



## Kansas slights visitors with tiny welcome signs

Kansas has some of the worst "welcome" signs in the nation. If you don't believe us, go up to the border and check - if you can even read the sign.

We can't. That's the first problem. In an apparent effort to save scarce state cash, the Sebelius administration got these down to nearly the size of a "city limit" sign. And while we applaud frugality, you gotta be able to read the sign to get the effect.

We think the sign says "Welcome to" before Kansas, but who can read it on a postage stamp? A temporary "Welcome Hunters" sign is a lot bigger.

Our neighbor to the north, by contrast, has big, bold signs that feature a covered wagon or a cowboy and a slogan, such as "Nebraska, the good life." Nothing fancy, but readable.

Kansas once had such signs, big green ones that said "Kansas, Midway USA." These featured an oversized sunflower with a "stalk" - really the I-beam holding up the sign - set at an angle.

A separate panel that read, "Robert B. Docking, governor," offended the Republican Legislature and may have set the stage for later changes. None was for the better.

As governors came and went, so did the signs. All would be replaced as a new administration hired a new ad agency which produced new slogans and logos. What waste!

The sunflowers fell, their sign extension taken

up by "Ah Kansas" logos. That slogan, paid for by the Bill Bennett regime, was forgettable, as was the later "Kansas, simply wonderful."

The Joan Finney administration replaced those with a Kansas logo that seemed to explode into confetti, product of yet another agency. Then, under Bill Graves, the governor's wife, Linda, designed a sign with a big, ugly sunflower and a purple background.

Those came down when the Sebelius gang hired yet another agency to produce yet another state "image." A wavy logo appeared on everything from stationery to signs, but the size dropped so far you can't read 'em.

If there's a theme here, it's that governors can waste a lot of money paying ever-willing agencies to produce an "image" that will be canned four to eight years later. No Legislature should allow money for that.

The second lesson might be that simple is better, that any slogan should be enduring - or on a plate that can be easily changed with the administration - and that the sunflower is the most recognizable symbol we have.

We've been the Sunflower State, the Wheat State and a lot of other things. Sunflowers are attractive and the image sticks around.

Kansas should put up permanent border signs. The rest is just politics - or the fuzzy thinking of underage kids at some New York agency.

Make 'em big enough to read and leave 'em up. That's the way to do it. - Steve Haynes



## News From the Past

1931

Mr. and Mrs. Farmer Shields took a little outing up to Cheyenne, Wyo. They boarded the Lockheed-Vega, high-powered passenger plane at the airport in St. Francis and 1 hour, 15 minutes later, were walking on the ground at Cheyenne.

County Agent Stewart and George Klie attended a farm meeting at the State Experimental Farm in Colby.

A "hard playing" Zwegardt baseball team came out victorious with a score of 8 to 1 over the Neville boys. Burnham pitched a good game for the Zwegardts. He left 9 men stranded on bases, struck out three and yielded five

hits. On the Neville team Savage and Heselius yielded seven hits.

Listed on the Zwegardt team were Burnham, B. Ochsner, A. Zwegardt, B. Iserhagen, A. Iserhagen, G. Zwegardt, Ochsner, Peter and Lampe. On the Neville team: Confer, Carmichael, E. Linnell, Savage, C. Harkins, L. Harkins, Schlepp, R. Confer, Linnell and Heselius.

In June, the St. Francis Hatchery had stopped setting eggs and were closing after a very satisfactory season. Four more hatcheries are to come off in two more weeks, then the big machine will stop and the supply will cease.

The Palace Market had a dozen lemons for sale at 29 cents

and West Side Market was selling a dozen lemons for 25 cents. The Nixon Store had a sale on 10 pounds sugar for 55 cents. The special at Harrison's was a gallon can of fancy apricots for 79 cents.

The St. Francis 4-H Helpers club met at the Methodist Church. Dale Duncan entertained by singing, accompanying himself on the banjo. New members were Bernice McKee, Edith Ellis, Verda Duncan and Manetta Hurlock.

The St. Francis Farm Bureau Unit members met at the home of Mrs. Morley Mace. The lesson was on refurbishing furniture.

## Eighth grade trip story enjoyed

Letter to the Editor:

What a delight to read a "feel good" story about the St. Francis eighth graders taking a trip to Topeka to visit the state Capitol and other places of interest including the Eisenhower Memorial in Abilene, the Combat Air Museum and the Kansas History Museum. I was especially pleased to see that the Hansen Foundation funded the trip.

As I read the article, it occurred to me that maybe the students, or for that matter, many residents might not be familiar with the Hansen family and it's connection to St. Francis.

First of all, I'd recommend that anyone interested in Dane G. Hansen, the remarkable Kansan, get on the internet via Google or another search engine, to get information about the Hansen Foundation and the Hansen family in Logan, Kan.

The connection to St. Francis, and there may be others that I am not aware of, that is familiar to me occurred in the summer of 1956 when D.G. Hansen Construction Company was awarded the contract for widening U.S. 36 to four lanes from the east side of town to the west side of town. I was fortunate to be hired as a water truck driver, and other jobs with the company. D.G. Hansen Construction was a good company to work for, and I was fortunate and appreciative to have a summer job between my freshman and sophomore year in college.

But the thing I took away most from that job was the lesson I learned from the job superintendent Clyde (I can't remember his last name). At any rate the employees were paid weekly, and it was always on Friday afternoon. I'd received a couple of pay days, but I'd neglected to get my Social Security Number to the foreman. On the third pay day when I anxiously went to get my pay check (it seemed like I was always broke) Clyde, the job superintendent, said "Sorry, Gordon, no pay check for

## Letters to the Editor

you." Shocked and crushed, I asked why, and he proceeded to ask me if I remembered promising him I would bring him my Social Security Number. He had me dead to rights! But, being the fair and compassionate man Clyde was, he said, "I'll make you a deal. I'll give you your check if you promise me that come Monday morning, you will give me your Social Security Number." Of course, I said "yes" very enthusiastically, but he said, "This is only part of the deal. The rest of the deal is that you give me your Social Security Number by memory, and not just hand or read it to me from the card!" Again, I enthusiastically agreed.

I was fortunate to have a date that

weekend, and my date must have thought I was strange because every so often, out of the blue, I would start reciting the numbers on my Social Security card referring to the card to see if I had memorized them!

Come first thing Monday morning, I sought Clyde out and gave him my Social Security Number by memory. It is a practice that has served me well over the years, and I urge all students, and especially eighth graders who took the trip, to memorize your Social Security Number. Maybe you could do it as a thank you to the Hansen Foundation that sponsored your trip.

Gordon K. Smith  
Greely, Colo.

## Another's perspective shared about politics

Letter to the Editor:

I think Ms. Marilyn Frisbie watches too much Fox News and needs to get another perspective on problems in our country. Ms. Frisbie is right on one thing - the Occupy Wall Street is not like the Tea Party (which is only for the rich, white and old). Occupy Wall Street is for all the 99 percent, is fed up with both political parties and is not an arm of the Democratic Party, unlike the Tea Party which is the Republican Party or should I say, the Koch Brothers Party.

Occupy Wall Street was started by a need to the call of a magazine "Ad busters" to Occupy Wall Street. Only someone who watches Fox News would think Acorn had something to do with Occupy Wall Street.

Also no one from Occupy Wall Street would yell "let him die" if that person had no health care and was gravely ill. They are not that mean

and hateful unlike the people at the CNN/Tea Party Express GOP debate who did just that.

The theme of the Tea Party is steal from the poor and middle class and give to the very rich. As if they don't have enough already.

Occupy Wall Street theme is Wall Street privatized the profits and socialized the losses, corporations have too much power in our political systems, the Wall Street Banks crashed our economy but were never held accountable and that the richest you Americans have more wealth than half of all Americans - 156 million people combined.

I know which group represents my interests. Thank God for Occupy Wall Street.

Sincerely,  
Diana Brunswig Bosso  
Arnold, Mo.

## Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Years ago my wife's family decided to have an "old fashioned" Christmas.

When Lezlie, her brothers and cousins showed up at the Cooper grandparent's home it was lit only by oil lanterns. Popcorn and cranberries were waiting in bowls to be strung for decorations. Grandad then brought in the pine tree that he had cut down and the stringers were added. For gifts, the girls were given homemade doll cradles and the boys got wooden, toy guns with clothes pin triggers to shoot rubber-bands.

I even think they made a joke about making the kids use the dilapidated out-house so they could get even more of a real feel for what it was like way back then.

When the previous generations settled this wild area they sure didn't have Christmases like we do. The television was not bombarding them with the latest electrical gizmo needed to keep

up with the neighbors or kids at school. I doubt if there were pepper spraying incidents at the general store in town.

Stories from those times seem to center on simpler things. Christmas was a break between the daily chores of survival. The holidays most remembered were the ones where people appreciated the joy of simply being together on a day to remember the true purpose of December 25.

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Materially, a present was simple and often had a utilitarian purpose.

And folks humbly thanked the Lord for sending His son into this world.

I wonder if where we have come is what is meant by the word "progress?"

## GOD SAYS

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7

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