

KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal
of the
Central Plains

Volume 7, Number 1
Spring 1984



Kansas State Historical Society

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THE KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY was organized in 1875 by the newspaper editors and publishers of the state, and four years later it became the official trustee for the state's historical collections. Since then, the Society has operated both as a non-profit membership organization and as a specially recognized society supported by appropriations from the state of Kansas.

The purposes of the Society are the advancement of knowledge about and the preservation of resources related to the history and prehistory of Kansas and the American West, accomplished through educational and cultural programs, the provision of research services, and the protection of historic properties. The Society is governed by a ninety-nine-member board of directors, elected by the membership, and is administered by an executive director and an assistant executive director.

The new Kansas Museum of History will feature special and permanent exhibits and educational programs based on the Society's rich artifact collections. It is located near the historic Pottawatomie Baptist Mission west of Topeka, adjacent to Interstate 70. All other Society departments remain at the Center for Historical Research, Memorial Building, across the street from the State Capitol in Topeka.

All persons interested in Kansas history and prehistory are cordially invited to join the Society. Those who would like to provide additional support for the Society's work may want to consider contributions in the form of gifts or bequests. A representative of the Society will be glad to consult with anyone wishing to make such a gift or establish a bequest or an endowment. Address the Executive Director, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

Cover: Spring comes to the Kansas Museum of History, as shown in this early May 1984 view by Society Photographer Earl Kintner. With a glass-roofed entryway and a facade of cottonwood limestone, the museum was designed to harmonize with the nearby mission and complement the natural beauty of the rural setting. Beginning on page 34, Museum Director

Mark A. Hunt provides further details in "The Kansas Museum of History: A Functional Design for the Future." Other articles in this special issue of *Kansas History* describe the museum collections, programs, and exhibits, all discussed within the context of the history of the Kansas State Historical Society.

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Kansas History (USPS 290 620) is published quarterly by the Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612. It is distributed without charge to members of the Kansas State Historical Society. Membership dues are as follows: student, \$7.50; individual, \$15.00; family, \$25.00; life, \$500.00. Supporting memberships are also available: sustaining, \$50.00; friend, \$100.00; associate, \$250.00; patron, \$500.00; and benefactor, \$1,000.00 and above. Membership dues should be sent to Robert W. Richmond, treasurer. Single issues, when available, are \$4.00.

The Society assumes no responsibility for statements of fact or opinion made by contributors.

Second-class postage paid at Topeka, Kansas. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Kansas History*, 120 West Tenth Street, Topeka, Kansas 66612.

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Articles appearing in *Kansas History* are abstracted and/or indexed in *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*.

Printed by H. M. Ives and Sons
Topeka, Kansas