three south of range one
west in the district of lands subject to sale at Wichita, Kansas containing one
hundred and sixty acres

according to the OFFICIAL PLAT of the Survey of the said lands, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said Tract has been purchased by the said
Robert W. Thompson

Now, know ye, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided,
HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said Robert W. Thompson
and to his heirs, the said Tract above described; To Have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature,
thereunto belonging, unto the said Robert W. Thompson and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, A. Rutherford B. Hayes, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.
Given under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the twenty-fourth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand
eight hundred and seventy-nine, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and third

BY THE PRESIDENT: A. R. Hayes
By M. W. Brooks, Secretary.
J. H. Leary, Recorder of the General Land Office.

 RECORDED, Vol. 18, Page 20

Reproduction of a Land Grant

The Osage Diminished Reserve, a strip approximately 30 miles wide bordering on the Oklahoma Territory and extending from Montgomery County to the western line of the state and including Sumner County was purchased by the government. In 1869, word began to be spread that 160 acres could be purchased for \$200 by those who would reside upon and make improvements on the land for two years. Special allowances were made to veterans of the war just over, so a large percentage of those homesteading this area were Union soldiers and their families.

This, then treeless plain, plagued by prairie fires, beset by the great blizzard in the early 1870's and a giant grasshopper invasion also in the 1870's, tested the courage and the strength of even the hardest pioneers.

Crops so arduously planted were trampled by cattle driven up the Chisholm Trail. This forced farmers to put up fences as protection. Fence building sufficient to turn livestock was subsidized at the rate of \$2.00 per four rods of fence.

Settlers found the Osage Orange Trees (common hedge), imported from other parts of Kansas, good fence material. At a cost of \$.07 for enough plants to plant one rod, such a fence gave the farmer a profit of \$.43 per rod, which led many farmers to fence and cross fence their farms with hedge. Many of these hedge rows are evident today.

A group, who for 100 years has readily accepted new and better ways of farming, practices much of the most modern farming technology today. Crop rotation, terracing to slow erosion, ponds to conserve water and chemical fertilization are all employed by local farmers.

OH BEAUTIFUL . . .

for amber waves of grain . . .

If any one thing were to be chosen as contributing the most to the agricultural growth of the Wellington Community in the last 100 years it would have to be hard winter wheat. Turkey Red hard winter wheat was brought to this area by the Amish-Mennonite immigrants. Each family leaving the Ukraine took with them one bushel of the grain, hand picked kernel by kernel to be sure of the very best seed.

Planted in virgin soil with a favorable climate, it quickly spread through an area where only soft spring wheat had been grown.

Sumner County hard winter wheat acres increased from 502 in 1872 to 41,318 acres with a yield of 537,134 bushels in 1886 and to an all time record of 425,000 acres in 1952 with a yield of 10.5 million bushels. Sumner County holds the record for producing more hard winter wheat per acre than any other place in the world.

Tools of sowing and reaping have advanced from hand pushed plows and manual broadcasting of seeds through the steam thresher to today's modern equipment.

Barley and oats follow wheat as leading grains. Some corn is planted in lowland areas. Soybeans, a relative newcomer, have gained considerable favor with area farmers. The soybeans prove valuable for the beans produced and for their contribution to modern crop rotation.

Sorghums cut into silage and alfalfa provide important sources of feed for both stock and dairy cattle.



Threshing scene on the Trekell farm.



Steam engine on the Trekell farm, 1904.

FARM RELATED INDUSTRIES

With the record for producing more wheat than any other place on earth, it logically follows that grain storage is an important local industry. Small crudely constructed grain bins of the earliest farmers were followed by wooden grainaries, steel bins and giant concrete storage tanks. Four Wellington elevators, Farmers Cooperative Grain Association, Western Grain, Wolcott and Lincoln and Hunter Elevators are presently capable of providing storage for six million bushels of the golden grain.

Flour milling is probably Wellington's oldest farm related industry with the Hunter Milling Company in continuous operation since 1878.

Hunter's original mill was brought here from Illinois with the promise from the local settlers that they would help transport the heavy machinery so Wellington could have a flour mill. At that time there were no railroads into Wellington so the mill was brought to Wichita, then floated down the Arkansas River to Oxford and transported on wagons to Wellington by the local residents.

This small milling company nurtured by George H. Hunter and his two sons-in-law, W. T. Voils and J. Harris Carr, grew from a capacity of 40 barrels of flour per day in 1879 to 4,000 cwt per day in 1947.

In 1947, the Rosses, another well known Kansas milling family, purchased the mill. Floyd W. Ross and his brother, Thomas W. Ross took over the management of the mill but the Hunter name was retained. Improvements in 1962 brought to Hunter the honor of being the first all-pneumatic flour mill in Kansas.

Today the facility has a capacity of 7,500 cwt of flour per day and when in full operation grinds nearly one-half million bushels of wheat a month.

Other names prominent in Wellington flour milling history are Larabee, Aetna and The Wellington Mill and Elevator Company.

Alfalfa is dehydrated and pelleted to furnish an excellent forage feed for cattle by the Western Alfalfa plant on East Lincoln.

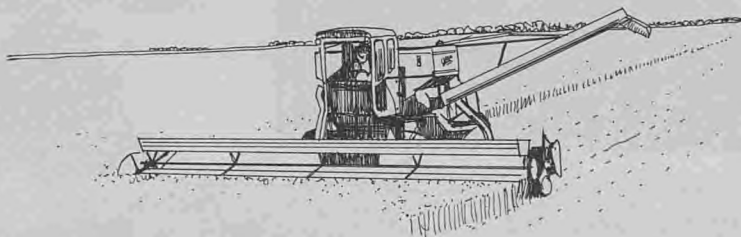


HUNTER MILL • 1880



Early day settlers relied on the local blacksmith to forge whatever tools they needed, but couldn't afford to "send away" for, and to repair the few implements they did possess. Today most of the well known names in farm implements have dealerships in Wellington with the latest in equipment to be found on North A Street, Wellington's "Tractor Row."

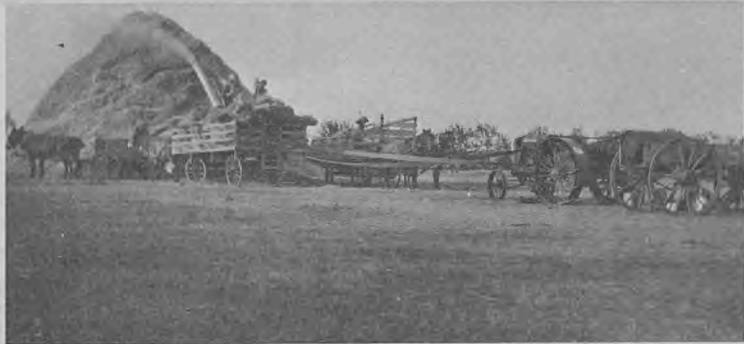
From the early days when cowboys drove their herds over the Chisholm Trail, cattle have figured importantly in Wellington's farm related industries. As Wellington grew from prairie settlement to city, dairies and dairy farming became important. Zook, Shire, Seltman, Gernand, Wright, Cobb, Gaddie, Peterson and Zech are names associated with local dairying history.



The homesteader of 1871, who was indeed fortunate to have one or two cows, would be amazed to see the gigantic operations of the Rusk Feedlot six miles southeast of town where 7,000 head of cattle can be fed for market at one time.

Soil and water conservation and increased yields to existing fields have been promoted by the "youngsters" of the farm associated industries, the fertilizer dealerships and the earth moving services.





Wellingtonians of 1971 are sometimes prone to think that local citizens some seventy-five years ago were not so much interested in culture as in making soap and sunbonnets, driving trail herds and lynching horse thieves. A glance at old newspapers will correct that misconception in a hurry. Literaries began almost as soon as there were schools, speakers came from other towns, and much home talent was heard.

And, oh, the Chautauqua! The wonderful, exciting Chautauqua! A troupe of performers from exciting places would move into Wellington, set up a big tent on the old Third Ward playground, and stay for a full week with a different performance each night. There were comedians, lecturers, impersonators, politicians, illusionists, bands, elocutionists, and singers. William Jennings Bryant was a speaker, and sometimes the governor of Kansas appeared.

There was an opera house in those days and good talent came to Wellington. The Monitor printed these items in 1886:

"The Madison Square Company has been playing a four nights' engagement at Woods Opera House this week."

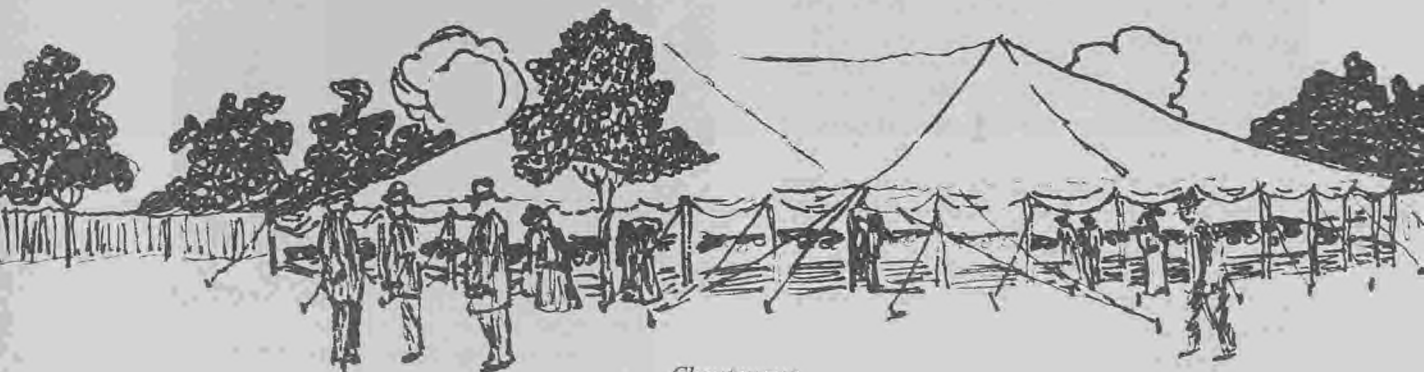
"Adelaide Moore's Shakespearean Company played 'As You Like It' to an audience which comfortably filled Woods' Opera House on Tuesday Evening."

"Mendelssohn Quintette Club of Boston will give a concert at the Opera House next Wednesday evening."

Occasionally there are minor slip-ups, as evidenced by this item in the Monitor:

"Rev. Allen Buckner failed to reach this place last Tuesday, and the date of his lecture has been indefinitely postponed."

Newspapers were tremendously important and contained much news as well as many features picked up from other



Chautauqua

Wellington had a Choral Union, a chorus of men and women which eventually got to 80 voices. At one time they travelled to Winfield to appear in the Chautauqua. Sophie Luening was their accompanist and Harry Woods was one of the singers. Of their first concert given in 1886, the Wellington Monitor commented: "To particularize among the numbers it seemed to us that the 'Charity Chorus,' if not received with the loudest approbation, was really the best appreciated of all. The 'Singin' Skewl,' with its old fashioned costumes, was good, even if prolonged a little beyond the time the audience found it amusing." There was an air of refreshing candor about reporting in that day.

papers. Consequently, it caused an editor much anguish if the mail service was interrupted. His complaint and the simplicity of the remedy are truly reminiscent of another time:

"Numerous complaints have been made of late about the irregularity and uncertainty of the mails. The fault seems to lie somewhere in the railway mail service. It has been almost impossible for a week past to get a St. Louis or Chicago paper, and letter mail from those cities is equally slow and spasmodic. The matter will bear looking into, and a few dismissals of green and incompetent postal clerks and officials might work a wholesome reform."

Prentiss Club had musical teas to raise

money for Wellington's first public library, though there had been reading rooms and lending libraries before. Clarence Smith used to tell about being made by his mother to open doors for the ladies at one of these teas. He had other plans for his afternoon and when sent to town to buy shoes for the occasion, he bought rough, thick soled, work boots. His plan didn't work and that afternoon a rather disgruntled little boy in very rough, thick-soled boots opened doors for the ladies.

In 1895, Cary Circle was organized by twelve women. This was a study club. Parliamentary Club was another early club which studied Roberts' Rules of Order.

Weddings were important occasions in those days. When the daughter of Reverend Price was married, five year old Josa Smith (Stewart) was the flower girl. As there were no small shoes to be had in Wellington, Jose's shoes had to be ordered from Chicago. When they had not arrived on the day preceding the wedding, Jose's mother quickly crocheted a pair of shoes for her. Josa still remembers her disappointment at having to wear crocheted shoes.

Mrs. Tichnor was an early piano teacher and many children took lessons from her. A Mr. Tiedeman taught the zither. He was here only a short time, but the instrument was so different that many people remembered him. Mrs. Oscar C. Knowles was one of his students and learned to play the zither very well.

The D.A.R. in years gone by had many interesting and informative programs. One memorable one was on the subject of quilts and many people brought quilts and told of their origins. Another long remembered one displayed magnificently beautiful shawls.

Much was learned of the world by adults and children alike through the wonderful stereoptican.

Going to the show was called "Going to the nickels" because that was what it cost. "The Perils of Pauline" was a serial which always left the heroine in horrible danger and kept children coming back week after week. Edith Larmore, Mable Glamann, and Chris Glamann were among those who

played accompaniment for the silent screen.

At one time there was a beautiful flower parade. Phaetons, carriages, and other beautiful conveyances were decorated with flowers, horses were groomed until they glistened and the parade was magnificent. Mr. Share had pampas grass shipped in from Florida to decorate his carriage. Henry F. Smith's phaeton was decorated with thousands of chrysanthemums in several colors made of paper. Mrs. Smith is shown below.



There were excellent church sponsored plays given frequently in early days. One was "Martin Luther;" another was "Mary, Queen of Scots."

Dean Reitzel, Harry Alexander, and Carl Knowles gave music lantern shows which showed considerable talent and ingenuity, and were very well attended.

Young men in some neighborhoods put up telegraph wires and each family purchased a telegrapher's key. These families had their own communication system long before they had telephones.

Professor Huuse had a boys' band. One member of that band was Joe Maddy who was the founder of the Interlochen Music Camp. Another member was Harry Maddy who played in the Minneapolis Symphony for many years. The Wellington Boys' Band was one of the first in Kansas, though later there were many. It was organized in 1900. Joe and Harry Maddy were mischievous and they were known as "those Maddy boys" with much clucking of tongues.

Later there were Saturday night band concerts on a bandstand at the intersection of Lincoln and Washington or Harvey and Washington. The director was Orville Prock.



The Maddy home



Professor Huuse's Boys' Band

Wellington was blessed with talent in art as well as in Music. Mrs. Mary Maddy, mother of Joe and Harry taught piano but her pupils could usually smell paint during their lessons for she was also a gifted artist. She wrote poetry and published two books. Her last picture was painted for the Wellington Methodist Church when she was eighty-three.

Hayden Keyes was an artist of note. Haddie Covell, a Wellingtonian, was one of the first art instructors at Lindsborg. A magnificent hand-carved stairway can be seen in Wellington today which is his work. Clarence Peck was another talented carver and one of his works which remains is a splendid mantel.

Fred Stone was an actor who achieved considerable fame who was from our town.

There have been clubs and societies through the years which were part civic and part cultural. One of these which has been active in rural Wellington for nearly three quarters of a century is the Jordan Cemetery Society. Their chief project has been the beautification and upkeep of their neighborhood cemetery.

Another such club is mentioned in this item from the Monitor in 1886:

"The Ladies Benevolent Society met at Mrs. W. W. Thorp's on Thursday afternoon, and affected a permanent organization. Committees were appointed to investigate cases of destitution in each ward, and call upon the citizens for the necessary aid funds."

Men's clubs and lodges were most active in the eighties and nineties. The following item from an early newspaper brings a smile:

"Fifteen of Wellington's Knightly Pythians took train for Harper last Friday to assist in the work of instituting a new subordinate lodge of the order in that place. They returned in fairly good order next day, talking of the royal reception and entertainment they met with at the hands of their brethren of Harper."

People were urged to encourage any and all attempts to reach upward in a way which might be helpful today. Of course, they did not have to compete with television. These items are from 1886:

"Let all who can do so attend the rhetorical exercises of the public schools to be held at the Opera House next Friday evening. The entertainment will not be on the exhibition order but simply the regular work of the pupils in the way of essays, recitations, music and debates, transferred from the school room to the Opera House, to give all who desire an opportunity to attend. The school library fund will receive the small admission fee required."

"Don't forget the benevolent concert next Monday night. The singers who take part in it have been training for weeks gratuitously. Now let every citizen do his part, give them a good house and help the cause of Christian charity."

The newspapers were so beautiful and must have been great cultural influence on the citizens. They were colorful, humorous, forceful, and one can imagine how people looked forward to getting them. The following clippings are from papers in the last century:

Little Maud, Winfield's child elocutionist, will give an entertainment at the rink on March 22nd and 23rd. Though a child not yet five years old, her abilities have already received wide and favorable notice throughout the state.

Little Maud, the infant prodigy of Winfield, as one of the attractions of a skating carnival arranged by the K. P. band, drew quite a crowd of people to the rink Monday and Tuesday evenings. The little tot on both occasions favored the audience with some recitations that would have taxed the powers of an elocutionist of mature years, but the high falsetto key on which her infantile voice was pitched seriously detracted from the pleasure of listening to her. The child possesses natural ability wonderful in one so young, but the fact hardly justifies encouraging her to use her immature voice in such performances as these.

John Haughey has gone out to Frisco to spend a month or so, for what purpose our informant saith not.

One of the cooks at the Phillip's House, feeling exhilarated from the effects of too much corn juice, obtained and imbibed in spite of prohibitory laws, tried to play a star engagement as a "bad man," and clean out the establishment, last Monday afternoon. He might have succeeded if Marshall Fisher had not happened in and changed his field of action to a cell in the calaboose.

Luther Ellis went to Independence to interview his family, whom he has not seen for a week or more.

More items from old newspapers:

The Washington Avenue Rink will be the scene of a grand masque ball on Friday evening with the gentlemen of the K. and P. band as hosts and entertainers. The arrangements are in the hands of leading

young men of the town, whose names are guarantees that its management will be unexceptionable. All who desire may procure costumes and disguises from a costumer who will be in the city at the time. A large attendance is expected from neighboring towns, and altogether the occasion promises to be an event of great interest in the social world.

Hall's Journal of Health says: "Intense thirst is satiated by wading in water." Another good way to satiate thirst is by drinking water.

Prof. F. A. Wyman, champion fancy skater gave an exhibition of skatorial skill at the rink on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

It is reported that the lynching at Anthony knocked a prominent lawyer of Wellington out of a \$5.00 fee.

Cole's Circus spreads its canvas in Wellington on Thursday, May 18th.

The literary society composed of members of the "milish" and lady friends had an interesting meeting at the old courthouse on Wednesday evening.

The Wellington property owners are rejoicing over the fact that they now have street cars, and indeed it is a fact to be proud of. Wellington is a boss town and never gets left on anything in the way of improvements.

EDITOR'S LAMENT

Before bustles came into fashion County newspapers had a chance to display their enterprise, now all are behind in their makeup.

The Wellington Banner
1872

"Girls should not wear these wide belts in the house. Hugging through a 6 inch strip of leather is a cold, attenuated fraud."

The Wellington Banner
January 4, 1877

nostalgia



Santa Fe Depot and Harvey House, Wellington, Kansas

DO YOU REMEMBER

Camp meetings in the park? Dust hub-deep on the side-streets and sprinkler wagons? Change cups at Stewart Drygoods which did not quite reach their destination? Board sidewalks too high for the ladies in some places? The splendid Harvey House? The Bee Hive Grocery? Garland's Meat Market? John Horton who ate glass? Mule Traders? Car cranks which kicked? George Hunter's red Ford? Beautiful matched

teams? Spring wagons? The livery stables? The fire of 1881? Cyclone stories? Peterson's creamery? Threshing machines? Wheat shocks? Straw stacks? Buggy whips? Professor Butcher? First crank telephones? Run-away horses? The Opera House? Woods Bank? When electric lights went on in Wellington for the first time? When Carl Knowles crystal set received Pittsburg, Pennsylvania? Rolling ladders in stores to get merchandise from the shelves?



Washington Avenue, Wellington, Kans.



Old Graff house—
Built in early 1880's
in 1900



on the move



Rustic Bridge in Sellars Park



Fountain in Sellars Park



December, 1949



Aetna Mill, Wellington, Kansas.



FROM ONE-ROOM TO OPEN-SPACE SCHOOLS

"Well, I declare to goodness, Grandaughter, if you don't beat all. A frettin' about wages, classloads, fringe benefits. If you were a dedicated teacher you would be a worryin' about how you could teach the kids how to read and write and 'figger.' Now, in my day . . ."

"Sakes alive, some fifty years ago I taught my first term of school for the huge sum of seventy-five dollars a month and for only a seven-month term, the next year the board increased the term to eight months but not my wages. Out of that magnificent sum, I had to pay twenty dollars a month for board and room. I had to live with one of the families of the community as the teacher was considered 'high-fallutin' if she did not live in the district. The family that boarded the school-marm lived close enough for the teacher to walk to school as most school houses were built at two-mile intervals."

"I had to get there early, like seven o'clock 'cause I was the janitor, too. Coal had to be carried in and the fire built so the room would be warm before the children arrived between eight and eight-thirty. Usually, I didn't get the coal carried in until morning, as my time after school was spent sweeping the floor, cleaning the blackboards and erasers, and grading papers. By then it was time to start walking to my boarding place a mile and a half away in order that I would reach home before dark.

"After I arrived of a morning, and had the fire going good, I would dust and carry in a bucket of water from the well at the corner of the school yard. This would serve the boys and girls for washing as well as for drinking. There were always plenty of volunteers to replenish the supply during the school day.

"How proud I was when, on the occasion of the County Superintendent's annual visit, I was commended on my clean and neat school room and how sanitary we were. Each pupil had his own drinking cup. And the basin from which we all washed had clean water in it. He didn't comment on the condition of the boys' hands. The superintendent that year was Mr. John R. Brooks.

"No, we didn't have a school nurse in those days. We didn't worry too much about cut skins and bruises, and thankfully, about law suits if some child got hurt. Hygiene was mainly confined to the hands and face, and sometimes to the neck and ears. I was eternally grateful to the parents who believed in the weekly bath. Too many of them thought that bathing in



the winter time would certainly throw the child into pneumonia. In addition to this, many of the parents hung asafoetida bags around the necks of the school children with the belief that the fumes would ward off germs. I wouldn't guarantee about the germs, but it kept people at a respectful distance.

"And another thing — take those pants suits that the teachers are wearing today. The school board dictated to the teacher in my day that we had to wear two petticoats (I don't know who was to be the inspector) and our dresses could be no shorter than two inches above the ankle. And if I were to get married my contract would be null and void immediately.

"But, now, my grandmother thought I had it easy in my day, just like I do with you. She taught her term in 1871 when A. M. Carlson was County Superintendent and Hugh McCarty was State Superintendent. The school building was built from logs with the roof made of branches and sod. The desks and seats for the pupils and for the teacher were crudely built from materials that were available. There were no blackboards, but as time went by and new improvements were made, the slate came into vogue. When there was need for an erasure, the boys spit on the slate and rubbed it off with their shirt sleeves. The girls, a bit more dainty, carried slate rags. These had to be wet innumerable times and insured frequent promenades to the water bucket, a pleasing break in the monotony of school.

"The children furnished their own books and what an array of tools for the cultivation of knowledge. The parents brought the old texts from their former homes in the East and often in one class there would be three or four different kinds of geographies or readers. Some of the favorite books in use in the seventies were: Webster's, McGuffey's and Worcester's spellers, McGuffey's and Hilliard's readers, Rays' Mental Arithmetic, Montieth's and McNally's geography and Clark's grammar. Spenciarn penmanship was the standard and usually it was executed with a goose quill.

It wasn't until 1897 that the legislature established the School Textbook Commission. This agency was charged with the task of establishing uniform textbook adoptions throughout the state.

"There were no examinations in the modern sense of the word. The teacher knew where all the pupils belonged without any of these improvements. When a child could easily read the fifth reader through, he was considered ready for the sixth. The child started in at the first of the book each year until he could read it and then passed on to the next. I guess you might say they had individualized instruction.

"Meager as they were, these educational facilities met the educational needs of the day. For on the prairies in the sixties and seventies, as a rule, brawn and nerve were more respected than brains and culture. Often men felt themselves sufficiently educated if they could read some, write a crude hand, and could 'figger.' On the frontier, a person had to be tactful if he had a 'higher-school' education or he would be said to be 'stuck-up' or a smart alec. Many parents often withdrew their children from school on slight pretexts, feeling that they had learned enough.

"It was during the time when my grandmother was teaching that the compulsory attendance law was enacted. State Superintendent McCarty recommended to the legislature such a law be passed. This was in 1874. The law was not very rigid as children were required to attend school only from the ages of eight to fourteen, and many schools operated only three or four months a year. The school board had authority to exempt pupils from the



provisions of the law, and home instruction could be substituted for school attendance as a means of preparing for examination.

"The fringe benefits that you young teachers talk so much about were great for Grandmother in her day. She was allowed to board around in the homes of her pupils, staying longest at the homes with the largest number of children. These, as a rule, were the poorest and the least comfortable of the lot. The usual fare for the school lunch consisted of cornbread and homemade molasses. Grandmother's typical school attire consisted of high shoes, long skirts, a tight waist with long sleeves and a white apron which protected her dress and gave her an air of professional dignity. She wore her hair coiled high on her head."

"She, too, was the school janitor, arriving early to build fires and fill lamps and trim wicks, and staying late to sweep the dusty floor. For this, she received the princely stipend of seventy-five cents a day. She had a huge increment to look forward to as the teacher who performed her labors faithfully and without fault for five years would be given an increase, twenty-five cents per week, providing the Board of Education approved."



Third Ward School, Wellington, Kansas

"What kind of a certificate did I have? I had a two-year state normal training certificate based upon the successful completion of high school and passing of a state examination. I had to take what was called a normal training course in high school. I took my state examination in the building once known as the Third Ward School and used to stand where the Lincoln Elementary School now stands. I also attended a week in the summertime which was called Teachers' Institute. This program included a review of all the subjects taught, a sharing of ideas from more experienced teachers, and lectures that were given for the purpose of inspiration for our high calling.

"Even in my grandmother's time, the teacher had to have a certificate in order to teach school. It was the county superintendent's duty to designate a particular time and place in the spring and autumn of each year for general examination of teachers. In addition to this, teacher institutes were held for teacher training.

"In addition to administering examinations for teachers and holding teacher institutes, it was the further duty of the county superintendent to upgrade instruction and make reports. He would make an annual visit to each school under his jurisdiction and it was on this occasion that the teacher had an opportunity to show off her skill and ability. Oral

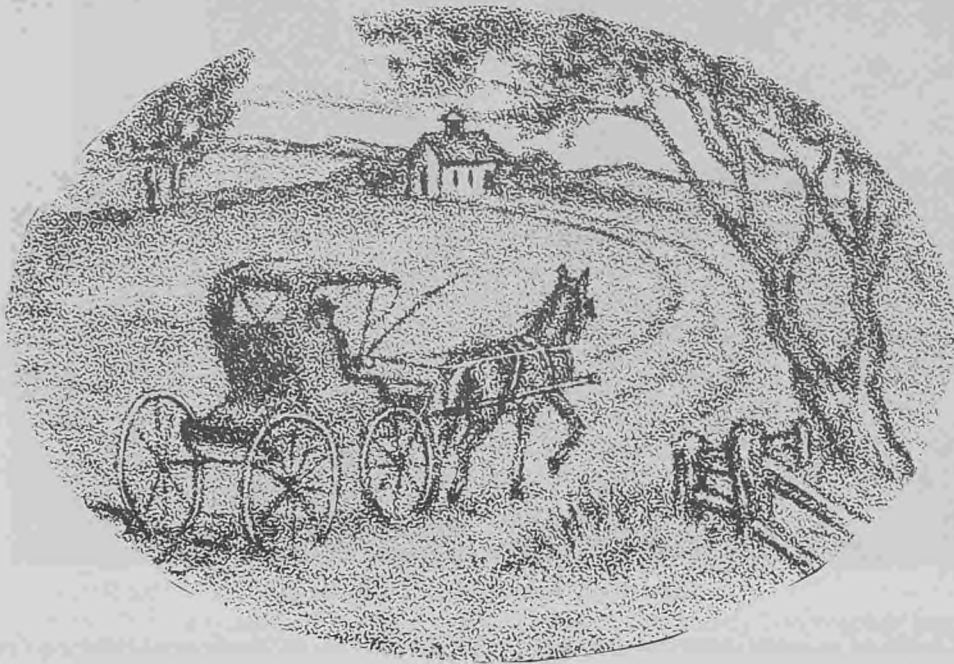
recitations would reveal knowledge that the students had gained in reading and geography. Spell-downs were common and after blackboards were installed ciphering became popular. He rated the teachers on the degree of perfection that the children performed.

"What about physical education, you ask?

"I am afraid that with walking to and from school each day and many chores to do at home before and after school, there wasn't much need for physical education.

"There wasn't too much in the way of playground equipment. At recess the smaller children played such games as drop the handkerchief, hide and seek, tag, and King William. The older ones played ball with a string ball, shinny, and crack the whip until accidents ruled that out. The type of ball was usually one-, two-, or three-old cat or work up.

"Yes, school teaching was different then, but like today, had its joys and hardships."





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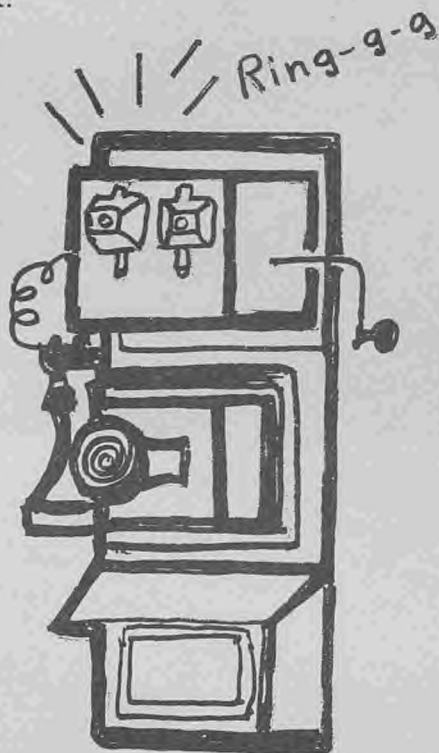
**Gallemore Printing Company, James and Elva Gallemore
Gambrill Hardware, Olga Randel and Gladys Armstrong**

CHURCHES

"Onward Christian soldiers . . ."

Delving into the history of the early Christians of Wellington is indeed fascinating. Their faith was unshakable and they overcame odds that, at times, seemed insurmountable.

Just a few days following the organization of the City of Wellington, the townspeople assembled on Sunday, April 9, 1871, to listen to the first sermon preached in Wellington by Reverend C. Shafer. One account said the meeting was held in Mr. Shearman's unfinished building, and another said in Tom McMahan's dugout. Whatever the case might have been, as long as there has been a city of Wellington, there have been people concerned for the Lord's work.



After the year 1885 when telephones became fairly common, the main source of information was the party line . . .

Molly: Hello.

Matilda: Hello, Molly. We missed you at the prayer meeting last night. The new preacher was asking about the early organization of some of our local churches and I



wished you were there because I knew you had the records. Do you know which of the Wellington churches was first to organize?

Molly: Oh yes, I know that. It was the Presbyterian in the year 1872. Did you know they started with only seven members?

Matilda: No, do you remember who they were?

Molly: There were only three families: Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Baine and their two grown daughters, Mr. and Mrs. William Shawl and John McMahan.

Amanda: Say girls, I hate to butt in, but I can remember when we had a union Sunday school and we met in the little one room school house on the corner of Ninth and B Streets. That was the same summer and there weren't any church buildings as yet. All the religious services were held in that school house and in the second story of the old stone court house until 1878.

Matilda: Well, someone said last night that the Methodists organized — with eleven charter members — just one year after the Presbyterians, which would have been in 1873. They also erected the first building . . .

Molly: Say, getting back to the Presbyterians, their first pastor, Reverend W. W. Boggs, died and it was about a year before they got another. Those were awfully hard times for that church.

Amanda: I heard that the Ladies Aid bought a new silver communion service before they had a building. Isn't that just like a bunch of women? Of course, the men chided them because they thought earthenware would be more appropriate, but they graciously accepted the gift.

Matilda: I'll say this, they had foresight when they bought those five lots at Harvey and F, where they built their first church.



First Presbyterian Church

Molly: That was the church that was destroyed by the cyclone in 1892.

Amanda: Yes, and they built another church in 1894, but it wasn't dedicated until '97 because the crops were so bad that year and there was a financial panic. They always paid for the church before it was dedicated in those days.

Nellie: Excuse me, I just happened to lift the receiver and couldn't help over-hearing. Papa said we Methodists built our first church on the northeast corner of Harvey and Jefferson and in eleven years we'd outgrown it and were building another one at Fourth and G — that was in 1888. In 1914 we dedicated our present building at Harvey and Jefferson, southwest corner. Seems to me the churches were stronger and grew faster in those days.



First Methodist Church

Molly: Maybe it was because they were more strict. Grandmother said in those days if you didn't attend and pay your subscription they sent someone to find out about it, and if you continued to be delinquent your name was erased from the church roll!



THE ORIGINAL BUILDING ... 1881

First Baptist Church

Amanda: I know the Baptists were organized in 1879 with fourteen charter members. Ours was the only Baptist church

within a radius of ten miles. Mother said they met first in Hickman's Hall, the city building and the courthouse until completion of the frame building at Jefferson and Lincoln, where the church is now. Our present sanctuary building was finished in 1921. That must have been quite a project.

Molly: I'll wager yours was the only church with a pastor from London, England. Say, how much do you suppose they paid preachers in those days?

Amanda: I think around five hundred dollars a year. In addition, they had to pay rent on the parsonage. It was a problem raising enough money to keep going most of the time. There were problems of discipline, too.

Matilda: Is it true that members were kicked out if they were caught dancing?

Amanda: Well, I don't know about that, but I do know that some people were not granted letters to other churches because they were in arrears in their subscriptions.



St. Anthony's Catholic Church

Molly: We haven't said anything about the Catholic Church yet. Why don't we ring Hazel and have her give us some facts about her church.

Hazel: No need to ring! I was wondering when we were going to get around to my church. The first Mass was said in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Monley, but later they met in a schoolhouse. Our first church was built in 1884; later we built an eight room school and rectory. These were all lost through a mortgage.

Molly: That was a real calamity! Did you build another new church right away?

Hazel: Well, Wellington was without Mass for three years. Starting in 1898 we met in private homes and lodge halls. Father James Hays came and St. Anthony's frame building at the corner of C and Seventh was completed in 1906. There were about forty families being served by that time.

Amanda: I know Father Maguire. He told me he had served this parish for twenty-five years. I believe he was here when they built their present church in 1948.

Hazel: Yes, and Father Schmidt followed him. He's the one who built the school. He was really a hard worker. He did practically all of the painting trying to get ready for the fall term.

Matilda: When was the St. Rose Church built?

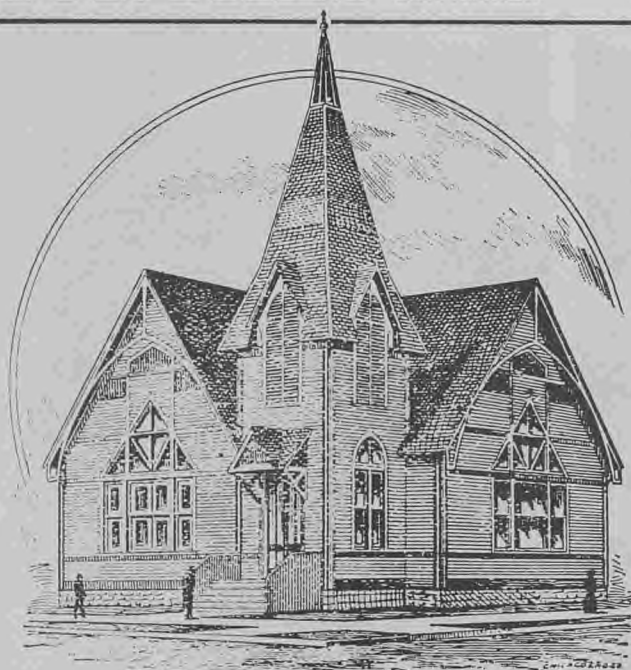
Hazel: It was built about the same time. The dedication was held the same day in 1949.

Matilda: Thanks for that information on your church, Hazel. I don't believe we have anything about the Christian Church yet. Who knows about it?

Molly: It started with thirty members and through the years they've had three buildings, all at the same location, Jefferson and Ninth. The first structure was a frame building — one large room. All Sunday school classes met in the one room, so the teacher with the strongest lungs got the lesson over best! It was heated with two coal stoves.

Hannah: Pardon me for interrupting. That is my church, you know, and it grew by leaps and bounds! By 1889 we had one

CHURCHES CONTINUED



First Christian Church

hundred and seventy-five members, and by the turn of the century it had grown to three hundred ten members. A new church was built and dedicated in 1908. Our Ladies Aid members were employed by the Chairman of the Board as "caretakers" and were paid twenty dollars a month. A boy did the hard work.

Amanda: I remember your Christian mission in the 1100 block on East Harvey. Isn't it the same building the St. James A.M.E. Church is using at the corner of Lincoln and A?

Hannah: Yes, they bought it and moved it to that location. The purpose of the



St. John's Lutheran



Church of Christ

Mission was for those people on the east side of town who had no automobiles. We're proud of our present building which was dedicated in 1925.

Molly: What about some of the other churches?

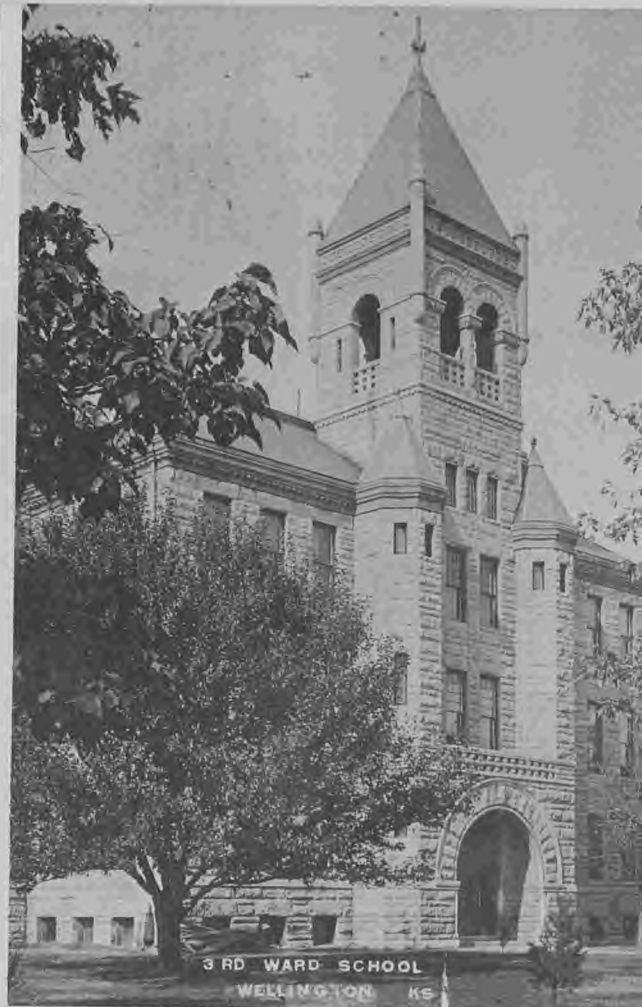
Matilda: Well, I had a little information about some of them. The Congregational and St. John's Lutheran were organized in 1888, and the Seventh Day Adventist in 1901. The exact date of origin of the Church of Christ is not known but they met a number of years on North H until their building was dedicated in 1935. The Episcopalians were responsible for starting St. Luke's Hospital. What a wonderful contribution that has been to the community. I could go on and on . . .

Amanda: I think we've tied up this line about long enough. Besides, my bread dough is spilling over the pans. Got to get it in the oven. Goodbye ladies.

Much is being said these days about the relevancy of the church. It is interesting to note that Wellington, at this time, has about twenty-three active churches. It is difficult to write of churches and not mention more individuals who are the churches, rather than the church edifice. We have been entrusted with great traditions. It is up to us to provide future generations with equally solid foundations on which to build. God grant that it may be so!



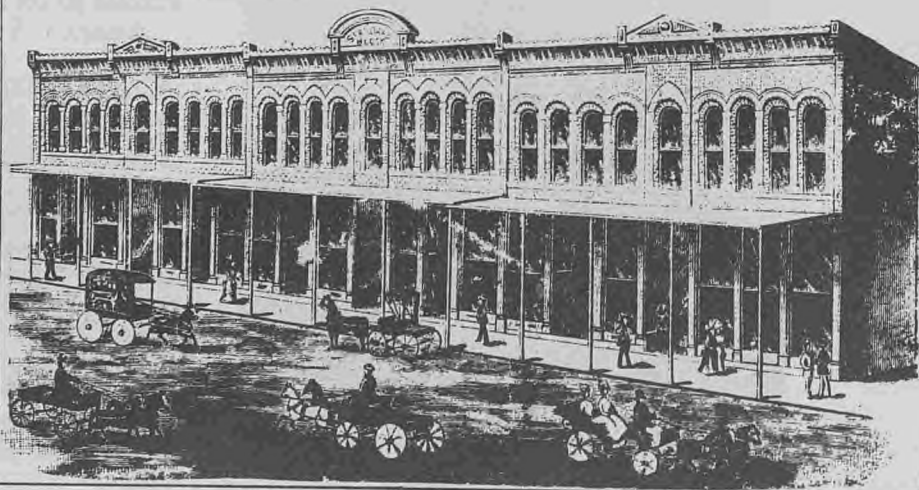
Where the Antlers Hotel Now Stands



STANDARD GROCERY,

RUMLEY BROS., PROPRIETORS,
WELLINGTON, - - KANSAS.

DEALERS
IN
Staple and Fancy
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Fruits In Season.
Glassware,
Queensware,
Woodenware.
Cigars
and
Tobacco.



100 Block of East Harvey.

This page sponsored through courtesy of

Byler Lumber Company, Bruce, Joe and Wilma Byler
Julio, Teresa Caudillo and children Juanita, Julio Jr., and Iris

TRANSPORTATION

Wellington Transportation – 1871 and on.



The Reverend often came by mule.



Getting to town through mud wasn't too easy.



Mr. Riordan and his horse-drawn milkwagon.



Luening Horse Drawn Funeral Coach and procession.

This page sponsored through courtesy of

**Dillon Food Market - Monte (Pat) Lowry, Manager
Sid's Burger Ranch - Merri Young and Wanda Helton**

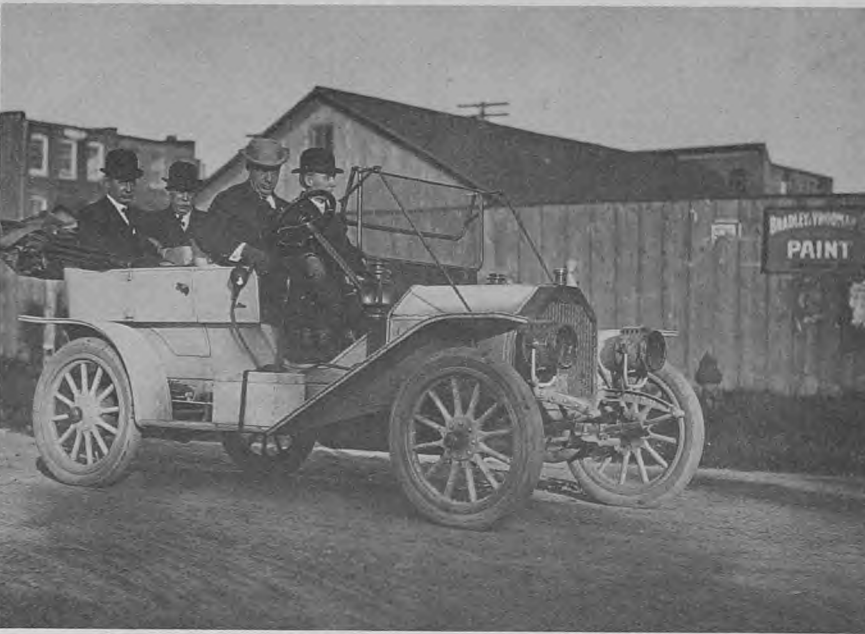
TRANSPORTATION CONTINUED



One of the first cars in Wellington



1914 Studebaker "Six"



The Garlands travel in style



Model "T" Coupe



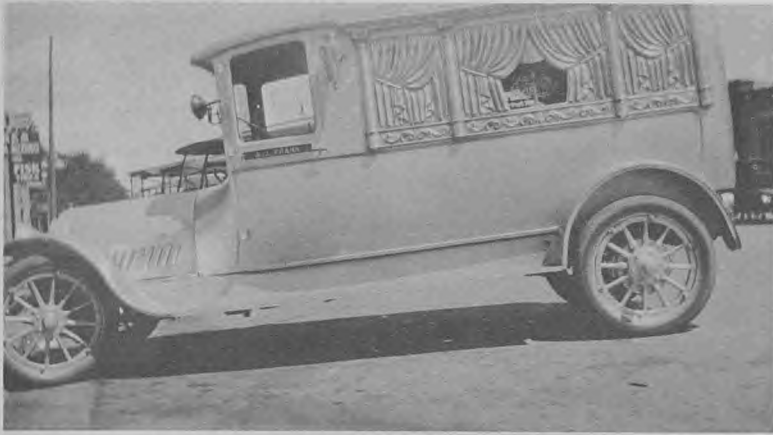
Model "T" Touring Car



If it wouldn't run it could be towed away

This page sponsored through courtesy of

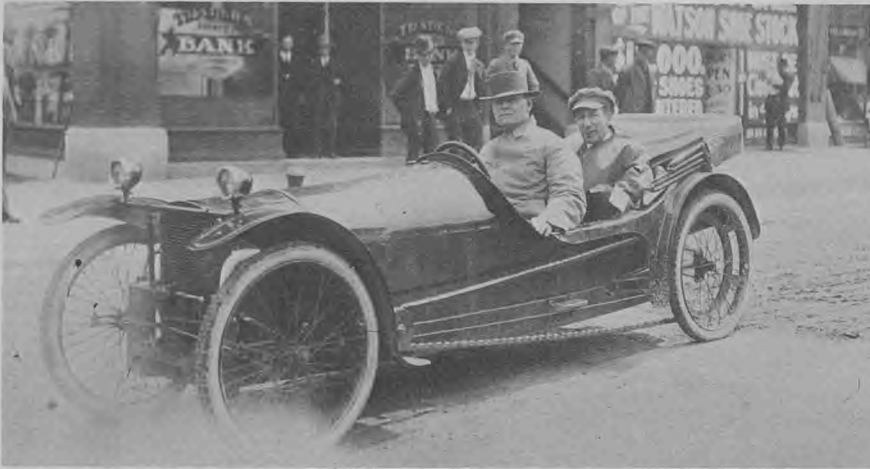
**Wellington Hospital and Clinic
Regina (Mrs. Jack) Cantrell - Administrator**



1918 Frank Funeral Coach – An Alubern



Frank's Touring Car



Very early Chain Driven Auto owned by Art Shepard



Early Automotive Repair Shop



Thor Motorcycle



"Art" on a Harley-Davidson with a side car

This page sponsored through courtesy of

Dr. J.C. and Joan Hill, Dr. Marcus and Eleanor Lee
Dr. James & Regina Turrentine, Dr. Charles & Rosemary Hayden



Art Shepard on a Harley-Davidson



Shepard's Motorcycle Club



Trains have always been an important form of transportation to Wellington



Raymond Gile's 1929 Model "A" Coupe



Ed Cox's 1929 Model "A"

This page sponsored through courtesy of

**Gas Service Company - Cecil (June) Riggensbach, Mgr.
F. W. Woolworth - Lauretta (Mrs. Oliver) Larabee, Mgr.**

TRANSPORTATION CONTINUED



1929, cars parked on Washington Ave



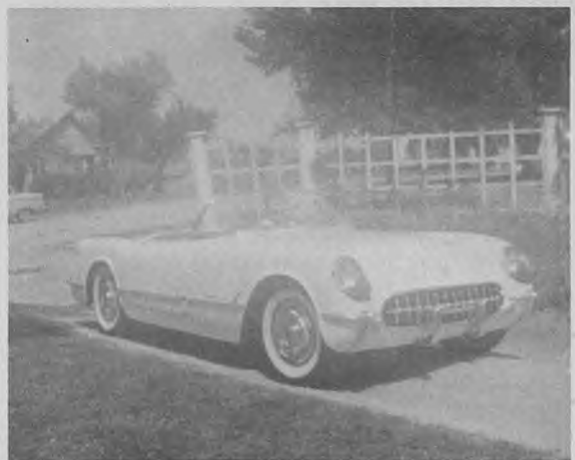
Two of the Fetter's 1930 cars



The children had their own way of getting around!



Speed was the thing with this '51 "Olds"



Dr. W. H. Youle's 1954 Corvette. The only one like it in Wellington.

This page sponsored through courtesy of

**Lock's Men's and Boy's Wear - Joe and Vera Locke
John M. Patterson, Sheriff of Sumner County**

BUSINESS AS USUAL



*Wellington, Kansas
January, 1877*

Dear Mother, Father, All,

Well, I arrived in Wellington on the stage last Wednesday afternoon and I immediately addressed myself to the task of finding suitable quarters. The Moreland House is where the stages arrive and depart so as it was closest at hand, I took a room there. Mr. D. W. Johnson is the proprietor and he is a pleasant man, the room is reasonably clean and the price is fair. The Moreland House was built in 1873 and so it is quite new and very nicely furnished. There is another hotel here in Wellington. It is called the Valley House and it is run by Mr. A. H. Barnard. Most of the drummers stay at the Valley House I am told.

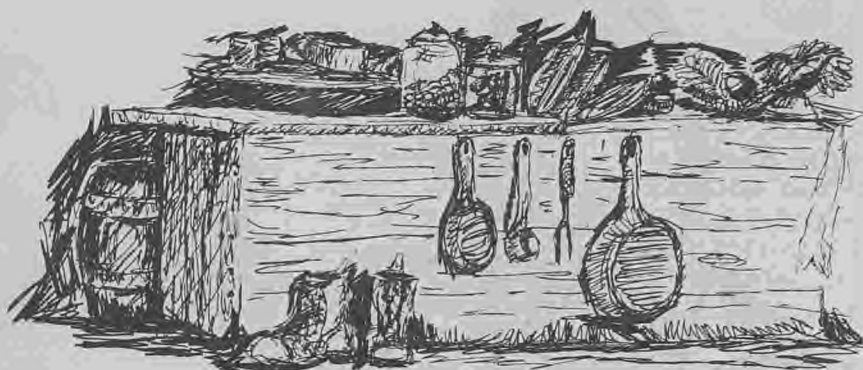
I feel I have made the right move in coming to Wellington. It would seem anyone with any gumption could make it here as business is booming and there is scarce a day goes by without some excitement! The business places are reasonably well established and fairly well stocked even though this town was just officially established just six short years back. Of course, there is plenty of opportunity for riotous living, which as you know, would not interest me!

I have been quietly looking the business community over before I make any move so that when I decide just what interests me, I can go ahead with it and not be tempted to turn aside at every new opportunity. The newspaper advertised for young men to learn the telegraph and railroad business. They claim they will pay \$50.00 to \$80.00 per month when qualified. Lots of folks don't seem to be too sure about the railroads though. I guess there are lots of complaints about them from the cattlemen, and a lot of people laugh at them because they go so slow. There is a standing joke around here that they should put the cowcatcher on the caboose to keep the cows from butting the train off the tracks.

I needed some paper and a pencil and I went into Miss Lizzie Campbell's Book Store. You would like this store, Mother. She has books and stationery, ribbons, millinery and other fancy goods. Her prices seem about right with the times. Another store you would appreciate is Mr. C. S. Nelson's butcher shop. He advertises that he always has a supply of fresh meat and game. Needless to say, he is noted for being a pretty fair hunter as well as businessman. Most of the womenfolk appreciate having fresh meat for the table whenever they want it.

This page sponsored through courtesy of

**Mecca Motel - Charles and Monnie Barnett
Yates-Brandt Chev-Olds - Horace Yates and Wade Brandt**



One of the first business men to open a store here in Wellington was Mr. Joseph C. Smith. He has a shop that makes boots and shoes. His first store was up at Sumner City but when business fell off up there, he cut some cottonwood trees for skids, packed up his 8x32 ft. building on them and drug the whole thing down here to Wellington. Everyone says he makes the finest boots and shoes in the country. He really needs a bigger shop and they say he is planning to build one. I wouldn't be too surprised if he builds something pretty substantial, for that seems to be the kind of man he is.

Yesterday I talked with Mr. T. C. Gatliff who sells wagons and insurance. He seems a fine person and he is quite busy. There is a big demand for good wagons, but I wouldn't think there would be much market for insurance.

The hardware store here is pretty well established and it recently changed hands. Mr. F. E. Bates had owned it for some time and he sold it to Mr. James A. Lang. There's no doubt about it, Mr. Lang is a go-getter and he is doing a real good business. I would think him pretty hard competition so I don't think I'd like to open a hardware store. His store is full of people all of the time and he does carry the items people need.

One talented businessman in town is Mr. C. W. Winn, the local harness maker. They say he makes the finest bridles, collars, whips, fly-nets, spurs, curry-combs and that

sort of thing of anyone in these parts. You can be assured that he will be in business for some time to come, especially when you remember that horseback is the best and cheapest way to get around. (Fellow was bragging on the street the other day that he bought a horse for \$1.17 a couple of weeks ago and that he had all ready turned down \$3.25 for it! Sounds like two fools met, wouldn't you say?)

The City Drug store had an ad in the local paper last week and this is what it said, "Pure California Brandy, Blackberry Brandy, Sherry, Port, Angelica, Catawba Wines, Gin, Bourbon, Rye, Champagne and Basse's Pale Ale all for medicinal purposes." I bet!

At the present time there is only one Dry Goods store here but that seems to be sufficient, Mr. Thomas R. Love Dry Goods. He sells notions, groceries, tobacco, flour, salt, syrup and such things. It is strictly cash at the Love Store. I have noticed that most of the stores advertise that they sell for cash only. Several just about went under during some of the bad times with too much credit on their books. The other main store in Wellington in 1877 is Stanley's Grocery House. It is located the first door south of the Post Office on the east side of Washington Street. Of course he has all of the usual items found in such stores. Several of the professional men are more or less in business too. Dr. S. Mann has a stock of Drugs, medicines and groceries and provisions at the Valley Drug Store which he owns.

As I said, business is booming and it is rather hard to decide just what to do. One thing that I have not found yet is a barber



shop. Judging by the length of the men's hair and beards, I would say there would be a fortune to be had in a good barber shop. You know by charging 10 cents for a shave and 15 cents for a haircut, a man could get rich here in short order!

I am quite impressed with the activity of the Attorneys and Solicitors and Land Agents. Quite a lot of people are taking up the Osage Indian Lands and this always makes a lot of business for the land office. If I was a mind to farm, I'd look around. For \$200.00 cash you can get a good 160 acres of the Indian land. Some folks think you might also get your hair lifted by taking up this land, for as you might expect the Indians are not too happy about being preempted by the settlers. Others seem to be more interested in buying up the claims being forfeited by the boys from Virginia who get homesick and decide to go back home. I hear some of these farms are bringing as much as \$4.00 per acre! High as that is, some folks say it is going higher!

Folks must believe it, too, cause they seem eager to buy when they come out here with any cash.

There are three or four doctors in Wellington and several more in the county so you won't need to worry about me not getting medical attention when I need it. Three of the Wellington Doctors are Dr. S. Mann, Dr. P. A. Wood and Dr. J. B. Cory. I heard a funny story about a country doctor the other day, Dr. David Beeler, it seems, is a good friend to the Indians and Dr. Beeler's wife is a great lover of dogs. One day some Indians came by Dr. Beeler's place and admired a big fat pooch that the Dr.'s wife had. Mrs. Beeler was away at the time and so the doctor gave the pooch to the Indians for a pet. The Indians had other plans for the doggie however, and that night they enjoyed a feast of good roast dog. Of course the Doctor's wife found out about the doctor's gift and they say she has a talent with words — profane that is — and I guess the cussin she gave the doc was heard



by quite a few others. Everyone likes the doctor who is a jolly little round man, and every time he comes into Wellington someone asks him if he's had any roast dog lately. He seems to get as big a laugh out of the joke as anyone!

Some day when I am better situated and have some money coming in I am going to have my likeness taken. I have never had a picture of myself and I think it would be most interesting. There is a good photographer here that everyone says does a good job. He is Mr. C. M. Brant and he has a gallery on the east side of Washington Street. Mr. Brant reasonably requires that all work must be paid for when ordered.

I wouldn't want you to think that I have nothing on my mind except the business of Wellington, however that is uppermost until I find my place in it, however, when the ice was 12 inches thick on the pond last week, I did enjoy the ice skating.

If it did not cost so dear to post it, I would like to send you a copy of the newspaper. It is published each week on Thursday and it is very entertaining. I have

obtained several of the back copies and have enjoyed them all. The present paper is called the Sumner County Press and it is published by Folks and Ludlow. The articles are timely, but anyone would enjoy reading them a hundred years from now! I will bring them when I next come to you for I know that you will enjoy them as I have, and they do serve a wonderful purpose here in Wellington. The present paper is not the first one to be published in this community, the first one was called the Wellington Banner and came out in 1872.

Well I feel I must bring this letter to a close. I think it has helped me to sort out my thoughts about my future by writing all of this to you. I know I have not begun to tell you all of the business opportunities there are here in Wellington in 1877. I feel certain that the future will be bright for anyone who gets set on the right way to go for there seems to be no limit to the advantages offered here. Since it is settled that this is the County Seat and since the railroads will most certainly be here soon, bringing wealth and settlers to this area, and since there is everything that a young man could possibly need to make a success of his life, I look forward with great hopes and expectations of a happy and fruitful life.

I will write you again and let you know how I am getting on.

Your loving son,

John





In the spring of 1871, a hardy bunch of pioneers paused on the banks of Slate Creek to rest from their hot and toilsome journey across the Kansas Prairie. They welcomed the sight of cool water and green trees and stopped not only over night but settled there permanently to establish a trading post which was named Sumner City and located northwest of Slate Creek. There was also a small city named Meridian, east of the Meridian line.

The town site was located April 2, 1871, by the Wellington Town Company, consisting of Dr. P. A. Wood, later the President of Wellington; Captain L. K. Myers, who surveyed the town site; Dr. C. R. Godfrey, the first post master of the city; Major A. N. Randall; A. A. Jordan; John S. McMahan; R. A. Davis, credited with the naming of the city and, also, John P. McCulloch.

The City was laid out in lots by making a furrow around the plot upon which a claim had been made; and the people were all moved from Sumner City to Wellington free of cost and given a claim.

Wellington was incorporated as a city of the third class November 13, 1873. The total vote cast was 66 and the following officers were elected: D. N. Caldwell, mayor (pictured above); James A. Dillar, police judge; A. W. Shearman, W. P. Hackney, A. N. Randall, John G. Tucker and T. J. Riley, councilmen. The first council meeting being held December 4, 1873, when T. C. Gatliff, Jr., was appointed clerk; Dr. S. Mann, treasurer; and H. W. McClelland, marshal.

The first annual city election was held April 6, 1874, and resulted in the election of the following officers: Dr. C. R. Godfrey, mayor; E. Evans, police judge; D. N. Caldwell, Z. Miexsell, P. Moreland, H. J. Atchison, and J. P. McCulloch, councilmen.

February 20, 1880, Wellington was constituted a city of the second class by proclamation of Governor J. P. St. John. The city was divided into four wards.

April 6, 1880, party lines were drawn in the city election for the first time. The two parties were Republican and Democrat. The officers elected were: J. Bohanna, mayor; S. L. Hamilton, treasurer; James Lawrence, police judge; J. Y. Coffman, treasurer of the board of education; W. E. Cox and I. N. King, justices of the peace; E. F. Henderson and H. P. Larrabee, constables. Councilmen: J. W. Hamilton and L. W. Bishop, first ward; S. R. Ferree and T. J. Sargent, second ward; J. K. Hastie and T. C. Gatliff, Sr., third ward; A. Carroll and L. H. Fisher, fourth ward.



On April 9, 1872, Wellington was definitely chosen as the County Seat of Sumner County and on April 10, the first session of court (13th Judicial District) was held in Wellington.

The old courthouse was completed in 1874. It was built by and was the property of the Wellington Township. The County leased the building for a term of 10 years and paid the rent by finishing the building. At the November election of 1882, the county commissioners were authorized to levy a tax of five mills for the years 1883 and 1884 to build a new courthouse. The new building was to be completed July 1885. The contract was given to Smith and White for a cost of \$56,900.00.

The county jail was built in 1879, and was paid for by a direct tax authorized by popular vote. It was furnished with cells that were capable of baffling the shrewdest and most dangerous criminals. The jail was located on the present Regent Theater site.

On April 20, 1880, the Wellington Post Office was installed and the Hack and Mail line was established between Wellington and Wichita.

Plans for building a new city building with three stories and a basement of a half story were brought before the City Council in February of 1902. The building was to be paid for by the City, the Masonic Lodge of the City and the City Federation of Clubs. The Masons agreed to pay 25 percent of the amount of the construction of the building. The building is the one that is pictured above. The bid of J. H. Mitchell of \$15,430.00 was accepted by the council. The building was to be started as soon as contract was made with the Masonic Lodge and arrangements made with the Women's Confederation of Clubs.

On January 5, 1903, the City was notified by the Sumner Chapter No. 37R. A. Masons of their withdrawal from the arrangement for the erection of the third story on the proposed City Building. The subject of building a new City Building was dropped until August of 1906. Bonds for the amount of \$15,000.00 were issued to run 20 years to construct the building. On October 1, 1906, Ordinance No. 907 of the City of Wellington was written directing the Mayor of the City of Wellington to call a special election, at which election shall be submitted to the qualified voters of said city the questions for their acceptance or rejection of whether the Mayor and City Council shall issue bonds of said city in the sum of \$15,000.00, for the purpose of providing funds to pay for the construction and erection of a City Building, was presented and read. The City Building was to be built on Lots 10, 11, and 12, in Block 53 of the City of Wellington. A special election was held on October 9, 1906. There were 370 votes cast out of which 250 were for bonds for the City Building and 120 against. A committee was organized to talk to the Ladies Clubs of the City to ask them about using rooms in the new City Building. The committee talked to the ladies and they agreed to furnish the City \$1500.00, providing the City would let them have two rooms on the second floor of the building. The City Building was then planned as follows: the first story to consist of Council Room, City Clerk's Office, Police Judge Office and Fire Department Room; the second floor to consist of the Ladies Room, the Library and Commercial Club Rooms, and the basement to consist of the Light and Water Office in front and the rest of the space for storage. The City Building that now stands on the corner of Washington and 7th Streets was completed in the year 1908.



ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF
WELLINGTON, KANSAS
compiled by
WILL T. WALKER
of the Wellington Bar and Police Judge
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Approved April 14, 1887

ORDINANCE NO. 435

Approved October 12, 1887. Published in the Morning Quid-Nune, October 18, 1887. An Ordinance providing for the levy and collection of a license tax upon various callings, trades, occupations and professions pursued or carried on within the City of Wellington, Kansas.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEN OF THE CITY OF WELLINGTON, KANSAS:

364: License Tax levied: 1. That a license tax is hereby levied upon the various callings, professions, trades and occupations, hereinafter enumerated, conducted, pursued, carried on or operated within the City of Wellington, as in this ordinance provided.

365: Who Required to Procure License: 2. No person shall carry on, or engage in any of the following callings, trades, professions or occupations, or shall run or operate any machine or vehicle named herein, or engage in any business hereinafter stated, within said City of Wellington without a license therefore from said City of Wellington, and the charge for said license shall be as follows, viz:

1. Auctioneers, each six months, fifty dollars.
2. Real Estate Agents, each six months, twelve dollars and fifty cents.
3. Bankers, Banking Companies or Corporations, each six months, twenty-five dollars.
4. Keepers of Billiard, Pigeon Hole or Pool tables, for first table, each six months, twelve dollars and fifty cents. Each additional table, each six months, five dollars.
5. Keepers of Bowling Alleys, each six months, twelve dollars and fifty cents.
6. Corporations, each six months, five dollars.
7. Corn Doctors, each six months, five dollars.
8. Doctors, each six months, five dollars.
9. Dentists, each six months, five dollars.
10. Express Companies, each six months, twenty dollars.

11. Express or Job Wagons, or other like vehicles used for the transportation of goods and merchandise or passengers for hire, each six months, six dollars.
12. Electric Light Companies or Corporations, each six months, twelve dollars and fifty cents.
13. Flouring Mills, each six months, twelve dollars and fifty cents.
14. Fortune Tellers or Clairvoyants, each six months, five dollars.
15. Gas Companies or Corporations, each six months, twelve dollars and fifty cents.
16. Hotel or Innkeepers, keeping house with not exceeding twenty-five rooms, each six months, five dollars.
17. Hotel or Innkeepers, keeping house with twenty-five rooms or more, each six months, ten dollars.
18. Horse Dealers, each six months, five dollars.
19. Ice Dealers, first delivery wagon, each six months, five dollars; each additional delivery wagon, each six months, five dollars.
20. Insurance Companies, including Fire, Accident and Marine, each twelve months, fifteen dollars.
21. Life Insurance Companies, each twelve months, twenty-five dollars.
22. Lung Tester, each twelve months, ten dollars.
23. Restaurants, each six months, five dollars.
24. Contractors, each six months, five dollars.
25. Specialists of any Profession, not herein named, per week, ten dollars.

ORDINANCE NO. 8: Prevention of fast driving and driving of animals on sidewalks.

ORDINANCE NO. 10: To suppress riots and unlawful assemblies.

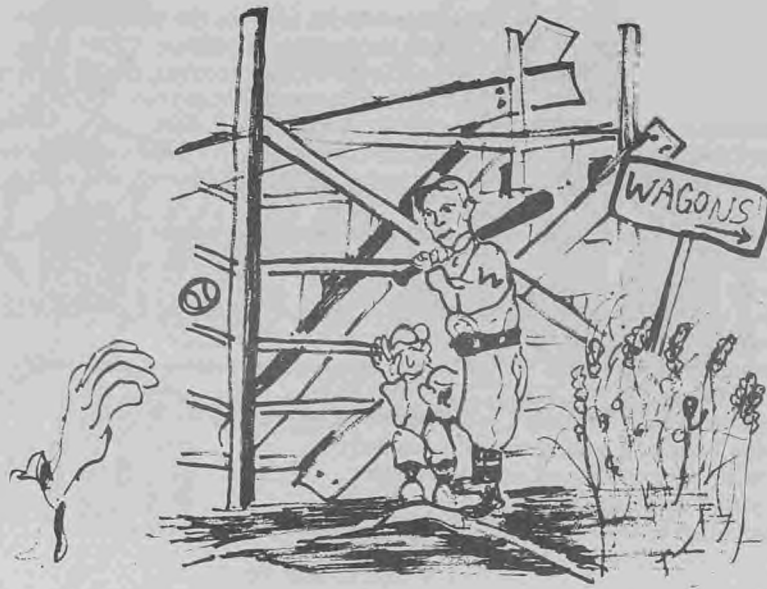
ORDINANCE NO. 33: September 18, 1873, City tax of 10 mills on the dollar was levied upon all property within the City of Wellington both real and personal for general revenue purposes for the year of 1873.

ORDINANCE NO. 165: Misdemeanors against the peace and good order of the City Government. For throwing stones, bricks, or any missile in or across any street or alley of the City, or in any public place or at any house or building, with intent to do injury, a fine of not less than \$3.00 or more than \$100.00.

ORDINANCE NO. 146: Approved March 11, 1880. Published in Pamphlet, May 29, 1885. An Ordinance to prohibit the running at large of domestic fowls.

ORDINANCE NO. 337: Approved August 5, 1885. Published in Daily Wellingtonian August 6, 1885, allowing any member of the Wellington Fire Company the sum of two dollars for each fire within the limits of the City which he actually attends.

ORDINANCE NO. 404: An Ordinance relating to the registering and taxing of dogs kept in the City of Wellington, Kansas, and providing for the killing of those not registered, and for the compensation of the person or persons employed to kill dogs that have not been registered, and repealing all ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance.



Wellington has always been a sports minded town. My father used to tell about the many exciting ball games he used to watch in the early days of Kansas. They were played, usually, on the ball diamond of some small town or in some pasture, and the players were as skillful and played with as much aplomb as is seen in the World Series games today.

"I have seen three World Series games," an old timer said to me, "but I have never seen any more thrilling game than I used to see played on the old Riverdale ball diamond."

"Yes, I remember a lot about playing ball in the county," so said Merit Kibbe of Anson. "I played on every team around here. I played with Riverdale, Peck, Clearwater and Wellington. I usually played short stop or second base and George Reed of Riverdale managed the team. That was around 1908, I guess. One game I will never forget was played at Caldwell.

"Gar Forney was our manager. It was my time up to bat and we were one point behind. Forney said to me, 'Can you bunt that man in?' I was classed as a pretty fair bunter in those days. A high ball was coming towards me, I knew I had to strike instead of bunt. I swung, I got a hit that went way out to right field. The hit let in two scores and we won the game."

Lloyd Bishop was one county boy who made it to the big league. Ed Willet from the Mayfield-Perth area made good in the big league, also, having played with the Detroit Tigers. Rusten Haven is another name which was well known in the county. Walter Frantz who grew up at Wellington and got his first knowledge of ball on the back lots of this city went on to play with the Philadelphia Nationals. Quite a lengthy article about Frantz was published in the 1903 August edition of the Kansas City Journal.

"Let me tell you about the Fred and Tom Roberts football team from Mayfield," my father spoke with great enthusiasm and excitement. "That was about 1903, I think. John Ingram, Ed Cook and 'Bird' Roberts played on the team. I mention these names because I knew these fellows personally. Ed Cook told about the team. They could beat any team in the whole country. Ed told me about a wild game they once had with the Chillico Indians from Arkansas City. No school or university with a good reputation would play them. They finally disbanded because of this."



As I sat with a group of old ball players, the conversation went something like this. "No, that isn't right at all. Now I'll tell you just what happened." Or another one would interrupt with, "Let me tell that." One old player shouted out in a high clear voice, "Be still, I was there. I know how it happened." In this way we got the following information.

In 1901 the old Sumner County High School had a very enviable record in football. Roy Hitchcock was manager. Out of 24 games played over a period of five years, they lost only two games.

"Don't forget the girls," shouted one man. "The girls had a fine basketball team in the early '20's. Marie Friend was their coach, and she was a good one," so spoke the loyal supporter of the ladies. 'Duckie' White did a lot for the girls when he came here," someone else was speaking now.

"There was Nannie Wade, the center. She was considered by some as an all-state center. Orlean McKowan, Edith Mary Martin, Pauline Prater, and Faith Blosser were also good players. Alberta Pilant and Bertha Whitacre were some guards, believe me!"

"Doris Sherrard — do you remember her?" exclaimed one excited fan. "She was president of the Girls Athletic Association. Doris was always the outstanding girl athlete."

In 1903, A. Graff, A. A. Belsley and H. L. Buttrey organized a Men and Women's Athletic Association. This met for a time above the old Bon Ton Bakery.

Beginning in 1917, "Duckie" White whipped his team into shape for the Ark Valley championship. Everything looked fine for a win until Pratt refused to let "Cliff" Carson play on account of his age. "Cliff" had just returned from World War I and White had added him to his string of players. Without "Cliff" the team was crippled and gave up all hope of the championship.

Night football was introduced to Wellington fans in 1930. Wellington was the first high school in the West to have night football. Some outstanding athletes of this time were Burdette Merryman and Eddie Clark.

"Grandad" Mercer was a colorful figure in the Twilight League games. While he never played, he was a loyal supporter of all sports. As Wellington citizens hurried through their evening meals and mothers nervously herded the small fry to the park, "Grandad" Mercer's booming voice could be heard calling out sonorously, "Pla-a-a-y Ball-l-l." This was the signal to start playing and everyone hurried to his place in the grandstand. The children raced up and down the grandstand steps as "Mom" watched "Pop" show his skills at playing ball.



Bill Mosby, Floyd Bruton and "Shorty" Arnett reminisced about the Twilight League games. When the League games were forced out of Sellers Park, Bill Mosby and his father built a grandstand out on Syke's Field, west of town. A petition was circulated which brought the League back to Seller's Park. Some of the better known teams that played in the League were: The All Stars, Advertisers, Yellow Jackets, City Team, Santa Fe, Dukes, Mayfield and Perth. Santa Fe men, Watson, Carson and Frye operated an electrical score board which was on the north side of the Smith building. Seats were provided for the spectators and the games were shown play by play on the lighted score board.

"Shorty" Arnett organized a boys' team which played several summers. The Garland twins and "Pewie" Saunders played with these boys. Coach Vandever took over this group for a time and later Hooten coached them. This was the beginning of the Babe Ruth Leagues under Hooten.

In 1960, Mayor Holt made it possible to get the ball diamond on Mill Street. Through the efforts of Holt and Arnett, the lights were brought out to Mill Street from a diamond on Plum Street. Arnett organized a Girls' Soft Ball Team which played with success in the Southern Kansas Soft Ball League for several summers. "Juke" Warren later took over the managing of the girls' team.



WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED



A stroll through the old cemetery on Highway 160 east and North Woodlawn Street can reveal much about life a century ago. A little quick arithmetic indicates that life in the early days was often quite brief. Few of the one hundred one persons buried there lived to see their fiftieth birthdays and many a weather-beaten headstone tells the sad story of a lifetime measured in months or days only.

Wellington's oldest publication, WELLINGTON BANNER, published in 1872 by G. P. Garland, Editor and Proprietor, gave testimony to the fact that there was ample medical attention available in this community at that time.

The earliest physicians seemed to be men of many talents and interests and none seemed to depend entirely upon his medical practice to stock the family larder. Dr. S. Mann advertised that the Valley Drug Store which he owned could provide "drugs, medicines, paints, oils, wines and liquors." Competing both in business and profession, Dr. T. J. Riley owned the other drug store in the community in 1872, and he advertised in the Banner that he also could provide the early settler with "drugs, medicines, chemicals, paints, oils, dye stuffs, wines, and liquors (of the purest brands for medicinal purposes), toilet soap, hair brushes, clothes brushes, perfumery, etc. Choice brands of tobacco and cigars." Dr. P. A. Wood, who did not appear to own a business establishment, used the Banner's columns to collect his fees . . . "all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the undersigned please call and settle as I must have the money to pay my debts."

Dr. P. A. Wood was president of the "town company," a position comparable to Mayor before the office of mayor was established. Dr. T. J. Riley demonstrated community spirit by installing the first sidewalks in front of his business establishment, and was commended by the Banner for his thoughtfulness. Dr. David Beeler, a County physician, was a great friend to the Indians and was often asked to help with problems involving them.

Life was harsh in the 1800's on the Kansas plains. There was constant danger from many sources — disease, accidents, range wars, snakebite, rampaging animals. The first line of defense naturally was the housewife. Every conscientious housewife tried to reserve enough from her meager "butter and egg" income to provide a supply of quinine tablets and ingredients for mustard plaster at the very least.



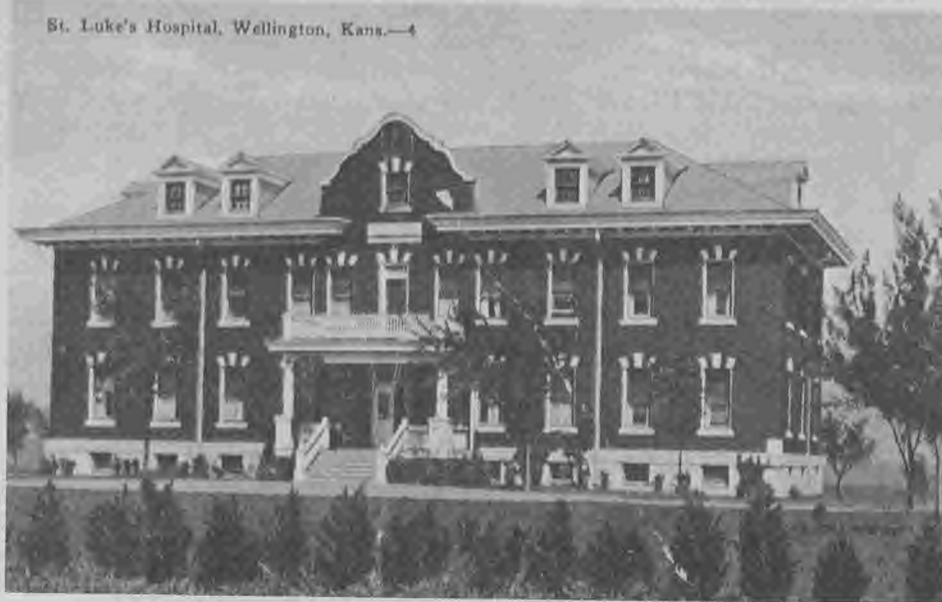
Advice to help maintain the family health was eagerly sought and gladly shared. The Wellington Banner published this advice in 1872 from "Dr. Nichols Fireside Evidence" under the title of "Dry Bathing," "... if anyone in these days will exercise in the open air so that each day he will perspire moderately, and if he will wear thin undergarments or none at all, and sleep in a cold room, the functions of the skin will suffer little or no impediment if water is withheld for months . . . cleanliness is next to godliness no doubt, and a proper and judicious use of water is to be commended, but, human beings are not amphibious."

Sophisticated diagnostic tests were yet in the dim and distant future and diagnosis was usually not more than an educated guess. It was not unheard of for the treatment of illness to be the cause of death. Doctors apparently admitted their errors and no one seemed to hold them responsible for the unfortunate event. The Sumner County Press, Sept. 18, 1873, reported that, "J. P. Smith died of two years treatment for tapeworms. Post-mortem revealed he never had tapeworm or any other worm."



Hospitalization for the most part was unheard of and the sick person was not denied the security of his own bed, with Mother as a 24-hour nurse. Housecalls, of course, were made by all doctors. Making the rounds laboriously by means of the horse and buggy was a great inconvenience and time consuming process. Dr. Coplan provided the forerunner of institutionalized care by making available beds in his own home for those seriously ill in the Wellington area.

About 1873 the Sumner County Poor Farm was established as a home for the indigent aged. Being old and poor did not excuse anyone from work, however, and all who could work were expected to do so. The "Poor Farm," as it was commonly known, was in reality a farm and the income produced by the residents by their farming efforts helped to offset the expense to the taxpayers. The Poor Farm originally consisted of a series of small cottages on the farm with unfortunate poor living a more or less independent existence. It was considered a very sad day indeed when it became necessary to "go over the hill to the poor house." The cottages were replaced by a two-story brick building in 1914, which was officially called the Sumner County Infirmary. While the name was changed, the stigma remained. This structure served until 1965, when the present facility was completed. Cedarview, a modern, skilled nursing home, is a far cry from its earliest predecessors.



St. Luke's Hospital was built in 1910 by the Episcopal Church and was operated by them for about 10 years. During this time they maintained a nursing school as well as quarters for the nurses. Nurses were paid \$75.00 a month plus room and board in those days. In 1920, the operation of St. Luke's Hospital was assumed by a nonprofit group of local citizens. In 1947 this Corporation turned the facility over to the City of Wellington and it has been operated since that date by the City. The second century of Wellingtonians will be served by an ultra-modern, multi-million dollar St. Luke's Hospital presently under construction and scheduled to be completed by late 1971.

Wellington Hospital was established in 1932 by Dr. Warren H. Youle. The Hunter mansion, a Wellington landmark was leased and renovated to accommodate 10 to 12 patients, quarters for a nursing staff and living quarters for two resident doctors. Then the Hunter mansion was razed; Wellington Hospital moved across the street to 924 South Washington, its present location, to another large older home. This too gave way to progress and the present hospital was constructed in three stages, the last one completed in 1968.



This attractive modern facility provided 39 beds for in-patients, clinic and pharmacy for out-patients of four staff doctors. It is a privately owned corporation.

Hatcher Hospital erected in 1916 by Dr. A. R. Hatcher was a fine institution which served Wellington for many years. In a booklet describing the hospital and its facilities, room rates



for the 1920's were listed as being from \$3.00 per day for a ward room to \$5.00 per day for the best private room. Also listed was "Obstetrical delivery charge — \$5.00." After the deaths of the founder of the Hatcher Hospital and his son, Dr. Albert Hatcher, the hospital closed its doors to patients. The Hatcher Hospital still stands and was given to the City of Wellington to be used as a Museum. It now serves very well as Chisholm Trail Museum.

Wellington also has an ultra-modern, 64-bed nursing home, Lakeside Lodge, built in 1967 by the late Dr. Warren H. Youle.

All through the history of Wellington, competent and adequate medical attention has been available in this community. Dedicated men who have left their imprint in local history and who during their lifetimes demonstrated a concern for not only the sick and suffering but for the total community and its problems. Their leadership and wisdom is very much a part of our heritage and the evidence of their concern will continue to influence this community for another one hundred years.

EARLY DAY DIARY



Here it is November 21, of 1873, and our little town of Wellington is now approximately two years old.

We had a fire this week which swept down the west side of town licking down corn shocks, hay racks and everything in its way, back of the line of buildings on the west side of Washington Avenue, and directly into the heart of town.

The county officers emptied the Courthouse of all the county records.

It was only through the efforts of a dirty-faced, water carrying, fire fighting crew that worked hard with a lot of "stick-to-a-tive-ness" that succeeded in saving our county seat from the flames.

It is hard to imagine, but they say it was a man working for Mrs. Cleveland that set the fire in order to dig a cellar.

In the years of 1873-74, Dr. E. P. Ritchey was mayor. It is the duty of the mayor, with the approval of the council, to appoint a city marshal to maintain law and order.

Time elapsed, five years later, in the late spring of 1879, the downtown businessmen feel that in case of fire, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Steps should be taken to protect the city in case of fire. When we consider the interest at stake, the capital invested, and the financial ruin that our business houses would face, we realize the greatest caution and care to prevent fires. There probably isn't a firm on Washington Avenue but what would be willing to expend \$75 to \$100 per year at least as premium for insurance could any company be induced to take the risk.

Every owner of premises on our main thoroughfare is able, if so disposed, to construct a well or cistern and put in a force pump with sufficient pipe to cover all parts of the building.

Such a course if taken by all would be the best insurance to be secured for the money expended.

In addition to this something of a public nature ought to be done. One or more hook and ladder companies should be organized and equipped at the earliest possible moment. They would be of the greatest value in tearing down buildings to stay the progress of the fire even though they did not quench it.

In this connection, we call attention to the city marshal to the fact that there is an ordinance which prevents the leaving of straw and other inflammable material in a loose and exposed condition around or near our business houses.

In order to keep law and order in Wellington the marshal had several duties and his job was a big one.

In 1880, the marshal was required to search any building or out-house within the limits of the city where there is cause to suspect the keeping of any kind of explosives or combustible material such as gun powder, kerosine, benzine, gasoline or other explosive material. He removed it to a safe place outside the city limits. He must then prosecute the owner before the police judge.

In January of 1881, an ordinance is approved by the city concerning the fire department.

The fire department of the City of Wellington does consist of the mayor, the councilmen, the city marshal, the policemen, a chief engineer, an assistant engineer and several officers and members of the various fire companies now organized or which may from time to time be organized.

In 1881, the Wellington Fire Company No. 1 was organized. All members who become members of the fire department report at once their name, residence, and occupation to the city clerk to be registered. No one under 21 is allowed to register.

All of the companies organized meet once a month to transact business and they do have a public drill once a month. Each company is not to have more than 75 members, engine men, hose men, hook and ladder men and bucket men.

Every registered fireman is exempt from jury duty or working upon the streets and alleys or paying any poll tax.

The engine houses are not to be used as a resort or rendezvous by the members and will not be opened on Sundays except in case of fire. All violators will be fined \$3.00.

The city marshal must be at all fires reporting to the officers in command. If the marshal neglects to attend a fire without satisfactory excuse, refuses or neglects to perform a duty required of him, he is subject to a penalty of not less than \$5.00.

Upon an alarm of fire, the different fire companies under the command of their officers report to the place of the fire with their fire apparatus.

In order to put out fires, we have to have water. This is another place where the water works comes in.

Water was taken from Slate Creek.

In 1883, the water pressure had to come from the elevated water tower equipped with Hill's automatic shut-off and air cushion or pumping machinery or all combinations.

This equipment consisted of the tank, 50 feet of hose, four hydrants, four one-inch streams sprayed water to the height of 65 feet for two hours of constant use with the pump machine.

On the second alarm, within thirty minutes, there was sufficient pressure to discharge six one-inch streams throwing 200 feet of hose from any six hydrants at a height of 80 feet.

In 1884, the city marshal or his assistant attended each meeting of the city council. They must act as sergeant-at-arms or special messenger. They must also attend all sessions of court.



Harry Johnson

Harry Johnson, one of the oldest, if not THE oldest citizen of Wellington. Harry came to Wellington with his parents from Indiana in 1872. He joined the Wellington Fire Department about 1890 and served as Chief of the Fire Department during the 1930's and 1940's.

Born August 7, 1870, Harry remembers much of the history of Wellington. His excellent memory at 101 years enables him to recall with relish a first hand experience of 100 years of living.



*Don Popplewell
Early-Day Policeman*

He must also have care and control of the city prison and all property belonging to the city. He does keep an inventory of all city property. The prisoners in his care are provided sustenance. The prisoners do work for the city to pay fines. For their work, well and truly performed, they receive \$1.00 for eight hours of work.

In 1885, each fire company organized is organized under the provisions of this ordinance and is entitled to receive from the city semi-annually on the first day of January and July in each year a sum of money equal to \$2.00 for each active regular member.

Any building owner disobeying the rules of the fire code is notified by the marshal to correct this. If after five days, it is not corrected, the mayor issues a warrant to the marshal to remove the building.

For all of these duties plus many more, the marshal's salary annually is \$600 payable in equal installments of \$50. Each arrest he makes adds an additional \$2.00.

This year Wellington is sweet sixteen, October of 1887, C. C. Curtis is mayor; Will T. Walker, police judge, and R. B. Magee, marshal.

On November 7, 1895, Harry Johnson was appointed plugman. W. R. Savage was mayor.

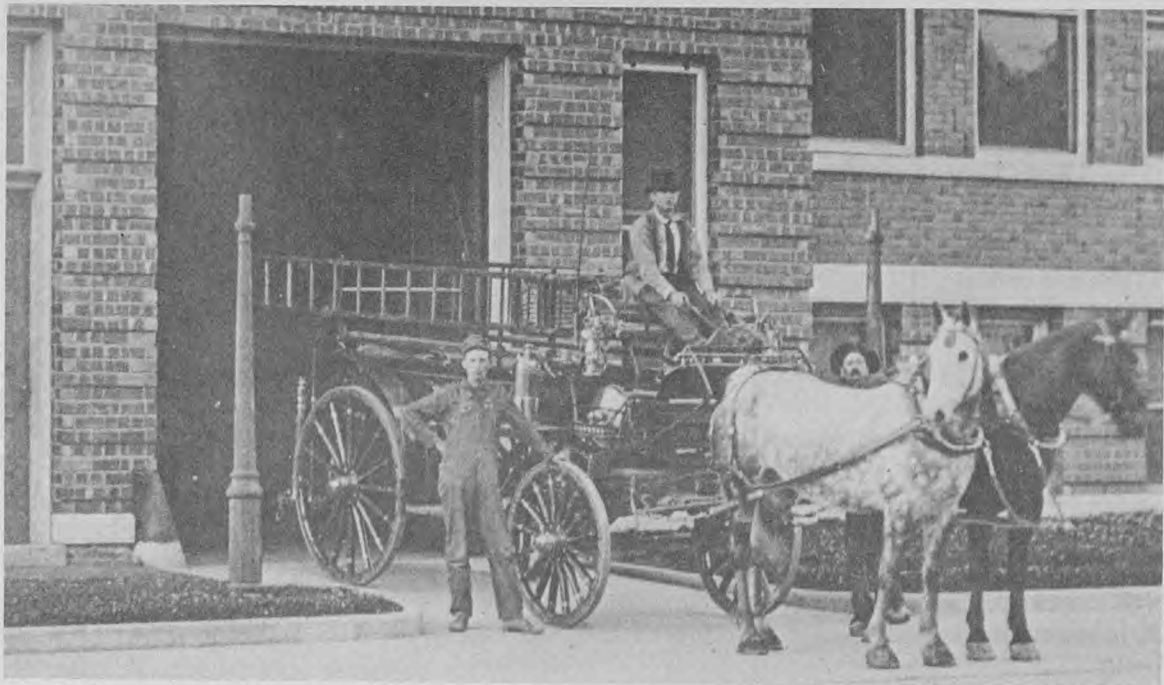
On January 27, 1897, the Wellington Fireman's Relief Association was chartered.

Our town is now over twenty-five years old. It is the spring of 1899 and Wellington has a well organized fire department which is capable of protecting the town from a terrible fire. It is maintained by the city government and consists of hose, cart, hook, ladder and so forth.

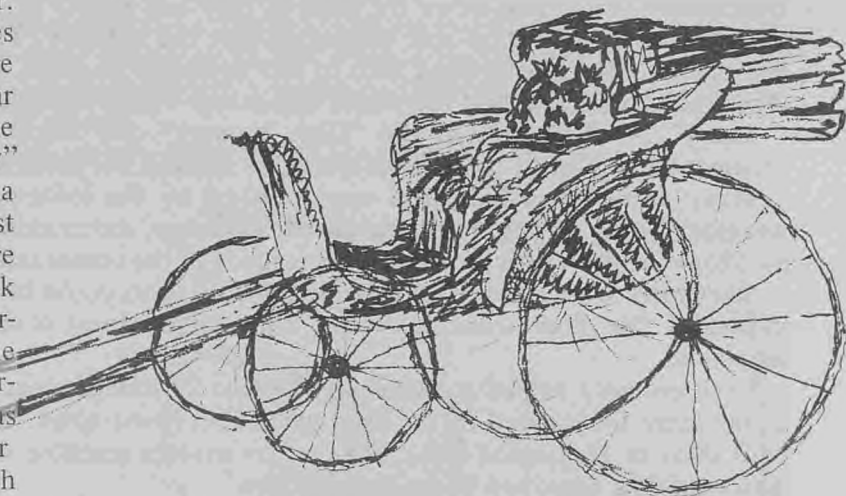


WELLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT 1907

Left to right: Wm. Jones (driving), unidentified, unidentified, Clyde Burscough, A. P. Jones, unidentified, Webb Davis, Ray Hackney, Harry Johnson.



The earliest industries in Wellington dealt mostly with those tiems that benefitted the farmer and the cattle raiser. Plows, wagons and buggies were necessities and there were no new models each year to choose from. Shades of the "Wonderfull One Hoss Shay" the writer has ridden in a phaeton that was at least twenty years old and there was never a rattle nor a break in it. It is pretty safe to surmise that this vehicle came from the Cole-Robinson Carriage Works. The building was located on the southwest corner of the intersection at 8th and Washington and was destroyed in the cyclone of 1892.



Harness, saddles and bridles were equally as important and many of these were manufactured here in our home town.

In early days the ability to do for oneself was an important factor in success or failure. He who was proficient in being able to manufacture some necessary article usually rated a respected place in the community. Men pooled their resources to be able to manufacture the more expensive things.

The Aetna Mills, the City Mills and the Keystone Mills were active in the first decade and they were soon followed by others and these included elevators where 70,000 to 100,000 bushels of wheat could be stored. For years the Hunter Mills shipped flour, under its own brand name, to various towns in the United States and also to Europe. Today this one mill has expanded till it can store 4 million bushels of wheat.

There were three cigar manufacturers here in the early 1880's as well as two soda water factories and an ice manufacturer.

With the passing years, we had an iron foundry (The Southwestern Iron Works), a Marble Works, a Creamery, the "National Furniture Manufacturing Co." The latter employed 85 people. There were salt wells. These were subsequently bought by the Salt Works in Hutchinson and closed down by them as they had plenty of salt to sell at home. They just removed the competition and Wellington lost the industry. There was much talk that there was enough salt underground here to last hundreds of years. This is probably true for it is more than conjecture that the whole Mississippi Valley was once a sea bed.

Mr. W. A. Renn owned the "Gem Nursery" and stocked over 500,000 fruit, shade, ornamental and forest trees. In addition, he stocked the usual shrubs and flowers.

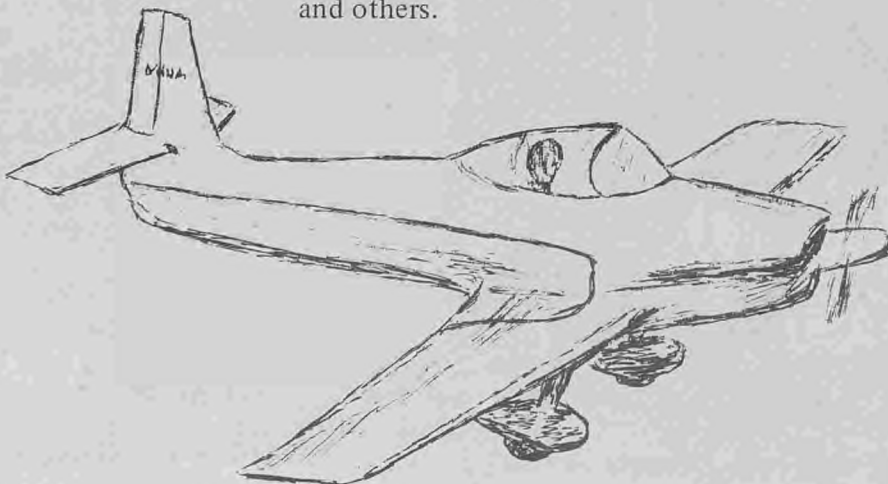
Many small home industries were pursued by the local people. These included carpet weaving, wood carving, re-caning chairs, millinery, shoemaking, bakeries, a broom factory, etc. Some of these articles are still being made in the community.

The water works and gas company and street cars could be classed as services rather than industries but their franchises were obtained by local residents and local people were employed.

Each industry helped someone to maintain his independence, a precious commodity, and at the same time added to the economy of his home town. Walter Chrysler, a Kansas boy, who lived in Wellington for a while, never made a machine without visualizing the people who would be benefited by its manufacture.

And so a hundred years have passed. The citizens of Wellington are still interested in industries beneficial to the home folks as well as to the country. Now we have close to a dozen firms manufacturing aircraft parts and accessories. These firms employ well over six hundred workers with an estimated payroll of over three million. These firms include:

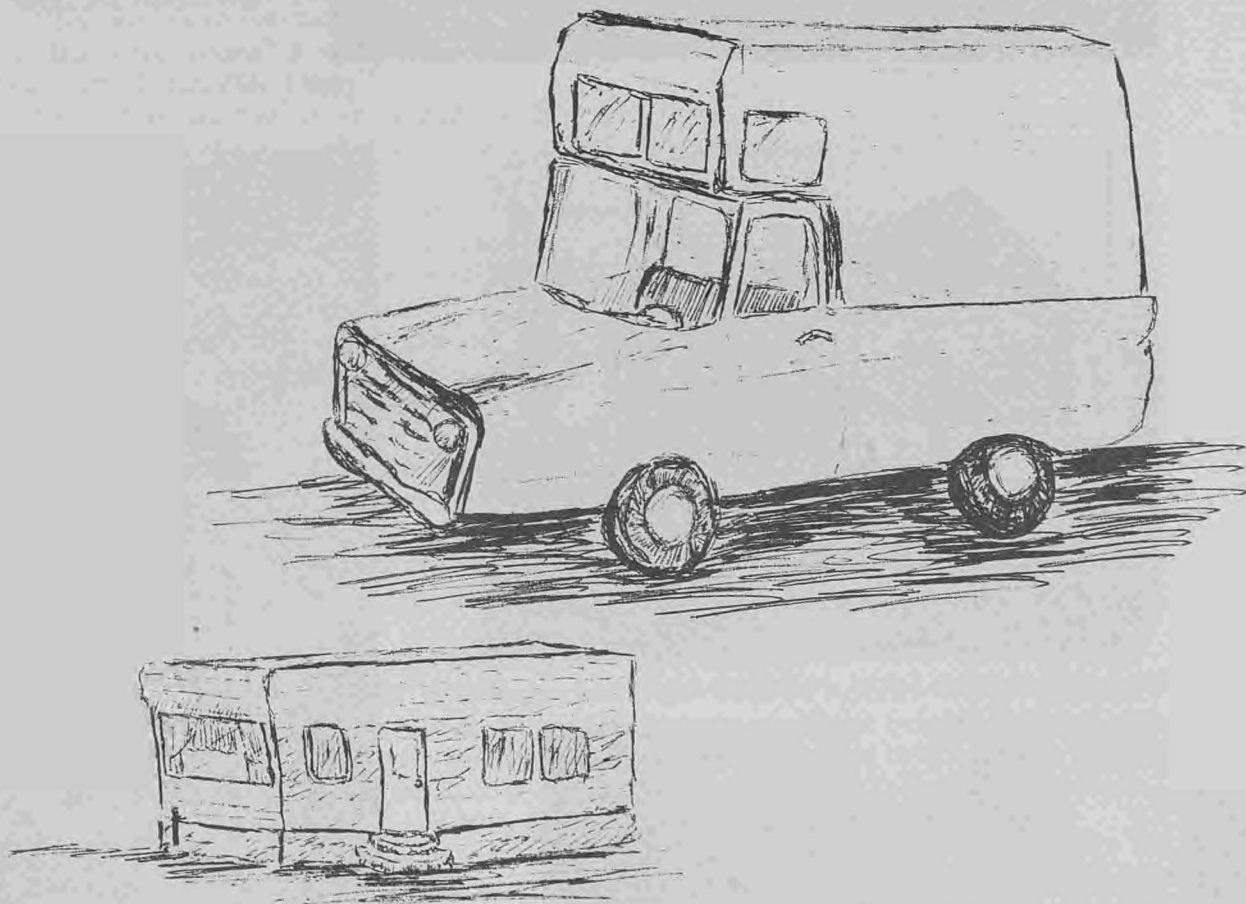
Welco Aerospace Inc.
Midwest Inc.
Oxwell Inc.
Clark Mfg. Co.
Lamar Electro Air
Boys Machine Shop
Machine Products
Precision Machining
and others.



Another industry valuable to our citizens is the building construction. From those large steel buildings that house the factories to fine residences and on to expert cabinet work, this industry is ready and able to care for the needs of the citizens of Wellington.

Another industry that is contributing to the economy of our town are the mobile homes. Concord, Edgetown Homes, Mobile Villa and Sunflower all are manufactured here. To read the construction standards of these would make one think a Hi-Rise structure was being built. The struts and braces at all points of strain would give anyone confidence in buying one of these well built homes on wheels.

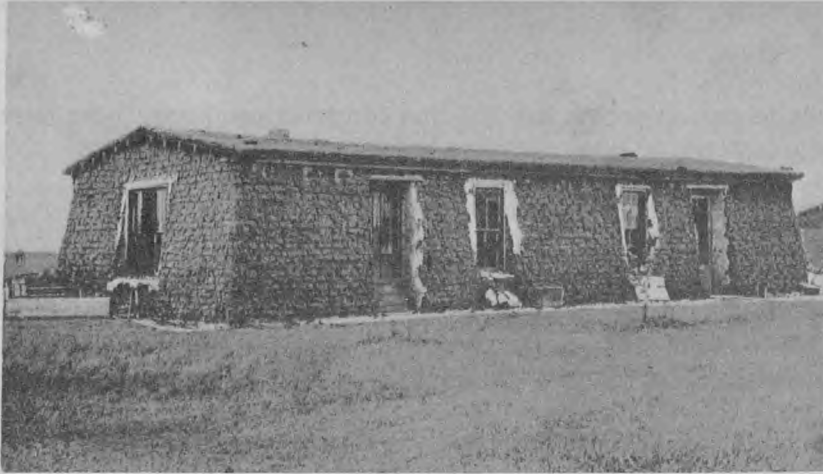
Sportsman's Coach and Topper are two campers that are manufactured here.



Along with these are travel trailers which are fast becoming a "must" for an enjoyable family vacation.

All these help the economy of our town, too, for they employ around 150 people with an annual payroll of better than half a million.

Each company is interested in each employee and his welfare. Each employee, in turn, holds a loyalty to his firm that is a challenge to any other area. We salute them all for this loyalty and interest in their fellow workers, their town —WELLINGTON— and their country. May her industries continue to grow and may the friendliness that distinguishes "Our Town" grow and expand in each heart.



Early Kansas Sod Home



Sumner County High School, Wellington, Kansas



HOMEMAKING

She was so happy and serious, this lovely young bride, rushing from one room to another to show all their beautiful, new things and grandmother listened delightedly to her bubbling chatter.

They inspected the living room with its bright, colorful draperies at the windows, the deep-cushioned chairs and divan, the right pictures on the walls, a color television, tables and lamps where needed. The soft carpeting extended into the lovely bedrooms with connecting bathrooms. The house was perfect with central heating and cooling system, making it comfortable during the hot Kansas summers and warm in the cold winter seasons. Homemaking was such a gay, exciting game. The tour ended in the pretty, white all- electric kitchen where they stopped to rest and refresh themselves with a cup of tea.

"Tell me, Grandmother," she said, "what was homemaking like when your father and mother were young? I know they didn't have things like we do but they did have the necessary things, didn't they?"

"Yes, dear, we had all we needed, clothes, food, a place to live and friends." She smiled. "When I think of my mother, how she managed our home with so little, the memory of her makes me think of this poem:

*With gentle hands God made the flowers
And fashioned them with care,
He brushed the sky with pink and gold
Painting a sunset there.
He made the valleys, hills and trees,
These things and countless others,
Then for a lovely masterpiece
God created mothers.*

Of course, we didn't have the wonderful things that you have in your house, but to me our home was beautiful. Mother was a great homemaker and home to us meant love and security. Homemaking had the same meaning years ago as it does today — it was just the tools with which they worked that were different." She was lost in dreams for a moment then asked, "My dear, would you like to think back through the years with me to the place where I was born?"

"Oh yes, Grandmother, I would sincerely love that," she replied.

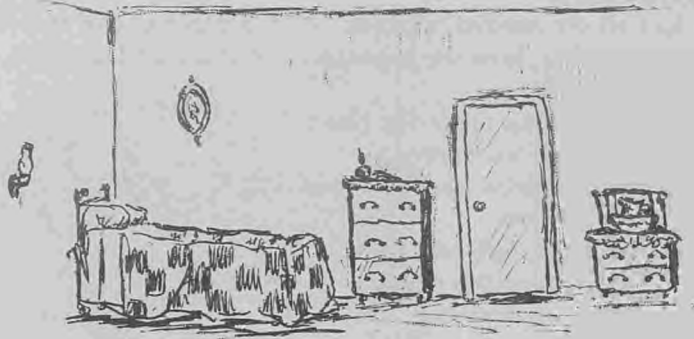
"Well, just imagine a modest little house which was built by my father with the help of our neighbors. Home building was a community project — neighbor helping neighbor with no thought of pay for their work and the women helped by bringing food each day until all was completed. Mother planted flowers in the front yard — petunias, Phlox, bachelor buttons — she loved flowers and said they were an index to the love inside the house.

"Now we step into the parlor, a room which was very special to my mother. This was the room where she entertained special people, like the minister of the church and the Ladies



Aid Society. For heat when it was cold there was a little topsy stove with a stove pipe on the back to conduct the smoke from the coal or wood up to the chimney flue. There was a couch with green velvet covering with fringe along the edges, two or three high back chairs, a center table with a fancy crochet doily on top, in the center of which was a tall, glass, kerosine lamp, an album of family pictures, most of them tintypes, and the large family Bible. On the floor there was a bright rag carpet. My mother, with the help of neighbor women, cut long narrow strips of cloth, sewed them together and wound them in balls ready to weave into the carpet. We had an old organ, too, in this room. It had wide pedals, which you pumped with your feet to make the music and after supper and the day's work was done we all gathered around the organ and sang songs, mostly hymns, which mother played; then father read a scripture from the Bible before we went to bed.

"The bedrooms had to be shared — the boys in one and the girls in another. Our parents



occupied the large one. Peeking in, we see beds with very high headboards and iron bedsteads painted white with fancy curlicues in the head part. Instead of mattresses as we have today, there were ticks filled with straw with a feather bed on top for softness and warmth. The sheets were usually made of unbleached muslin and the covers were home-made, thick comforts and quilts. The furniture consisted of a tall bureau with several drawers for clothes and a low chest called a commode, on the top of which was a large bowl and pitcher filled with water for washing. There was a rack across the top of the commode for towels and wash cloths. To teach us the necessity of cleanliness in homemaking, we were each responsible for keeping our room neat and clean. The difficult part was scrubbing the floor which was not carpeted.



"People did not have lovely bathrooms like yours in their houses in those days, which made it terribly uncomfortable in the winter time to visit the little house outside.

"In the dining room there was a long table covered with red and white checked oilcloth. It was big enough to seat all the family with room for guests. If there were not enough chairs, a long board was balanced on two chairs to make a bench to sit on. By the window there was an old treadle sewing machine where mother spent hours and hours making our clothes, the long dresses which touched the tops of our high button shoes and sometimes there was enough cloth to make a ruffle on the bottom of the skirt. Against the wall near the kitchen was the cupboard with shelves and drawers in which to keep the dishes, knives and forks. The spoons were kept in a glass spoon holder on a shelf. This room was heated with a big potbellied wood and coal burning stove.



"The room we liked best was the kitchen. Seems as if I can still smell the loaves of homemade bread, the sugar cookies and apple pies that mother made and baked in the old iron wood and coal burning cook stove. There was a reservoir built on the back of the stove to heat water for dish washing, laundry and baths. The water had to be carried in from the pump outdoors and if it was too hard to boil the clothes, lye was added. Sometimes dried peach tree leaves were crushed, sewed in mesh bags and used in boiling water to bleach the white clothes. Irons for pressing were really made of iron, including the handle. There were usually three of them, heated on the kitchen stove and were called sad irons. Thick hot pads were to be used on the handle to keep from burning the hands.

"For cooking there were iron skillet and big iron kettles, some of them with short, curved legs underneath. Hanging on the wall near the stove was a wooden potato masher, rolling pin, large spoons and a butter mold. The butter was made in a churn, put into the mold then pushed out into the dish. The butter came out with a pretty design on the top. Some of the early homemakers had a huge iron kettle in the back yard in which they made their own laundry soap. They cooked over a bonfire.

"Among her other duties as a homemaker, mother made some of her own medicines to cure our illnesses. If anyone had the slightest cold, she made cough syrup by slicing lemons real thin and boiling them in sugar and water until the juice was thick. This didn't last long, however, because we loved it, but coughs were stifled quickly when she used onions instead of lemons."

Grandmother paused in her reflections and her granddaughter, fascinated with the story of the early days, asked, "Didn't you ever play and have fun? It sounds as if my great grandmother was always too busy to think of pleasures."

"Of course, we had fun, my dear, we had square dances in someone's barn, cleaned out for the occasion, hayrack rides, parties where we played games like Spin the Pan, Post Office, Fruit Basket Upset and these parties always ended with a taffy pull and popcorn balls.

"At Christmas time a group of mothers met at the little white church to decorate a tree with cotton and strings of popcorn and bright red cranberries. Christmas night there was always a sack of candy and an apple and orange on the tree for everyone. We loved the big, fat Santa Claus who appeared at the right time to distribute the gifts. Before the tree was uncovered there was a program of group singing and children speaking their Christmas poems.

"One thing I will always remember was the Saturday night baths in the big wash tub and getting up early on Sunday morning, dressing up in our best clothes and going to Sunday



School and Church. There was just room enough in the old surrey for all of us and the boys quarreled over which one would sit by father in the front seat to help drive the horses. After church, we were eager to rush home because we knew there would be a delicious fried chicken dinner with mashed potatoes, home grown vegetables and always a big, thick apple pie for dessert and . . .

*You may hear about the poet
With his witty words that rhyme,
And the artist with his brushes
Painting pictures all the time.
You may love to hear the singer
And the harp and organ, too,
But if I could choose an artist*

*Do you know what I would do?
I would run into the kitchen
To my sweet, old mother dear
And crown her as the greatest star
Of all artists, far and near.
Now, perhaps, you are wondering
Why my mother was so wise,
That's because you never saw her
Trim the top crust of her pies."*

"Grandmother, I thank you so much for letting me take a peek into those old days with you. They sound so exciting I almost wish I could have lived during those times. But you have certainly made me feel more appreciative of the wonderful things we have today. Come back soon and tell me more."

Grandmother kissed the upturned face and smiled. "I must go now, but . . .

*Always remember this, dear child,
There's never a time to quit —
Homemaking is an all-time job
And Home is what you make it."*

WELLINGTON...1971



Wellington Hospital



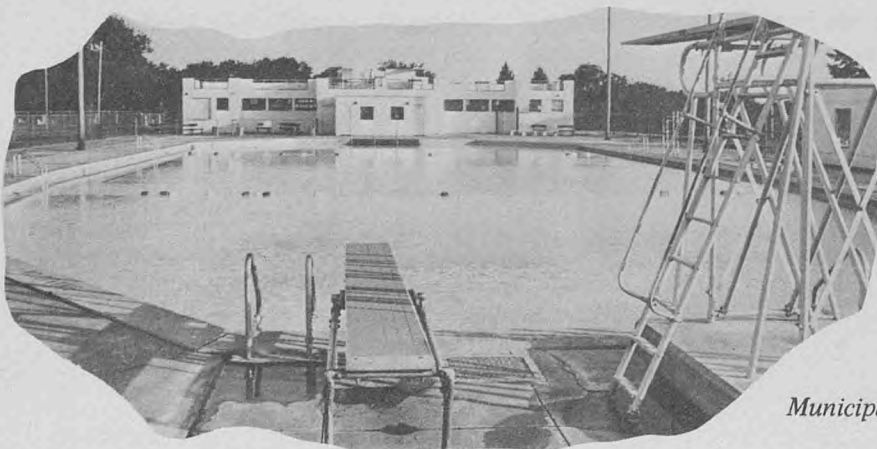
St. Lukes Hospital



National Guard Armory



Golf Course



Municipal Swimming Pool

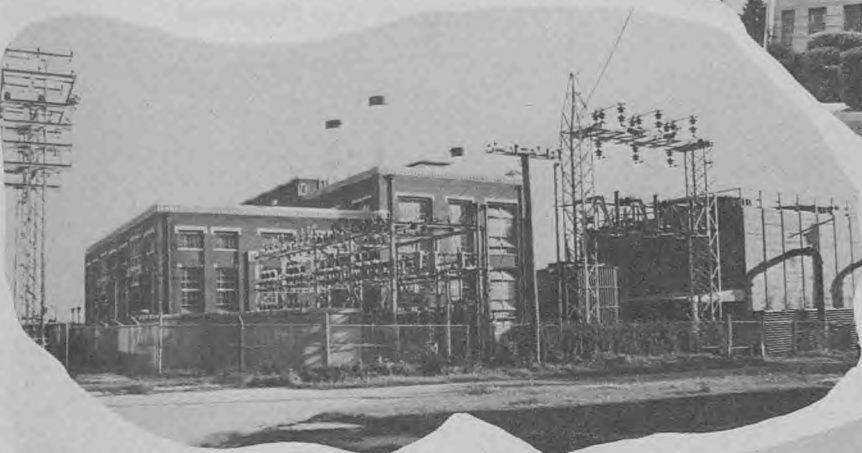
WELLINGTON...1971



City Building and Memorial Auditorium



Recreation Center



Wellington Municipal Power Plant



Wheat Capitol Manor



Wellington Public Library



Sumner County Courthouse

WELLINGTON...1971

Chisholm Trail Museum



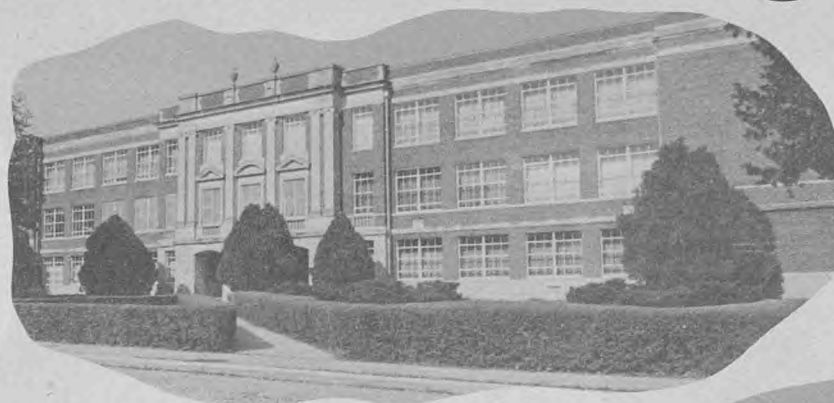
Candy Cane Playground



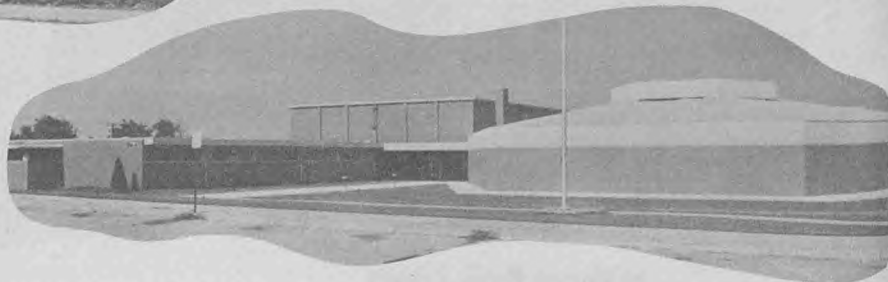
Lakeside Lodge



St. Lukes Hospital (under construction)



Wellington Junior High School



Wellington Senior High School

Some of WELLINGTON CHURCHES...

1971



First Baptist



Calvary Lutheran



First Christian



First Methodist



First Presbyterian



St. John Lutheran



WELLINGTON, KAN.