

Winter 2014

Reflections

A publication of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Foundation



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Winter 2014

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

FROM OUR COLLECTIONS

2

Pieces of Her Life:
Quilts of Eliza Hobart Austin

6

Live from the WIBW-TV Studios

10

Mrs. White, Editor

Departments

Featured Program 1
Save Our History 4
Real People. Real Stories. 8
Witness to History. 9
Curator's Choice 12
Calendar 13

On the cover: Kathrine Klinkenberg White used a critical editorial eye to maintain high professional standards during the 15 years she ran the *Emporia Gazette*. See story page 10.

Reflections

The Kansas Historical Society comprises five divisions and many different programs that serve the people of Kansas. This issue highlights the Capitol Visitor Center at the Kansas State Capitol. The visitor center is operated by the Kansas Historical Society.

Capitol Visitor Center

The visitor center at the newly restored Kansas State Capitol opened its doors January 2, 2014, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. When Governor Sam Brownback took his turn at the podium, he smiled and asked the gathered crowd, "Isn't this awesome?"

Awesome indeed. Brass doors lead visitors into the lobby where a state map outlining Kansas counties is built into the marble floor. The ceiling created by the underside of the north staircase rises to windows that flood the area with natural light. Beyond the lobby the auditorium, classroom, dining hall, and exhibit spaces extend throughout the north wing and under the rotunda. The limestone foundation creates a majestic backdrop for display cases, photographs, and objects.



The lobby features a bronze statue of General Dwight Eisenhower.



Left, stonemason tools used during the original construction are displayed along with a photograph of Capitol construction workers from 1888.

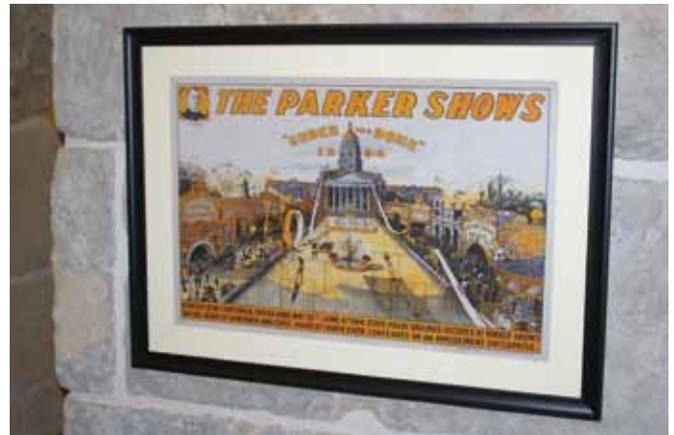
Top to bottom, a photograph of the Denison Women's Missionary Society quilters is in the Heritage Events collection in the auditorium; a poster promoting the Parker Shows fair held on the Capitol grounds in 1904 is included in the Business in Kansas exhibit; landscapes are on exhibit in the dining room.

Artifacts on exhibit include stonemason tools from the original construction, items found during construction, John Brown's sword, and a sledge hammer used in the Legislative War of 1893. A dome window removed during restoration is displayed with photos taken from the top of the dome in 1904 and 2013.

The State of Kansas bond to build the Capitol (1867) and the Kansas Constitution (1859) are among the featured documents. Fair posters from across the state and photographs of the original construction are on display. Other photo exhibits highlight native peoples, heritage events, landscapes, notable Kansans, and notable events in Kansas.

The new Capitol Store, adjacent to the visitor center, is operated by the Kansas Historical Foundation and will help to fund Capitol tours. The store features products created by Kansas artists, including jewelry and collectibles made with copper from the Capitol. (See story pages 4–5.) Books for sale include the *Kansas State Capitol*, a photographic history of the building, and a series of children's activity books about notable Kansans.

The visitor center is open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday and 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday. Tours are available Monday – Friday. For tour information, visit ksks.org/11711.



Pieces of Her Life: Quilts of Eliza Hobart Austin

Eliza Hobart Austin lived in several states as her family moved west from Vermont to Kansas. Over these 97 years, Austin gathered pieces of material, which she used to create quilts for her family.



Above, Eliza Hobart Austin; left, the Ocean Wave quilt created about 1890.

Born in 1831, in Essex, Vermont, Hobart moved with her family to Webster, Illinois, when she was two. In 1852 she married Lucius Monroe Austin. The Austins continued to live in Webster where their 11 children were born. In 1883 the family moved to Clarion, Iowa. Lucius died there in 1889.

After his death, Eliza probably finished the *Ocean Wave* quilt. Using a wide variety of scraps that she had collected, she hand pieced the top with red, blue, green, and brown calico prints. After hand quilting, she applied binding around the edges. After selling the Iowa farm in 1901, Austin may have moved to Minnesota to live briefly with



The Union Square quilt created in 1913.

her eldest daughter. By 1910 she was living in Hutchinson, Kansas, and soon moved to Eagle Canyon Ranch near Mullinville in Kiowa County. There she made a red, white, and blue quilt in the *Union Square* pattern, setting the blocks on point and separating them by wide bands. Austin gave this quilt to her granddaughter, Marietta Marriage, when she married Benjamin Weaver in 1913. Austin died in Mullinville in 1928.

Marietta's daughter, Vivian Weaver Bangs, donated the *Union Square* quilt to the Kansas Historical Society in 1996. The *Ocean Wave* quilt was passed along to her great granddaughter, Marianne Austin McDermon, who preserved the quilt for 50 years. She left the *Ocean Wave* quilt to a cousin, Barbara Dilly, who was inspired to create a replica. Intrigued by the range of fabrics incorporated into the pattern, Dilly began researching and writing a history of the family and the quilts. Dilly donated the original *Ocean Wave* quilt on behalf of McDermon in 2013.

VISIT | MUSEUM

Speaking of Quilts: Voices from the Collection and the Community, through August 31, 2014, features timeless beauties and contemporary art quilts. Among those highlighted include *The Garden* (pictured at right), made in Emporia in 1933, and *Love Apple* (pictured at far right), made by the women of Nicodemus in the late 19th century. kshs.org/18427



Featuring Products by Kansas Artists

Pottery, jewelry, paintings, clothing, and edible items created by Kansans are available for purchase in the Capitol Store at the Kansas State Capitol. Operated by the

Kansas Historical Foundation, the store is one way the Foundation helps support the programs of the Historical Society.

Cero's Candies

Milk chocolate honey bees and sunflowers sold exclusively at the Capitol Store are the creation of mother/daughter team Pam Bishop and Darcy Thrasher of Cero's Candies in Wichita. The duo also offers peanut butter cups, caramel turtles, and peanut clusters.



Cero's Candies has been in continuous operation since 1885. Bishop, who purchased the company in 2010, is excited to combine her daughter's candy-making skills

with the original owner's recipes. They also like to experiment with their own new recipes, including the Persian Jewel truffle, a combination of nutty, citrus, and spicy flavors found in a rice dish served at Persian weddings.



Arthur Short Bull

When watercolor artist Arthur Short Bull begins a new painting set in Kansas, his vision is to "capture a segment of Kansas history that is not talked about." He is speaking about the history of the American Indian in Kansas. Through his art, he enjoys showing the history of native peoples before Kansas was a state. Settings include villages, the prairie, and buffalo hunts. His work also includes animals, usually buffalo, horses, birds, and other wildlife living on the Great Plains in the 19th century.

Kristen Haug

Metalsmithing is the focus of Kristen Haug's creations. Haug's Elemental Jewelry Company of Silver Lake is one of several companies providing designs using the historic copper from the Capitol roof.



"For my wearable art, I start with materials, gemstones or unusual materials and embellish on their beauty," Haug said. "For the copper, I build environments to set the material in a nest or home." Using the old copper, Haug has created numerous earrings and pendants. In one series she features "a door leading to a magical garden," with vines of silver, sometimes offset with amethysts or agates.



Short Bull is a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation. He has been painting professionally since 1991.

Shalene Henley

Shalene Henley from Ulysses creates unique pieces from the Capitol copper. With a master's degree in fine arts in metal smithing, Henley used experimentation in discovering the perfect pairing of her skill with the copper material. "I request the ugliest pieces and then turn them into something pretty," she said. "I've always been drawn toward organic forms."



The copper pieces Henley receives have tape that held the copper sections together. "It's fun to scrape off this tape and reveal the beauty." A native of Oklahoma, Henley feels lucky to be a Kansas transplant and enjoys highlighting nature in her work, which includes small pod sculptures and jewelry.



Elk Falls Pottery

Elk Falls Pottery is made from stoneware clay dug out of the ground in Barton County. Owners Steve and Jane Fry are proud to say their product is not only made in Kansas—it's made from Kansas. The couple learned about the clay deposit on a field trip while attending Hesston College in the early 1970s. They travel to Barton County once a year and dig a one-year supply.

After college, the Frys worked with traditional pottery in the living history village of Westville, near Lumpkin, Georgia. There they gained an appreciation for the early American stoneware that continues to influence their work today. They returned to Kansas and established Elk Falls Pottery in Elk County in 1976.

Barb Quaney

Barb Quaney calls her wearable art Damhsa Caora, a Gaelic phrase meaning dancing sheep. "The name depicts how fiber migration occurs during felting," Quaney said. "The sheep wool is laid out with hot soap and water, and I agitate that into cloth."

Quaney grew up in the Flint Hills and returned to the state several years ago. She incorporates the natural elements and beauty of Kansas in her art. After local artists dye the raw wool, Quaney uses steam and cold to produce imprints of native Kansas plants onto the material. This traditional slow movement process can take weeks or even months.



Live From the WIBW-TV Studios

In the late 1940s and early 1950s Kansas families were introduced to the medium of television. The first Kansas City station signed on the air in 1949. Three Kansas stations began operation in 1953, transmitting from Overland Park, Hutchinson, and Topeka.



Studio broadcast in the WIBW-TV studio, Topeka, 1950s.

Television brought a shared experience to people across the state. Kansans could connect with local personalities, national news of the day, and major trends in the country. They could join viewers from the East and West coasts in watching popular network programs like *I Love Lucy*, *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, and *The Jack Benny Show*.

WIBW-TV, one of these early stations, signed on the air on November 15, 1953. On November 3, 1953, Benny, a popular comedian of the day, wrote in a letter to the *Topeka Daily Capital*, "I just heard that Topeka will have a new television station, WIBW-TV," he wrote, "and it starts telecasting on November 15. This news was

especially welcome to me because my next television program will be heard on that day, and since Kansas seems to love its tall corn, I am sure they will like my show."

Designated Channel 13, WIBW-TV was owned by Capper Communications, operated by the family of Arthur Capper. Capper purchased WIBW-AM in 1927, which was an Indiana radio station. WIBW-TV was a CBS affiliate and the only station in the Topeka market for many years. It aired programs from other networks like ABC, NBC, and DuMont.

Broadcasting from a studio in west Topeka, the station used two RCA TK-11 studio cameras for live news,

weather, and entertainment programming. Viewers became acquainted with local TV personalities like news anchor Roger Ready; farm reporter Wilbur Levering; and musical performances by local bands. When the station purchased a new camera in 1961, the original cameras were used for remote broadcasts, like the first telecast of a

college basketball game with Kansas State University and the University of Kansas.

In 1984 WIBW-TV donated one of the original studio cameras to the Kansas Historical Society, along with other television equipment, which is now on display in the main gallery of the Kansas Museum of History.



VISIT | MUSEUM

The museum's recent past section offers a glimpse into the early days of television. Featured along with the studio camera is a 1950s television and TV antenna, plus television snacks of the day. kshs.org/museum

Martha Cunningham

Martha “Mattie” Cunningham was one of the first female doctors to practice in Kansas. She made house calls in the Garnett community for more than 20 years.



Cunningham was born in 1854 in Greencastle, Indiana. In 1865 she moved to Kansas with her parents and settled on a farm near Birch Switch, four miles southwest of Garnett. As a young woman she taught school for a few years before attending the Women’s Division of the Chicago School of Medicine. She graduated in 1886 and returned to Garnett to practice medicine in her own office at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Oak Street. Dr. Cunningham had a reputation for making house calls at any time, in and around town, regardless of inclement weather or dangerous road conditions, usually wearing a tailored suit. Her practice was reportedly the largest of any

doctor in Garnett, despite the prejudice against women doctors that was so prevalent at the turn of the 19th century.

When Cunningham’s health began to fail, she retired and in 1912 moved to Los Angeles, California, with her sister Belle. She died August 15, 1928, in Los Angeles. “Her unselfish devotion to duty in the large practice she had built up caused overwork and her health to fail,” read her obituary in the *Garnett Review*. “Her life—measured in friendship, kindness, unselfishness and loving service to others—stands as a monument shining, bright, secure and fixed in the minds of all who knew her.”



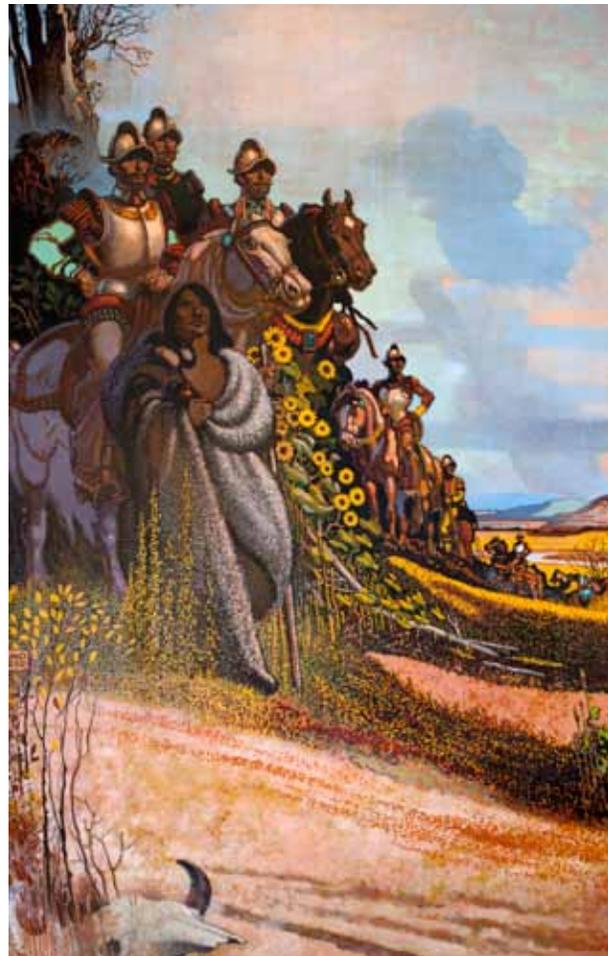
Dr. Martha Cunningham, seated, with her sister Belle and horse Prince, in front of Cunningham’s office at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Oak Street in Garnett, between 1890 and 1912.

Horse Chainmail

When Francisco Vázquez de Coronado led a small expedition to Kansas in search of gold, his entourage included more than 30 horses. As was the custom in 1541, the horses wore chainmail for protection.

Coronado's group traveled as far north as the Quivira Indian villages in present day Rice and McPherson Counties and never found gold. However, they left something behind for a future generation to find.

Between 1881 and 1888 natural science teacher and amateur archeologist Johan August Udden investigated the ruins of an ancient American Indian village southwest of Lindsborg and found a two inch square piece of rusted



chainmail. Made of interlocking small rings of iron, chainmail provided protection from arrows, spears, and knives and was brought to the New World by early Spanish explorers. Udden was familiar with Coronado's expedition to Kansas and he was the first to suggest this particular village site may have been one of the Quiviran villages visited by the Spaniards.

Unfortunately the chainmail disappeared before 1900 and was believed to be forever lost. It reappeared in an antique store in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1974 and was promptly obtained by the Kansas Historical Society. The specimen has since been studied by experts of 16th century armor who verified its authenticity and declared it was most likely horse chain mail. The chainmail is currently on display at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka.

Above: Two-inch square piece of 16th century horse chainmail, on display at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka.

Left: Coming of the Spaniards by David H. Overmyer, located at the Kansas State Capitol, Topeka.

Mrs. White, Editor

Kathrine Klinkenberg White was a private person who led a fascinating life amid New York journalists and society. As editor of the *Emporia Gazette* for 15 years, she reportedly inspired the character of “Mrs. Pynchon,” the strong-willed newspaper publisher in the television show, *Lou Grant*, along with Katherine Graham of the *Washington Post*.



University of Kansas schoolbook, 1926

Born July 9, 1903, in Cawker City, Kansas, her family moved to Ottawa when she was five. Her father, Peter, owned a drug store; her mother, Frances, was a sorority house mother at the University of Kansas.

Klinkenberg served as the literary editor of her high school newspaper and society editor of the yearbook. She attended the University of Kansas where she joined Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, then transferred to the University of Wisconsin.

German book collector Otto Vollbehr hired Klinkenberg in 1926 to assist with exhibiting his collection in American libraries. *Time* magazine hired Klinkenberg as an office assistant in 1927. For a short time she was assistant curator for Vollbehr’s display at the Library of Congress. She returned to *Time* to work in the editorial department. Filling in as a sports reporter, Klinkenberg joined Amelia Earhart on a flight over the city, during one of the aviator’s press tours.

Klinkenberg left *Time* to marry William Lindsay White in New York City on April 29, 1931. Her husband claimed that Henry Luce, *Time*’s publisher and founder, shed tears at her departure. The Whites lived in Emporia, Kansas, when he served as a state representative. In 1935 they moved to Washington while he was a writer for the *Post*. In 1937 they moved to New York, where he worked as a journalist and author. Mrs. White, as she preferred to be called, served as editor on most of her husband’s drafts.

While he was a war correspondent in Europe, Russia, and Korea, she often accompanied him on assignment. In Europe, the Whites became the parents of Barbara, an English war orphan, documented in the popular book and motion picture, *A Journey for Margaret*. His work on the Korean War served as historic background for the director of the television show, *M*A*S*H*. The Whites were active in New York society, with friends and acquaintances among the famous, wealthy, and powerful people of America in the 1950s. They also enjoyed traveling around the world, collecting art objects and mementoes.



When William Lindsay's father, William Allen White, died in 1944, William Lindsay and Kathrine took over the *Emporia Gazette*. When Lindsay died in 1973, Mrs. White applied her high editorial standards as sole editor of the newspaper. "There is no place like a small town when you are in trouble—in a city no one cares,

but a small town is family," she said. After Kathrine's death in 1988, daughter Barbara White Walker and her husband Paul David Walker took over the *Gazette*. They donated the family home in 2001 to be operated as Red Rocks State Historic Site, along with many photographs, artifacts, and other family items.



Clockwise from top left: Mrs. White served as editor until her death at age 85; her linked bracelet features stylized birds; Mrs. White's raspberry colored silk taffeta gown was entirely hand sewn; Mrs. White poses with a statue of William Lindsay White in the park near the Gazette.



VISIT | RED ROCKS

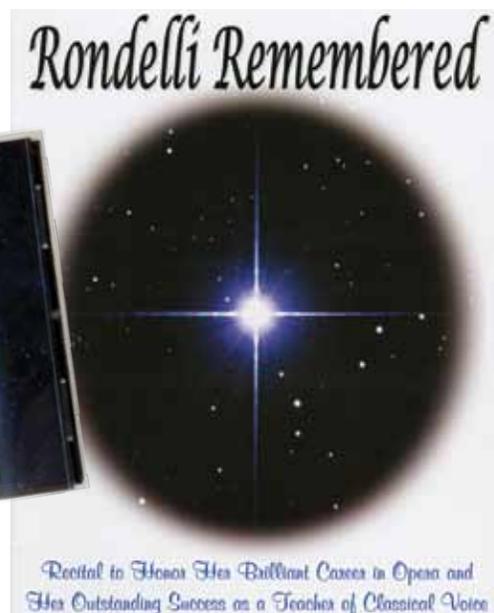
Red Rocks State Historic Site in Emporia tells the story of the William Allen White family, including Kathrine and William Lindsay White (pictured at right.) It is located at 927 Exchange Street. 620-342-2800, kshs.org/red_rocks

Career of a Songstress

Lyric soprano Barbara Rondelli Perry was born in Chicopee, Crawford County, Kansas, in 1939. She graduated from Kansas State Teachers College in Pittsburg with a Bachelor of Music and Vocal Performance in 1960. She studied music in London and Siena, Italy, before embarking on her operatic career.

Perry sang professionally in Europe, South Africa, Mexico, and the United States from 1964 to 1975. She performed in 40 major operatic roles and more than 50 major oratorio roles; her personal favorites include Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* and Mimi in *La Boheme*. In 1975 she joined the music department faculty at the University of Toledo. Upon retirement in 2012 she created the Barbara Rondelli Perry Scholarship for Superior Achievement in Vocal Performance at both Pittsburg State University and the University of Toledo.

In 2013 Perry donated several career related items to the Kansas Historical Society, including photographs, reviews of her performances, magazine articles, the CD *Remarkable Rondelli: Sempre*, and the program from her 2012 retirement concert.



Clockwise: on concert tour of Mexico for United States Information Service Cultural Exchange Program, 1960; program from the 2012 retirement concert; CD released in 2012.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through August 31, 2014

Speaking of Quilts exhibit • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

March 2, April 6, May 4

Bleeding Kansas Characters • Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

March 6

Museum After Hours: A Night at Gatsby's. • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

March 8

Saturdays by the Grinter Stove • Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

March 15

National Quilt Day • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

March 23, April 6, 27, May 4, June 1

Kaw Councils 2014 Series: American Indians of Kansas • Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Grove

April 19

Gems in the Attic • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

May 3

Historic Sites Board of Review • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

May 10

Preserve Topeka Workshop: Neighborhood Fair • location to be announced

May 18

International Museum Day • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

Winter 2014

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1

Sam Brownback, Governor of Kansas

Kansas Historical Society

Jennie A. Chinn, Executive Director

Bobbie Athon, Editor

Lisa Hecker, Assistant Editor

Linda Kunkle Park, Designer

Kansas Historical Foundation

Vicky Henley, CEO/Executive Director

Jack Alexander, President

Executive Committee of the Foundation Board

Deborah Barker, Donita A. Barone, Steve Bitner, Don Chubb, J. Eric Engstrom, William A. Kassebaum, Rep. Annie Kuether, James Maag, Barbara Morris, John Pinegar, Reggie Robinson, Hal Ross, F. Dave Seaton, Paul Stuewe, and Mary Turkington.

Copyright ©2014 Kansas Historical Foundation

Reflections is published quarterly by the Kansas Historical Foundation, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka KS 66615-1099. It is distributed to members and at many Historical Society sites. Membership information is available by calling Terry Marmet, Kansas Historical Foundation, 785-272-8681, ext. 209. Individuals wishing to provide donations or bequests to the Historical Society should contact Vicky Henley, Kansas Historical Foundation, 785-272-8681, ext. 201.

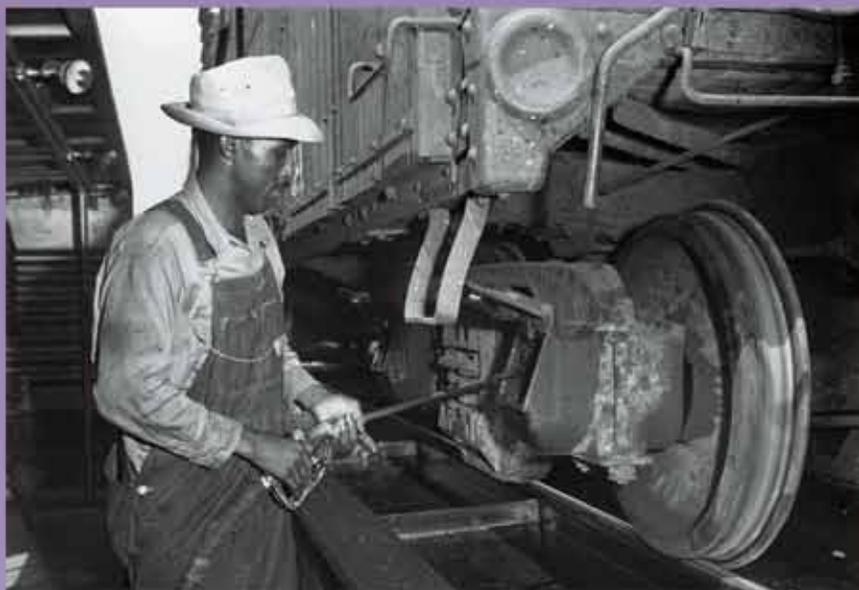
*Paid for with private funds by the
Kansas Historical Foundation*

reflections@kshs.org



Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099

Non Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No 116
Lawrence, KS



Kansas Memory

O. Stewart adds oil to the journal box of a freight car at the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway yards in Argentine. Between 1950 and 1965. kansasmemory.org/item/211868

