

Tah Po Ska

Newsletter of the Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc.

October 2007

Annual Fall Band Concert

The 2007 Annual Band Concert and Ice Cream Social event was delightful thanks to band director Dennis Brooks and the Flint Hills Community Band who gave us another great summer evening filled with period and patriotic music. You are number one on our list of HITS!



Enjoying the Kaw Mission 2007 Annual Fall Band Concert

Many thanks to FKH & Voices volunteers for your efforts to make this evening a success!

Smoky Hill Trail Conference

An organizational meeting to form a new trail organization to preserve, protect, and promote the history of the Smoky Hill Trail will be held at Hays, October 25-27. "The effort to organize the Smoky Hill Trail Association (SHTA) is long overdue," said Leo E. Oliva, who will serve as program chair for the conference. "After being organized, the SHTA will make its primary goal to seek the designation of this trail as a National Historic Trail," Oliva continued. "For a time the Smoky Hill Trail served as part of the Santa Fe Trail, which is already designated as a National Historic Trail. This connection is another reason to seek National recognition". The SHTA will

encourage historic research and writing about this route, preservation of trail remnants and sites of stage stations as well as host annual meetings to bring interested people together to study and learn about the historic route, and work with local, regional, and state historical societies to tell the important story of this historic road.

The Smoky Hill Trail first opened in 1859 running from the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains. It was the major route to the gold fields of Colorado. More of the Plains Indian Wars were fought along this route than any other crossing the Great Plains because it invaded the Plains Indians' last "homeland" and endangered their hunting and camping grounds as well as sacred sites. The Indian Wars of 1867 and 1868 in western Kansas were most severe along this route and the Smoky Hill country was the last to be given up by the Plains tribes.

Additional military posts were established to protect this road. Forts Harker, Hays, and Wallace were the major posts, assisted by Forts Riley and Leavenworth and other forts along the Santa Fe and Platte River roads.

The first railroad to build across Kansas followed the route of the Smoky Hill Trail. The Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division (later the Kansas Pacific Railroad) built westward after the Civil War. With the completion of the railroad to Denver in 1871 the trail came to an end. Military posts along that route continued to protect settlers and travelers a few more years even though the major Indian resistance to the route was over and the Plains tribes were assigned to reservations in present Oklahoma by that time. There were periodic Indian outbreaks that affected the region of the Smoky Hill Trail including the last Indian raid through Kansas in 1878. The history of the Butterfield Overland Despatch and its successor stage lines, the

railroad and military forts built along the route make the Smoky Hill Trail an especially historic route.

Everyone is invited to attend all or any part of this conference. For more details and registration, please contact Donna Malsom, PO Box 1, Collyer KS 67631, e-mail donnam@collyer.us, phone 785-769-5203 or 785-769-4268.

Allegawaho Park Lodge Update

Walkers along the Kanza Heritage Trail can now compare the traditional Kanza lodge with the ruins of the stone huts farther along the trail - a contrast between the federal government's idea of appropriate tribal housing and the more practical, "user-friendly" housing preferred by the Kaw people even into the early twentieth century. During construction, our volunteers reported that temperatures inside the lodge were considerably cooler than the summer sunshine outside.



Lodge structure complete awaiting the finishing touches.

Visitors and tribal members can gain a sense of traditional Kanza lifestyle at this lodge thanks to those dedicated volunteers. Weather and travel coordination caused many delays, but our helpers got the job done! The lodge exterior is now completed. When you visit you will notice a new crop of grass covering the brush and soil surface replicating the sod covering typical of many lodges when bark was not available. Recently the work crew was able to clear excess dirt and hay from the interior and install drainage measures at the entrance and under the smoke hole.

We will be working on the interior installing bedding platforms, a central cooking area and, eventually, representative tools and other

artifacts of daily life. Volunteers are still needed, as are donations to fund interior furnishings. The Council Oak DAR chapter's recent contribution to the Park will go toward that funding.

Major thanks are due from the Kaw Nation and from me personally to all who worked so hard to tell this chapter of the Kaw story. The project was funded by a Lewis and Clark Challenge Cost Share Grant awarded to the Atchison County Historical Society. Further donations from Kaw Nation and Karen and Ladd Seaberg enabled project completion. It took a lot of commitment from our volunteer coordinator Dave Mitchell to maintain a fulltime job and still find the time to make the run from Manhattan, gather volunteers and do much of the work as well. Thanks, Dave, to you, your wife Susan and helper Dale Burden.

Chris Taylor, Director of the Atchison County Historical Society, and Karen and Ladd Seaberg made several trips to supervise and work. These three supporters are veterans of the lodge construction experience in Atchison. Thanks to grant funds and private contributions, we were able to hire Mike George to handle the basic framing and Brent Moses to supply and move dirt for us. Brad Loveless and the Westar Green Team dug the postholes for that framing and Ken Daugherty also was often on hand to handle earth and supply moving. Mary Honeyman, as always, was an invaluable source of help, advice and contact information.

Volunteers from all over the region contributed to the effort. Friends of Kaw Heritage volunteers assisted in de-barking logs, as did Joyce Thierer and members of her Emporia State University (ESU) class. Class members also helped in later construction phases, as did members of Brice Obermeyer's ESU class. I regret that I only can thank Sarah Price and Brandon Caldwell by name, but hope to learn the names of all the other students who participated so that I can thank them as well.

We had enthusiastic support from the Boy Scouts! Bret LeMay's Council Grove group were joined by Scouts from Atchison and Manhattan. We appreciate all your help and interest in the Kaw and hope that you come back to visit and maybe camp at the Park.

I want to recognize the contributions of those who made the long drive from Oklahoma - Kaw Language Director Justin McBride who shared the Kaw terms for materials and work involved in building the lodge with our volunteers and Kaw tribal member Wes Pappan and his children who assisted in that same workday.

Last but far from least, Greg and Susan Stuart have made the commitment to nourish our new grass atop the lodge with water and fertilizer. They are continuing to update us on the progress of our new "crop." And, our good neighbor C.B. Smith is always there to assist with on-site construction.

I want to acknowledge all who helped, but am sure that I have missed some, not through intent, but because I couldn't be there to meet all the workers. Just know that you are appreciated by the Kaw Nation and those who will enjoy learning about this chapter of Kaw History.

By Betty Durkee, Project Director

Kaw Council 2007 Programs

October 13 – Leo E. Oliva, *Santa Fe Trail Travelers' View of the Flint Hills.*

Oliva will look at what Santa Fe Trail travelers said about the Flint Hills in their journals and letters. He will include observations by traders, soldiers, government officials, and women. Albuquerque merchant Franz Huning's wife, Ernestine, carried 10 canaries when she accompanied him with a trade caravan to New Mexico. Actor Matt Field traveled with traders for his own pleasure and wrote poetry to describe the land. Katie Bowen, wife of an army officer, wrote detailed letters to her parents in New England, always assuring them that she was safe in the Wild West. Together these early travelers, most of whom mentioned their stop at Council Grove, provide interesting and informative details about the region.

Oliva, editor and publisher of the SFTA quarterly journal *Wagon Tracks*, is currently working on organizing the many letters Katie Bowen sent to her family with the hopes of publishing them.

November 3 – Jim Hoy, *Flint Hills Cowboys: Tales of the Tallgrass Prairie.*

Jim Hoy knows the folk culture of Flint Hills ranching. Reared on a small ranch near Cassoday, Kansas, Hoy has been collecting stories from old timers in the Flint Hills for more than a quarter of a century. Those stories, along with his own life experience working with horses and cattle, provide the background for his most recent book, *Flint Hills Cowboys: Tales of the Tallgrass Prairie*. In his presentation, Hoy will analyze the distinctive aspects of Flint Hills ranching including: seasonal grazing of non-native, transient cattle; a mix of cattle raising and crop raising; custom graziers; and, pasture burning.

Hoy will also discuss the 3 periods of Flint Hills history: the Trail Drive Era, when cattle were driven overland into the Hills; the Railroad Era, when cattle arrived at their summer homes by train; and, the current Trucking Era, when cattle are hauled to and from the Hills by trucks. Readers of Hoy's books and newspaper articles are well aware of the seemingly unlimited, fascinating tales he has to tell about interesting people who have lived in the Flint Hills. Tales he will share at the presentation include interesting accounts about outlaws and bootleggers who contributed to the colorful, sometimes violent history of early days in the Flint Hills. We'll even hear a story about the late Andy Olson who ranched south of Council Grove.

A native of Cassoday, Hoy is currently a professor of English and director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at ESU. Signing of his new book, available at the Mission, follows.

An FKH Artist in our Midst!

If you haven't taken a stroll by Ye Olde Painte Shoppe lately (also known as FKH Board Member Jeremiah Hershberger's painting shop/art studio on East Main) you are missing a real treat! An ever-changing array of accordions and paintings of the same are regularly on display in the front room of the Shoppe.

Jeremiah's painting *Accordion with Tie* was recently selected for exhibition in the **KPR Listener's Art Show**. This show highlights artwork by **KANU** listeners and runs during the 2007 Fall Fanfare membership drive.



Accordion with Tie. Simply outstanding!

You can view this painting and other finalists' work at the show from Oct. 1 – Nov. 28, KPR Conference Room, 1120 W. 11th St., Lawrence.

FKH President's Column

Fall is upon us and there is no better time to make a trip out to Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park. The trail is ablaze with fall colors; the different grasses all have their own beauty this time of year. There is a park cultural booklet available at the Kaw Mission or the Chamber office. It features a map with 15 points of interest along the trail and a brief explanation of each. The Kanza hut has been completed. Erosion control blanket was put down around it and seeded. The new grass is popping up everywhere.

The grant has been written and turned into the City Office for the 2008 Pow Wow. The grant committee has not met as of yet to make their decision. Keep your fingers crossed that we will once again be awarded the money for our celebration of the Kanza People.

Mary Honeyman deserves lots of credit for putting together an awesome series of Kaw Councils this year. If you have not had the

opportunity to attend at least one of them, you have one more chance before the end of the year. Saturday, November 3rd, ***Flint Hills Cowboys: Tales of the Tallgrass Prairie*** presented by Jim Hoy. Programs have been moved to Saturdays and are presented at 3:30 and 7pm. They have been so well attended that we decided to present each of them twice so everyone could attend and so that we could keep the series at the Mission. I hope you all enjoy the cooler weather----until next time.

Barb Stanbrough, FKH President

Site Administrator's Column

As we near the Thanksgiving holiday I find myself filled with gratitude for the pleasure of knowing and working with you who support the FKH mission statement: ' . . . to promote and support the preservation and interpretation of the Kaw Mission Historic Site and the history of the Kaw Indians in the Council Grove area.'

My heartfelt thanks to: **new & renewing members** for continued financial assistance; **committed volunteers & Mission staff** for hard work and enduring loyalty; and, **FKH board members** for sound decisions and administrative guidance. You, dear Friends, make fulfillment of the FKH mission possible and my work a true joy! I wish all of you the happiest of holidays!

Mary Honeyman, Site Administrator

The Name of this newsletter, *Tah Po Ska*, is the Kanza word meaning **teacher**. The Kanza people called Thomas Sears Huffaker their *Tah Po Ska*. FKH hopes each issue of *Tah Po Ska* will be a good teacher for our members.

Tah Po Ska is the official publication of the Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc., a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the state of Kansas. The purpose of the Friends of Kaw Heritage, Inc., is to promote and support the preservation and interpretation of the Kaw Mission State Historic Site and the history of the Kaw Indians in the Council Grove area by providing supplemental funding, volunteer services, advocacy, public relations assistance, community involvement, and educational services.

FKH Board officers are, Barbara Stanbrough, president; Fay Laughridge, vice-president; Ken McClintock, secretary; and Loretta Keyser, treasurer. 2007 FKH Board members are Cynthia Engle, Wayne Engle, Helen Ericson, Jane Dixon, Jeremiah Hershberger, Don Jenkins, Peggy Jenkins, and Malcolm Strom. Site administrator Mary Honeyman is an *ex officio* member and editor of *Tah Po Ska*.

Kaw Mission Notes

- **Methodist Math Means Money!** The winning equation: 1 great *Idea* + 7 generous congregations = a \$5,000 donation for Heifer International. *Idea man* & FKH Board Member Malcolm Strom and the Santa Fe Trail Parish are helping Heifer International reach their goal to 'end world hunger'.
- **Quilt Shows to Come!** Master Folk Artist Helen Ericson will be giving two quilt shows in the Education Center in conjunction with two of our special events in 2008 – *Kansas Theme Quilt Show* at Celebrate Kansas! in January and *Flowers of the Prairie* show during the WSG Days Pow Wow in June. Please let all of your quilting friends know about these awe-inspiring shows.
- **Lodge Volunteers Needed!** Please contact Dave Mitchell to help finish the lodge! 785- 539-2554 (Home), 785-532-1092 (Work), or dstmck@ksu.edu.
- **Allegawaho Park Birders** - Please bring friends and family and meet us at the south trailhead of the Kanza Heritage Trail at A-Park at 8am Saturdays – Oct. 27, Nov. 17 & Dec. 15 - for our Early to Mid Winter bird counts.
- **Kaw Mission Christmas** - 6:30pm Thursday, Dec. 6. Ring in the Christmas season with live music provided by good Friends Jeremiah and Charlie, CGES children caroling and refreshments by FKH. Luminaries lining the walk will lead you to the traditionally decorated Kaw Mission. Come join in the festivity!
- **Celebrate Kansas!** Don't forget to mark that new 2008 calendar with a note to save Tuesday, January 29, 2008 for the Kansas Day celebration. We'll have a full day of historical enlightenment and lively entertainment for you to enjoy!

Visit our great website at www.kawmission.org.

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