

# Kansas Libraries

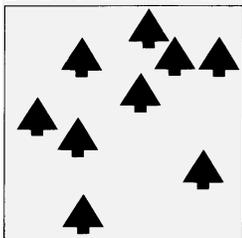
Official Newsletter of the Kansas State Library

December 1998

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D E C E M B E R



## Early handwritten letters for Harry Truman

On November 23, the Truman Library opened for research photocopies of 64 letters that Harry S. Truman wrote to his cousins Myra and Mary Colgan, the daughters of Truman's father's sister, Emily Ricks Truman Colgan. The collection includes three handwritten letters and two postcards that Truman sent his cousins in 1906 and 1907. These are the earliest handwritten, personal letters of Truman's in the Library's holdings. Most of the remainder of the letters in the collection come from the much later years when Truman was United States Senator and President.

The letters Truman wrote to his cousins are full of affection and often personally revealing.

During his presidency, Truman wrote more often to Myra Colgan than to Mary. He shared with her the burdens and frustrations of this office, and his candid opinion of several U.S. Senators.

The letters of Myra and Mary Colgan, whose married names were Myra Colgan Hornbuckle (usually called "Polly" by Truman) and Mary Colgan Romine, were loaned to the Truman Library, together with some other family materials, by Roy T. Romine, the son of Mary

Colgan Romine. Mr. Romine has allowed the Truman Library to copy all the materials and make them available for research.

"This important collection of letters will give historians and the American people insight into the character and career of Harry S. Truman," said Dr. Ray Geselbracht, supervisory archivist at the Truman Library. "They are precious, and we are very grateful to Roy Romine for letting us copy them and make them available for research."

The Harry S. Truman Library is one of ten Presidential Libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. It houses about 15 million pages of documents, including President Truman's own papers relating to his life and Presidency. The research room is open from 8:45 am to 4:45 pm Monday through Friday.

The Truman Library is located at 500 U.S. Highway 24 in Independence, Mo. For information, call (816) 833-1400 or visit the Truman Library Web site at [www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/](http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/truman/).

## In memoriam

Linda Davis Sallee, an elementary school librarian with Unified School District 500 in Kansas City, died in her home on Thursday, November 5. The cause of death is as yet unknown.

Sallee, 42, was born in Kansas City, KS. She earned a Bachelor's degree in education at the University of Missouri, Columbia and taught in the Columbia school system for 12 years. She returned to Kansas City in 1987 and taught 5th grade in the Kansas City, Kansas school system. At the time of her death, she was working as a school librarian and pursuing her Masters in Library Science at Emporia State University.

## ***Libraries and literacy videotape available***

Public libraries throughout the United States can now order *Libraries and Literacy: Bringing it all Together*, a 16-minute staff training video. The videotape is a collaborative effort between the Waukegan Public Library, Illinois and the Illinois State Library.

The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund and the Illinois State Library provided funds. For more information or to place an order, contact St. George Productions, 3 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite #204, Springfield, IL 62701, 217-525-9672, fax: 217-525-6986.

## ***Shared umbrella series available***

The Shared Umbrella Series of adult readers consists of illustrated reading books, each approximately 24 pages in length, designed to provide reading practice at an early elementary level. Written for adults, the books are based on themes relevant to the challenges of achieving self-sufficiency through literacy.

Each set of booklets comes with suggested activities to aid learning and questions to stimulate discussion. Set One ("Go to Work, Fred") focuses on balancing work and family in American society. Set Two ("The Citizenship Class") focuses on the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. For more information, or to order, contact Literacy Volunteers of America—Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire, WI 54703, 715-834-0222.

## ***History Alive! program***

On Thursday, November 19, Emporia Public Library hosted a visit from Will Rogers.

Will Rogers was America's most beloved humorist, reaching millions with his radio show and newspaper columns in the twenties and thirties. Rogers seemed to embody much of what people thought was good about America, and his homespun philosophy on economics and politics is still treasured today.

This special visit was part of the History Alive! program sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council. KHC is a nonprofit organization that promotes informed thinking about the history, traditions and ideas that shape our democratic way of life. KHC sponsors community-based programs for adults statewide.

Will Rogers was portrayed by Doug Watson, a professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University Shawnee, OK. Dr. Watson has been a member of the History Alive! program since 1993.

## ***Exhibit features mythical town***

Somewhere in Kansas lies the mythical town of Midlin. Dr. Medford Dreadlock's Clinic and Darlston's Drugstore exist elsewhere, though the names are less intriguing. Not just one place, Midlin combines the memories and feelings of artist Clark Britton and writer Tom Averill resulting in an exhibit that touches the inner regions or our souls. ***Midlin, Kansas Chronicles: A Postcard Story***, sponsored in part by the Washburn University Center for Kansas Studies, opens Friday, December 11, 1998, in the Special Exhibits Gallery of the Kansas Museum of History.

Britton, an art and design professor at Wichita State University, created the series of 40 postcards of Midline set in the mid-1950s. Midlin, located on U.S. 52, is based on the real places Britton lived including the Gulf Coast town of Moss Point, Mississippi; Brundidge, Alabama, his wife's home town; and Wichita where he taught at the University of Wichita. Averill, a professor of English and writer in residence at Washburn University, developed the character of Ken Johnson, a recent graduate of Midlin High School who is attending the University of Wichita. The postcards are "sent" by his parents, his sister, and a high school friend.

"The first drawing—as did all the others—came directly from remembered images," said Clark Britton. "Tom Averill has given flesh and bone and emotions and life to the people of that town I created. It is still a place I visit from time to time and stand on the Chichkawah Bridge and watch the Blue River flow south."

"Moved by their emotion, which is not nostalgia but instead a subtle sense of loss, I created my own version of Midlin," Tom Averill said. "I wrote of a family that had experienced one loss, and would soon lose their bright and capable son to the work waiting outside the small Kansas town. Clark's cards prove that we are from our world, even when we live in or seek another.

**Midlin, Kansas Chronicles** will run through January 17, 1999. **Leading the Way: Famous Kansans** opens January 22, 1999. The Kansas Museum of History is open 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Saturday and 12:30 - 4:30 pm Sunday at 6425 S.W. Sixth Avenue in Topeka, (785) 272-8681; TTY (785) 272-8683; <http://www.kshs.org>. Admission is free, a donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children is suggested.

### **Historical Society web site receives honors**

The Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) has chosen the Kansas State Historical Society's World Wide Web page to receive the 1998 Marketing Award for Electronic Media. The award was presented by TIAK board members Norine Kruse and Susan NeuPoth Cadoret October 14, 1998 at the 1998 Kansas Tourism, Lodging & Hospitality Conference in Topeka. TIAK awards are given annually to organizations in recognition of their marketing efforts.

The Society's web site regularly adds new features and resources to its page. Approximately 4,000 people visit the Society's web page each month. Located at <http://www.kshs.org>, the page is divided into the following sections: Classes, Members, People, Places, Products, Resources, Views, Welcome, What's New, and You. Visitors can learn about upcoming activities at the Kansas History Center and the fifteen state historic sites around the state, learn about many of the notable people from Kansas, and research a wide range of topics in Kansas history. Children can read articles from a magazine just for kids, play interactive games, and learn about Kansas symbols. Teachers can explore the many materials available for the classroom, genealogists can trace finding aids, Kansans can learn

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# Catalyst

by Eric Hansen,  
Executive Director  
Kansas Library Network Board

The Kansas Library Network Board meeting in November was a meaningful one. As a first-time collaboration between us, the Board had a chance to get to know me, and I them. As the mutual learning experience continues, I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the Board.

Among important business decided at the meeting was the question of how to allocate remaining funds for FY 1999. The Board decided to set aside a significant amount of money for competitive network development grants. Guidelines for applicants are being drawn up and will be posted to Blue Skyways upon Board approval. An announcement will be posted on KANLIB-L as well.

Because I want to get to know Kansas librarians and their concerns, I've set aside time in November and December to visit with each of the seven regional system directors. As part of this process, I'm interested to learn, from anyone who'll talk or write to me, what Kansas libraries need and want from the Network Board. I welcome feedback by E-mail at [erich@ink.org](mailto:erich@ink.org), by phone at (800) 432-3919, or by fax at (785) 296-6650. I hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Eric Hansen

### *"Trick or Treat" books get great response*

The College Library is one place kids don't pass up at Halloween at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

"For the last several years, when the children from the College's Child Care Center come around to 'trick or treat' us, we've given them a piece of candy, a Big Bird bookmark and a book," says Pamela Drayson, Library Director.

"We were not prepared for all the people who either went out of their way to stop past or called us to tell us how much they appreciated their children getting the books. They didn't have to do that but they were so delighted with the books."

In addition, children coming into the library with their parents those days just before and just after Halloween are also offered books and bookmarks.

Giving of the books to children isn't limited to Halloween, however. Last spring, when groups of Hispanic children from the El Centro Center stopped at the library during four days of campus tours, the youngsters were offered their choice of books from a display specially arranged just for them.

"One boy who must have been in the third or fourth grade saw a book on Japan and asked if

he could have it because he had to make a report on Japan," says Drayson. "He was thrilled. He didn't know there was such a thing as a whole book on Japan."

By watching for sales, Drayson estimates the cost of books at about 60 cents a piece. "We usually spend about \$300 a year on books for children and get many times that back in public relations and positive feedback," says Drayson.

The KCKCC Library also caters to children of students who need to make stops at the Library for resource material.

"We have videos, story books, coloring books and crayons we make available to the children," says Drayson. "With a book or a video, they can be expected to sit down and be quiet and good for about 20 minutes or more, which is time for their parents to get the information they need, photocopy it and be ready to leave."

"It's been very successful, so successful in fact that we have a lot of kids urging their parents to come back to the library," says Drayson.

Anyone wanting further information on the KCKCC programs can write: Pamela Drayson, c/o Kansas City Kansas Community College Library, 7250 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66112, or by calling (913) 596-9650.

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about the benefits of membership in the Society, and shoppers can browse for special Kansas products available for purchase. Colorful covers and information about stories in the society's two publications, *Kansas Heritage* and *Kansas History*, are featured on the page.

The Kansas State Historical Society is headquartered at the Kansas History Center, 6425 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615; (785) 272-8681; TTY (785) 272-8683; <http://www.kshs.org>.

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Address comments concerning *Kansas Libraries* to the editor.

## *Ethnic holiday celebration provides free fun for the family*

Shop for unique handmade items. Savor ethnic holiday foods from Kansas. Sway to the beat of musical performances! Smile as children made ethnic crafts and enjoy a piñata party! The ninth annual Creative Holidays, a celebration of holiday customs and traditions is Saturday, December 5, at the Kansas History Center in Topeka.

Creative Holidays features ethnic and holiday crafts, foods, and music; family activities; and unique gifts. Families can make and take home holiday crafts such as Native American cradleboards and Asian lanterns. All supplies are provided free of charge. Piñata parties will be held at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm in the museum classrooms.

Take a ride in a horse-drawn wagon from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm to Stach School, a 1920s one-room schoolhouse on the grounds of the Kansas History Center, where you can enjoy hot cocoa and popcorn stringing. School marms will welcome visitors to the rural school and present historic holiday activities.

May artists will be demonstrating and displaying work in the museum lobby including Native American beadwork, decorative housewares, woodburning, enamel beaded jewelry, sunflower designs, metal work, pottery, and pressed flower designs. Holiday music will be performed on the hammer dulcimer by Lilah Gillette in the museum lobby. Czech breads, jellies, and pies will be among the many treats available for purchase.

Creative Holidays will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday, December 5, at the Society's Kansas History Center located at 6425 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615; (785) 272-8681; TTY (785) 272-8683; <http://www.kshs.org>. Admission is free for the event, a donation of \$2 for adults and \$1 for children is suggested for museum visitors.



## *LVA-Chippewa Valley focuses on lifelong learning for families*

Families have always been important to the literacy effort in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. To meet the needs of families, Literacy Volunteers of America collaborated with other community agencies to provide comprehensive services for parents and their preschool children. To comply with current welfare reform in Wisconsin, LVA-CV now offers greater flexibility in learning opportunities for working parents. The following publications through Chippewa Valley Publishing share insights from this nationally recognized program:

- ***The Path to Family Literacy*** written by Carol Gabler and Jan Goethel.
- ***Celebrate Writing*** by students in the adult literacy program.
- ***Telling Tales***
- ***Shared Umbrella Series***
- ***While I am Here*** by Mai Holter and Jan Goethel.

For further information contact Chippewa Valley Publishing, 400 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701, or call (715) 834-0222, or fax (715) 834-2546.

## *News from Olathe public library*

As a result of a special promotion during September National Library Card Sign-Up Month, the Olathe Public Library experienced a 38% increase in the number of new cards issued over the same month last year. Library customers were invited to exchange their library cards, free of charge, for keytags, smaller cards that fit on key rings. Each customer could choose from a free key ring, or for the younger set, a coil-type bracelet with a key ring attached.

Library customers enthusiastically responded, and 645 new cards were issued in September, 305 of which were keytags. In addition, 1,521 library customers turned in their old cards for keytags. The Friends of the Library organization purchased the key chains and bracelets.

The Ella Mae Memorial Book Sale, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, held in October raised over \$4,100.

The Olathe community was generous with their donations during the Food For Fines Program, October 19 - November 28, sponsored by the Library's staff association. Library customers could return a lost library item along with one can of food and any overdue charges on that item were waived. In addition, customers who donated one can of food had their overdue charges reduced by \$1, up to a maximum of \$5 per visit. All food donations benefited Harvesters.

During National Children's Book Week, Andrea Warren, author of *Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's Story* and *Pioneer Girl: Growing Up on the Prairie*, spoke to children in grades 1-6 on November 19.

C-SPAN2 filmed the program which will be aired on Book TV on Saturday, December 19, at 2:00 pm, and Sunday, December 20, at 9:00 am.

## Kansas libraries.... twenty years ago

—Bill Sowers  
Kansas Documents Librarian/  
Tech Services Librarian

Gleanings from the Kansas Library Bulletin, December, 1978, issue.

- At a cost of \$25,000 the public library at Ellsworth has been remodeled and an addition to the building at the rear nearly doubles the floor space.
- Feature article of this issue was "Are Trustees Necessary?" by Mrs. Theodore Stroud, library trustee of the Des Moines (Iowa) Public Library, and speaker at the recent KLA Conference.
- Featured speaker at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Kansas Library Association in October had been author Langston Hughes, who gave an account of his early life in Topeka and Lawrence.

## Kansas books

—by Roy Bird

***To See the Elephant: The Civil War Letters of John A. McKee (1861-1985)***, by James R. James. Order from: Leathers Publishing, 4500 College Blvd., Leawood, KS 66211, ISBN 1-890622-49-4. Hardcover, illustrated, 190 pp. \$24.95.

Kansas authors write about a lot more than just Kansas topics. Such is the case with a delightful new book by Topekan James R. James, editor of the Civil War letters of a Union soldier in an Ohio regiment who served much of the war in West Virginia. ***To See the Elephant*** is a title derived from a 19th century phrase implying that he'd left home and seen more of the world than just his hometown of Gettysburg, Ohio.

The 44th Ohio Volunteer Infantry was organized in the fall of 1861, after the Battle of Bull Run. It later became the 8th Ohio Volunteer Cavalry and served until 1865. John A. McKee sent many letters home to his brother describing skirmishes and small battles in this little known area of the war. But the book's value goes far beyond describing events in an often overlooked part of the Civil War. It provides a close look at the common soldier in his own words. It is well-balanced and appeals to the large audience of Civil War buffs who love to read more than historical interpretation. The author carefully expands the letters with text that connects them and helps the reader understand the context of the events about which McKee wrote.

The illustrations are by retired Marine Colonel Darrell L. Combs, a native of Concordia and graduate of Bethany College in Lindsborg. His paintings and drawings add color and illumination to the text.

***To See the Elephant*** is a book by a Kansan, with artwork by a Kansan. It will attract readers who are fascinated by the common soldier during the Civil War. Recommended for adult nonfiction, academic, and high school collections.

## **Library positions**

### **Library Director Augusta Public Library**

The Augusta Public Library, 12 miles east of Wichita, has the director's position open due to the relocation of the current director's husband. Pop. 8,429, Circ. 90,000, Coll. 38,000, staff 11, automation system, Internet access. Seeking enthusiastic, well-organized individual with strong skills in planning, implementing and providing excellent service for patrons. Must have a progressive attitude toward all facets of library service, knowledge and understanding of an automated system and experience with budgeting and payroll. Position requires an MLS from an ALA-accredited library program with a minimum of 2 years experience at supervisory level. Salary starts \$25,000-\$27,000 plus benefits. Send letter of application, resume and three professional references to Maxine Moore, c/o Augusta Public Library, 1609 State Street, Augusta, KS 67010.

### **Library Director Fredonia Public Library**

The Fredonia Public Library has an immediate opening for a full-time Library Director. Position requires excellent communication and customer service skills. Experience as a public librarian preferred but not required. Application available at the library, located at 8th and Jefferson. Apply before December 4, 1998 to: Nina Fowler, Board Chairman, 628 Madison, Fredonia, KS 66736.

### **Technical Services/Automation Coordinator, Assistant Professor Kansas State University-Salina College of Technology and Aviation**

Kansas State University-Salina, College of Technology and Aviation is accepting applications for an experienced and innovative individual to administer the technical services and systems operations of the library and provide proactive leadership in all aspects of automated library and technical services operations. Responsibilities include: coordination of technical activities which include acquisitions, cataloging and processing of

library materials; managing emerging information technologies and their applications, general reference, bibliographic instruction and collection development; use and operation of electronic resources including Endeavor/Voyager. Evidence of knowledge and expertise with library online systems, CD-ROM, the Internet, HTML, and microcomputer applications required. Networking experience a plus. ALA accredited MLS required. Basic science/technology background preferred. This person will be a liaison between KSU-Salina Library and KSU-Manhattan Library. The Library seeks an individual with initiative, self motivation, energy, time management skills, effective interpersonal skills with a strong team spirit. Anticipated salary from \$29,000 to \$33,000 (depending on experience and qualifications) for a twelve month contract. Comprehensive benefits package. Applications will be screened beginning January 15, 1999 and continue until position is filled. Send letter of application, resume, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references to: Dr. Beverlee R. Kissick, Director of Libraries, Kansas State University-Salina, 2409 Scanlan Avenue, Salina, KS 67401. The Library is committed to improving the diversity of its faculty by actively seeking applications from a broad spectrum of individuals. Kansas State University-Salina is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

### **Assistant to the Library Director Lawrence Public Library**

This full-time position is responsible for support of the many and varied activities of the Library Director. The position will use word processor, spreadsheet, Internet electronic mail, and mailing database management software; and fax, photocopier, voice mail, and other office technologies to support the Director's work. The position is also responsible, as assigned by the Director, for conducting surveys and other research, collecting and formatting statistical data, and assisting in the preparation of reports on a wide range of library service issues. A bachelor's degree and knowledge of and experience with microcomputer software and office technologies are required. Receptivity to direction and superior written and verbal communication skills, including good phone skills, are essential. Library experience is preferred, but not required.

Hours are typically 8 am-5 pm Mon-Fri. Some flexibility is required. Attendance at monthly Library Board meetings (third Monday of each month, 4-6 pm) is required. Beginning salary is \$16,000-18,000. Health care and retirement package, vacation, sick leave, and other benefits. This is an excellent position for an individual who is detail-oriented and responsible, and who is eager to support continuous quality improvement in a dynamic public organization. To apply, send a letter of introduction, resume, and at least three references to: Bruce Flanders, Director, Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont Street, Lawrence, KS 66044-2371. Applicants will receive an Employment Application Form for completion. Preference is given to applications received by December 18, 1998. The Lawrence Public Library is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

*An invitation*

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

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