



A n n i v e r s a r y

RILEY, KANSAS

Union • 1870

Riley Center • 1887

Riley • 1895

1870-1995

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the memory of Theodore Voorhorst Oltman, M.D., and his wife, Helen, who currently resides in Iowa.

The Oltmans' twenty-six years of service in Riley touched numerous lives. Surrounding communities also benefited from their tender care.



From September 1, 1952, until June 30, 1978, the medical needs of Riley and the surrounding communities were met by Dr. T.V. Oltman and his wife, Helen.

Coming from work in the mission field of China, where they were forced to leave by the Communists, he set up a practice, dispensed medicine and served faithfully with his wife as co-worker and nurse until their retirement.

People came from around the area, waited their turn in the waiting room and could count on him to tackle any and all medical needs. House calls were routinely made and Dr. Oltman often helped patients get access to doctors in Manhattan and beyond.

The Oltmans were active in the Riley Community, serving in the Presbyterian Church and helping establish the Leonardville Nursing Home. Helen was instrumental in organizing a volunteer program of fourteen area church women's groups to help entertain the residents.

Following Dr. Oltman's retirement, Riley Development, Inc., purchased the medical clinic and worked to insure that the medical needs of the community would continue to be met. Through their efforts the clinic was kept open, staffed with medical personnel from Fort Riley.

For 26 years the Oltmans personified the role of the proverbial Country Doctor, providing medical care, along with a dose of love. Dr. Oltman died in 1982 and Helen now lives in Iowa, but generations of northern Riley Countians will forever hold a warm spot in their hearts for the Oltmans.

With Our Thanks - - -

The Book Committee is grateful to the individuals who provided information for this book in celebration of Riley's 125th Anniversary.

The purpose of this book is to document memories, family history and information concerning past and present businesses in the community.

We are hopeful this publication will provide beneficial data on Riley's fibre for future generations.



The written word and dates, and pictures with the written word and dates, used in this publication are taken to be true as they have been submitted. For anyone proving they are not true, we will be glad to correct for the next centennial book.

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The Story Continues by Kevin Larson

In September of 1970, the town of Riley celebrated 100 years of existence. It was a time of reflection over the past and a hopeful look toward the future. Riley had survived the perils of 100 years, but what would the years ahead hold? In 1970, Riley was still recovering from the Fort Riley expansion of 1965, which had brought the military reservation to the southern edge of the city limits. A sense of uncertainty was evident, but also a sense of hopeful optimism. Now, 25 years later in 1995, we can pause and look back over the past years and in a way measure the evolution of the town.

Riley has seen change in its years. Going from Union to Riley Center to Riley, it developed into an active, thriving farm trade center. It was the hub of the community. As the fort expanded, the small farms gave way to larger farms; the town began to lose its role as an agricultural center and became more of a community attracting people who desired more reasonable housing while still being close to work areas such as Manhattan and Fort Riley.

Perhaps the biggest change is yet to be as Riley now appears poised to take advantage of the suburban sprawl of nearby Manhattan. With people desiring a country address, the warmth and friendliness of small town life, and the advantages of education in a less crowded environment, the town is set to be an area of growth and a center of activity for a population deriving its income from outside areas.

As that happens, Riley will become part of the suburban lifestyle, and a new chapter in the "life of Riley" will be written. Exciting prospects lie ahead, *but* all taking place on a foundation built by the pioneers of the past and the visionaries who have guided the town throughout the years.

Perhaps the greatest challenges in the life of Riley came in the last 25 years. When the fort expanded in 1965, the town was left devoid of a major source of trade and input as hundreds of people long associated within the Riley community were forced to sell out their farming operations and move elsewhere.

Eventually, Riley would lose a grocery store, a hardware store and several other businesses that would not likely be carried on after their older owners would retire. It was wondered aloud by some if Riley would survive. With that as a reality, the community that remained had to rally its resources.

The Riley Community Promotional Association (RCPA), organized in 1964 by local business leaders, became the nucleus of strength and resolve for the community. With such strong leadership, by the time of the 1970 Centennial it was evident that Riley would survive, in part due to its excellent school system, its good supply of quality water and its proximity to both Manhattan and Fort Riley. With that as a foundation, the town would move on to face the closing years of the 20th century.

The first sign of evolutionary change in Riley came in the 1970s as the town became known as "the antiquing hub of Mid-America." As store fronts were vacated by businesses that once catered to the needs of a self-contained community limited by travel, they were taken over by entrepreneurs who sold reminders of the past—antiques. This business activity drew a new clientele into the town, people who drove miles to locate the right antique piece to add to their collections.

Tied into this change was the simple fact that business in Riley was now having to compete with retailers in Manhattan and Topeka. As travel became easier and as the sense of loyalty to local establishments became less pronounced, the business community had to become more creative to attract and maintain a clientele. Convenience stores replaced general stores, self-service gas stations replaced full-service and pizza replaced the traditional Riley Cafe. These are but a few of the results of the mobile, fast-paced, late 20th-century lifestyle.

The second sign of evolutionary change in Riley came with the Unified School District #378. In 1979, the Board of Education, with subsequent voter approval, decided to move all grade school activities, formerly in both Leonardville and Riley, to the Riley School location. A bond issue was passed calling for the building of an addition to the old Riley Rural High School building, thus creating a single grade school facility in the district.

Riley had become the home of the Superintendent of Schools' office in 1976, insuring its role as an educational center. U.S.D. 378 continues as the largest industry in the community.

A third sign of evolutionary change was Riley's drive to service the needs of the younger generation. Tennis courts, an expanded park facility, a swimming pool, and an active summer ball program helped to provide the draw that attracted families to associate with the town. And with the "Baby Boom" of the early 1980s, residents realized that what benefits kids will attract their parents.

A fourth sign of evolutionary change was in the acquisition, through federal funding, of the Riley Centre, a facility that provided low-cost family housing and a meeting place for community organizations. It became, in effect, a center for the community.

These evolutionary developments signal key changes in the last 25 years, but change came in other ways as well. Perhaps this can be best illustrated by recording the successes and failures of these years.

The successes of Riley since 1970 include the acquisition of several new businesses in what is considered the "central business area" and in the town as a whole, as well as a building to house the First Responder county emergency vehicle, enabling quicker emergency care for northern Riley County. This, plus the continuation of the older established businesses, has provided the foundation upon which our community operates.

Yet, like every town, and everything in life, success is tempered by setbacks.

The last car dealer in town, Medlin Chevrolet, closed in 1989. The town lost its barber shop (though typical of a universal social trend, most hair salons offer "unisex" haircuts and styling). The Hassebroek family ended its merchandizing tradition. The Hinthers sold the Riley Cafe after 52 years of operation. The hardware store closed. The Riley Recreation Hall closed. The fast food restaurant, Handy Andy's, closed. The Olde Shoppe antique store was destroyed by a fire that threatened for awhile the entire block of buildings. The local phone company was sold to the United Telephone Co.; the Uniform Shop, owned by Josephine Smith, moved to Manhattan. The flower shop, operated by Lorine Woodworth, closed. The city's landfill was closed. The Masonic Lodge closed. The Odd Fellows Lodge was closed and the building sold. The Rebekahs closed their Riley organization and merged with Wakefield; the American Legion sold its building. And for the first time in Riley's history, gasoline for automobiles could not be bought in downtown Riley.

Despite these changes, Riley, on the whole, has taken strength from its past, encouragement from its present, and has hopeful anticipation for its future.

The city has maintained its population and has grown; new houses have been built; its schools are the pride of the area in both academics and athletics; its businesses remain alive; and young families are making Riley their home.

With all of these factors as a foundation, Riley looks back at 125 years with pride, confident that the legacy of the past will be a foretaste of the good things to come.

Memories

Early Utilities

— by Eldon Kaup

At one time Riley had its own electric power plant. The dynamo only operated during the evening hours as there was no need for electric lights in the daytime. The plant was shut down when commercial electric power came to Riley in about 1919.

Riley also had a privately owned water works, which served a number of residences until 1925, when the existing water supply was installed.

Little known is the fact that a privately owned gas distribution system was in operation during the mid-teens. Charles Kaup was in the business of selling acetylene light plants at that time and expanded his own plant to serve some of his neighbors, the Methodist and Presbyterian churches and a business or two downtown. The service apparently didn't work too well, however, as the story has been around for a long time that during an evening church service the gas lights would grow dim from lack of gas pressure, at which time Charles would excuse himself and hurry up to the gas generator in his back lots, make a pressure adjustment and be back in his pew before the service was concluded. The gas lights went out of service when commercial electricity came to town.

The "Stone Building"

corner of Broadway and Elm — *from contributions by Eldon Kaup and Marjorie Sand*

According to J.A. Meyer in his history of the Masonic Lodge, the stone store building at the northwest corner of Broadway and Elm was built about 1895 by S.A. Sargent. Upon completion, the Masonic Lodge occupied the second story while the ground floor was divided; the Riley State Bank had the southeast one-third while the other two-thirds housed a general store that dealt in groceries, shoes, men's clothing and farm produce. The building adjacent north was used for the dry-goods department. No one recalls who ran the store prior to 1901, but at that time Charles Kaup joined a man by the name of Jim Trumble; later Mr. Kaup became owner of the Spot Cash Store. The Spot Cash sold out in 1915 to persons unknown; however, during the years 1920-1922, the store was owned by Mr. Sikes of Leonardville and War Lacy of Riley was the store manager.

Walter Meyer and Fay Wills were married in 1922 and shortly thereafter bought the store, and thus Meyer Mercantile Co. was established. Walter and Fay operated

the store until their retirement.

In 1936 the Riley State Bank (still located at the northwest corner of Broadway and Elm) consolidated with the Farmers State Bank and moved south, across the street into the former Farmers State Bank building.

Roland Burkman operated the grocery store for a while, but when he closed down, the partitions were removed and the ground floor was used as a restaurant by several different owners. Since the 1970s, the old stone building has been used as a restaurant, an antique store and currently the Circle B Bar.

Water-works

— written in 1924 by Alta Sand Bohnenblust

In regard to the water-works Riley has made much progress. The first water system of Riley was built by Mr. Jack Yates, it was located upon the hill where it is today. It consisted of a reservoir and a wooden frame windmill. Only a few families, who took shares paying Mr. Yates so much per month or year, could get their water supply from this system, because there was only a pipeline built through the main part of town.

About 1910 an individual system was constructed near Mr. Jessie White's home [the present site of Schurle Signs-1995]. There were four individual families who owned this system, they were: Mr. George Guy; Mr. Frank Parmer; Mr. Jim Colt and the Presbyterian minister, all of them living near the Presbyterian Church. This tower was torn down since there was danger of collapse.

This system constructed by Mr. Yates was purchased by Mr. Timmons three or four years ago who has owned it since. This being the only city water system Riley has ever had.

Definite plans have been made for the installation in the near future of a better and more efficient water system, which will doubtlessly add to the



future success and prosperity of our city.

Then there is a possibility of having running water in all of the homes. Another advantage will be a protection against fire, and if Riley ever has a city park, a swimming pool could be made in this park and used for a skating rink during the winter time.

Water-Works Update — 1995

In late 1924 the wooden frame windmill burned; however, by this time a new water system had been voted on and approved. The new system was installed in 1925. The contract was with Henningson Engineering of Omaha and included the tank, tower, cast iron and galvanized pipe and fittings, hydrants, deep-well pump, motor and pump house. The cost of the system was to be paid off in 20 years. It is hard to realize that the water tower has been in place 70 years. It seems to be doing well and perhaps it will last another 70 years.



Telephone equipment was in this building for a long time. The young ladies posing in and along side the jitney are believed to be telephone operators: from left to right, Ina Pultz, Edna Harris and Carrie Pultz. The gentleman is Harry Peters, probably the telephone maintenance man. The car is unidentified.

A history of the Riley Cream Station

— by Marjorie Sand

In making a thorough search of the history of the newly acquired Riley Library building at 210 S. Broadway, information was taken from books on Riley, Riley County, census statistics and my personal memory of Riley.

After the Rock Island Railroad Company built the line through Riley in 1887, the town once again started to progress. George Morgan and George Hanna, town planners from Clay Center, purchased land in Riley Center from Gottlieb Remele (formerly owned by Stephen Soars) east of Union House [near northeast corner of Main and

Kansas] as an investment. They also bought land northeast of Old Union House and the plat for the new Riley was filed with the Riley County Register of Deeds on June 12, 1887.

The Rock Island Railroad named the station Riley, and from there came the town. The combined plat of Riley, Union and Riley Center was completed in August of 1895.

The principal north-south street—Broadway—was located five blocks east of Main Street (the Fort Riley road or old Highway 77). The streets were graded and boardwalks built on Broadway. A hardware store, bank building, creamery, hotel and two "Twin Stores" for groceries and dry goods were built. The post office for Riley Center was discontinued in January of 1888 and a new office opened in Riley with J.W. Lowdermilk as postmaster.

The "Hanna" building (now Flynn Sundries) was named for Hanna of Clay Center. The adjacent building to the north (Francis building), which served as the post office for many years, was named for an early postmaster and now is occupied by the self-service laundry. The interior and exterior architectural design of these two buildings is the same as the library building. All of these buildings were built in new Riley about 1895-1900.

The Cream Station, which is now the library, bought cream, chickens and eggs from farmers when they came to town. The produce was later shipped by railroad or truck. The Creamery in Riley was located at the far south end of Broadway, and it made butter. The two should not be confused as being one and the same.

The owners of the Cream Station building have been, as close as can be determined: in 1900, maybe E.J. Finegan; for sure by 1910, John Jacobson; and by 1915, Mart Masterson. More recent owners have been Mel Thompson, Charles Anderson, Melvin Buseman, Reg Welser and the City of Riley. The building also has been used as storage for a service station, an antique store and as a uniform shop.

Gopher Trappers

— by Eldon Kaup

In the spring of 1931, the Sargent family was in the process of moving to another farm when I was out visiting their sons, Bob, Garland and Hugh. Bob was a high school classmate of mine. Out in the orchard was the chassis of an old Model T Ford; it had no tires, only the frame, engine, dashboard and gas tank. It belonged to Hugh and when I asked if he was going to move it, he said no, but if I could get it to run, I could have it.

I knew a little about Model T Fords as my friend Warren and his family drove such a car. I made sure the coils were dry (each spark plug had a coil of its own), checked the oil, filled the radiator with water and put some gas in the tank, which was to serve as my seat in case it

started. There was no battery, so the engine had to be cranked, and the spark had to come from the magneto which was built into the flywheel.

I turned the engine over a few times to be sure that gas was going through the carburetor, and then cranked with vigor! Lo and behold, it started! I let it run a few minutes and climbed onto the gas tank seat, released the parking brake, stepped on the "low" pedal and drove out of the orchard.

Once on the driveway and out onto the road, I never stopped until I was in Mom's backyard. When my mother saw the rig coming up the road, she said it reminded her of a jack-rabbit!

I didn't know what I was going to do with the vehicle, but it needed tires, so I began looking. By the time school was out I had found some, and the car was resting on rubber.

Bob and I were hunting and fishing buddies, and having nothing better to do after school was out for the summer, we decided to trap gophers. The county had a bounty of 10¢ on gopher scalps. We thought that perhaps we could use the old Ford to make the rounds on our trap line, and so we bolted an old Army footlocker on the frame behind the gas tank, and there we carried our traps and digging tools. We were in business.

The pocket gopher is an animal about the size of a rat and burrows underground in search of roots for food and to provide a place to live. He piles dirt outside the burrow entrance about six inches high and 18 to 24 inches across. This not only destroys a field of crops, but makes the terrain very rough. Most landowners welcomed us when we asked to set our traps in their fields; they noted that our rig wasn't heavy enough to cut ruts or do any damage.

There was a large pasture south of Riley we hadn't tried, and we felt sure the owner wouldn't mind, so we set our traps in the many gopher mounds we found there. The next morning we checked our traps and reset some, but when we returned to the entry gate we found it chained and padlocked! The trappers were trapped. Bob said he believed there was an old little-used gate at the southwest boundary of the pasture that would allow us to exit into an adjoining pasture. If so, we had a way out.

We picked up our traps and went to look for the gate. It hadn't been recently used and was wired shut with baling wire. We carefully unwound the wire and entered Mr. W's pasture. We were careful to close the gate and replace the wire as we had found it. Mr. W happened to be one of Bob's neighbors, so we had no problem in finding our way to the road, which was one mile west of the padlocked gate. It may still be locked for all I know.

It was getting harder to find good trapping areas and perhaps the fun was wearing off, so we decided to give up the gopher bit for the rest of the summer. In summing up

our expenses (gasoline at about 17¢ per gallon) vs our income, we found that we each had made 50¢ a day.

The skeleton of the Model T sat in Mom's backyard for a few weeks, looking forlorn and neglected. Then one day I received a phone call from a local mechanic telling me of a transient family whose Ford had broken down and the engine was shot. Did I still have the gopher rig, and if so would I sell it so that they could use the engine as a replacement? They didn't have much money so the price would have to be reasonable.

I sold the Model T for three dollars and gave half of it to Hugh, as he had been the original owner. Thus ends the story of the Model T that helped trap gophers and served some people in need.



The above photograph, dated December 29, 1910, shows Charles Kaup, his wife Mattie, and the Len Dalquest family in the Kaup automobile ready to drive to Milford so that the Dalquests could make train connections to their home in Vinita, Oklahoma. The car is a 1906 2-cylinder Reo—no top, no windshield, no heater!

The Riley Poet

— by Eldon Kaup

A published poet in Riley? Yes, indeed. In 1904, Aaron Southwick published a book entitled *The Starry Crown*, containing a collection of 136 poems. The book was dedicated to his wife, Annette Eliza. Subject matter was varied, although many of the poems were about people he knew, or about people that had passed on, or about flowers, the picture gallery, or about a farm. The book was printed by the *Clay Center Dispatch*. Read the following poem and you'll know that Southwick had a feeling for people and places.

Lonesome Hollow

On beyond the Jumping-off place,
Where the highway turneth south,
You will find a yawning hollow
And you'll dash into its mouth.

Just beyond you'll climb a hillside,
Then you'll wind around a bluff—
There's the ranch and little cottage!
"Lonesome Hollow" sure enough!

You will know it by the windmill,
And its wheel that creaking goes
With its lofty lordly rooster,—
Iron cock that never crows.

In the yard you'll see the chickens
And the pigs each other follow,
Towser sleeping by the woodpile,
Guardian of Lonesome Hollow.

In the house you'll find "Aunt Debbie"
With her pencil or a book;
In her lap you'll see her tatting,
Spool of thread and little hook.

And you'll find the happy "Governor"
Hovering near his better half,
Hitching "Flora" to the buggy,
Feeding hogs, or cow or calf.

You will find the kids a-cooking
Bread, and beans, and cake and pie
For themselves and many others,
Tramps and boarders, low and high.

Or you'll find them at the organ
Singing like so many larks,
Entertaining males and females,
Be they strangers, friends or sparks.

When the cottage you have entered
You will wish to stay and stay;—
You'll forget 'tis Lonesome Hollow—
Don't forget to come away.



Aaron Southwick

Saturday Special

Saturday, February 8th we
will sell BANANAS CHEAP.
Head your Grocery list with
a doz Bananas 15c. For this
sale we have some of those
fine large juicy Bananas
only 15c a doz. for Satur-
day only. Come, trade where the dollar
goes farthest.

The Spot Cash
W. SELL PETERS' SHOES

Spot Cash Store

In 1901, Charles Kaup and his family moved to Riley where Charles would go into partnership with a man named Trumble to manage and operate the Spot Cash Store. It was a general store that handled groceries, feeds, dry goods, shoes and farm produce. The store was located in the stone building on the northwest corner of Broadway and Elm Street. Records show that by 1903 Mr. Kaup was the owner of the store; he continued to operate the business until 1915, at which time he sold out because he became weary of the long hours. At that time such stores in small towns remained open every evening until nine o'clock.

The Riley Band on Parade

The following photo shows the Riley band proudly marching on Poyntz Avenue in Manhattan on July 4, 1919. By using a magnifying glass on the original prints, certain band members can be recognized: Walter Colburn, tuba; Jasper Chamberlain, baritone horn; Fred Walters, alto horn; Enoch Hassebrook, baritone sax; John Sharples, soprano sax; Bill Sylvester, trumpet; Charles Kaup, clarinet; August Kaup, bass drum and Jim Robinson, snare drum.

After the parade a picnic lunch was enjoyed by the band members and their families in the city park. As sometimes happens on the 4th of July, it rained—hard!—and people huddled under trees and into the log cabin museum for shelter. After the rain, came the problem of getting back to Riley. There were no surfaced roads at that

time, so it meant 18 miles of driving in the mud. It wasn't so bad as long as cars were all going in one direction, but when a car was met coming the other way, one vehicle had to be driven out of the track (rut), keeping one set of front and rear wheels in one track and the other two out in the rough.

Most cars were driven in first or second gear, except Model T Fords, which had only low or high; there was no in-between. After finally reaching Riley, the travelers concluded that it had been a glorious celebration of the 4th of July.



W.S. Timmons

When we think of W.S. Timmons, we usually think of lumber, coal and grain. In this picture Mr. Timmons and his family are posing in their automobile; in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Timmons, Louis is at the wheel along with George, Eva and Birdie.

The car is an EMF-30; the 30 stands for 30 horse-power, the EMF for Everett-Metzger & Flanders. The car was built in Detroit from 1909 to 1913. This picture is believed to have been taken in 1910.

Parlor Meat Market

The following Parlor Meat Market ad was run in the *Riley Regent* sometime before March of 1917 as that was the date Mr. Griffin sold the business to Charles Kaup; the market then became known as the KC Meat Market. The KC stood for Kaup and Chapman. Roy Chapman was the son-in-law of Mr. Kaup.

At that time market owners butchered their own critters. This was usually done at the slaughter house located at the northeast edge of town near the present east end of Hartner Street.

Another task that was necessary at that time was to put up ice in the winter. Ice was cut from a creek or pond and placed in the ice house located west of the Creamery. An ice house consisted of a basement-like excavation with a roof over it. The ice was covered with straw so it would keep until warm weather. The ice was used to cool the walk-in cooler at the meat market.

Apparently the workload was too much for Kaup and Chapman as the market was sold to Jim Cross in September 1919.

In June 1924 Mr. Cross became interested in the gas station across the street south of the Presbyterian Church, so he sold to Wayne Walter.

In March of 1926 Mr. Walter sold the market to Orville Cross and moved to a ranch near Keats. Orville continued the

business until 1935 at which time he closed the doors and moved to Salina.

Riley no longer had a meat market.

Parlor Meat Market

Steak: round, sirloin, Porterhouse 15c

Choice Roast 12½

Best Bacon 20c

Fresh Mutton, 12½

Will be in the market for springs, hens and all poultry.

It will also pay you to bring your Eggs to us as we pay the highest Cash Price at All Times.

Yours for business,

P. W. GRIFFIN



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

—by Donald S. Hartner

Ludwig Friedrich Paul Hartner came to America in 1885 from Beilstein, Germany. He settled in Riley County on May 19, 1890. Ludwig Friedrich Paul Hartner, Henry Diskau, Louis Sylvester, George Gehring and Henry Swenge organized and were charter members of the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Riley, Kansas. It was built for \$1,200. In 1930 the church was sold to the Methodist Church in Clay Center and was moved there.

In the preceding picture it appears as if the young cedar trees are about five years old; if so, the picture would have been taken in 1905. The church was located at the northeast corner of Chestnut and Billings streets on what is now the Baer property. Some of the cedars are still there.



Christian Science Church—1901

A Christian Science church was organized in Riley in 1901. The church was built in 1902 or 1903 on the corner of Clay and Chestnut Streets. Their first Reader was Aaron Southwick and the Practitioner, Mrs. Amy Washburn. Mrs. Ella Nixon succeeded Mr. Southwick as Reader in 1904 and continued until 1906 when the congregation, unable to meet all the requirements of the Mother church, withdrew as a recognized church and continued as a Society for some years. Mrs. Ella Walters became an active leader of the congregation until membership decreased, as people moved away, and meetings were discontinued. Some of the later families included those of John Huber, Clarence Chamberlain, August Kaup, Sam Stone and Fred Walters.

The building was sold and moved to 211 East Kansas with the Henry Diffendorf family remodeling it into a home; however, according to Winifred Slagg and her historical account, the building was torn down.

In various writings of the early history, the names of Riley Center and Riley Centre were often interchanged. The "official" town plat is listed as Riley Center.

The Community Creamery Company

The Community Creamery Company came into being in 1917 when brothers August and Charles Kaup combined their talents and went into the butter-making business. August had learned his trade in Victoria, Texas, while Charles gained business experience as a merchant.

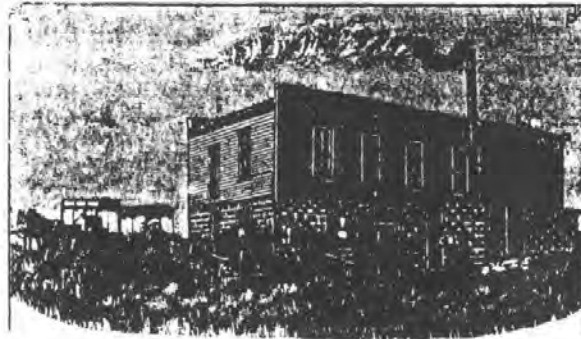
The Creamery had been operated in earlier years by A.L. Goble. Most of us remember Mr. Goble as a banker. The brothers not only supplied butter to local stores but sold wooden tubs of it to markets in Kansas City, Chicago and especially to the Army at Fort Riley during World War I.

By 1923 or 1924, economic conditions began to change and some of the equipment needed to be replaced. The pasteurizer and churn had been operated by steam power. Due to those circumstances, the Community Creamery Company went out of business. The building was remodeled into a residence that is located at 415 S. Broadway.

OPENING

The Community Creamery

Will Open for Business Saturday, June 9



We have no excuse to offer for starting this enterprise only that we have and have had a big end of the equipment for a long time; another reason, we don't know of a better community for a butter factory.

In order to churn butter, we must have Cream and we will pay the price at all times to get it and we will at all times give our patrons a square deal. This creamery, if patronized as it should be, will save this community thousands of dollars a year doing away with a number of middle men which takes the profits which rightfully belongs to the ones that do the milking. It is our aim to co-operate with the farmers in this community to better the conditions in the dairy industry.

We have for this opening occasion a nice souvenir for those bringing us Cream, beginning Saturday and until they are all gone. So come if you only have a little, every little counts in the end.

We have the creamery fitted up with a large churn, a 200 gallon pasteurizer, a 2½ ton capacity refrigerating machine and it is possible for us to churn 2000 lbs butter daily. August Kaup will have charge having had wide experience in the Creamery business and understands the ins and outs thoroughly.

Bring us your Cream, the more we get the higher the price paid. Give us a trial.

The Community Creamery Co. AUGUST KAUP and
CHAS. KAUP, Props

Family Histories

Allenson Family

— by *Allen Flynn*

Oscar and Johanna Allenson left Sweden in March 1887 with three small children. Arriving in the U.S. in April 1887, they had to have a lot of faith and willpower to tackle all the hardships and a new way of life, and could not speak a word of English.

Oscar worked on the new railroad that was being built through Riley. They lived on an 80-acre farm for a while west of Keats. Later they moved to Riley. They had ten children; one son died at the age of fourteen months. A son, David, and his wife, Leda (Mackender) were the parents of Charles and Anabell. A daughter, Hannah, and husband, Al Flynn, were the parents of Allen. The rest of the family moved to a farm near El Campo, Texas, in January 1911.

Oscar and Johanna were eager that their children get the best education possible. They learned the English language, both reading and writing, from their children after they began going to school. The four oldest children got a grade school education and five of the youngest children went to college. Three of them got their college degrees; two had some college training.

I never knew my grandmother Allenson as she died when I was only four years of age. I knew my grandfather very little, having lived a great distance away. I wish we could have known them and could have told them how much we appreciated what they had done and how proud we were to have them for our grandparents.

Vernon and Ella Ewing Family

— by *Eugene and Marian Ewing*

In March of 1934, Vernon and Ella Ewing and their two sons, Eugene, age 5, and Oren, age 1, moved three miles east and two miles north of Riley from Dickinson County, near Talmage. The farm they moved to was owned by a Talmage lumberman, C.S. Vickbury. Chris Gravenstein had lived there previously.

In 1938, the family moved to the Busher place, just east of Grandview School where Eugene was attending grade school and Oren would start to school the next fall. Vernon attended Auction School in Kansas City in the spring of 1938. This started him on his auctioneering career along with his farming.

Claudia was born to the family in the winter of 1942. In the summer of 1945, the family moved to Irv Kleiner's farm, three miles east and 1-1/2 miles south of Riley. Eugene attended Riley Rural High School his senior year

after attending Leonardville Rural High School for three years. Oren attended Riley Grade School and Riley Rural High School.

Vernon and Ella purchased a farm three miles east of Riley in 1948, where they lived until they retired in 1973. They had a house built by Gene Williams on North Billings Street in Riley.

Eugene attended Kansas State University and graduated with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering in the spring of 1950, at the same time Oren was graduating from Riley Rural High School. Claudia graduated in the first class from the new Riley County High School in 1960.

Marian Nelson, daughter of Frank and Virginia Nelson, and Eugene were married in the fall of 1950. Oren and Mary Alice Hayes, daughter of Wallace and Alice Hayes, were married in the fall of 1953. Both Oren and Eugene were drafted into the Army after getting married. Claudia married W. (Mort) Sanders from Burlington, Kansas, in the spring of 1961.

Vernon was active in the Riley Lions Club for years and always did auctioneering for benefits, such as 4-H, FFA, schools, or whoever needed it. One of his grandsons, who was four at the time, was taken to one of his auctions, and he turned to his grandmother and asked, "Is Grandpa going to do the whole show?"

Ella helped with 4-H for many years when Claudia was active. Vernon and Ella never missed a school activity or anything in which their children might have a part. They were members of the Riley Presbyterian Church.

Over the years, Vernon and Ella enjoyed eight grandchildren. Eugene and Marian had one daughter and three sons. Oren and Mary had a son and daughter. Claudia and Mort had two sons.

Vernon and Ella moved to the Wakefield Nursing Home in May of 1986 due to failing health. In that June they celebrated their 60th anniversary with relatives and friends. Ella passed away in October 1990 at the age of 87, and Vernon passed away in June 1994 at the age of 91.

Heller Family

— by *Alberta Buseman*

Jacob Heller was born in Switzerland in 1839 and died June 17, 1921. Elizabeth Riniker was born June 30, 1851, in Switzerland and died March 2, 1939. They married and had three children: Bertha Heller Kleiner, born January 15, 1875, and died November 24, 1911 (Bertha married Joe Kleiner); Albert Heller, born July 30, 1876, at High-

land, Illinois, and died March 30, 1940 (Albert married Lucy Jahnke); Sophia Heller Wagenrodt, born September 14, 1881, and died January 18, 1914 (Sophia married Martin Wagenrodt).

Around 1883, Jacob and Elizabeth moved to a farmstead north of Riley, Kansas, in Madison Township, when Albert was seven years old.

Albert's wife, Lucy Jahnke, was born near Riley, Kansas, on April 30, 1878; she died on December 12, 1962. Her parents were Henry and Ursula Ringer Jahnke.

Albert and Lucy were married April 10, 1900, at the home of her parents, on a farm north of Riley. A double wedding ceremony was performed by Reverend Boell of the Fairview Presbyterian Church. Lucy's sister, Mary Jahnke, and Groen Arents were also married. Albert and Lucy lived in and around Riley all their life. They moved to the Heller farmstead one mile south of the Fairview Church when Jacob and Elizabeth Riniker Heller purchased the house on Main Street in Riley in 1907. The house, known as the Roberts Hotel, is still standing and is being renovated at the present time. Albert built the house on the farm in 1907 and operated the Pleasant View Dairy, delivering milk in Riley and Leonardville until 1929. In 1930 he built a house in Riley at 213 S. Main, two blocks south of his parents' home, and the family lived there.

Albert and Lucy were faithful members of the Fairview Presbyterian Church, serving all offices, and as Sunday School teachers and playing the organ. Albert sang in a men's quartet, played cornet in the Fairview band, and also played the violin. Lucy sang in the church choir and attended the United Presbyterian Women's meetings each month. They were both very devoted to family, church and their home.

Nine children were born to Albert and Lucy: **Adolph** and wife Mabel Wickstrum Heller, *Children: Roger and Beverly McMasters Heller, Kristen and Shana; Eldo and Elaine Davies Heller, Kim, Lori and Lisa; Otto* and wife Ethel Johnson Heller, *Children: LaVern and Wanda Mickey Heller, Kathleen and Robert; Darlene Maginness; Arlene and Gerald Gravenstein, John, Susan and Janet; Gladys and husband Orley Renner, Children: Gene and Delores Beck Renner, Rick, Jeanie, Bobby and Elaine; Donald Renner; Fred Heller; Marie and husband Alfred Rice, Children: Dale and Beverly Rice, Janet Rice, Mark Christina, Daniel, Derek, Terresa and Marla; Charlotte and Luis Alejos, Michael, Paul, David and John; Lon and JoAnn Rice, Richard, Robert; Adeline and husband Harry Baker; Meda and husband Eldon Kaup, Children: Janette and Steve Nicolet, Elizabeth and Joshua; Anna and husband Fred Esslinger, Children: Fred Howard and Rita Howell Esslinger, Aaron—mother Aleta Pultz Esslinger; Joyce and Dale Miles; Alberta and husband Melvin Buseman, Children: Stanley and Debra Walter Buseman,*

Douglas and Sarah.

Three of the nine children are still living: Marie, Anna and Alberta. Alberta Buseman is the only one living in Riley.

Melvin and Alberta farmed from 1945 to 1952. They then purchased the Mobil Oil Station on Broadway. In 1984 they decided to retire, and sold the station. Melvin also drove the school bus for 35 years.

John Jahnke Family

— from the *Jahnke Family History*

John Jahnke came to Kansas as a small child with his parents, Henry and Ursula. They had formerly lived in Iowa. The family homesteaded in the Fairview Community. John lived the rest of his life on this homestead, where he and his wife, Clara (Siebecker), raised their family of six children: Louis, Anna (Cool), Lloyd, Pearl (Brandenburg), John (Jack), and Betty Lou (Lacy) were all born on the farm.



John had two spans of mules that he was very proud to drive. He had paid \$500 for each of the mules, they were so fine that they were widely photographed. The driver of the mules pictured is hired hand Julius Wise. The Riley Presbyterian Church is in the background.

John was a director in the Riley State Bank; a member of the Woodman Lodge, the school board and the township board; and an elder in the Fairview Presbyterian Church.

Helen M. King Family — by Helen M. King

A reserve coach on the Union Pacific Railroad pulled into the Manhattan, Kansas, depot at 11 p.m. June 5, 1968 — five days after two passengers and a dog had started

from Ohio on their journey to Kansas.

Helen King, her daughter Paula, and their little dog Muffin had arrived and were met by George (Mike) King, Helen's son. They had come to live with him and his two little sons John and Stephen, in Riley. Their trip had been delayed because of a train derailment and washed out tracks due to spring floods.

In just another week the notorious hail storm of 1968 fell on Riley; roofs and many windows were destroyed. Leaves were beaten off trees and gardens laid on the ground. People rose to the occasion, and all ages helped roof houses and clean up litter.

In 1971, a New Year's blizzard isolated the town; 1973 brought an ice storm, and once again neighbors helped each other.

Paula graduated from Riley County High School in 1974 and returned to Ohio to live with her sister Julia. My grandsons are now men with families. John King lives in Riley, along with his wife Nancy and daughters, Kyna and Kyla. Stephen, wife Kathy, and son, Skylar, live in Manhattan. My son, Mike, and wife, Betty, live in Olsburg, as well as their children, Jason and Peggy (who is now Mrs. Clint Boos; the Boos children are Amber and Austen). These are the members of the King family living in Kansas.

Many events have filled in the years and though Riley became a town 125 years ago, Helen King feels that she, too, is a pioneer — 100 years late.

Morris Family

— by *Opal Jahnke*

The material that was written by Laverna Foresman, which I treasure, tells about the background of our family, which is definitely Irish. No account was found as to how they came to America or when they came to Indiana. They did find many records of many land transactions. It is quite evident that they were not in favor of slavery. In 1861 they came to the Mill Creek area. There are many names given such as Brown, Barney, Foresman, Cross, Sweets, Hibners, Watsons, Gravensteins and Remmers.

Laverna Foresman spent years and traveled many, many miles to gather this material. She also wrote letters requesting information. She is also responsible for the marker for great-grandfather Levi Morris. The original marker was broken when the graves were moved from the Mill Creek Cemetery in the construction of Tuttle Creek Dam. My husband, Jack, and I purchased markers for the infant children that died of "summer complaint" and for the child that was killed by a cow. These children were of the family of Emma and John Morris, son of Levi Morris, who died at the age of 43. There were nine children in the Morris family. William Laban was the oldest. He was my father. He went to school three or four years, then he worked for neighbors to support the family. Times were

tough and many meals consisted of cornbread and milk gravy. The boys did have fun playing baseball. Their team was William, Lester, Floyd and Levi, and three cousins—Vere, Clyde and Ward, and a couple of others.

Great-grandfather Levi left us all a landmark to remember him by. He built a stone house two and one-half stores high. The top story was for a school house. There were long tables in the room and shelves on the walls for books. The next story was for the family living. The bottom half story was for a post office. Mail was brought from Manhattan once a week and people came there to get their mail. It was a beautiful house and still stands on the Stockdale road. It is well over a hundred years old. Edward and Charlotte Doyle live there and it is well kept with nice well-mown lawns and pretty flowers.

The present family: William Laban Morris and wife Katie Stadel; Oren Morris and wife Grace Jahnke, *Daryl, Donna Rose, Dorothy Jean, Diana; Orpha* and husband Bill Dockery; *Janet* and Steve Micheletti, *Katie* and *Elizabeth; Orlando* and wife Dorothy Smokewood, *Timmy*, children Allison and Timmy; *Opal* and John Jahnke, *Nancy Dutton*, children Mark and wife, Lori, John and Katy.

Frank and Virginia Nelson Family

— by *Marian Nelson Ewing*

Frank and "Virgie" Nelson with their four children moved to an 80-acre farm 3-1/2 miles southeast of Riley in 1941. They moved because of Fort Riley Reservation being enlarged. Consequently, the Nelson "homeplace" farm where they lived, four miles south of Keats, was sold to the government as well as their neighbors' farms.

The four children of Frank and Virgie are Marian, Frank, Dorene and Glen. Marian, Frank and Dorine attended Mt. Pleasant School. Dorine and Glen attended Riley Grade School. All four graduated from Riley Rural High School.

Frank and Virgie retired in Riley in 1961. Frank worked part time for the City and also as grade school crossing guard.

Three of the four children married Riley Rural High School graduates. Marian married Eugene Ewing, Dorine married Ron Bergren and Glen married Nancy Sinn. Frank O. married Sylvia Spain from Manhattan, Kansas.

Frank passed away May 19, 1978, and Virgie, February 15, 1993.

Ivan and Marjorie Sand Family

— by *Marjorie Sand*

Ivan and Marjorie (Beard) Sand are lifetime residents of the Riley area. Ivan's ancestors of the names Sand, Nanninga and Swart all came from Germany about 1875 and homesteaded in Riley County. Marjorie's ancestors

came from several European countries to America, before the Revolutionary War of 1776. The earliest immigrant was in 1607 from Wales to Virginia. Her family names of Beard, Parker and Martin were all early settlers in Riley County.

Ivan and Marjorie are the parents of a daughter, Charlotte Shawver, and a grandson, Harwood Shawver. Charlotte attended Kansas State University and is Register of Deeds in Riley County. Harwood attended Beloit Vo-Tech and is in partnership with his grandfather in farming and livestock. Both Charlotte and Harwood live in Riley.

Ivan has served the community in many ways. His service includes Riley School Boards, Riley County Commission, Kansas Legislature, as well as local organizations. Marjorie has shared her music, history, genealogy and hand work with the area. Her father, Clyde Beard, as well as Marjorie, Charlotte and Harwood all attended the Riley schools.

The Sands have a self-service laundry in Riley and live on a farm west of town where Ivan was born in 1917. It is the homestead of J.W. Hall, who was one of the founders of the Riley Methodist Church, and whose father-in-law was the circuit rider (preacher-minister), the Reverent Knipe, who came through this area.

Aafke Sinit Visser Family

— by *George and Lorene Visser*

Aafke Sinit Visser (Mrs. J.G. Visser and later Mrs. Menne Groenwold) was born in 1834 in Tergast, Amt Endan, Ostfriesland, Prussia. Her husband, J.G. Visser, a schoolmaster, lived with his family in part of the school building. After his death in 1862, Aafke continued to live there with her two children and boarded the school teacher, but when the teacher got married they had to find a new home.

Aafke Visser did nursing and struggled to support her family for nine years in Germany. In July 1871, she and her daughter, Wobina, age 16 and son, Gerhard (George) W., age 14, came to the U.S. The family worked in New York for some time to earn money so that they could come to Kansas. She applied for an 80-acre homestead claim in Riley County next to the Menne Groenwold homestead of 80 acres. In May 1872, she married Menne Groenwold and to them were born three children: twins who died at five months of age and a son, John. Menne died in 1887 when John was 12 years old. Aafke and her son lived together until her death in 1907. She was a charter member of the German Presbyterian (Fairview) Church.

John Greenwold (a change was made in the spelling of the family name) married Lizzie Riniker in 1900. She was a sister of Bertha Visser, wife of John. John Greenwold and Lizzie's children are Effie Bartelle, Menno, George, Merton and LeRoy Greenwold. Effie and Lewis Bartelle

had one son, Lorraine. In 1928, Effie married Walter Ward. Menno married Edith Fulton Johnson and had two sons, William Johnson and Richard Greenwold. George Greenwold married Mabel Lindholm, and they had no children. Merton Greenwold and Doris Newman had a daughter, Sharon Henry. They have two sons and a daughter: Jeffrey, Lauri Ann and Bradley. Merton married his sister-in-law Edith Fulton Johnson Greenwold about 2-1/2 years after his brother Menno's death.

Aafke's daughter, Wobina, at age 18, married John Arents, Sr., in 1873, and lived on a farm west of Leonardville. They were blessed with 14 children and John was the father of a year-old daughter, Elizabeth, whose mother died shortly after her birth. Wobina and John's first child, Johanne, died at 6 months and three other daughters, Ebbeline, Afkea and Maria died at about 12 months of age. The children who survived infancy were Groen, Annie, Manno, Abbo, Katie, Mary, Lena, Amanda, John and Hattie. Three of the daughters, Annie, Katie and Mary, married three Leipersberger brothers. Johanna (Annie) married Fred A. Leipersberger in 1900, and they had three sons, John A., Louis and Edward. John and Louis died at ages 3-1/2 and 14. Edward married Ruth Esslinger and had three children: Janice Woodyard and twin sons, Wayne and Warren. Groen married Mary Jahnke in a double wedding ceremony with her sister, Lucy Jahnke, who married Albert Heller in April 1900. Groen and Mary Arents had one son, John E., who married Inez Peterson, and they had one daughter, Nyla, Mrs. Franklin Young. Manno and Abbo were twins. Manno married Lenna Stewart and had two daughters, Emma and Olive. Emma married Edward Waters and had a son, Edward E., Jr., and a daughter, Emma Jean, who married Arthur Wickstrom. Manno's second daughter, Olive, married Harry G. Ruthstrom and had four sons, DeWayne, Harry, Jr., Gene and Dean and a daughter Donita Sherman.

Manno's brother, Abbo, married Amanda Johnson and had a son, Chester, who was a college professor in West Virginia, where he died in 1986.

Wobina and John, Sr.'s daughter Katie married Charles Leipersberger, who came to America at age three. They had two sons, Walter and Carl, and a daughter, Wobina Katherine. Walter died at age 74 and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery at Clay Center. Wobina married Myron Wohler and had two sons, Myron, Jr. and Ronald. Carl married Marian Clark and their daughters are Betty Carpenter, Lois Staley and Judy Lippe.

Mary Arents was wed to John Leipersberger, a carpenter, in 1906, at Leonardville. Their son, Roy, married Ada Frances Sanberg Wangeman; their daughter Mildred married Lyndon Rundle, and they have two daughters, Linda Reinhardt and Ilene Ehram, plus five grandchildren.

Scenes from Riley



Clockwise from top left: Ray Clark, Harold Holmes, Neal Medlin, Alymer Thurber and Harold Haas participate in the pageant.

Dana VanSickle, Susan Fritz, Mark Johnson and Amy Clark represent teacher and students in the parade.

Hazel Kleiner, Ernie and Irene Sharp enjoy the barbecue meal.

Mrs. Frank (Myrtle) Meyers gives a spinning demonstration.

Sharon Campbell and Terry Springer grace the Riley School float.

Rosa Reichle, center, presides as queen of the Centennial, joined by Hilda Linn, left, and Rose Sharp.

Charlotte Doyle, writer and director of the pageant, is joined by the Hair Brothers, portrayed by Russell Chamberlain, Melvin and Lloyd Johnson.

Adam and Dorothy Hinthner used this photo on their 1975 Christmas card.



's 1970 Centennial



*Photos by
John B. McPherson*



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(Abelina) Lena Arents married John Christensen and had two sons, Donald and Ralph. Don and wife, Alice Hayes, in Topeka, have one daughter, Carol. She married Hartland Kunzel in New York. Ralph Christensen married Charlotte Buchmann and they have a son, Arnold.

Amanda Arents married John Hageman and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1957. They had one son, Lewis, and four daughters, Stella Wohler, Bernice Bohnenblust, Josephine Stone and Maxine Anderson. Stella and Laurin "Bus" Wohler had two daughters, Twila Ericson and Bernadine Anderson, and two sons, Frederick and Kenneth Eugene, who died in infancy in 1930. Daughter Bernice married Amos Bohnenblust in the Fairview Church in 1935. Lewis married Mary Benninga and they have a daughter, Shirley Johnson, and a son, John Hageman. Josephine married Merton Stone, whose daughter is Beverly Jo Courmoyer. Maxine married Glenn Anderson and they have two daughters, Terri Jordan and Cathy Anderson, and a son, Stanley Anderson.

John J. Arents, Jr., youngest son of John and Wobina Visser Arents, married Freda Hanson in 1919. John died at age 89 from injuries in a tractor accident near Leonardville. They are parents of Vera Lovgren, Harold Arents and Eula Jean Weisner. Vera and Ralph Lovgren have a son, Donald, and a daughter, Kay Doughty. Harold's wife is Mary Jane Shorman Stroade, who had four children. Jean and George Weisner have two daughters, Debra Holle and Christine Miller, and a son, Kevin Weisner.

Hattie Arents married Henry Hageman and they were the parents of three sons, LaVern, Harlen and Eldon. To LaVern Hageman and Elvie Meier were born Douglas, Bruce, Roger and Keith. Harlen Hageman and Fern Bammes have one daughter, Cheryl Sweany Jones, and two sons, Gary, who married Carla Wieters Hunt, and Galen, who married Karen Ewing. Youngest son, Eldon Hageman married Mary Jo Blodgett, and they have a daughter, Brenda, and a son, Brad.

Aafke Visser Greenwold's son George (Gerhard) Visser was born in Tergast Eastfriesland Prussia (Germany) in 1857. At age 14 he came to America with his mother and older sister. He married Hattie Hassebroek in 1881. She was the oldest of ten children of Casper William and Ida Groenhagen Hassebroek. Her brother, Enoch, and family ran the Hassebroek Store in Riley for many years.

When first married, George and Hattie Visser lived on a farm 3-1/2 miles northwest of Riley. They moved 4-1/2 miles southwest of Riley about 1889. In a couple of years he built their home in which they lived until 1908. Their son, John, lived there from 1908-1941 and then his son, Bill, lived there from 1941-1966, when the Ft. Riley Reservation expanded and took it. George W. Visser's health had failed at an early age, and in 1908 they went to Texas, as his doctor had advised a change of climate. He

came back to their home in Riley and two years later he died. They were faithful active members of the Fairview German Presbyterian Church until 1897, when they transferred to the Riley Presbyterian Church, as charter members of that newly organized church which George had helped establish.

George and Hattie were parents to two daughters, (Ida) Lydia Rudolph and Clara Wobena Walter, and five sons, John, Kaspar, Wilhelm "Willy," William Edward and Vernon Frank. Willy, their third child, died at age six and Vernon, their youngest, died at age 11. John and Bertha Riniker Visser were the parents of William "Bill," Florence Pierce, Marjorie Hartner and Gladys Quantic. Children of Bill and Esther Avery are Earl and Richard. Florence and Alva Pierce's sons are Charles and James. Marjorie and Donald Hartner have daughter, Erma Leuthold and son, Harry. Gladys and Galen Quantic had no children.

(Ida) Lydia Visser married Abraham Rudolph. Her family consisted of three daughters and four sons: Eva Hepler, George, Fay Jahnke, Frank, Geraldine Strauss, Edwin and Maynard. Eva and Ira Hepler have four children from Ira's first marriage. They are Ernest, Irene Smith, Wilma Wooden and Wayne Hepler. George and Opal Rogers have Carolyn Briles and Clifford. Fay and Clarence had no children. Frank and Ruby Wilkening have Walter, Kathryn Taylor, Wayne, Ann Hess and William "Bill." Geraldine and Harry Strauss had twin sons, Harold and Gerold, and their youngest son is Warren. Edwin and Della May Jahnke are parents of Clyde, Judy Wyatt and James. Maynard, the youngest, was never married and died at age 71 on his farm west of Riley, where he went almost daily.

George and Hattie's daughter Clara married John Walter, and to this union was born five sons and three daughters: Merton, Leo, Margaret Brooks, Alberta May (nearly three years when she died of diphtheria), John Eldon, Donald, Louis and Lola Mae Goff. Merton married Jean Weatherman in 1951 and had two daughters and two sons, Pamela Fishel, David and twins Bruce and Brenda. Merton married Doris Brubaker in 1971. Second son Leo remained single and even built his own airplane. Margaret and Woodrow Brooks had a son, Jim. John "El" and Dorothy Richmond were parents of four sons—John, Gregory, Steven and Brian—and one daughter, Sandra Julian. Son Donald was in the military service in World War II and never married. Louis Earl and Kathrine Chilton had four daughters, Alma Jean Chilton, Judy Crawford, Janet Sprott and Jacquelin Moore. Lola and James Goff have a son, James, and a daughter, Debra Nelson.

Edward Visser, son of George and Hattie, and Martha Sylvester had seven sons and one daughter. Ed and Martha's son George Visser and Lorene Lund are parents of Arletta

Webster, Gordon, Vinton and Adelma "Adel." Arletta and James Webster have Jennifer and Bradley. Gordon and Lois (Jones) had three sons and two daughters: Laura Anderson, Gary, Daniel, Rodney and Melissa. Gordon married Sondra Taggart who has three sons, Joel, Vance and Aaron. Vinton married Karen Ericson, and they have three sons and a daughter, Lance, Justin, Brita Lena and Todd. Adel and James Otto have a son, Austin, and a daughter, Lindsay. Laura and Robert Anderson have two sons, Levi and Garrett Anderson.

The Visser-Arents-Greenwold reunions are still held annually on the second Sunday of August.

Walter Family

— by Myrta Walter

William Colonel and Sarah Shelt Walter settled in Grant Township southeast of Riley in 1884. They were natives of Ohio, married in Wooster in 1872.

Their surviving children were Isa (Moser), Warren Burton, Beth, John Wesley, Elmer Earl and Wayne Aquilla.

Warren Burton Walter married Maude Elizabeth Quantic in May 1903, at Riley. They lived on his farm three miles east of Riley many years and retired at their new home in Riley in 1955. They were the parents of Glenn, Hazel and Warren. Their daughter, Hazel, married George R. Lewis. The Lewis' now live in Littleton, Colorado, near their daughter, JoAnn, whose husband is Dr. Don Glasco. Don and Jo have three children, Sherry, Suzanne and Mark.

Warren Burton and Maude's son Glenn married Myrta Jennings, a Home Economics teacher, in 1939. Myrta taught in the Riley Rural High School during the 1936-1937 school year and then taught two years in Atchison, Kansas. They lived on a farm (originally owned by S. Soars) south of Riley until 1965, and since have lived at their home in Riley. Glenn died in May 1982.

Glenn and Myrta's children are: **Marilyn** and **Lloyd** Johnson, Riley, Kansas; **Mark** and **Kimbra** Johnson, Jacob and Jorji, **Scott** and **Stephanie** Johnson; **Lyle** and **Ann** Walter, Waterville, Kansas; **Monica** and **Molly**; **Myrna** and **Floyd** Brown, Newton, Kansas; **Susan**, **Nancy** and **Carrie**; **Glenna** and **H. Ronald** Harrison, Wichita, Kansas; **David** and **Rebecca**; **Sarah** and **Richard** Short, Goodland, Kansas; **Amy**, **Angela** and **Andrew**; **Lois** and **Gary** Sprecker, Salina, Kansas; **Corey**, **Dustin** and **Douglas**; **Wendy** and **P. Reginald** Stadel, Salina, Kansas; **Robert**, **Alison** and **Jessica**; **Debra** and **Stanley** Buseman, Riley, Kansas; **Douglas** and **Sarah**; **Lisa** and **Gregory** Waters, Atwood, Kansas; **Eric** and **Logan**.

Warren Burton and Maude's son Warren married Bonita Gravenstein and they live on the family farm three miles east of Riley. Their children are: **Gary** and **Christy** Walter, Manhattan, Kansas; **B.J.**, **Tisha**, **Kari** and **Kaisha**; **Rick** and **Connie** Walter, McFarland, Kansas; **Deeann**

and **David** Ciconne, York, Nebraska; **Rebecca** and **Cory**; **Ron** and **Barbara** Walter, Manhattan, Kansas; **Christina** and **Brandon**.

Fred Walters Family

— by Bob Walters, grandson of Fred and Ella

Frederick Walters, son of Daniel and Verena Sieber Walters, was born June 29, 1859, in Aetigkofen, Canton Solothurn, Switzerland. He came with his parents, three brothers and two sisters to the United States in March 1867, and lived in Alleghen, Pennsylvania, for two years.

In 1869 the family moved to Riley County, Kansas, where his father took a homestead a few miles south of Riley.

In 1876 Fred homesteaded an 80-acre tract of his own, located five miles south of Riley on old Highway 77 to where the old Magic school sat then three-quarters of a mile west on the south side of the road. He lived with his parents the next few years while paying off the farm and building a house. He received the deed to the land in 1881, signed by President Chester A. Arthur. In the following years he bought three other farms in the area.

In 1884 he married Sarah E. Grover of Milford. They had five sons and three daughters: Milton, Delia, Fred, Bill, Pearl, Gaylie, Ellsworth and Wallace. In 1897, when Wallace was only five months old, Fred's wife, Sarah, died so Grandma Grover of Milford took the baby and Fred kept the other children on the farm.

In 1898 he married Ella Champ of Junction City and the first thing they did was bring baby Wallace home from Grandma Grover's to be with the rest of the family. Fred and Ella had five children to add to the already large family: three sons and two daughters, John, Lyman, Ray, Helen and Margaret. All the children were born in the same house on the original homestead, and they all attended the Magic School, where Fred was a member of the school board for several years, as well as being on the township board a number of times.

In 1919 Fred decided to retire, so they had a sale and moved to Riley. They bought a home two houses north of the Presbyterian Church where he lived until passing away in September of 1938. Ella continued to live in the home until she passed away in 1951, and the home was sold. While in Riley, Fred served on the City Council, was mayor, and the last office he held was Justice of the Peace. He resigned this office about two years before passing away, as he said "other people's troubles were causing him to lose too much sleep."

Fred had two sons that remained in the Riley community: John and his wife, Elsie Nordstrom Walters (deceased), and son, Daryl. John built and operated the Mobil gas station for several years across the street east from the present location of the Riley State Bank.

Lyman and his wife, Violet Buseman Walters (deceased), and sons Bob and Dale and daughters Fern and Lois farmed in the community south of Riley, which for several years was on the old homestead near Magic. In 1959 Lyman retired from farming and moved to Riley where he and Violet built a home on West Kansas Avenue. He continued to work for Madison Township and the City of Riley.

Lyman's two sons, Bob and Dale, remain in the Riley community: Dale and his wife, Phyllis, of Keats and sons, Kevin of Keats, Mark of Kansas City, and daughter Pam and husband, Darren Beggs, and their daughter, Laci, of Emporia; Bob, who lives on West Kansas Avenue and his son, Wade, who lives in his grandparent's place on West Kansas Avenue, and Bob's daughter Vickie and husband, Rod Huff, and children, Cassie, Alex and Tyler, who live on Cedar Street in Riley.

Wilt Family and Riley Rural

Telephone Company — by Verna Wilt

John and Verna Wilt became residents of Riley when they purchased the Riley Rural Telephone Company in February of 1949.

John was the son of Ernest and Cora Wilt and was raised in the telephone business when his folks managed offices in Idana and Clay Center, Kansas, before moving to Leonardville to manage the Midland Telephone Company. John worked for Mercer Trucking and Sikes Store Company until 1942.

Verna was the daughter of Romanus and Louise Bohnenblust and was raised on their farm west of Leonardville. She taught rural schools in the area and married John in 1935. She was secretary for Sikes Store Company in Leonardville until 1942.

The Wilts moved to Longford to manage the telephone company in 1942.

In 1944 they moved to Wakefield, where John managed the telephone company, and in 1949 they made the move to Riley.

As told to the Wilts by Nellie Barnett, a switchboard operator for many years, the telephone company was always located in the same location at 108 S. Broadway. It consisted of the two south rooms when originally built. Dates are not known, but the switchboard was dated 1902. Later two more rooms were added and finally the rest of the structure as it now stands. It is currently owned by Dick and Joanne Piper.

It is believed that a Mr. Jacobson was the first owner of the telephone company. He later moved to Manhattan to operate a produce business, having sold the telephone company to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reece, who later sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Walt Swenson. The Wilts then purchased

it, and it was sold to Junction City Telephone Company in 1957. Junction City Telephone merged with United Telephone in 1968. The dial system was brought to Riley in 1958-1959.

While the Wilts owned the telephone company, operators were on duty from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Wilts were on duty from 6 to 7 a.m. and 9 to 10 p.m. (10:30 in the summer), and during the nights, when an alarm was set to awaken them for important calls. Most people were very good at abiding by the rule to not use the telephone at night, except for emergencies.

Three operators had shifts daily. Through the years of the Wilt's ownership, those operators included Nellie Barnett, Gailia Chamberlain Williams, Sarah Pfeffer Simmons, Josephine Buseman, Alberta Buseman, Alice Hayes, Mary Alice Hayes Ewing, Violet Walters, Marge Hunt Haas, Barbara Chapman Copeland and Lena White Binaco. Edna White and Lena Binaco also served as secretaries.

John Wilt passed away in 1966 and Verna continued to manage the office in Riley until it closed in 1969. She was transferred to the office in Junction City and worked there until her retirement in 1976.

In October 1994, when the new digital switch was installed for Riley, Verna was privileged to be chosen by United to make the ceremonial first call on the system from the room where their switchboard once stood. A phone was installed for that purpose. The first call was to her granddaughter, Pamela Bane, in Augusta, West Virginia.

The Wilts occupied the home for 31 years. Verna moved to Riley Centre for eight years, then moved back to the Broadway home in 1988, to the apartment now located in the north section.

The Wilts had two daughters, Romelle and Corliss. Romelle married Wayne Van Sickle and they live west of Riley. They have three children: Dana and husband, A.G. McLean IV, of Westmoreland; Brian and wife, Jeni, of Riley; and David Van Sickle at home. They have one grandchild, Ashley Van Sickle. Romelle and Wayne are the publishers of *The Riley Countian* newspaper.

Corliss is married to Patrick Fleming; they live near Alta Vista, Kansas. They are the parents of four children: Pamela and husband, Carl Bane, of Augusta, West Virginia; John of Alta Vista; Candice and husband, Robert "Bo" Grady, of Ogden; and Melissa at home. They have two grandchildren, Ryan and Stephanie Bane, of Augusta, West Virginia.

Churches

Crossroads Baptist Church

Junction of Highways 24 and 77

The Crossroads Baptist Church came to Riley in 1982. The new Southern Baptist Fellowship was given the name Crossroads, since it was on the corner and intersection of Highways 24 and 77. Crossroads started out as a mission on Easter Sunday, April 1982, with Fred Teague as interim pastor.



Harry Griffin, Jr., was called as pastor in October 1982. David VanBebber started in November 1985, and is still serving as pastor.

In October 1994, the Crossroads Mission was constituted as Crossroads Baptist Church.

Riley United Methodist Church

104 E. Ash



The Riley United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th anniversary with weekend activities October 13-14, 1979. October 16, 1994, the church had a special day to celebrate 115 years in this community.

Pastors since 1970

Rev. Paul L. Seyffer	1969-1976
Rev. Wilbur Purvis	1976-1981
Rev. William H. DeLaughder	1981-1984
Rev. Paul A. Babcock	1984-1988
Rev. Warren R. Hett	1988-1993
Rev. Steve Absher	1993-1995
Rev. Scott Hannon	June 1995

RILEY COUNTY LARGER PARISH

Bala City Presbyterian Church

Corner of Bala Road and Jenkins Road



The Bala City Presbyterian Church officially opened its doors on September 7, 1890 with two services held each Sunday. It merged with the Fairview and Riley Presbyterian Churches in 1949 to form the Riley County Larger Parish.

The church celebrated its 100th anniversary June 17, 1990.

It currently holds services on the third Sunday of each month, with members joining at the other parish churches the remaining Sundays.

The church yard is the site each Christmastime for a community living nativity scene, after which the Church is host for refreshments.

Fairview Presbyterian Church

Corner of Falcon Road and Fairview Church Road

The Fairview Presbyterian Church celebrated its 120th anniversary Sunday, October 30, 1994. Rev. Don Hammerli, former pastor at Fairview from 1947-1948 while a student at Kansas State University, delivered the sermon. A highlight of the celebration was the drawing for a quilt, hand-quilted by lifelong member Geraldine Strauss, who remembers "going when they had one side for men and one side for women." She also remembers the sermons preached and the hymns sung in German.



The Fairview Church is a part of the Riley County Larger Parish and the pastors are supplied through the Parish.

In 1869 a group of German Presbyterian families came from Illinois and Iowa to settle in Riley Centre. Within three years they felt the need for a church and in 1874 they organized the Riley Centre German Presbyterian Church. That first church was housed in the one-room Fairview schoolhouse, just south of the Church's present location. They met there for eight years until the new church was built in 1882.

Riley Presbyterian Church

104 E. Kansas



The Riley Presbyterian Church celebrated its 100th anniversary on November 3, 1991. Morning worship was held at 11 a.m. with afternoon worship and celebration at 2 p.m. Remembrances from former members and pastors

and greetings from other churches were shared. A group picture was taken and fellowship shared at an afternoon coffee. A time capsule is buried in the church yard to be opened at the 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Pastors in 1970 and since

Rev. Carter McKemy	1958-1977
Rev. David Starr Lodge	1978-1986
Rev. Margaret Croften Wooten	1986-1989
Rev. Paula Vander Hoven	1990-1995

Businesses

Arts & Memories

223 S. Broadway

Arts & Memories, owned by Rita and Keith Kraushaar, opened its doors on July 1, 1995. Housed in the former American Legion building, its main attraction is a museum featuring Riley town memories, with an exclusive display of Lloyd Taylor hand-crafted wooden and leather items. The shop also carries a large section of rocks and fossils, and a collection of "Unique Antiquerie," as well as original art by Rita and jewelry by Keith.

A special feature of Arts & Memories is the Java-Tea Room, which serves gourmet coffees and teas and the "Forever Christmas" section, with gift and craft items and antiques.

Arts & Memories is open 9-5 Tuesday through Saturday and 1-4 Sunday.

Baer Gas & Electric, Inc.

212 S. Broadway

In June of 1959, Raymond and Elaine Baer bought the Zenith television and Frigidaire appliance business from Walter Meyer. The business was located in what is now the south room of Flynn's Sundries. Aunt Edith Baer was hired as a clerk at that time. In a few months, the business was moved to 207 S. Broadway in what is now *The Riley Countian* and Dr. Winter's dental office. At that time, the store sold TVs, appliances, furnaces and air conditioners. It also provided electrical contracting and repair work.

In February of 1963, the business moved to 103 S. Broadway, the ground floor of the Odd Fellows building, which is now Dee's Antiques.

The propane business was added in 1964, and Charles Scott was hired as driver. Virgil (Johnny) Webber was hired in 1965 as an electrician and installer of furnaces and air conditioners. In 1969, Leland (Joe) Heikes came to work as a propane delivery and service man.

In 1973, the business moved to its present home at 212 S. Broadway. This building was purchased from Don Bryson. The building was previously owned by Shockey Hardware, Linn & Krehbiel, Krehbiel & Harz, Harz, and Bryson Furniture.

Gerald Baer graduated from Kansas State University in 1979 and began to work at the business. In May of 1980, Joe Heikes suffered a heart attack, so he and Jerry changed positions.

In 1981, Dwight Baer graduated from Kansas State University. He came to work for the firm about one year later.

In 1985, the Baers bought a retail propane business from Girton Propane, and Dwight and Roxie moved to Clay Center to operate that business.

Other people who worked for the business are Larry, Robert and Sheryl Baer, Ruth Von Elling, Art Hoffman, Julius Wahl, Chuck Scott, Steve Thurlow, Randy Holle, Ken Schweitzer and David Allison.

Ray died in 1993, and Elaine retired in 1994. The business continues to service the community under the direction of Gerald, Dwight, Joe and John.

Calico Inn

105 S. Broadway

In 1977, Trix Fasse purchased the Calico Inn building which has been at that location since before 1900. The building has housed many businesses and was also a home before Trix bought it.

The first business was a printing office. Trix's carpenters cut a hole in the floor and removed large rocks and cement in the middle of the first room. The room had settled on the ends, which left a huge hump in the middle, where the heavy printing press had been located.

The Calico Inn opened its door December 24, 1977, with Judy Heikes and Trix Fasse as proprietors. Thousands of people from all walks of life, people from most of the 50 states and from foreign countries, walk through The Calico Inn's door for a good, sit-down country meal. The Calico's motto is "There's Always Something Cookin' at The Calico Inn." If you don't have a friend when you walk through the door you will, no doubt, have made one when you walk out. People new to this area tell Trix they like to eat at Calico Inn because people are so friendly.

Barbecued pork ribs are The Calico Inn specialty on weekends.

Trix notes, "We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Riley community and all the surrounding towns for their support and patronage. Without each and every one of them, we couldn't have done it. We would also like to thank all the employees through the years that have helped make Calico Inn a surviving business for almost 18 years."

Carlson Plumbing Co.

109 Remmele

The Carlson Plumbing Co., owned by Warren Carlson, began business in 1952, though its history commences around 1922 when the business was the Linn & Krehbiel

Hardware and Plumbing store. The store's inventory included wagons, buggies, horse drawn implements, and general hardware and plumbing supplies.

In 1948, Pete and Ruby Harz bought the store and maintained ownership until May 7, 1952 when Warren and Audrey Carlson and their three children, Keith, Jeanne and Betty, gained possession of the business. Mr. Krehbiel stayed on at the store for one and a half years to offer his advice and service to the Carlsons. In 1963, the Carlsons sold the hardware sector to Mr. and Mrs. Grauerholz of Minden, Nebraska. The Carlsons continued the plumbing portion and built a plumbing store at 109 Remmele Street, adjacent to their home.

Carriage Shed Antiques

102 S. Broadway

Carriage Shed Antiques, owned by Dick and Joanne Piper, opened in 1980. It specializes in primitives, kitchen items, furniture, vintage clothing, books, jewelry, paper goods, etc., — something for everyone. The shop carries the usual, unusual, and fun things.

The building had originally been a photo gallery that was converted to a gasoline service station in 1923-1924. This was Riley's first filling station, although local grocery stores had a pump out near the curb.

Carriage Shed Antiques is open Wednesday through Saturday afternoons.

Circle B Bar

121 S. Broadway

Circle B Bar, owned by Phil W. Bubendorf and managed by Ron Alphin, opened on March 28, 1994, and features live entertainment in a small-town atmosphere.

The Circle B is part of the original "stone buildings" built by George W. Hanna, some time between 1888 and 1900, however Masonic records indicate they moved into the building in 1895.

Condray Trailer Park

316 W. Walnut

The Condray Trailer Park has been owned by Arthur and Lillie May Condray since 1971. The Trailer Park was owned jointly with Art's mother, Tillie, until her death. The Park has 11 lots and is located on North Hassebrook and North Clay Streets.

Daniel M. Winter, DDS

209 S. Broadway

Dr. Daniel M. Winter started his office in January 1989 with a portable dental unit and a folding chair. With the support of the community, the office is now operating with three dental units, a dentist, two hygienists and a

receptionist.

Dr. Winter has offices in Manhattan and Riley.

Dee's Antiques

101 S. Broadway

Dee Jensen, owner of Dee's Antiques, started in the antique business in 1965. She moved to Riley and took over the store at 101 S. Broadway, in the Odd Fellows building, in the 1980s. Her son Larry McBee had operated the store prior to that time.

Dee's Antiques strips, repairs and refinishes furniture.

Econ-O-Wash

115 S. Broadway

The first person to own the land where the Econ-O-Wash store is located was John Stewart in June 1860. Later the land was owned by Thomas and Stephen Soars, about 1866-1869. The Riley Town and Land Company bought the land in 1887. This company was responsible for starting the move of Riley from the west part of town to the east.

In May 1888, George W. Hanna bought some lots of this land, and as of 1888-1900, built the stone buildings that carry the names of Hanna and Francis above them. In 1900, the Riley postmaster was Joe Francis, who owned the present Econ-O-Wash building, the first building used as a post office. Prior to 1900, the post office was in the Aaron Southwick home, from 1870-1888, and in the Jacob Lowdermilk home, in 1888. Still later, the post office was housed in a building with the bank.

After Joe Francis' ownership, the Econ-O-Wash building belonged to Dr. G.H. Litsinger; in 1905 to A. McQuillen; in 1915 to Josephus Brewer; then to Louis Sylvester and in 1919 to Joseph Hostinsky, who rented it to the Federal Post Office.

Ivan and Marjorie Sand bought the "Francis" part of the building in 1962. This was also about the time the present post office was built across the street, in its current location.

Fasse Construction Company

317 S. Billings

Clyde Fasse Construction Company was started in 1953. Clyde does soil conservation work, builds ponds, terraces, waterways, etc. He has dug many basements in the west addition of Riley and has built many roads in the developments around Tuttle Creek Lake.

Flohr Ostrich Eggs

115 S. Riley

In 1995, Dale and Justine Flohr, and son Waylon, began a family business incubating ostrich eggs for North

Central Kansas Ostrich. Their set-up consists of two 50-egg incubators and one 125-egg incubator, two hatchers and a brooder box.

Eventually the Flohrs hope to have some breeding pairs of their own to meet the increased demand for the low cholesterol, low-fat ostrich meat.

Flynn Sundries

117 S. Broadway

Flynn Sundries was purchased by Allen and Kitty Flynn from Karl and Esther Rueck in September, 1951. The Ruecks had operated it as Riley Drug Company and later as Rueck Pharmacy.

The building is part of the George W. Hanna "stone buildings" built in the late 1880s. The Ruecks owned the drug store from 1934 to 1951 and Joe Hostinsky owned it for many years before that. Milton Pritner was also a former owner and called his business the Eagle Drug Store. Manhattan's Dr. Colt was also an early owner. (There might have been other owners as well.)

Allen's son, Doug, started in the business in 1970, after the death of his mother. Flynn Sundries has remained with many the same retail lines since it opened. The store has had Hallmark cards since January 1939, as well as health and beauty items, gifts, toys, candy, ice cream, pop, film and photo developing, magazines, school supplies, etc.

From 1951 to 1980, Flynn's operated a soda fountain. Allen notes, "Downtown Riley has changed a lot in the 44 years I have been looking out of these windows!"

Gambino's Pizza

205 S. Broadway

Gambino's Pizza, owned by Richard and Janet Schurle, was started in the former Riley Cafe building. Gambino's Pizza offers pizza, sandwiches, pasta, salad bar and K-State ice cream.

Gene Williams Construction Company

216 E. Kansas Avenue

Gene Williams has been in his own construction business for the past 31 years, handling new construction and remodeling for small commercial and residential jobs. For 18 years prior to forming Gene Williams Construction Company, he worked in commercial construction for the O.D. Milligan Company of Manhattan.

Gene was the assistant superintendent for the construction of the original Kansas State University Student Union, Eisenhower Hall addition, Smurthwaite House, Engineering building addition, and LaFene Health Center, as well as for the Blue Hills Shopping Center, and the Catholic Student Center and Chapel.

Gene served for six years on the Riley City Council in the late 1950s, and in 1995 was again elected to a Council position. Gene joined the City of Riley Volunteer Fire Department in the late 1950s, when the City still had the 1928 Chevrolet fire truck, and continues to serve as a volunteer fireman.

Gene attended the Magic Grade School, south of Riley, then finished the 8th grade at Riley Grade School. He graduated from Riley Rural High School. His grandfather and grandmother, Henry J. and Minnie M. (Kent) Williams, homesteaded land in Gove County, Kansas, then later moved to the area south of Riley in the Magic District; the family eventually moved into Riley.

Gene's father and mother, Rolland and Louise, farmed south of Riley, then moved to Manhattan, where his father worked for Kansas State University Bull Barns for several years. Upon Rolland's death, Gene's mother moved to Riley, into the house at the corner of Kansas and Iowa, which Gene and Carol enlarged and remodeled in 1979-1980.

The Hair Shoppe

111 E. Kansas Ave.

The Hair Shoppe has been owned by Peg Taylor since November 1985. The first recorded warranty deed was in February of 1866 to John and Rebecca Stewart "for a consideration of \$400." The grantor was the United States, by James Buchanan, President. A total of 44 deeds have been recorded for the property, which has been a home to many, as well as an eating establishment, the local newspaper office, and an antique shop.

Heartland Signs, Inc.

604 W. Walnut

Heartland Signs, Inc., owned by Rex and Jane Keister and Jim and Susan Goff, was started November 1994. The business handles sales of signs and service including manufacturing and installation.

Heartland Signs, Inc. also offers custom-cut vinyl lettering, crane rental and neon signs.

Holmes-Pfeifley Funeral Home

303 S. Broadway

The Holmes Funeral Home of Riley, Kansas, was established by Harold and Georgia Holmes in 1935. They operated the funeral home until 1957 when Edward and Mildred Pfeifley joined the firm. The Pfeifley's operated the funeral home until 1980, when they sold it to their son, Phil Pfeifley.

Edward Pfeifley died in 1983 and Mildred Pfeifley continued working at the funeral home until her retirement in 1990.

Phil and Diane Pfeifley now own and operate the Holmes-Pfeifley Funeral Home.

Howe Lawn and Landscape

12780 Madison Rd.

Howe Lawn and Landscape, owned by Scott E. Howe, opened May 30, 1992 when he began landscaping on his own. Scott hired a friend that summer to help and had plenty of work for them both. In January 1993, Scott purchased the land just northwest of U.S. 24/Kansas 77 for his shop and business.

Howe Lawn and Landscape seeds lawns, lays sod and overseeds. Howe has a fertilization program, guaranteed plant materials (trees, shrubs, etc.) and will lay limestone and tie walls.

Ken's TV

212 S. Broadway

In 1982 Kenneth Schweitzer purchased the business from Baer Gas and Electric under which he had operated it from 1963. Ken services most brands of TV and handles antenna installation and repair and satellite systems.

Lillie's Hidden Treasures

316 W. Walnut

Lillie's Hidden Treasures started at 111 W. Kansas in 1978 and moved to its present location in 1984. Lillie's features antiques, collectibles and some new items.

Little Prairie Veterinary Clinic

305 S. Remmele

Debby Butler, DVM, opened the Little Prairie Veterinary Clinic October 1, 1994.

She specializes in small animals, equine and exotics; offering all the services related to these species.

Dr. Butler did extensive remodeling of the South Remmele property, which had been vacant for more than 20 years. As the following photos attest, it is a wonderful improvement for the city.



Before



Little Prairie Veterinary Clinic — Today

Main Street Exchange

414 N. Main

The Main Street Exchange, owned by David and Barbara Lambert since July 1, 1988, is mainly in the business of repair and refinishing of antique and new furniture. They also specialize in the manufacture of customized furniture and restore and sell antique furniture.

The history of Lamberts' home and property date back to 1875 in the following excerpts from the property deed:

To the grantees, Kansas Pacific Railway Company formerly the Union Pacific Railway Company, Eastern Division

Are given, the North half of Section 1, Township 9 South, Range 5 East of the 6th P.M. containing 470.40 acres in Kansas. By the Act of Congress approved July 1, 1862 as amended by the Acts of July 2, 1864, May 7, 1866 and March 3, 1869 to and in the construction of a Railroad and Telegraph line from Missouri River to the Pacific Ocean and to secure the Government the use of the same for postal, military and other purposes.

Grantors, the United States of America, by the President, U.S. Grant filed May 24, 1875 at 5 p.m.

The first private owners of the property were Aaron and Annette Southwick who bought 158 acres and who also deeded 5 acres to Union Town Company on December 15, 1877.

In 1887 Aaron Southwick deeded 40 acres of land to his sons George and Charles. From 1893 to 1913 the land changed hands from the brothers to J.W. Loudermilk to Sarah Yates and from Sarah to Jacob Riniker.

Mr. Riniker sold the land to Henry Buseman in January 1913. It is believed at that time the present house was built.

In May of 1930 Henry died, leaving the house to his

wife Janna and remaining assets to five daughters, seven sons and two granddaughters. After the death of Janna in 1949, the property was willed to her children.

The home and remaining few acres stayed in the Buseman families until 1964. It was then sold to Larry and Mildred Vilven. In 1974 it was sold to Ronald Bowman. David and Nancy Shaffer bought it in 1975 and sold it to Leroy and Roberta Meinzer in 1978.

The home was bought by David and Barbara Lambert in 1985, at which time the home and property, consisting of 1.35 acres, was extensively remodeled and repaired to its present condition.

It is still occupied by David and Barbara and their three daughters, Michele, Amy and Ashley.

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Mary Kay, the number one brand of skin care and color cosmetic products sold in the United States today, is listed as one of the top ten companies in the U.S. for women to work for.

Linda Sigle, a sales director since February 1994, became a consultant in December 1989. Other Mary Kay consultants in the Riley area are Joy Cain, Patricia Bloomdahl, Sue Garver, Deanna Sharp, Annette Springer and Deanna Woodburn.

Mary's Beauty Shop

316 S. Broadway

Mary Jane Oberhelman started in 1944 working for Claude and Doris Haas. She bought the business from them in 1948 when they moved to California. Her first location was in the building that was south of the present John's Grocery Store. At that time, Forrest Gravenstein had the Chevrolet Agency in the south part and Claude had a barber and beauty shop in a part of the north side. In 1945 Claude and Doris built the building that is now the Riley Medical Clinic. The front part of the building was a dry goods store, mainly dresses and lingerie.

In 1951, Mary Jane moved to her present location. The building was built in the early 1900s. It has been a school house, funeral home, apartment house and hotel. Mary Jane's mother, Julia Sailors, for years boarded construction workers, feeding and packing lunches for men that worked at Custer Hill (Ft. Riley) and those that helped build the bridge over Tuttle Creek at Randolph.

After graduation, Mary Jane worked in Kansas City as a welder in a defense plant making gliders.

In 1962 she married Bob Oberhelman. They have two sons, Michael in the Army in El Paso, Texas and Mark in construction in Manhattan, and one grandson, Mitchell.

Medlin Chevrolet

— by Maurice and Elaine Medlin

Forrest Gravenstein sold the Chevrolet dealership to Lloyd Barleen in 1950. Maurice Medlin purchased it in January 1952. It was located downtown, south of Hassebroek's Grocery. About a year later, Medlin purchased the Haas Motor Company on Kansas Avenue and moved to that location. A new building was constructed at the site in 1960, which is now Schurle Signs, Inc. Richard and Janet Schurle purchased the property when Medlin Chevrolet closed in 1989.

New car models were shown in September or October of the previous year and were not shown until the exact announced date, so cars had to be hidden in various garages around town until then. Many new models and changes were seen in those 37 years. Perhaps the best business year was 1974, when the farmers were getting \$5 a bushel for their wheat. In 1978, the company was privileged to receive the last Corvette Pace Car Chevrolet built, which created a lot of interest.

Neal Medlin became a dealer in 1975 and Maurice retired in 1980, but was still active in the used car department.

Roger (Rog) Brunkow was employed there 35 years. Lloyd Johnson, Jim Brandenburg, Mazie Kolars and Harold Haas were also there many years. Other employees include Art Meyer, Harold Fasse, Birdie Belle Chamberlain, Ron Bergren, Wash Sackrider, Dale Ricker, Alfred Reichle, George Toburen, Sherman Skidmore, LeRoy Norris, Ray Baer, Matt Reasoner, Jerry Hageman, Neal Medlin, Denny Brunkow, Dennis Toburen, Bill Rightmeier, Al Trickle, Carl Schurle, David Baughman, Lonnie Swanson and Larry Hageman.

The Medlin Chevrolet advertising slogan through the years was "Cars are like eggs, they're cheaper in the country."

The Olde Shoppe

120 S. Broadway



The Olde Shoppe, featuring European antiques has been owned by Margaret Miller since 1989.

In November 1973, Brigitte and Andy Carver opened their shop in the Hinthier building. They later remodeled the long, empty Nelson's Shop for an antique mall

and moved to that location following a fire in 1981 that destroyed their shop which had been located a block south, between the American Legion Hall and Hassebrook's Grocery.

The Olde Shoppe imports antiques from Europe and staffs five to six persons.

On Deck Sports Cards

212 S. Broadway

On Deck Sports Cards, owned by Stan Buseman, opened December, 1994. What started as a hobby has turned into a business. Stan says "It's fun to work with the kids and share their excitement when they pull a good card."

Phil's Skelly Service, Inc. - Riley Texaco **7520 Falcon Rd.**

Phil's Skelly Service, Inc. has been owned by Phillip M. and Myrna M. Parry since September 1966, and has had two business locations, first at the corner of Kansas Avenue and Main Street and then at its present location north on Highway 24.

The station at Kansas and Main was built in the early 1930s. The first owner was only there a short time because he was unable to pay for the construction materials. The station was then taken over by W.S. Timmons, who held the debt, and his son, George, operated the station for a couple of years. It was then sold to Raymond Lass and John Walters who ran it together and added a tank wagon service. Their business was called L and W Oil Co. Raymond Lass then bought out John Walters and John built a station on Broadway called Walters Oil Co. Raymond called his business Lass Oil Co. (we think.) He operated the business until the early '40s (1943 or 1944) when he closed it to move to Wichita to work in a defense plant.

Ervin Kleiner bought the station around 1945 and he and his wife, Trena, operated it until 1950 when they sold it to Roland Algott. Roland and his son, Larry, managed the station until they sold it to Charles Mackender in 1960, and it was run as Mackender Oil Co. until 1966. At this time Phillip and Myrna Parry leased the station as Phil's Skelly Service and Charles kept the tank wagon under his own name.

A couple of years later, Phil's Skelly Service bought the entire business. In 1969, Phil's Skelly Service purchased the Northside Texaco, just north of Highway 24, and ran two stations until 1976 when the station at Main and Kansas closed for good.

Phil's Skelly Service moved to the north location, 7520 Falcon Road, and was in operation there until March of 1995. At that time it was sold to Walthers Oil Co. of

Cuba, Kansas, and leased and managed by Jeanise and Rick Pride under the name of Riley Texaco. Phil's Skelly Service leased back the shop and kept the tank wagon business.

Skelly gasoline was always sold at both sites until 1975 when Skelly was sold to Getty Oil Co. In the early 1980s, Getty Oil Co. was sold to Texaco. The business has sold Texaco products since then, except for a couple of years when Kerr-McGee products were sold.

PJ's Service

411 N. Main

PJ's Service is owned by Lloyd and Marilyn Johnson. Lloyd started his auto and light truck repair service in February 1979, when he rented space from Phil Parry in the shop building adjacent to Phil's Skelly Service. In 1984 the present shop building was constructed at 411 N. Main. Before starting his own business, Lloyd worked as a mechanic for Medlin Chevrolet from the fall of 1960 through 1978.

Riley Cafe

Adam and Dorothy Hinthier bought the Riley Cafe from Elston Bergren in 1937. They saw their restaurant as serving the needs of the town, and after the mandatory six-month wait, they obtained a beer license for the new establishment. At that time, there were 39 business places in Riley.

The Hinthiers owned the building and rented the southern space to businesses through the years. It was later divided and remodeled for Delores Grater's Beauty Shop (now *The Riley Countian* office) and the Olde Shoppe (now Dr. Dan Winter's office).

They delivered meals to shut-ins and served 30 to 40 school lunches before the hot lunch program was begun. Their meal was a hamburger and a large dip of mashed potatoes and gravy for 5¢. Pop was extra for 5¢.

They sold pop, beer and soda fountain specialties, including banana splits, malts, milk shakes and sundaes.

Dorothy and Adam hired many local workers during their years of business, and during the three years when Adam was in World War II, Mable Phalen, Dorothy's sister Maxine Melnick, and Dorothy kept the cafe open.

Saturday night was the busy night, as people stayed in town until midnight and the cafe would usually close at 2 a.m. For several years, until World War II, the cafe was open seven days a week, serving breakfast and noon and evening meals.

After Adam had his stroke, Dorothy and Mable ran the restaurant until it was sold on August 13, 1988. It had been owned by the Hinters for 52 years. Adam died on December 15, 1989.

From the Depression days of the 1930s to the prosperous times of the 1980s the Hinthers' Riley Cafe provided a sense of stability to "main street Riley."

The Riley Countian

207 S. Broadway

The first record of a newspaper in Riley Centre was the *Riley Centre News*, issued January 19, 1879 by Charles A. Gustin and Charles A. Southwick, cousins. Due to insufficient returns for their efforts, the paper was discontinued in the spring.

From 1879-1883, *The Independent* newspaper was published by M.L. Sears and Southwick. The paper was published in Manhattan from late 1881 to early 1883; its subscriber list was sold to the *Nationalist* and the publication discontinued.

The next known paper was *The Riley Times*, published by various individuals from 1887-September 1889 when it was absorbed by the *Riley Regent*.

The *Riley Regent* was published first on July 5, 1889, with Charles Southwick as editor. The paper was produced intermittently with various publishers. Some known include C.N. Knapp, 1896-1897; A.Q. Miller, who continued to excel in the newspaper industry—the journalism department at Kansas State University now bears his name; Frank S. Crane; H.P. Robinson, 1905; Bert Dunlap, 1915; J.M. Best, Sr., J.M. Best Jr. and Miss Minnie Best, 1932-1946; leasees R.L. Stapleton, 1946 and Henry Rennick, 1948. Minnie (Best) Nelson returned on two more occasions to publish through the years. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Cook leased the paper from August 1951-August 1952.

In September 1952, the *Regent* was combined with the *Leonardville Monitor* by Larry and Delia Marcellus and called the *Monitor-Regent*. They bought the *Blue Valley News* in Randolph in 1957 and the name was then changed to *The Riley Countian*.

Following the purchase of the *Countian* by Harold and Edith Dalrymple in 1965, the paper moved back to Riley. In 1967, Claire and Marion Sowers purchased the paper and it was moved back to Leonardville where it remained throughout the Sowers' ownership. James Olson purchased the *Countian* in 1975. The paper remained in Leonardville until the last few months of Olson's ownership, when it was published out of the Olson home in Bala before its sale to Wayne and Romelle VanSickle.

Not entirely new to the newspaper business, Romelle had worked for the Dalrymples and Sowers in the mid-1960s. After quitting to raise a family, she returned to work at the Riley County Superintendent of Schools office for three years until she and Wayne purchased the paper in November 1982.

The paper found its way back to Riley and was first

located at the site of the present Hair Shoppe on Kansas Avenue. In May 1984 it moved to its current location at 207 S. Broadway. With that move, the paper had returned to its 1965 home, as this office space was once half of the *Countian* office (the other half now being Dr. Winter's dental office.)

The Riley Countian came into the computer age early in 1987 with the addition of Macintosh systems. Each week a camera-ready edition is taken to *The Dispatch* in Clay Center for printing.

The motto of the paper is "Your weekly 'good news' paper." The main purpose of *The Riley Countian* is to provide local residents with upcoming activities of the communities of Riley, Leonardville and Randolph and to stress the "good news" small town living brings. Entirely different from a large daily, the *Countian* provides that personal touch and friendly service.

Riley Glass

224 N. Broadway

Riley Glass has been owned by David and Doris Fritz since April 1994. The business handles auto and residential glass replacement, windshield chip repair, custom mirror work, new construction and replacement windows, storm window and door sales and installation and farm and heavy equipment glass replacement.

The Riley State Bank of Riley, Kansas

201 S. Broadway

The first Riley State Bank was chartered November 25, 1887. Its initial bi-annual report to the Kansas Banking Commission on August 1, 1892 listed J.W. Loudermilk as Cashier and S.C. Baker as President. Its capital account totaled \$6,900.

Many events, including fires, robberies and the Depression changed the status of this bank. In 1909, another bank (Farmers State Bank) was chartered in Riley. It is believed that somewhere around 1936, the two banks consolidated.

In the early 1940s the bank was liquidated. However, the people of Riley and the surrounding community recognized the need for a bank in town and held a meeting. Shares were sold and on November 13, 1943, The Riley State Bank of Riley, Kansas was chartered.

The bank celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 1993 with an open house displaying memorabilia from the old banks and other businesses in Riley. The present Capital Account of the bank totals in excess of \$2,000,000 and Total Assets average over \$20,000,000.

The current officers, directors and employees are:
Edgar R. Copeland, Chairman of the Board
Michael A. Hagenmaier, President and Director

Kent W. Doyen, Sr. V.P. and Director
Linda Copeland, Director
Jay Copeland, Director
Gary Sylvester, Director
Ivan Sand, Director
John Stites, Director
Gary J. Hanna, V.P.
Quinten A. Pultz, V.P.
Debra Buseman, Cashier
Marilyn Johnson, Asst. Cashier
Shirley Strauss, Proof Operator
Jan Burwell, Bookkeeper and Teller
Karen Diller, Teller
Kim Stevenson, Teller
Kathy Hamilton, Teller
Karen Schurle, Teller

Riley Wrecker

309 S. Main

The Riley Wrecker service, owned by Gary Tittel, Jr., opened for business in June 1995. The business offers 24-hour towing and wheel-lift service.

Roetto's Convenience Store and Car Wash

423 N. Main

Roetto's Convenience Store and Car Wash was purchased in June 1990 by Gary and Betty Roetto from Stan and Debbie Buseman, who had opened the business in 1984. Originally known as the Stop 2 Shop, the business consisted of sales of APCO gasoline, grocery, snack and convenience items. The business has remained much the same over the years, still handling much the same product lines. In 1993 a car and truck wash was added adjacent to the store. Roetto's employs eight persons on average and is open 17 hours per day, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day of the year.

Schurle Signs, Inc.

116 E. Kansas

Schurle Signs, Inc., owned by Richard and Janet Schurle was started April 1972 as Schurle Sign Service; it was incorporated October 1986 as Schurle Signs, Inc.

Schurle Signs moved to Riley in January 1977 to 321 N. Main, expanded that facility three times, and then moved to the present Kansas Avenue location in May of 1990 (formerly the Medlin Chevrolet facility).

It started mainly as a service business, but in order to meet customers' needs, it now is a full-service company: design, manufacture (including vacuum forming plastic faces, neon fabrication and processing, and illuminated awning fabrication), installation and service. Schurle Signs, Inc., has signs located in 15 states across the Midwest.

Sharp's Country Service

8980 Falcon Road

Sharp's Country Service began business in 1965 in the home of Bill and Norma Sharp.

Norma is in her 22nd year of public accounting and tax service.

Bill offers carpenter service for residential, agricultural and commercial building and remodeling. He will also do furniture repair and light electrical repairs. Bill has 30 years of experience in carpentry.

Trash Barrel Antiques

216 S. Broadway

Trash Barrel Antiques, owned by Donna D. Bolek, was started in 1971-1972 in the parent store at 101 S. Broadway where her father, Alvin Deines, had used furniture and antiques. On December 11, 1974 the business was moved to its present location after the buildings were purchased. These buildings previously housed the *Riley Regent* newspaper office, the Fritz Hardware Store and the Haas Hardware Store.

Trash Barrel Antiques deals in a little bit of everything, from tools to furniture and dishes. The business likes to buy, sell and trade.

Trix's Riley Roomer

104 W. Hartner

Trix's Riley Roomer, owned by Trix Fasse, is the result of Trix's goal to restore a turn-of-the-century house. In October of 1990, Trix bought Mazie Kolar's home at 104 West Hartner, which had been built in 1905. According to Trix, "Riley did not have a hotel or motel for travelers, and because I have been told there is no security in life, just opportunity, I took it. And I like a little humor in everything I do."

"In a small town there are always a few 'rumors' here or there and because the place had to have a name, 'Trix's Riley Roomer' popped into my head. Trix's Riley Roomer has three guest bedrooms, decorated in antiques, and a huge wrap-around porch, to enjoy the fresh quiet morning air with a hot cup of coffee in a quaint rocking chair. I serve my guests a large country breakfast or something special, at their request."

"The Riley Roomer is special but what I like best is knowing my guests have a good night's rest."

Trix's Teeks

109 S. Broadway

Trix's Teeks antique shop, owned by Trix Fasse, started in 1970, specializing mostly in furniture and small items from the Midwest.

Other Riley Businesses in 1995

BelMar Kennels	15565 Madison Rd. Larry Crawford
Computer Novelty Portraits	216 N. Billings Lyle Richards
Copeland Insurance Service, Inc.	North side; Riley State Bank Bldg. Ed and Jay Copeland
Dean Klentz, DVM	Rt. 1, Box 228
Debbie Wheeler (Watkins Products)	228 N. High
Guys and Gals Styling	102 N. Main Annette Marden
Heller Country Cobbler	10140 Fairview Church Rd. Eldo and Elaine Heller
John's Friendly Grocery	213 S. Broadway John Holden
Keith's Repair Works	Rt. 1, Box 108 Keith Bulk
Klucas Trenching	220 N. Broadway Ed Klucas
PATCHES	303 E. Chestnut Karen Lehne
Richard Jack Construction	119 S. Billings
Riley Lumber Company	302 S. Broadway Darrell Buseman
Riley Medical Clinic	113 S. Broadway Dr. Richard J. Waldrop
Riley Mobile Home Park	7550 Falcon Road John and Martha Hanson
Robert C Buchanan, Inc. dba Riley Elevator	417 W. Chestnut
Sullivan Insurance	114 N. Billings Scott Sullivan
THOMAS Angus Berry Farm	14821 Madison Rd. Lynn and Connie Thomas
Thurlow Skid Loader Services	14960 Homestead Rd. Matt Thurlow
Webb's Custom Flooring	211 East Kansas Perry (Pete) Webb
Williams Roofing	9545 Fairview Church Road Dana Williams

Downtown Riley — 1995



100 block of South Broadway — East Side



100 block of South Broadway — West Side



200 block of South Broadway — East Side



200 block of South Broadway — West Side



Riley County Grade School — 117 N. Remmele Street



Riley County High School — 12451 Fairview Church Road



**Riley
Municipal
Swimming
Pool**

200 N. Clay

**First Responder
Building**

401 N. Main Street

