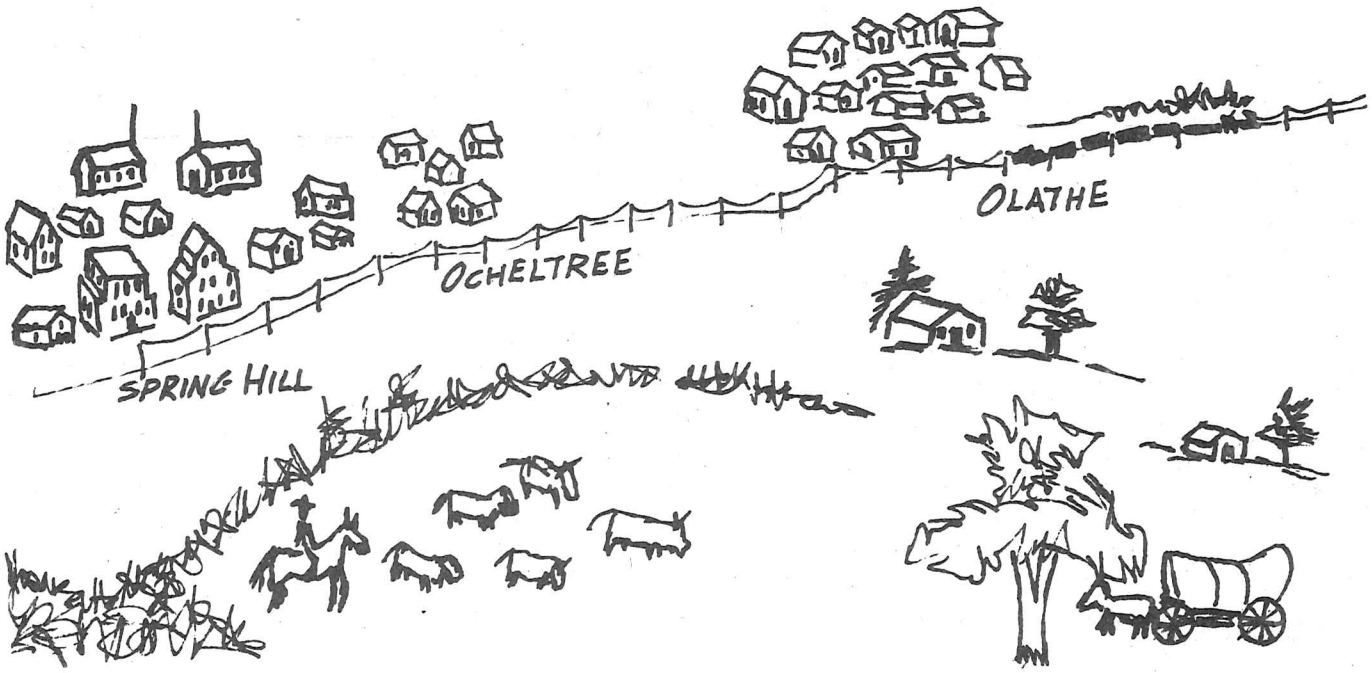
A History Of Spring Hill, Kansas 1857 - 1983



About the Cover: Mr. George Miller, industrial arts instructor at the local high school made the drawing from a sketch in the 1874 Atlas of Johnson County.

Opposite Page: Mr. Miller made the wall hanging for the Methodist Church's 125th Anniversary. It is 39" x 84". It depicts the first minister, the Old Hotel where the first services were held; the first church of which we have record and the present building as it was before the entrance was remodeled in the 70s.

"Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day."

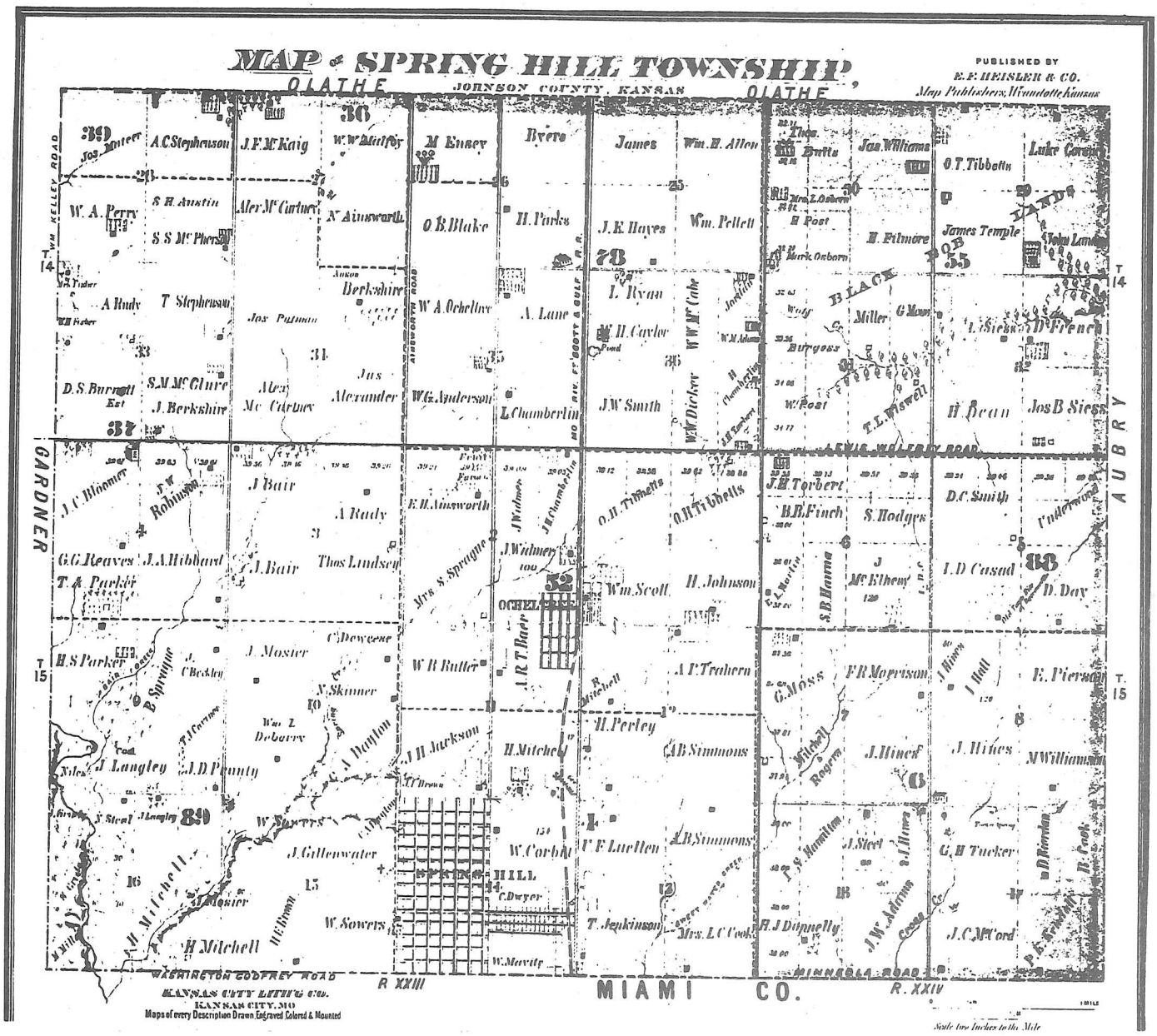
Isaac Watts used these words from the 90th Psalm to express poetically our feeling of history. The Spring Hill Methodist Episcopal Church has shared 125 years of this community's history. Sharing sons and daughters who have called Spring Hill "home."

Members of the Spring Hill United Methodist Church offer this collection of material as a history of the community. We respectfully present this book in appreciation of our shared heritage. All that is contained within these pages represents an attempt of many members of the church and community to render fair, factual, and sometimes humorous, highlights of our community life from 1858 to 1983.

Many hours of research, reading of other histories, visits with "old timers," and various interested persons have gone into the composition of this history. Often it has been difficult to know whose memory or what material was the best when recording some of those events. At best we have captured a few, and we may have missed some of the best events of the development of Spring Hill. The greatest task has been the decisions with regard to what shall be printed and what shall not. We regret we cannot publish every name and story.

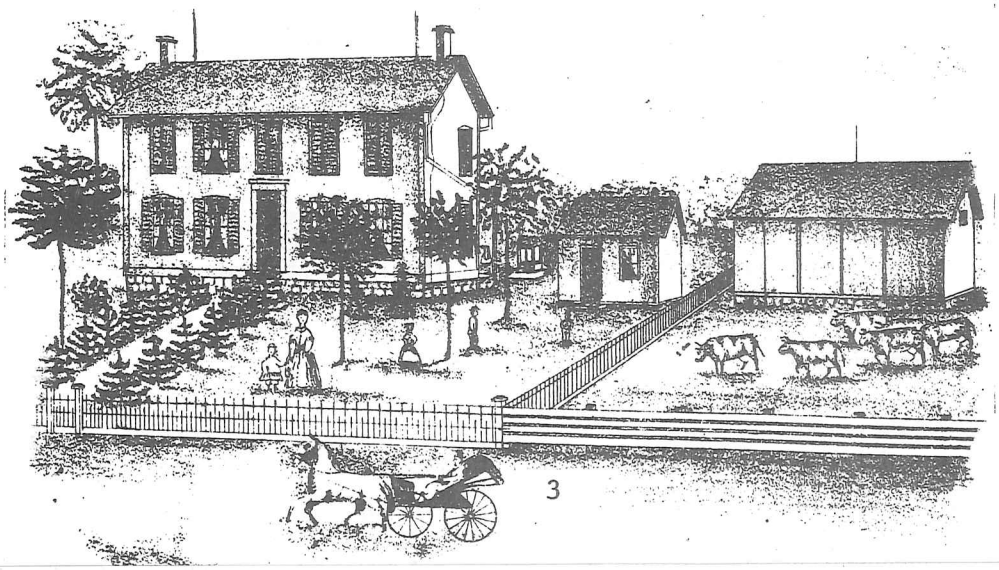
We invite your comments and corrections. May all who read this history be enlightened and encouraged and find enjoyment in our attempt to honor Spring Hill, our town.

Donald D. Powell, Pastor



Map published 1874. Picture of the house is from same Atlas.

This house is on 207th Street, about one-half mile east of the Railroad Tracks, on the south side.



SPRING HILL'S CHANGING SCENES

When James B. Hovey arrived at the area where Spring Hill would be located, he was impressed with the vastness - miles and miles of prairie, broken only by the occasional green along Bull Creek and East Bull Creek to the west and the Marais des Cygnes to the south. A few miles to the northwest was the famous Santa Fe Trail and to the east and northeast, the Boonville Trail. Just a few years before, Indians from the East had been moved to the Kansas Territory and most chose their 200 acres along the streams, leaving the prairies for the settlers who were now coming into the Territory. Passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act emphasized to many in the East that Kansas should be settled by men who agreed with their political beliefs. As a result the New England Emigrant Society sponsored many of those who came to Kansas in the 1850s.

The early settlers to Johnson County were young and adventurous. They lived in houses of sod, dugouts in creek banks, combination dugout and sod, a wagon, a tent, or even a cabin. Settlers seemed to be arriving almost daily. Mr. Hovey built the first building in Spring Hill on the spot he chose, the highest point. Since there were only two men during most of the first few weeks, it is doubtful he built the hotel as it was later known. It was probably just a cabin. By fall a grocery store had been built east of Mr. Hovey's dwelling. The nearest source of supplies was Leavenworth and Westport; the nearest church, at Palmyra (near Baldwin City).

By spring the little community, which Horace Greeley called a hamlet, had a post office, a stage stop and barn, a town square with newly planted trees, a few cabins, and a cemetery. The people felt the need of a church and a school and in one week's time a house to accommodate both was constructed as the hotel would not accommodate those who wanted to attend church. A young couple, Rev. and Mrs. Richard P. Duval, were appointed to Spring Hill by the Methodist Episcopal Church at their annual Kansas-Nebraska Conference in Lawrence, Kansas Territory, in April 1858. They were college-trained. Mrs. Duval became the first teacher, teaching that summer at a subscription school. (We believe this building was on the site of the present grade school.)

Numerous small settlements like Spring Hill sprang up over the countryside, along with routes of the overland stages. Settlers in the eastern tier of counties were soon involved in the battle over free state or slave. Spring Hill, according to several sources, was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The Old Hotel served as a hiding place. The town doctor, Dr. Celia Ann Dayton, the first woman doctor in Kansas, was active in the underground movement.

Settlers were interested in the farm land; few located in the little town. But by the end of 1860 there was another store.

Although the terrible drought of 1860 was less severe in Spring Hill than most other areas of Kansas, according to Mr. Hovey, it was an extremely hot, windy, dry year; no crops were raised and the prairie grasses withered. Before the settlers had time to recover from the ravages of the drought, when Kansas lost one third of its population, a Civil War broke out. Some historians have said Kansas had already been involved in a civil war for several years because of the border warfare between Kansas and Missouri. There is no evidence of growth during the war years. Records of the Kansas Conference of the Methodist Church at Baker University, Baldwin, reveal homesteads were deserted; families had gone back to live with relatives in the East, or the South; men had gone to war, and communities in the state were completely disorganized.

After the war, Spring Hill territory grew rapidly. Many settlers came from Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. A caravan of men came from Ohio, traveling in covered wagons, some drawn by oxen. The men staked the claims, worked the ground, planted crops, and helped each other build cabins. They went back to Ohio that winter and the next spring came again in a covered wagon caravan, bringing the families. Descendents of many of those pioneers live in the Spring Hill-Olathe area today.

After a few years, the men again helped each other, building large houses, some of them still standing. The area around the PUblic Square grew and by 1870 Spring Hill had a hardware store, a blacksmith shop, a new school, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church, a tailor, a dressmaker, three or four grocery and general merchandise stores, and a Masonic Lodge. The Old Hotel had been sold to Mr. J. W. Sowers in 1867. There was a town well in the park. Many picnics, Memorial Day, and Fourth of July celebrations were held there.

The churches were a block east of the town square; the hotel on the north, the lodge on the southeast, and most of the other businesses on the east. On the west a Mr. House raised bees and buckwheat. A two-story frame school was on the site at Lawrence and Madison.

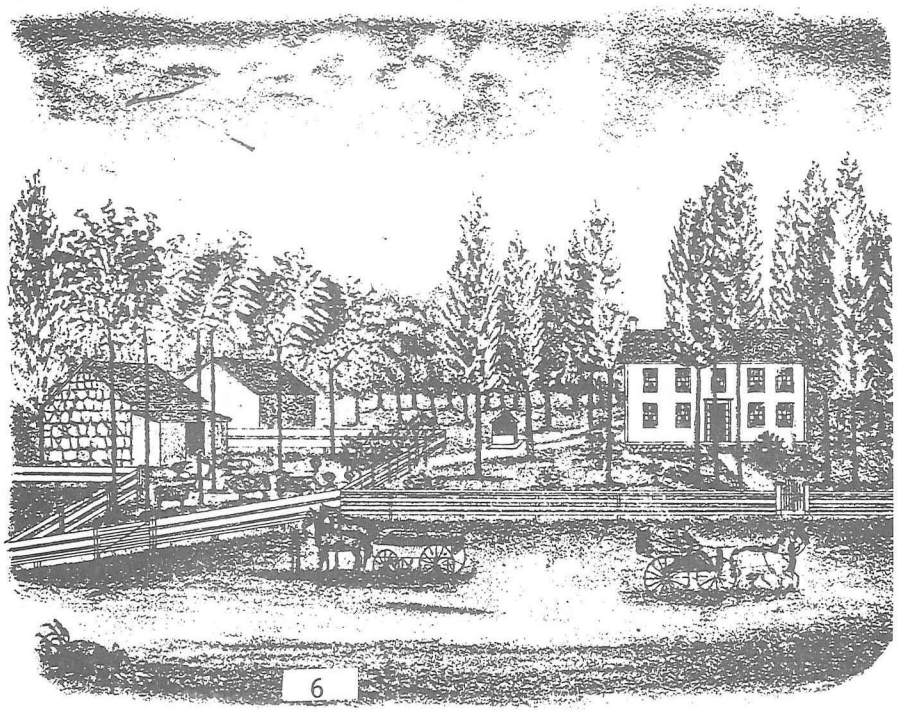
Mr. George Sprague had built substantial buildings at his farm at the northeast part of town (207th Street and Webster, southeast corner). He had the first board fence and was among the first to plant Osage Orange trees for fencing. A nursery in town raised the Osage Orange seedlings which became the hedgerow fences. The land was open range; farmers drove their livestock to market at Kansas City.

Ocheltree was platted as Spring Hill Station in 1867, and it was a competitor for the rural trade of the area for many, many years.

The coming of the railroad was a time of turmoil. Residents of the town were not rich; nevertheless, the railroad expected many favors and the one expected from Spring Hill was payment to make a cut necessary for the railroad to be on grade with the land to the east. But Spring Hill was located on an elevation about 70 feet above farm lands to the east. Residents refused to comply with the railroad's request; the tracks were layed one half mile east of town and the nearest station was at Ocheltree. With the coming of the railroad, stage travel stopped. Finally, Spring Hill, through the intervention of one of its citizens who owned considerable property in the area, secured a spur and an depot-of-sorts. An exodus from the Original Town began; Old Town and New Town were created. Many businesses moved to the railroad; new businesses were started. Sprague's Addition was platted, and Main Street and Railroad Avenue became two important avenues.

The town had a newspaper, which changed owners and politics frequently; but the editors wrote of conditions which needed improving and often succeeded in accomplishing the goals. The mill was the largest enterprise in town. There were many businesses by 1874, but the town was not attractive. And in the summer of 1874, the grasshoppers came, devouring everything green, then the harness, the young trees, blankets and coats, pitch fork and hoe handles, curtains, well curbs, and polluting the water and making hogs and chickens unedible because the many grasshoppers the animals ate flavored the meat.

That same year an illustrated Atlas Map of Johnson County and a history by Oliver Gregg was published, with illustrations of many lovely homes in the area. The farmstead of George Sprague is shown below. It had been sold in 1867 to Wm. Corbit, according to Mr. Gregg's account.



RESIDENCE OF
WILLIAM CORBIT,

Section 14, Tp. 15, Range 23,

The 1880s were not very eventful except that roads and bridges were of paramount concern. And the editor urged residents to clean their property, plant trees, and improve the town.

The city government was having its problems. Ordinance No. 61, November 1883, is no doubt typical.

Ordinance No. 61.
Be it ordained by the mayor and councilmen of the City of Spring Hill:

Section 1. Every person who shall reside in the City of Spring Hill, (and shall) either labor himself or compel his apprentice, servant, or any other person under his charge or control to labor or perform any work other than household offices of daily necessity, or charity, on the first day of the week, normally called Sunday, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not to exceed $25.00.

Section 2. The last section shall not extend to any person who is a member of the religious society, by whom any other than the first day of the week is observed a Sabbath, so that he observes such Sabbath.

Section 4. (error) Every person who shall be convicted of horse racing, cock fighting, or playing at cards or games of any kind within the City of Spring Hill, on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not to exceed $50.00.

Section 4. Every person who shall within the City of Spring Hill expose to the sale of any goods, wares, or merchandise, on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, shall, in conviction, be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not exceeding $50.00.

Section 5. That last section will not be construed to prevent the sale of any drugs, medicines, provisions, or other articles of immediate necessity.

Section 6. All ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Spring Hill New Era.

Passed and approved this 26th day of November, 1883.

/s/ Jno. W. Deem, Mayor

The ordinance created an uproar of great magnitude. Citizens threatened to tear up the City's charter and no longer be a city, but have only state control.

The next week's editorial stated: "We desire to say a few words in regard to the Sunday ordinance. It is only a copy of the laws of Kansas. (See pages 363 and 364 of the new Statutes.) We understand that the city officials are determined to enforce it, as well as other ordinances, and have secured one of the best attorneys in the state to defend their official acts, should occasion require. There seems to be some opposition and it is reported that a 'pool' has been formed to burst the Charter and set at naught all ordinances. If we have no legal city government, the quicker we know it, the better. The enforcers of law and order will then resort to the state laws..." (Dec. 6, 1883)

The editorial on December 27, 1883, stated: "What we need is a new city hall, a first class dentist, a new opera house, another good hotel, another furniture store, about a dozen more business houses, and about 50 dwelling houses."

There were two more churches in town, the colored church in Old Town north of the school and the Methodist Protestant Church on Cherry Street. The brick Grange Co-Op building on Main Street was the center of many activities in its upstairs hall. A new town school was constructed in 1893-94 and it included high school. The first graduation was in 1896.

The pioneer period ended.

The economy centered around area farms; family life centered around home, church, and school. There were small rural eight-grade schools in every neighborhood. No one traveled very far from home; they came to town to do occasional shopping, to attend a special event at the Grange Hall, a picnic or Fourth of July celebration in the Town Square, and went to Nevius's grove down on Ten Mile Creek to have a picnic with family and friends, and came to church in good weather.

Spring Hill had many small businesses, two hotels; the depot and elevator had thriving businesses. New houses were constructed in New Town. Squire Dwyer lived up the hill at Webster and Union. The "mansion" as it was called by neighbors, was near Cherry Street but was approached down a tree-lined lane off Union Street. In deference to this fine home, the streets were called "Front Street" and "Back Street" instead of Union and Cherry by the people of the town. (This house still stands on Hale just east of Webster.)

Soon the automobile made its appearance, but before it could change the scenes about town, Spring Hill said good-bye to a number of its young men who left for Camp Funston or the Navy. Among those who left for service in World War I were Cal Dever, Frank Dever, Olan Dever, Floyd Stiles, Wayne Hittle, Wilbur Zehring, Ed Gay, Floyd Bowers, Olan Makadanz, George Weir, Fred Meek, Stewart Simpson, Billy Sutcliffe, Max Wendt, Dr. Barkman, Lawrence Lemen, Norris Hogue, Tom Geise, Glen Morris, R. D. Timmons, Carl Fike, Vernon Stiles, Steve Chamberlin, Dr. R. E. Eagan, Arthur Meek, George Landis, Roy Brown, John Wisner, and Hal Stanley, killed in action; the American Legion post was named in his honor. Veterans who came to town immediately after the war were Clifford Lloyd, Leslie Riley, J. K. DeTar, and R. A. Dunmire.

In 1920, the Spring Hill Rural High School District was established, District No. 5. (The Grade School was District No. 4.) The paramount issue was a rural high school. Over the next several years many citizens worked with the school board members A. B. Westhoff, president; Homer H. Neff, treasurer, and J. D. Young, clerk, to establish a new high school in Spring Hill. They succeeded; a lovely school was erected and the Class of 1927 was the first to be graduated from Spring Hill Rural High School.

Spring Hill community now had a gymnasium and an auditorium. Basketball games were moved from the Grange Hall to the new gymnasium, where most of the seating was one row of benches around the tiny court; or, standing room on the first floor to look down over the railing at the activities below.

The most momentous events for many of the ladies were "bobbing" their long hair and raising their hemlines above their ankles. It was a period of enjoying family, friends, and environment. Ed Blair, local poet, wrote of Spring Hill friends and their springtime recreation in the poem below.

SPRING IS HERE

Written by Ed Blair in 1923

Spring is here! We know it by
The way the ducks are flying high!
The way the geese are passing too
Saying "Honk Honk" for "Howdy Do."
Know by the noise of singing frogs
A perfect chorus in streams and bogs;
Some signs these, but not the best;
Now I am going to tell the rest.

Ed Dillon out with spade and pick
Digging fishworms in double quick;
Shimer a starting with fishing pole
Down Ten Mile to his favorite hole;
Ed Smith rushing his morning bite
To get to the creek 'fore the sun's in sight--
Grant Weir wearing his old straw hat
Down where he caught that 10 lb. cat!

Carl West's tracks on the creek bank, plain--
Bob Nelson mending his minnow seine!
While Hartley and Lemen each one stop
For a pound of liver at the butcher shop.
And out on Bull Creek in his tent
With rations plenty you'll find Max Wendt!
But these are not all the signs we see:
Fred Makadanz of Ocheltree
With four poles and a can of bait
Hiking to where he knows they wait.
Dr. Eagan with fishworms stored
Back in the rear of his chugging Ford.
Sam Simmons stopping his car outside
And yelling "Come on and take a ride!"

* * * * * * *

Billy Will writes "I don't sleep right
From dreaming of Bull Creek ev'ry night."
And Faxon is spading until he sweats
For half of the fishworms that he gets!
And Ralph Davis wants a paved road now
From Okmulgee City up here, somehow--
These are the signs that make it clear
To an observer that, SPRING IS HERE!

(Billy Will was Bill Wilkerson,
owner of the Spring Hill New Era.)

In September 1929, Main, Union and Cherry Streets were paved. There was a celebration with a street carnival and dance. The old highway on the east side of the railroad, across the tracks at Nichols, then south on Main Street to County Line, west and then south again, was replaced with a new concrete pavement on Webster Street. Shortly the road between Paola and Olathe would be paved.

The stock market crash in October of 1929 was noted in Spring Hill, but probably not a great deal. The editor commented that several people had lost considerable sums. But the biggest concern in a rural community was the low, lower, and lower prices farmers were receiving for their products. Farmers brought eggs, cream and milk to town to exchange for flour, sugar, salt, and hopefully enough cash to buy kerosene and a little gasoline (25¢ or 50¢) and perhaps a tablet or a pencil for one of the children. Eggs brought 6 cents a dozen; corn was 14 or 16 cents a bushel. Before many years passed, there was a drought and then drought and grasshoppers. Many farms did not have water for livestock and were forced to sell their stock.

In the late 1930s the Methodist Protestant Church was discontinued, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, with its merger with other Methodist branches, became the Methodist Church. The Presbyterian Church in Spring Hill was discontinued.

The grade school needed new quarters and in 1937 a new school was started. The board members were Loren Locke, Stewart Simpson, and Herman Winkler. The septic system was not installed by September, and all but first and second grades went to the Presbyterian Church, where the temporary partitions were about 8 inches off the floor. Primary grades met at the high school. Rural schools were being discontinued and the children bused to town.

Before most families had recovered from the depression, many homes had blue flags with white stars displayed in the windows for sons and husbands who had gone to fight in the second World War. In two homes, the white star flags were changed for gold star ones. Following the war the American Legion Post was formed and named in honor of those two soldiers, O. C. Cole, Jr. and Tommy Smith.

Those at home worked their farms or took jobs in defense plants in nearby towns, and all tried to help in many ways with the war effort. Bradley Bus Lines, which originated its routes in Osawatomie, made regular trips through town. Many troop trains stopped and young ladies accepted addresses to write to servicemen, as their mothers had done during the first World War. The town no longer had a doctor, the last one having left in 1942.

By the end of the 40s, only a few businesses remained on Main Street. There was one grocery, a variety store, funeral parlor, hardware, two drug stores, the bank, a plumbing shop, the post office, newspaper office, cream-egg-feed store, barber shop, service station. On the highway were two garages, two service stations, and a grocery. Saturday nights were a busy time; farmers still came to town to do trading and visiting. Children played or walked up and down the sidewalks. The barber shop was open until well after midnight, often 2:00 a.m.; stores and cream station, until at least 10:00 p.m. Old Town had a great many fields which were used for playgrounds when not planted to milo or soybeans; there were few new houses. More residents worked in Kansas City or nearby cities and fewer depended on working for local farmers, but hay crews were active in the summer. High school boys organized crews and earned their school money bucking bales.

Early in the 50s the town had an improvement program. Merchants fixed up their stores and installed metal awnings over the sidewalks. Most of the rural areas received electricity by this time; appliance sales boomed. And in Spring Hill bonds were voted to construct a water treatment plant and a city lake northwest of town. Water lines were installed. But in a matter of months the drought was so severe there was not enough water; the railroad transported water in tank cars. Creeks and wells went dry; farmers were hauling water for most, if not all, of their needs. Area men organized a baseball team; many gathered at the high school grounds in the evenings to visit and watch the games - a method of forgetting the heat and lack of water.

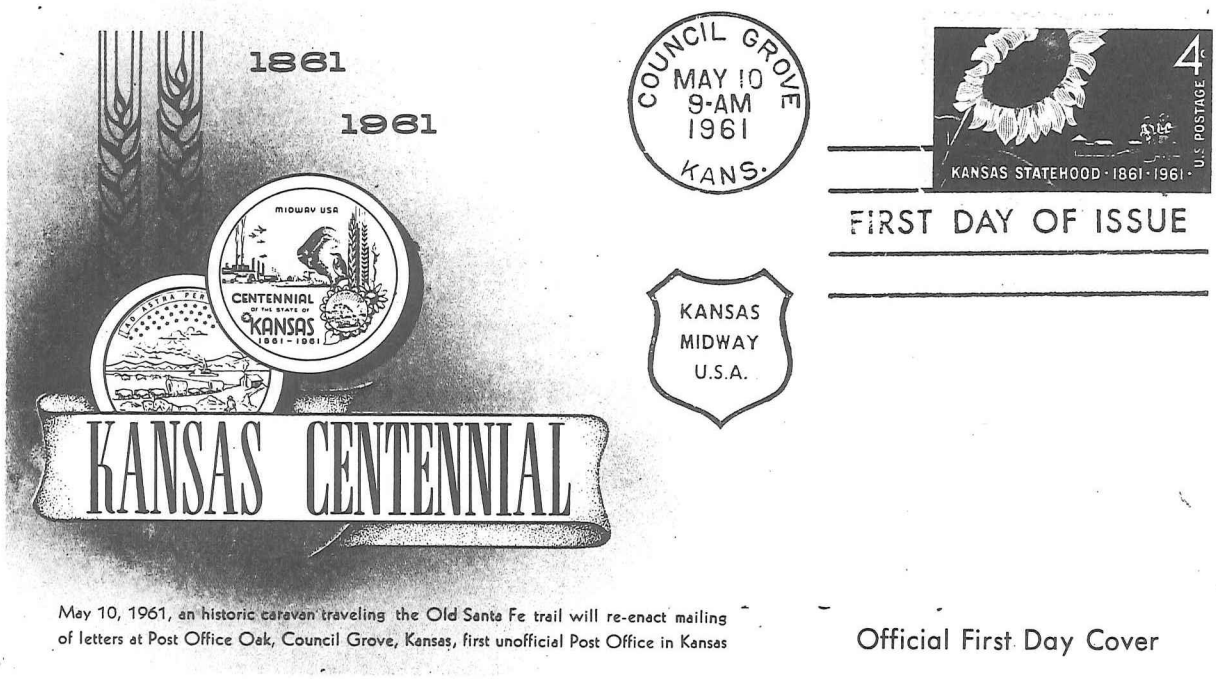
Spring Hill was growing. Seven of the war-time housing units from Sunflower Ordinance were moved into town and converted into apartments. The grade school was very crowded; classes were in the halls. The Johnson County Bookmobile included Spring Hill on its regular routes. There was an attractive new eating place, the Dari-Anne. A laundromat replaced the grocery on the highway. There were few trains. By the end of the fifties, no one any longer saw farmers bringing grain to the elevator in wagons drawn by horses; tractors had completely replaced the horses for farm work.

The Grade School had a regulation-size gymnasium which immediately became the center for basketball games and programs for both schools. Board members who saw this venture to completion were Jim Hedrick, Norris Hogue, and Harold Cook, members of District #4.

Spring Hill was now 100 years old.

In 1961, Kansas celebrated its Centennial. Spring Hill nominated four ladies for Pioneer Queen: Mrs. Minnie Dickey, who had been a resident for 77 years; Mrs. Florence Holdren, who was born on the Sam Nevius farm in 1875; Mrs. Bush Newton, who had resided on a farm near Spring Hill since her marriage in 1915; Mrs. Anna Polfer, a native of Kansas who had resided in Spring Hill 40 years. Mrs. Dickey was crowned Queen.

The poem below appeared in The Spring Hill New Era and other publications and has been presented at many Kansas Day programs. It tells of the numerous changes of scenes in our state.



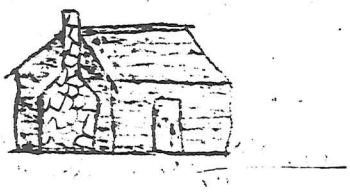
May 10, 1961, an historic caravan traveling the Old Santa Fe trail will re-enact mailing of letters at Post Office Oak, Council Grove, Kansas, first unofficial Post Office in Kansas

Official First Day Cover

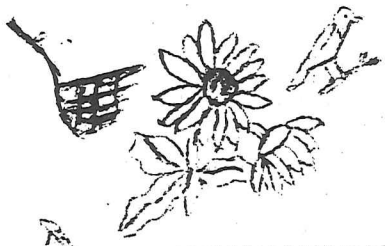
1861

MODERNIZING KANSAS

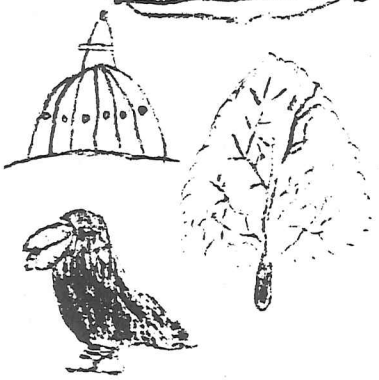
1961



As the sky lights up in all its splendor
With the array of a bright new dawn;
It's Kansas' Happy Birthday
For a century has come and gone.
Since the pioneers in prairie schooners
Came rolling down the Santa Fe trail
Searching for a land to call their own,
Over prairies, streams, hill and vale.
Their hardships were many, their trip slow;
But their courage and will urged them on
To a spot which suited their fancy
To build a sod house or log cabin upon.

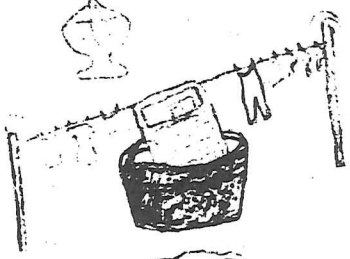


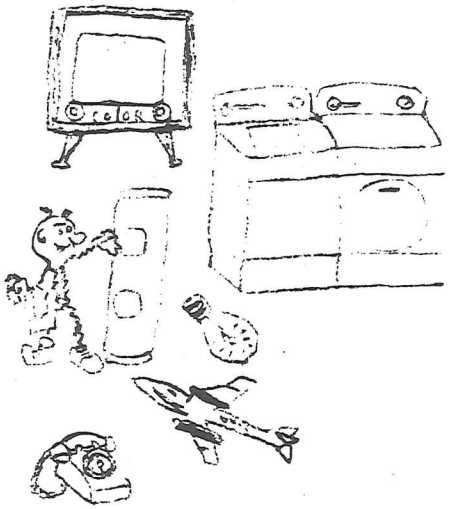
Provisions were slim, their possessions few,
Their demands were simple, their tools crude;
A strong determination to see them through,
Depending on buffalo for most of their food.
They were greeted by the faithful Meadowlark,
And the Sunflower nodded its fond "Hello";
Ad astra per aspera – it all seemed worthwhile,
Starting anew in Kansas – amid friend and foe.
They brought along culture, seeds, and ideals,
Before long there were towns to be found;
Despite grasshoppers, massacres, disease, etc.;
The settlers kept coming – Kansas bound!



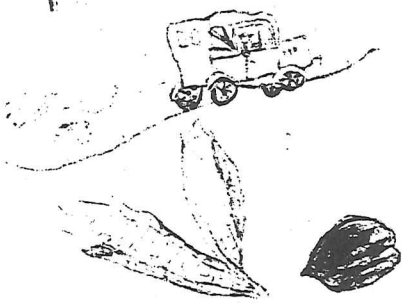
January 29, 1861, Kansas joined the Union,
She became the 34th state and was "free."
God bless our dear old Kansas for,
Without her – where would you and I be?
Topeka became our state capitol, where
Our Governor and state officials belong.
Tradition calls us "Jayhawkers,"
"Home on the Range" is our state song.
Kansas comes from "Kansa," an Indian word
Meaning "people of the south wind" they say,
Like the wind blowing the stately cottonwood
Displaying its beauty on a summer day.

We're the "Bread basket of the nation,"
With our industries, flour mills and wheat;
We're 'most self-sufficient in Kansas with
Our oils, salt, farm products, and meat.
Every state has its drawbacks – Kansas, too
Where occasionally cyclones play "touch and go"
Sometimes leaving a path of destruction
And scaring every Janie and Joe.
Many changes have now been made
In Kansas – Midway, U.S.A."
For our states now number fifty
The geographic center– – I cannot say.





Trails have switched to modern highways,
With turnpikes, fourlanes and such.
There's roadside parks so convenient
For safety, relaxing can help so much.
Tractors have replaced horses and oxen;
Machines eliminated most work by hand,
Now they operate automatic contraptions
And practice soil conservation on land.
From washboard to automatic laundries;
Ready mixes and "brown n' serves"
Even prepared meals are ready frozen;
But home cooking a man still deserves!



Sod houses have gone split-level-modern;
Covered wagons traded for car or jet.
From arrowhead to missile age
Maybe all will find prosperity yet.
Now treat yourselves to a special view–
A Kansas sunset – the beauty of the west.
God bless our dear old Kansas,
Frontier or modern – we love her best!
(P.S.:
If you think this poem is corny,
Then it's typical as it can be
For we've lots of corn in Kansas
Whether from fields– or from gals like me.)

Pauline Broockerd
Spring Hill, Kansas

In August 1961, Spring Hill's Mayor Norris Olson resigned to attend college; under his leadership the City Council had taken steps to create a city sewer system. Over the next two years the sewer lines were installed and houses connected. Bill Plummer became mayor; the city council continued plans for city improvements. Several new houses were constructed in Old Town; the Church of Christ was built on Hale Street; the Baptist Church was constructed on Nichols Street and their parsonage, which had been constructed in the late fifties and used for a church, was converted to its intended use. Spring Hill's population was now 896; in 1950 it was 619; in 1920, about 500.

The milo fields and playgrounds in Old Town were beginning to disappear; new houses were constructed along the highway in town and south of town. School unification was the most controversial subject of the time. The 1964 law required that all land be included in a school district for grades Kindergarten through twelve; the change would would be effective in 1966. Many thousands of acres were now brought into the school district; the two school boards disappeared and the unified system was to be governed by one board. On October 17, 1969, after the Homecoming Parade, groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the High School fora large addition which would include gymnasium, science department, offices, and classrooms.

In the 1970s the scene changed daily. Union Gas Company, through its subsidiaries, developed a shopping center just east of Webster; a nursing home was built; the town organized to make a senior citizen housing project a reality, and named it Cozy Haven; new houses went up all over Old Town. Federal funds through the Farmers Home Administration created a great building boom and the vacant fields and playgrounds were remodeled by bulldozers and carpenters. A new high school was built on County Line Road. The Methodist Church razed the white frame parsonage and constructed a modern brick one; a nursery school was started in the Methodist Church's new education building. The City was developing growing pains. The water system and sewer system of only a comparatively few years before were inadequate. The Corps of Engineers constructed a reservoir west of Hillsdale on Bull Creek and the City government looked to that as a future solution to the water problems. Beautiful developments within a few miles of town took the place of farms. The school population increased to about 1,000 - a great change from the 200+ in the late 1940s. A new City Hall and Fire Station were constructed at Webster and Nichols. Mayor Bertly Masterson and the Councilmen often worked until the wee hours of the morning on city problems. A Community Center was built in Miami County, south of the high school, as that area was now a part of the City. New businesses were constructed along Webster. Garage sales became

numerous and popular; the old rummage sale disappeared. A brick apartment house took the place of a low rock house on East Hale; multiple-family units were built in various parts of Old Town. Spring Hill had a swimming pool and recreation association. The first baseball field of the 60s grew to two, then three, then four. Hundreds of boys and girls participated in the summer baseball program. The population topped 1,000. Hilltop School, which had been closed following a fire several years ago, was reopened to handle the growing enrollment in the urban (no longer rural) areas of the community.

Many worked hard to accomplish all the changes. The School Board Members who worked on the various changes during this time were: Ray Sheldon, Bob Flett, Ted Hecke, Bob Creamer, Andy Haynes, D. W. Morland, Bob Sowers, Bob Findley, Art VanDaele, Alice Youngman, Vance Stiles, Tom Ewing, Don Russell, J. D. Jones, Dottie Cade (for a short time), who served after school unification.

The 1980s are problem years. Several new businesses have opened but economic growth has almost stopped. The City makes headlines in area papers and on television because of sewer and water problems. The City water treatment plant was closed in 1982 and water is purchased from Olathe. Most urban areas now have "city" water from rural water systems.

Marion Teeter, mayor, and the City Council, aided by a city administrator, are trying to recommend acceptable solutions to the town's problems. The proposed city budget for 1984 is $1.026 million; the budget for the school, approximately *$3.5 million. The decades-old question of improvement and relocation of Highway 169 continues. At this time there is another promise that "something will be done next year."

Town Square is more beautiful than it has been for many years; but the great oaks are very old. Summer workers have uncovered an old, forgotten brick walk along the south; it was covered with three or four inches of dirt. The shelter house is clean and attractive; the swings painted. Imagining a band shell and band music such as Spring Hill once knew makes the picture complete.

*Correction: $4.6 million

OUR TOWN

Francis R. Morrison

The little town of Spring Hill, it never reached great fame;
It tried and did its very best, and never brought us shame.
The pioneers were tried and true, they also did their best;
According to the pages of history, they accomplished as much as the rest.

It's not how big that you have grown, or how very small;
Quality is the password, and history grades us all.
As time passes quickly by, it spans the generation gaps;
When history tells what went before, we have to tip our hats.

They blazed the trails, they planted trees, and broke the prairie sod.
As for failure or success, they placed their faith in God.
Life was a hardship at its best; they didn't have much to give,
But just because they were around, we have a better place to live.

We must be proud of our ancestors, and never raise a fuss.
If history could be turned around, would they be proud of us?
We have done our very best, to pass this true history along;
If the next generation just continues it, Spring Hill will keep going strong.

EARLY DAYS IN SPRING HILL

The following account of Spring Hill's beginnings is copied from Ed Blair's History of Johnson County, Kansas, published in 1915:

The first white citizen of Spring Hill township was James B. Hovey. In a letter from him to Mr. Oliver Gregg in 1874, he gave the following excellent sketch of the early days of Spring Hill and Spring Hill township:

"About the middle of March, '57, I started for Leavenworth with a view to locating there, but the enormous value put upon property there, at that time, led me to abandon that point. I then proceeded to Kansas City, where I heard such glowing accounts of the 'Shawnee Lands' in Johnson county that I decided to see these lands and locate there, if they answered the description given them. In the latter part of March I went to Olathe. There I found Dr. Barton, a clever genial gentleman, who took pains to show me the vacant claims about Olathe, but the fact is, I was frightened at seeing so much prairie with no timber near. So the good Doctor told me about the land around the head of East Bull Creek, where there was, then, a most lively country and good timber. After spending the night with him in his cabin (which was the only house there then), where some eight or ten of us, all strangers to each other, slept in a row on the floor, with a blanket apiece under us for a feather bed, and one over us for covering. It was the fashion then to carry a pair of blankets, because one hardly knew where night would overtake him, or what he would find in the way of sleeping accomodations.

"Having breakfasted with the Doctor, on the plain fare of the day, corn bread and bacon, I started, under his directions, to find the head of East Bull Creek. There were no roads, not even a trail to guide one. I was on horseback, and went, with the help of a pocket compass, to find a certain quarter section, I have forgotten its number, with its township and range on a memorandum nine miles south of Olathe, which I found without difficulty. I was then to go down Bull Creek one mile and a half to find a cabin of a Shawnee Indian, who bore the name of George Washington, whom I found to be a good sort of an Indian, or as he would say: 'Me good Shawnee man.'

"You will recollect that among the provisions of the Lecompton constitution was one allowing all the Kansas Indians to vote 'who had adopted the manners and customs of the white man.' That meant the manners and customs of the average border ruffian of that date. The Indian who chewed tobacco, smoked, drank whiskey and cursed the 'd---d abolitionists' was entitled to vote so they nearly all voted.

"George Washington, though he smoked and chewed, seldom drank and was a very good Indian. His dress consisted of a broad rimmed hat, a red calico shirt, and a pair of moccasins, which, of course, entitled him to vote. His family consisted of a wife and two children, and with them I made my home for some few weeks, there being no white folks anywhere near there. The nearest place to a white man being several miles south of me, near Ten Mile Creek in Lykin County, now Miami County, where there was a small settlement of

Missourians which they called St. Marysville.

"On the east there was not a habitation till we reached the State line. On the north, Olathe was the nearest place, and on the west at the junction of Santa Fe and Little Santa Fe roads, where Gardner now stands, Mr. O. B. Gardner and some others were getting out material on Bull Creek to put up cabins.

"Bill McCamish, who had married a Shawnee woman, was living on Bull Creek at the crossing of the Santa Fe road, which was then a camping place for Santa Fe trains, but was afterwards laid out for a town and called after its owner, McCamish.

"The east fork of Bull Creek was known as Little Bull.

"At the time of my entry on Little Bull as an actual settler in March, 1857, there were four Shawnee families living there, nestled out of sight in the timber of the creek. They were George Washington and family, Solomon Madder and family, Black Wolf and family, and one other family whose name I have forgotten. They were all peaceable and quiet sort of Indians who minded their own business and kept pretty much away from the whites.

"On going to the place where Spring Hill is located, I was struck with the natural beauty of the place. The view from the elevated point selected for the public square was grand, and the distance one could see was wonderful. After the town of Aubry was built, twelve miles east of Spring Hill, we could see the houses there every clear day and the timber adjoining the town of Ossowatomie, eighteen miles southwest of Spring Hill, could be distinctly seen. I settled on the southeast quarter of section 15, township 15, range 23. From my Shawnee landlord I bought some timber and alone, with the aid of my horse, commenced to build a cabin. This was the first claim occupied in that part of Johnson county or in Spring Hill township. Being so well pleased with the locality and being somewhat enthusiastic in my estimation of its future, it having all advantages of timber and water, and on a line that must be traveled between Olathe and Paola, I concluded, to myself, you know, as there was no one else to conclude with, that this was a good place for a town. So singly I set the ball in motion and stuck my stakes, the northwest and southwest quarters of section 14, township 15, range 23, for a townsite. It was an easy thing to stake a town site, but the next thing was to keep it, especially when there was no town company, nor any sign of one, but I trusted to luck and the Squatters' Association. Dr. Barton was my friend and the leading spirit in the association. There was an understanding that if an actual settler, relative of a member of the association, thought of coming to Kansas, such a member might take a claim adjoining his own for the benefit of his relative and hold it thirty days. Well, I took the chances that way, for my brother-in-law, to hold one quarter, the other I had to watch, and whenever I found settlers searching for claims, I would volunteer to show them good claims, and in that way I got a good number of settlers around me, and saved the town site. The first

man that come along was William Mavity. In about two weeks after I landed there I put him on the southeast quarter of section 14, township 15, range 23. He was unable to improve his claim at that time, and I kept him in my employ all that season. Then S. B. Myrick and E. F. Davis came together and took claims adjoining each other, Myrick taking the northeast quarter of section 15, township 15, range 23, directly north of my own and adjoining the town site on the west, and Davis taking the quarter adjoining Myrick on the north, but both soon found that their claims were on Indian head rights, and Myrick went to Olathe, but Davis stayed and took another, which joined the town site on the north and I took him as a partner to hold half the town site. We two then held it till we got it platted and surveyed, which was completed May 18, 1857. It devolved upon me to give it a name, which duty I fulfilled, calling it Spring Hill, after one of the most beautiful places I had ever seen--the suburban town near Mobile, Ala., Spring Hill, a most charming spot surrounded by beautiful groves, and flower gardens in endless variety. It occurred to me that the surroundings of the new town were capable of being made, by culture, as beautiful as the older one for which it was named.

"In the fall of '57 Mr. Davis sold his interest in the town to A. B. Simmons, William Jenkinson and J. P. Lockey, and soon afterwards I sold shares to James McKoin, Edwin Walker and H. F. Brown. On the first Monday in January, 1858, a town company was organized in conformity with the legal requirements for pre-empting town sites. J. B. Hovey was elected president and A. B. Simmons secretary. The town made but little progress during the first few years of its existence, but the members of the town company were anxious to have the surrounding country settled with a good class of settlers and took more pains to get the county settled up than the town, well knowing that if they would have a flourishing town they must have a flourishing country to support it.

"The first house built in the town was the Spring Hill Hotel. It was built in the summer of 1857, by J. B. Hovey, and stands on the northeast corner of the public square, a two-story frame building, the ground floor occupying forty feet front by thirty feet depth. It stands on the highest elevation in the town, the view from its upper story windows being very extensive and one of rare beauty.

"The oldest farmer in Spring Hill township is George Sprague. His claim joins the north half of the town on the east, and he made the first improvements and his farm shows what a practical industrious man can do. Mr. Sprague put up the first substantial board fence in that vicinity, also raised the first Osage orange for hedge and built a large frame barn, such as was seldom seen in any part of the State at that day. He was one of the first farmers to build a good dwelling in the township. Among other parties that came to Spring Hill about this time were D. F. Dayton, James Sweeting, B. H. Stiles, and all made substantial improvements, so we had one of the best improved settlements to be found in the county.

"On the fifth day of October, 1857, occurred the first election for delegate the Congress, member of legislature, justice of peace, etc. At this first election, if I remember rightly, sixteen votes were polled. M. J. Parrott received a majority for delegate to Congress, Edwin S. Nash for member of State Senate; J. B. Hovey and H. H. Wilcox were the first justices of peace.

"During the fall the department at Washington granted a postoffice at Spring Hill, and appointed J. B. Hovey postmaster. But the receipts at the office had to pay for carrying the mail, and as they were next to nothing at all, the carrying had to be done just the same. Under these circumstances it was undertaken as a labor of love and was actually carried on foot during the winter of '57 and '58 to Olathe, and back once a week, over that bleak prairie, sometimes through the snow, and there was no beaten road to guide one most of the time, by A. B. Simmons and W. R. Rutter, though occasionally by Jonathan Gore and W. A. Jenkinson. They went two at a time for safety, as there was no road to follow. In 1858 our mail route was changed. We got it through the distributing office at Westport and J. H. Jackson, of Spring Hill, got the contract to carry it weekly. In 1860 A. B. Squires took a contract to deliver it to us tri-weekly. In 1862 we got mail daily, on the regular Kansas City and Ft. Scott mail route, which had been changed so as to come by way of Olathe.

"During 1859 it was thought advisable to effect a regular organization of a Republican club. In pursuance of that plan Gen. J. H. Lane spoke at Spring Hill to a large crowd, and the club was organized with J. B. Hovey, president, and A. B. Simmons, secretary.

"Early in 1858 A. D. Richardson, then a regular correspondent of the Boston "Journal", since then attached to the New York "Tribune," became much attached to eastern Kansas. In going to Osowatomie he stopped at Spring Hill, and was so highly pleased with everything there that he at once proposed to become interested in the town. The writer sold him an interest and he was admitted into the town company on the footing of an original member. Mr. Richardson evinced a lively interest in the affairs of the town and always used his influence for its welfare.

"During the winter of '57 and '58, the first store was opened at Spring Hill by W. G. Davidson. He did a very fair business for the amount of stock he kept. In 1860 Mr. Prunty came from Parksville, Mo., built a commodious store and dwelling, put in a complete stock and did a splendid business.

"On the twenty-second day of March, 1858, an election was held for the election of township officers when H. H. Wilcox and J. B. Hovey were elected justices; A. B. Squires and Mr. Wilcox, supervisors, and J. B. Hovey, chairman of supervisors, William Mavity and Robert Victor, constables.

"In 1859 Spring Hill thought she had enough talent within her border to start a literary society, so a call was made for that purpose, and the Spring Hill Literary Society was started with about twenty members. J. B. Hovey was elected president, Mrs. Charles Spaulding, secretary, and Miss Emma Gustin, critic. It flourished for a season then quietly gave up the ghost.

"It was during this year, 1858, the great rivalry sprang up between Gardner and Olathe on the county seat question. Gardner was not satisfied with the way Olathe had secured it, and wanted further action on it by the next legislature. At that period in the history of Kansas it was believed that corner lots, when judiciously applied, had great weight in the location of county seats, especially with the previous

legislature, whose unenviable name has passed into history, and which is known as the "bogus legislature" of Kansas, though I am not aware that Olathe was ever suspected of using any such appliances in her interest. Gardner's hope was in getting her candidates nominated for the legislature, through whose influence, if elected, they hoped to secure the desired change by legislative enactment. Messrs. Lockhart and Hovey were elected by large majorities. That election was really a test on the county seat question, and Olathe won. The legislature wisely refrained from meddling with it, and in Johnson County it never came up afterwards.

"In 1860, the year of the great drouth in Kansas, Spring Hill township suffered but little in comparison with other parts of the State. Though there was great scarcity and but little of anything raised, the calls for aid from our township were very few and easily supplied. During the summer the writer had frequently to shut all the doors and windows in the house to keep out as much hot burning air as possible that came from the south; we had never experienced anything like it before. In breathing it, it really seemed that we were breathing hot air from an oven. Animals suffered dreadfully, and its blighting effects were felt by everything animate and inanimate.

"One looks back on those days of trial, when the wolves came howling around our cabin in the night, and the rabbits used to eat all our young trees in the winter, the Indian hogs ate up our corn in the summer, and the cattle broke down our fences at all seasons of the year. And when we used to haul all the water we used from a spring half a mile away and go twenty-five miles to Westport to mill; yet after a lapse of sixteen or seventeen years, it is rather pleasant to look back and reflect on the good those early efforts have accomplished."

Clearing grasshoppers from a field

(Kansas State Historical Society sketches)

REMINISCENCES OF SPRING HILL

The following article from Ed Blair's "History of Johnson County" were given by W. R. Rutter, pioneer.

"I came to Kansas in 1855 and went to Lawrence. When I arrived in the neighborhood where Spring Hill now is, in 1857, there were but very few people then on the ground. There were some Indians living on Bull Creek, and among the whites I remember were James B. Hovey, William Mavity, S. B. Myrick, E. F. Davis, A. B. Simmons, W. A. Jenkinson, George Sprague, James McKoin and H. E. Brown. A town company was organized but it was not regularly incorporated until 1858...The postoffice was established in the fall of 1857, but the mail had to be carried from Olathe, often on foot by A. B. Simmons, J. P. Lockey and myself. It was a dreary task, sometimes through the snow, and a lonesome job.

"In that winter four of us thought we would enliven things by advertising for a wife. Thus we did in the Boston 'Journal', which brought several responses of a warm and amorous nature. One widow from St. Louis, Mo., carried on a correspondence with increasing interest with one of the boys, and at last reached the climax by telling him how much she thought of him and said that 'the children called him pa.' A young lady in Kentucky early expressed a willingness to see 'the southern lily transplanted to the side of the northern rose.' An elderly female from Maine wrote that she had $1,500 and that her husband must have as much. This let the boys out. Out of all the fun came one genuine attachment. One of the boys arranged to go to New York City where he was to meet his lady on a ferry boat, and should know her by her being dressed in black and carrying her handkerchief in her hand. This was carried out and they were married and came to Spring Hill to live. She was a finely educated lady, a fine Latin scholar and a musician.

"Mr. George Sprague was the first to erect substantial farm buildings in 1857, putting up a good house and barn, building fences and making things look like home. S. B. Myrick settled on the northeast quarter of section 15, directly north of my claim, and Davis was on the north of him. The first store was operated by W. G. Davidson. These were quickly followed in the next year by many others, nearly all of whom have gone..."

Editor's Note: According to Senator J. W. Parker, in a speech at the dedication of the marker at Lone Elm Camp ground, November 9, 1906, two of the young men who advertised for wives were James B. Hovey and W. R. Rutter.

A VISIT TO JOHNSON COUNTY

The following is copied from Ed Blair's History of Johnson County published in 1915.

Horace Greeley Visits Johnson County

Greeley left Atchison on Monday, May 16, 1859, in a two-horse wagon, intent on reaching Osawatomie by Tuesday evening. He had with him three people. The rains had been heavy and stage travel much impeded. His allusion to the Garden of Eden is surely good enough to satisfy anybody.

The following quotation from the pen of the great journalist, in "Greeley's Overland Journey," has reference to his trip through Johnson County in 1859:

"Lawrence, Kansas, May 20, 1859

"Crossing the trail almost at right angles, we left the smart village of Olathe (county seat of Johnson County) a mile or so to the west, and struck off nearly due south, over high prairies sloped as gently and grassed as richly as could be desired, with timber visible along the water courses on either hand. Yet there was little or no settlement below Olathe--for the next twenty miles that we traveled there was hardly an improvement to each four miles of the country in sight. And yet, if the Garden of Eden exceeded this land in beauty or fertility, I pity Adam for having to leave it. The earth was thoroughly sodden with rain so that temporary springs were bursting out on almost every acre, while the water courses, including those usually dry, ran heavy streams, each of them requiring skill in the charioteer and good conduct on the part of the horses to pass them without balk or break. We must have crossed over a hundred of these 'runs' in the course of this day's travel, each of them with a trying jerk on the carriage, and generally with a spring on the part of the horses. These water-ways have generally a lime-stone bottom not far below the surface of their bed; but their banks are apt to be steep, and are continually growing more so by reason of the water washing away the earth, which has been denuded of grass and worked loose by hoofs and wheels. Traveling by jerks like this is not so pleasant as over a macadamized road, yet our day was a bright and pleasant one.

"Thirty miles of progress, twenty of them over prairie, brought us to Spring Hill, a hamlet of five or six dwellings, including a store, but no tavern. Our horses needed food and rest--for the wagon, with its four inmates, was a heavy drag over such going--so we stopped and tried to find refreshment, but with limited success. There was no grain to be had, save a homeopathic dose sold us for a quarter by a passing wagoner,

and thankfully received; we gave this to our steeds, regaled ourselves on crackers and herring, and pushed on."

Mr. Greeley's statement of "No Tavern" at Spring Hill was due to the fact that Mrs. Hovey had a sick headache when the Greeley party arrived. The usual dinner hour had passed, and Mrs. Hovey, having no help that day, felt unable to furnish their meals.

The "crackers and herring' were purchased in the old store across the street.

The Greeley party left Atchison early Monday morning, going to Osawatomie, driving to Leavenworth. At Leavenworth they shipped their horses on board the steamer, "D. A. January," and went down the Missouri to Wyandotte. At Wyandotte they stayed over night and from there drove through Shawnee, on south to Spring Hill. This trip from Wyandotte to Spring Hill was what the "thirty miles of progress" meant.

THE OLD HOTEL

"The Old Hotel" was the first house built in the town of Spring Hill. In the summer of 1857, Mr. James B. Hovey, the first white settler of the town, and Mr. William Rutter built the hotel and it became one of the landmarks of Kansas. The stage line from Kansas City to Fort Scott went by the door. It was erected across the street north of the northeast corner of the town square - the present City Park.

The Old Hotel, which in later years was called the Sowers Hotel, was a two-story frame building, 40 feet front by 30 feet deep on the ground floor. It cost $3,000.00. There were four rooms, 15' x 18' on the ground floor and two above with a seven-foot hallway. On the north side of the building, a kitchen, twelve feet wide, extended the full length of the building. The building was made from heavy oak sills and floors and doors and windows from native lumber. All lumber with the exception of the framing was hauled from Leavenworth, Kansas Territory.

Along the front of the hotel was a narrow, uncovered porch. Three doors opened from this. Two large rooms on the second level were big enough for four beds each. The bridal chamber was 6-1/2 feet by 7-1/2 feet and was the only privacy about the building. In the hall, in the floor of the closet under the stairs, which were boxed, was a trap door which led to the hiding place used during border warfare. Some writings state this hiding place was large enough to accommodate several men. The trap door opened into a narrow tunnel leading to an outlet just outside the west wall of the house. The hotel was used as a station on the Underground Railway. Mrs. Leona Riley recalls that her grandmother (Lucinda Chilton Stiles) worked in the hotel as a girl, after the family fled their Missouri home because of southern sympathizers who were threatening the father's life, and the grandmother told of the secret door.

One hundred feet north of the hotel was a stage barn where eight head of horses were kept. A well dug just north of the building was 25 feet deep and had never run dry and still furnished water to many residents in the west part of town in 1915, according to Ed Blair's history of Johnson County.

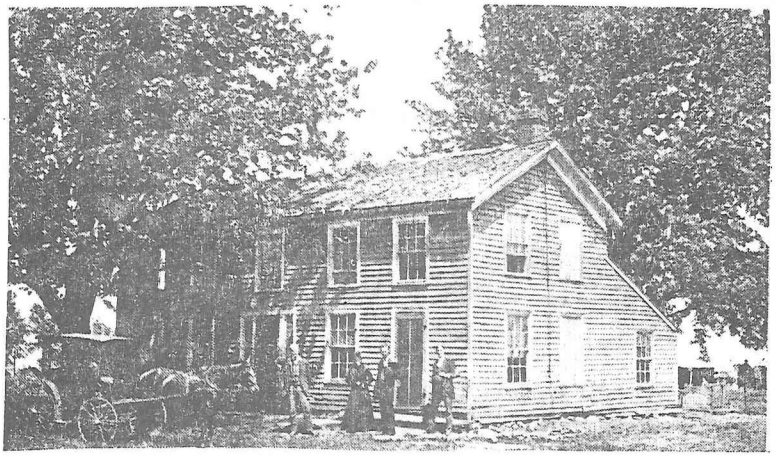
The Old Hotel was built on the highest elevation of the town and views from the upper story windows were very extensive and of rare beauty and interest. In a letter written in later years, Mr. Hovey stated one could see the trees along the Marais des Cygnes near Osawatomie to the south and Aubry to the east.

The hotel was a stopping place on Horace Greeley's journey through Johnson County in 1859. As to whether or not this famous author, who gave the advice "Go west, young man, go west," actually registered at the hotel is doubtful. According to Ed Blair's history of Johnson County, the famed author was not served dinner as Mrs. Hovey had a sick headache and no help, and it was after the dinner hour. An article in the Spring Hill New Era in 1884 tells a different story. The paper had a contest among the grade school children, and fifth grader James Russell, who lived in the old hotel at that time, wrote in his winning essay, "...It is also noted as the house where Horace Greeley stopped for his dinner in 1859 and was refused on account of his politics."

James Russell's essay continued, "In those days it was noted as a fine house but now it has passed into obscurity. I will give you a brief description of the old hotel. The main building is 18' x 40', two stories high with shed rooms on the north side. There are 8 rooms besides the halls and closets. Well, I think this is sufficient for the old tavern..."

After the coming of the railroad and Spring Hill's first great change, there was no business for the hotel. It died; two hotels were built near the railroad, and the town moved to the railroad. Some of the present-day senior citizens remember playing in the building during their school days but it was unoccupied at that time. The building apparently ceased to exist before 1948.

In 1915 Ed Blair wrote, "The Old Hotel at Spring Hill, Kansas, is one of the historic buildings of Kansas and should be preserved as an historic museum of the border." In August 1939, he was chairman of the Hotel Committee and reported to the Ohio Society of Spring Hill that "the State was not interested until the community here had acquired and improved the property." Now the Old Hotel lives only in a few memories and on the pages of history.



This old hotel was located just north of the present city park. This building was erected in 1857 by J. V. Hovey who laid out the town. Stage coaches stopped here to change horses in the early days.

THE OLD HOTEL

(By Ed Blair)

Over the prairies for miles and miles,
  Slowly the stage coach rolled along.
With now and then the crack of a whip,
  And a "Get up there" or a bit of a song,
The bluestem waved and the flowers wild
  Nodded and becked as the stage went by
(In the soft June days) and when autumn came
  The fires of the prairie lit up the sky.
And after the ride was a rest for a spell,
  For the passengers here at the old hotel.

'Twas a welcome sight to the traveler worn
  The light that flecked from the windows here,
And far in the night were the slow teams urged,
  That the drivers might bask in its warmth and cheer,
For equality reigned at the old hotel,
  Where the traveler told of his wanderings far,
Of his hopes and ambitions, of what he had been,
  Of all that had happened his fortune to mar;
And the inkeeper listened to what had befell,
  Till the clock struck twelve in the old hotel.

'Twas here Greeley came by the old stage line,
  And stopped for a while for a welcome rest,
And saw for the first the prairies so wide,
  That inspired his advice, "Young man, go west."
But the trail now bears the name of a street;
  By the hotel's walls move a city's throng,
And the corn and wheat now nod and bend
  On the sod where the bluestem waved so long;
But the hotel stands, yet through its door,
  The guests from the stage coach come no more.

Like a granite slab 'mong the tangled vines
  That burst to view in a lonely wood,
(Where once in the long, long years ago
  A party of mourners stood),
Brings back to the mind the years that have flown;
  The years that have flown, yes, by the score.
So the old hotel with its sinking sills,
  Calls back to the pioneer days of yore,
A slab in the woods with but few to tell
  Of its history now--is this old hotel.

Ed Blair was Spring Hill's poet. The above is copied from his 1915 "History of Johnson County."

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Because of its location near Osawatomie, the Kansas-Missouri border, Lawrence, and also probably because of the few people here at that time, Spring Hill was apparently a "station" on the underground railroad - a system of hiding runaway slaves so they could escape to Canada and freedom. John Brown of Osawatomie, of course, is the most famous person associated with the underground railroad.

In the Old Hotel in Spring Hill was a trap door leading to a hiding place large enough to hold several people. Tradition handed down from generation to generation also told of a secret passage which led outside at the west of the hotel. Old timers testify there was a tunnel running southwest from about the City Park area (town square and the Old Hotel) to a farm about a mile south of town (near the corner of the Bucyrus Road and an extension of Harrison Street). It is believed slaves were moved from John Brown's cabin near Osawatomie to the Spring Hill Underground Railroad and then on to Lawrence, Topeka, Holton, and north.

According to an account of the Underground Railroad given by the journalism class of Spring Hill High School in their booklet Early History of Spring Hill, Carl Weir, a long-time resident of Spring Hill said he and his friends often looked down into the tunnel as they were walking to school when they were children. He said it is believed area men launched a rowboat into the water in the tunnel and traveled for several hundred yards before turning back. In about the early 1960s two or three brothers who lived northeast of the Old Hotel and the park reportedly discovered a tunnel while playing in the vacant ground northeast of the park. They were discouraged from further exploration by their parents.

A STORY OF EARLY DAYS

Following excerpts are from a story about Rufus Thorne of Spring Hill and George Thorne of Gardner.

"In May, of the year of 1857, there might have been seen two boys with ox teams, wending their way across northern Missouri, from the State of Illinois, to the plains of sunny Kansas. One of the boys was twenty years of age, the other, a brother, five years younger. Corn was a dollar bushel in Missouri, and the fact that the boys had narrow tracked wagons was evidence that they came from a free State, and the further fact that they were going to Kansas, made it very evident that they were going there to help make Kansas a free State. Therefore the Missourians would neither give them information nor sell them corn. However, it was only necessary to make their wishes known to the slaves along the route, and they were abundantly supplied with chickens, hams and corn.

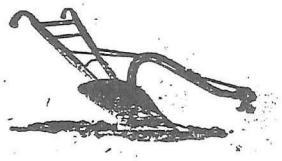
"They crossed the Missouri River at Westport Landing--Kansas City had not yet happened. There they met one Amos Fuller, who, like themselves, had no particular place in view other than Kansas. So they followed the trend of immigration, and the best road leading into Kansas being the old Santa Fe Trail, the boys naturally followed it, with their new acquaintance, Fuller, past the site of Olathe, which, at that time was as yet unbroken prairie, whose tall bluestem on its billowy surface nodded back a welcome. The coyote scampered across the plain, an occasional deer, scared from its noonday rest, might be seen fleeing to cover and wild turkeys came into the trail and trotted along behind the wagons in quest of food.

"The caravan camped one night at Gardner, and O. B. Gardner, the man after whom the town was named, offered to locate as many as cared to locate in Johnson County. Accepting his offer, the boys and their friend were located on claims southeast from that town. The first summer was spent in improving the claim, building the cabin and breaking prairie. The price received by the boys for plowing fire guards and breaking sod on new claims was $5. for a single acre, and larger tracts were broken for $4.

"Some men planted sod-corn the first year, and it grew nicely, but the Indian ponies, belonging to the Shawnee Indians, which roamed over the country by hundreds, preferred the green corn to the dry grass, and ate it. The winter of '57-8 was spent mauling rails and posts on Bull Creek, with which to fence the claims. The older one of the two boys cast his first vote in '58 for the Topeka, or Free State, constitution. A pony on each claim was almost indispensable and the only ones the Indians would sell were the ones that had been spoiled and had whipped the Indian out. Such ponies could be bought for $65; well-

broke ponies sold for from $85 to $125. Having bought one pony for $65, and sold him for $85, it occurred to the boys that some money could be made in that way, so during the summer several ponies were bought and sold for a good profit, and others were broken to ride, for $5 each. The Indian would say: 'Pony, heap bad, kill white man, Indian no can ride him.'

"... In the spring of '59 the boys entered the employ of Majors Russell & Waddle, a firm freighting across the plains, for there were no railroads west of the Mississippi River. The first trip for the boys was from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Laramie. A wagon train consisted of twenty-five wagons, loaded with freight, and one called the mess wagon, loaded with food and clothing for the men. The wagons were drawn by six yoke of oxen to the wagon or 312 head of oxen to the train, and thirty-two men were a full company. The train, when loaded, traveled from fifteen to eighteen miles a day, and when coming back, empty, traveled about twenty-five miles...The fourth trip across the plains was in 1860, the year of the drought, as often referred to, in Kansas...the last trip, when the firm loaded the train with general merchandise, for miners, then mining gold and silver in southern Colorado. Prior to this time, only supplies for the fort were freighted, and this last trip bankrupted the company...The train was snowed in in the Ratton Pass, in the Trinidad mountains...About June the next year, the cattle were brought out and the train taken to its destination, the goods sold, and the train returned to the States. Immediately upon the return to the States, the younger of the two boys enlisted in the Second Regiment, Kansas Infantry...The older boy re-fenced the farm, which had been run over by prairie fires, took care of the small harvest and enlisted in the Twelfth Kansas and served three years. Both,.,came home after the war, settled on their farms in Johnson County, married, and reared families..."



THE SANTA FE TRAIL

The Santa Fe Trail was near to Spring Hill, and undoubtedly was a vital part of the early life of the community. Following are excerpts from Ed Blair's "History of Johnson County" relating to the Trail.

"The Old Santa Fe Trail is one of the cherished historic landmarks of Johnson County, and in recent years increased interest has been manifest in this great highway of the plains in the early days. In the early history of the Santa Fe Trail, the outfitting point was at Old Franklin, Mo., but a large part of that town was undermined by the river and the outfitting business was transferred to Independence, Mo. In 1850 the landing at Independence was obstructed by a sand bar. Westport then came into prominence as an outfitting point and became as it were, the eastern terminus of the Santa Fe Trail. The trail from Old Franklin entered Johnson County at the old town of Santa Fe in Oxford Township, Johnson County, and followed a westward course about four miles south of Olathe, following the ridge. The trail from Westport ran in a southwesterly direction through Olathe and joined the trail from Franklin southwest of Olathe.

"Prentis, in his history of Kansas, says: 'It was a great road, 775 miles long, 550 miles of which were in Kansas, a hard smooth thoroughfare, from 60 to 100 feet wide. It had not a bridge in its whole extent, and was the best natural road of its length ever known in the world. In token that it had come to stay, the broadfaced, yellow sunflower, since chosen by the Kansas people as an emblem of their State, sprang up on either side where the wheels had broken the soil along the highway.'"

In the 1820s, when traffic to New Mexico was becoming heavier, Thomas H. Benton, Congressman from Missouri, and others introduced a bill in Congress to establish a highway from some point in Missouri to New Mexico. President Monroe approved the measure on March 3, 1825, and from this came the marked Santa Fe Trail, which continued until after the railroads put the overland freighters out of business about 1872. In 1905, the Kansas Legislature appropriated $1,000 for the purpose of procuring suitable monuments to mark the Santa Fe Trail through Kansas. This was under the supervision of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Kansas State Historical Society. The large marker in Olathe was contributed by Johnson County old settlers and was dedicated on Old Settlers' Day, September 7, 1907. There are five markers in Johnson County which were provided by the D.A.R. The marker at Lone Elm, the old camp ground northwest of Spring Hill, was the second marker placed and was unveiled on November 9, 1906. One side of the marker states, "Lone Elm camp grounds, 1822-1872."

At the dedication several pioneers, including William Rutter of Spring Hill, spoke of their experiences on the Trail and at the Lone Elm camp ground. Mr. Newton Ainsworth, through whose farm the trail ran, stated, "...To give an idea of its magnitude, I will note the firm of Majors & Russell, who owned and worked on the trail, (with) 1,200 ox teams, with six yoke of oxen to the team. This would make 14,400 head of cattle and 1,200 wagons, 1,200 drivers and 50 wagon bosses; and that was only a drop in the bucket compared with the grand total on the trail. I saw wagon trains camped on this Lone Elm camping ground, until they covered more than this entire quarter section. In their desire not to be detained, and to be on the road first in the morning, they commenced at 12 o'clock at night to hitch up and pull for the trail, and the last teams did not pass where we are now standing until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. At one time, for three days in succession, the last teams going out of camp had not passed here before hundreds were going into camp. The rush to the Pike's Peak gold fields, in 1858, is what made the heavy emigration...All the roads north, east and south centered to the Lone Elm camp ground..."

The following poem was written by Spring Hill's Ed Blair for the dedication:

Fifty years--'Twas a prairie then
And the deer roamed wild and free;
Fifty years--I see it again
As it appeared to me.
The old trail runs where the barn stands now,
The trail was here long before the plow,
And we drove ox teams with sometimes a cow,
In the days that used to be.

Fifty years--Yes, I lived here then
And a lively place 'twas too.
Wagons for miles with their fearless men
Coming and passing from view.
On the wagon covers, "Pike's Peak or bust!"
Yes, the fever was high for the yellow dust.
Just a lot of grit and then their luck to trust,
For those that won were few.

Fifty years--'Twas a camping ground
Where the trees now cast their shade.
And the faithful oxen rambled around
And rarely if ever strayed.
And the camp fires burned each night of the year
In the pastures there and the cornfields here,
Yet I slept each night with never a fear,
And many the friends I made.

Yes, fifty years--What a striking change
From the way we do things now,
No less these farms from the boundless range
Or the way we sow and plow.
The sickle is gone and the binder's here,
But the sickle still to my heart is dear,
But I look in vain for the roving deer
And the prairie chicken now.

Fifty years--Ah, I love to know
That the old trail shall remain,
That the markers tell in the years to go
Where the ox team crossed the plain
Of the men who travelled the toilsome way
But few are left to tell it today,
But their march was Progress on its way,
And its glory ne'er shall wane.

QUANTRILL IN SPRING HILL AREA

According to Blackmar's History of Kansas, published in 1912, William C. Quantrill was living with the Cherokee Indians at the beginning of the Civil War and he joined a company which entered the Confederate service. However, Quantrill did not like the discipline of Army life and soon gathered about him a gang of guerrillas and began his operations in western Missouri and eastern Kansas. Early in March 1862, his gang had been declared outlaws by the Federal authorities. Two of Quantrill's companies were commanded by Bill Todd and Bill Anderson, "two of the most desperate and bloodthirsty of the border chieftains." Dick Yeager and the James boys, who later became notorious, also accompanied Quantrill. By the time the group disbanded, there were over 400 guerrillas.

The raid on Lawrence is the worst recorded. Other towns which were raided and looted included Olathe, Humboldt, Altoona, Paola, and Fort Scott (and Spring Hill). In 1875 the Kansas legislature appointed a commission to examine and certify the amount of losses of citizens of the State of Kansas by the invasion of guerrillas and marauders during the years 1861 to 1865. In 1887 the legislature enacted a law providing for its assumption and payment of the claims for losses.

Murder, looting, and burning seem to have been the purpose of the Quantrill gang. When they raided Olathe on September 6, 1862, one of the casualties was Hiram Blanchard, a merchant from Spring Hill who had gone to Olathe with a man from Paola. Mr. Blanchard was shot as he came outside a saloon and attempted to get on his horse. Quantrill took a large number of men prisoner and started walking toward Spring Hill. A mile north of Spring Hill, a farmer, Mr. McKoin, told Quantrill's men that a company of soldiers had arrived in Spring Hill. Quantrill and his men, and prisoners, then headed east through the fields, going to Squiresville where the prisoners were locked in a storeroom (which held a barrel of molasses and some crackers, and they proceeded to eat, reportedly leaving the plug out of the molasses barrel). Quantrill and his men had breakfast and after eating, he had the prisoners lined up before him and all but two, John Dunn and A. P. Trahern, were released to return home, after they took an oath never to fight against the Confederacy. Through negotiations by John J. Jackson, a farmer who lived near Squiresville and who was a Confederate sympathizer, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Trahern were eventually released. Many of those killed at Olathe had just enlisted in the Army.

In the winter of 1863, Quantrill's second in command, George Todd, with 10 men, raided Spring Hill. The Post Office and stores owned by Thomas Parker and L. D. Prunty were the only businesses in town. The guerrillas took $1,500 from Mr. Prunty and as much goods as they could carry on horseback from the two stores.

After leaving town, Quantrill's raiders stopped about one mile east at the home of Nathan Darland. Mr. Darland's son had been wounded while fighting with the 12th Kansas Regiment and was dying. Several neighbors were at the home. When they heard the horses approaching, they escaped to nearby fields. The raiders entered the house but did not injure anyone. They took all the horses on the farm.

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(Squiresville was a community - just a stage stop, primarily - about two and a half miles east of Ocheltree.)

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In his history of Johnson County, published in 1874, Oliver Gregg wrote: "(Quantrill) cared not for national complications, or States rights, or the weal or woe of either half of the nation. He had a private purpose and the prince of evil placed the means at his disposal to accomplish it. As a leader he exhibited talents of the highest order...With such a leader the bushwhackers were successful beyond parallel. They defied the entire Federal army, and for months and years devasted the border with scarcely a check. Blood, rapine and violence held high carnival. Each day had its story of burning houses and murdered citizens.

"While we must give Quantrel and his followers due credit for their shrewdness and daring, still it must be confessed that their success was due almost as much to the incompetency and thick headedness of Federal commandants assigned to the border. In the beginning the volunteer army was organized in a peculiar way. If a man was a noted lawyer, or a successful politician, or of high social standing, it was argued that he was admirably qualified for the command of troops, and planning of campaigns. To such the commissions went, though perhaps the applicant did not know the difference between a sabre and cleaver, or cartridge box and caisson. It was generally to officers of this class the command of the border was assigned. They were as much fitted to cope with the wily bushwacker as an innocent coal-digger from a Cornish mine. Hundreds of ruined homes, and scores of graves, are monuments to this incapacity, and a century will scarcely efface the scars of that desolating period.

"The bushwhacker of most note, next to Quantrel, was George Todd, a citizen and business man of Kansas City. He was one of the first to go to the brush...He is accredited with having killed more men and committeed more wanton murders than any of the command. When killed, the citizens of Independence buried him with the highest honors, and placed his name on their roll of saints..."

BORDER WARFARE

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 left the decision of free state or slave to the settlers of Kansas, it signaled a period of violence on the eastern border. A heavy movement of settlers who were free staters, backed by the New England Emigrant Society, came to Kansas. Missouri, of course, was a slave state and many there were determined Kansas would also be a slave state. A writing from the Missouri side of the border (Cass County Historical Society) states "the activity of the rabid anti-slavery group in the 1850s made for guerilla war conditions with much crossing over from Kansas, burning homes and stealing property, then crossing back to their own areas to rest and re-group." Kansas tell the same story about those from Missouri. Pro-slavery Missourians crossed the border to vote in Kansas elections in an attempt to control the future of the area. A battle growing out of the politics was called by many "the first battle of Bull Run." It was fought on Bull Creek in 1858, under General Lane of the Free-Staters against General Reid of the pro-slavery forces. A few shots were exchanged and General Reid retreated to Missouri. No one was injured.

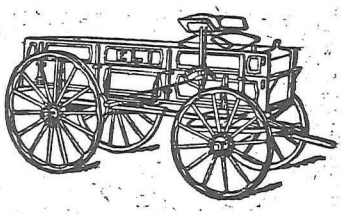
On August 21, 1863, four days after the raid by Quantrill on Lawrence, Brigadier General Ewing issued his famous General Order No. 11, according to an early history of Johnson County, Kansas. A copy of the order from Cass County gives the date as August 25, 1863, Kansas City, Missouri, District of the Border. All persons living in Cass, Jackson and Bates Counties, Missouri, and in that part of Vernon County included in the district, except those living within one mile of the limits of Independence, Hickman's Mills, Pleasant Hill and Harrisonville, and except those in that part of Kaw Township, Jackson County, north of Brush Creek and west of the Big Blue, embracing Kansas City and Westport, were ordered to remove from their present places of residence within fifteen days. All who could establish their loyalty to the satisfaction of the commanding officer of the nearest military station were to receive certificates of loyalty and could remove to a military station in the district or to any part of the State of Kansas, except the counties on the eastern border of that State. All others were to remove out of the district. Also, all hay and grain in the fields, or under shelter in the district, was to be taken to the military stations and grain and hay not taken to the posts, after the 9th of September, was to be destroyed. According to Ed Blair's "History of Johnson County" published in 1915, "...Such a howl of indignation as went up from it was never before heard...The rebels had inaugurated and faithfully carried out a similar policy themselves in regard to Union citizens early in the war, but could see only barbarous tyranny and oppression when applied to their side of the question. It was a severe remedy it is true, but Ewing had suddenly become impressed

with the fact that it was a particularly severe disease. In regard to the justice or expediency of the order, opinion will always differ. No very satisfactory results came from it. The country was given up to ruin and desolation, the rebel citizens were more bitter and determined than ever, thieves on both sides of the line had more favorable opportunities for plundering, and bushwhackers roamed and raided as before."

A report to the Commander in Chief of the Missouri Militia, June 16, 1858, stated that while organizing militia in the border counties of Missouri, and "while traversing the counties on the border of our State, we made diligent enquiry of reliable men as to the condition of things on the border. They related them as being deplorable indeed; they say a large strip of country within our state is almost entirely depopulated, our citizens driven from their homes and in many instances property taken, and they are threatened with death should they return. Many of those men we saw in and about Butler and Harrisonville who had been forced to leave their homes and take refuge in the interior of those counties

"Many acts of violence and plunder we heard of there, that were committed by the Kansas Territory Banditti, but we deem it unnecessary to enter into a detailed account of all we have seen and heard, while on the border of our State...We are of the opinion that the companies raised there will not be sufficient protection to the border Settlements on account of their being settled over so large a Territory and cannot be gotten together in time to repel an invasion or to prevent any depredations intended to be committed by those out Laws..."

Note: Although Missouri did not vote to secede from the Union, the governor ignored President Lincoln's call for troops and the Missouri militia battled Union forces.



C I V I L W A R T I M E S

During the days of the Civil War, Spring Hill raised two companies for home protection. One was commanded by Captain James Duff and the other by Captain J. B. Hovey. One or the other of these companies was frequently requested to stand guard over a weak neighboring settlement that had been threatened by some of the Missouri bushwhackers. A Captain Hill of Olathe recruited for active service and quite a number of local men went into his company. With their regiment leader, Col. R. B. Mitchells, they participated in the battle of Wilson Creek under General Lyon.

A company was raised for the 12th Regiment in the area of Spring Hill and Gardner. John T. Gordon of Lanesfield was captain of the regiment and James H. Berkshire of Spring Hill was a second lieutenant. The regiment was ordered to Ft. Smith, Arkansas as part of a brigade under General Steele. They fought at Jenkins' Ferry, Arkansas.

In October 1864, Spring Hill had the last scare of wartime. The situation was considered critical and General Curtis at once issued an order to put the state under martial law, ordering every man to report for duty. He also had the stores closed and squads ordered for patrol. Men were taken from their work and from their fields to protect the community, but an attack did not take place.

Kansas Conference Minutes of the Methodist Episcopal Church for this period of history indicate the communites and the churches were disorganized because many had left their properties to go into the army and families had moved elsewhere for protection because of the border ruffians in this part of Eastern Kansas. Conditions in Spring Hill were probably not a great deal different from those in Olathe, where people moved away to more favorable localities, according to an early-day account of those days. There the majority of the business houses stood empty as no one cared to put in new stock to be hauled away by Quantrill and his men. Property was almost valueless and household goods could be bought for one-tenth of their value. Good cows sold for $6.00 to $7.00 each.

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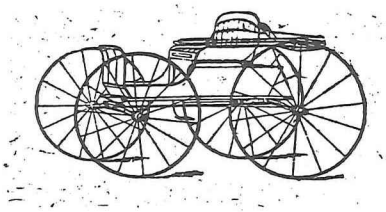
In Gregg's history of Johnson County published in 1874, he recorded that when President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 volunteers at the beginning of the Civil War, the Secretary of War did not deem "it expedient to accept any troops from Kansas. Our patriotic citizens were determined, however, to not be excluded from taking part in the struggle for the integrity of the Union." A company of about 50 enlisted in Johnson County, under the direction of S. F. Hill. The Governor of Kansas had succeeded in convincing the Secretary of War to accept the regiments for three months, for which they were enlisted. Commissions were granted on May 14, 1861, and six weeks later the soldiers were on their way to battle. They were ordered to Missouri, and in those three months

participated in the following battles: Forsythe, July 22; Dug Spring, August 2; Wilson's Creek, August 10; Paris, September 2; Shelbina, September 4; Iatan, October 11. Captain Hill was in the last stages of consumption, according to Gregg, and the command passed to Lieut. Parmenter, who was a "splendid officer and soldier and under his lead our volunteers more than sustained the credit of Johnson County and Kansas." At the battle of Wilson's Creek - at that period the most terrific contest of the war - General Lyon, with 5,000 men, fought one day with General Price, with 25,000. At the end of the term of enlistment, the men were mustered out at Leavenworth on October 4, 1861.

As soon as President Lincoln and the Cabinet were convinced "that the war was something more than a ninety day skirmish, a second call for volunteers was issued, and Kansas was called upon with the other States to furnish its quota."



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Church is the oldest church and the oldest organization in Spring Hill. It was established when the town was about one year old.

In the spring of 1858, area residents expressed a need for a minister and a school. Mr. James B.Hovey, founder of the town, secured the services of a minister from near Baldwin City. The minister, from the Methodist Episcopal Church, was a Rev. Hulbert or Howbert, and was later transferred to the Colorado District of the church. At that time the Kansas Conference of the Methodist Church extended from Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. The minister came on Sunday, preaching at Mr. Hovey's house (The Old Hotel) which was quite large and had been used as hotel, post office, justice office, voting office, for public meetings, and now for preaching.

The preacher arrived on horseback and the people saw him coming from miles away across the prairie. People came from all directions. Some came on foot, some on horseback, some with ox teams, and a few in two-horse wagons - but none in buggies as buggies were as scarce as railroads then, according to Mr. Hovey's account. The meeting was a success, and the preacher so encouraged that another date was set and from that time there was stated preaching.

Before the first quarterly meeting, it was decided the congregation had outgrown the meeting place. Within one week, a house had been started and completed, to be used as a school and church. By Sunday the building was used by the Methodist Episcopal Church for its first quarterly meeting. Elder L. B. Dennis of Lawrence was the first presiding elder. This house/school/church, as nearly as we can determine, was located where the grade school is today.

In April 1858, at the church annual conference in Lawrence, Kansas Territory, the Rev. Richard P. Duval was appointed to Spring Hill. He was the first Methodist minister to receive church orders on Kansas soil, having been appointed in October 1856 in Lawrence, where the meetings were held in a "cloth tent, guarded by soldiers on account of the border ruffians." Mrs. Duval became Spring Hill's first teacher.

During the Civil War the church was supplied by itinerant ministers. A local itinerant minister, who lived near the Bonita-Ocheltree area, was Rev. J. B. D. Seiss, brother of Mrs. Loren Locke's grandfather.

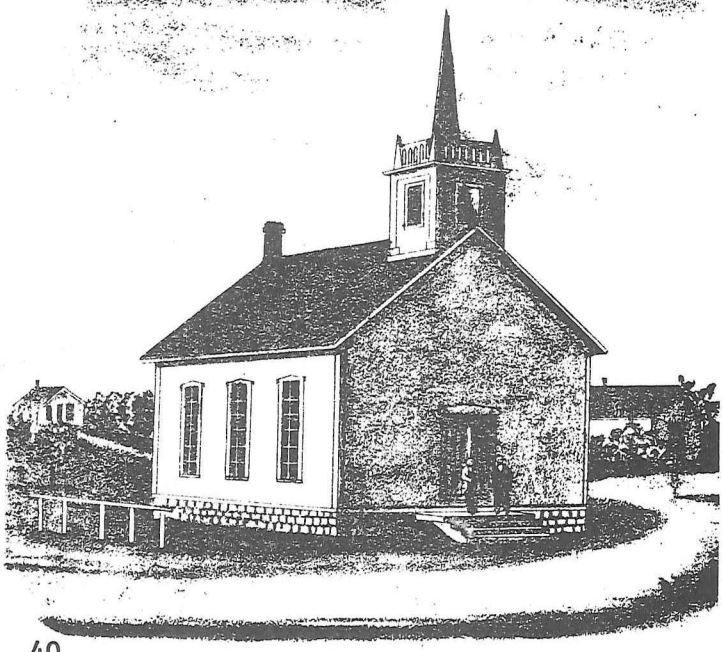
In 1869, the Methodist Episcopal Church erected a white frame church one block east of the Town Square, at the southwest corner of Hale and Jefferson. Rev. Whitney, the pastor, was a native of Ireland. That building served until 1911, when the present church was

constructed. The next year a white, two-story frame parsonage was built adjacent to the church on the east. It was replaced with a brick parsonage in 1975. An education building was added in 1963. A pre-school for the community has been held there for several years.

Ministers who have served the Methodist Episcopal Church, now the United Methodist Church, are:

Richard P. Duval	1858 - 1860
S. W. Lloyd	1860 - 1861
J. S. Kline	1861 - 1862
Itinerant Ministers	1862 - 1867
William Whitney	1868 - 1870
O. H. Call	1870 - 1871
Rev. Myers	1871 - 1872
J. Biddison	1872 - 1875
John C. Telford	1875 - 1877
J. O. Roberts	1877 - 1879
R. H. Walker	1879 - 1881
F. Hoyes	1881 - 1884
J. S. Smith	1884 - 1886
Wm. Whitney (2nd time)	1886 - 1887
D. S. Colt	1887 - 1889
L. A. Markham	1889 - 1891
James Thompson	1891 - 1892
M. L. Everett	1892 - 1893
Wm. P. Elliott	1893 - 1896
Charles H. Crysler	1896 - 1899
C. S. Freark	1899 - 1901
C. J. Harned	1901 - 1902
C. H. Crysler (completed term of C. J. Harned)	1902 - 1903
Thomas McConnell	1903 - 1906
W. J. Mitchell	1906 - 1909
A. J. Bruner	1909 - 1910
M. E. Goodrich	1910 - 1912
D. A. McCullough	1912 - 1916
Harry Hunter	1917 - 1918
Warren Shepard	1918 -
Dr. P. V. Roberts	1918 - 1920
E. M. Nunnally	1920 - 1921
I. F. Edwards	1921 - 1924
L. P. Plowman	1924 - 1925
A. C. Asling	1925 - 1927
A. J. Cuttrell	1927 - 1928
G. H. Keeler	1928 - 1929
Ralph Sipes	1929 - 1930
C. W. Odom	1929 - 1930
Theodore Potter	1930 - 1933
W. E. Burdette	1933 - 1934
Robert B. Brown	1934 - 1937
O. W. Dewey	1937 - 1941
I. L. Neuenswander	1941 - 1945
J. S. Bottoms	1945 - 1949
Floyd Nolin, Jr.	1949 - 1950
Wm. E. Ralphs	1950 - 1952
Robert B. Alexander	1952 - 1957
Wm. R. Ellis	1957 - end of yr.
Jack Callaway	1958 - 1960
Glen Rudolph	1960 - 1963
Henry Pickett, Jr.	1963 - 1965
David Chinn	1965 - 1968
Raymond E. Bell	1968 - 1971
Ronald L. Starr	1971 - 1983
Donald D. Powell	1983 -

(The local church was often supplied by ministerial students attending Baker University at Baldwin, Kansas. Baker U. is a Methodist school.)



M.E. CHURCH

SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

During March 1953, home prayer meetings were started and special prayer was made that it might be possible to start a Baptist Church in Spring Hill. From the first prayer meeting with two Spring Hill families, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gardner and two laymen from that church, the group grew until in December 1953, there were eighteen people of the Spring Hill community who began a mission under the sponsorship of the First Baptist Church of Gardner. The first Sunday worship service was held on December 6, 1953, at the Ocheltree School, which had been rented as a meeting place.

In July 1954 a block of ground was purchased in Spring Hill for a future church building site.

On December 5, 1954, the Spring Hill Baptist Church was organized with thirty-seven charter members. Of those, a few remain as resident members now. Building plans were in progress at the time the church was organized. Ground was broken in April 1956, and the first building was dedicated in August of that year. The building was planned so that it could later be converted to a parsonage; this was done in 1968.

At the annual meeting in December 1959, a building committee was elected to plan for a permanent church sanctuary and educational facilities. On April 3, 1963, plans for the present building were submitted for church approval. The plans were approved and the ground breaking was held on May 5, 19 3. The building was dedicated May 3, 1964.

The first church building was converted to a lovely parsonage in 1968 and is located adjacent to the sanctuary. The church mortgage was paid off in 1978. The church now has a membership of 176 resident members.

Pastors who have served the church are:

Dec. 1953 - Mar. 1954	Rev. Tom Counts
Aug. 1954 - June 1957	Rev. Marshall E. Schirer
Oct. 1957 - Aug. 1959	Rev. Robert Patton
Apr. 1960 - Dec. 1960	Rev. Jimmy Whitlock
Sept. 1961 - Sept. 1965	Rev. James R. Poland
Feb. 1966 - July 1967	Rev. Curtis Fike
July 1968 - Nov. 1970	Rev. Jeptha Williams
Sept. 1971 - Oct. 1972	Rev. David E. Shaffer
Dec. 1973 - Sept. 1981	Rev. George B. Snyder
Aug. 1982 - Present	Rev. Dan R. Rhodes

COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Spring Hill Community Church first met as a congregation in May 1980 and was composed of people from many denominational backgrounds who had joined together to form a nondenominational church. The first meetings were held at 19280 South U.S. Highway 169 at what was once the home of Margaret Hopkins Stranathan. Plans were made to have a church building just south of the house; however, initial plans had to be revised. On June 19, 1983, the church began holding its Sunday services at the Hilltop School to enlarge its congregation before building on the property adjacent to the house owned by the church.

Ministers who have served the congregation are:

July 1980 - 1981	Glenn Ridenour
1981 - April 1982	Dr. George Johnson
April 1982 - Present	Bruce Bickel

"HOLSTEIN CHURCH"

This church was located on North Jefferson Street, in the fifth or sixth block. It was an old frame building which had been given to the Negro church in the early 1930s. The church was used by both the blacks and whites, thus its name.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

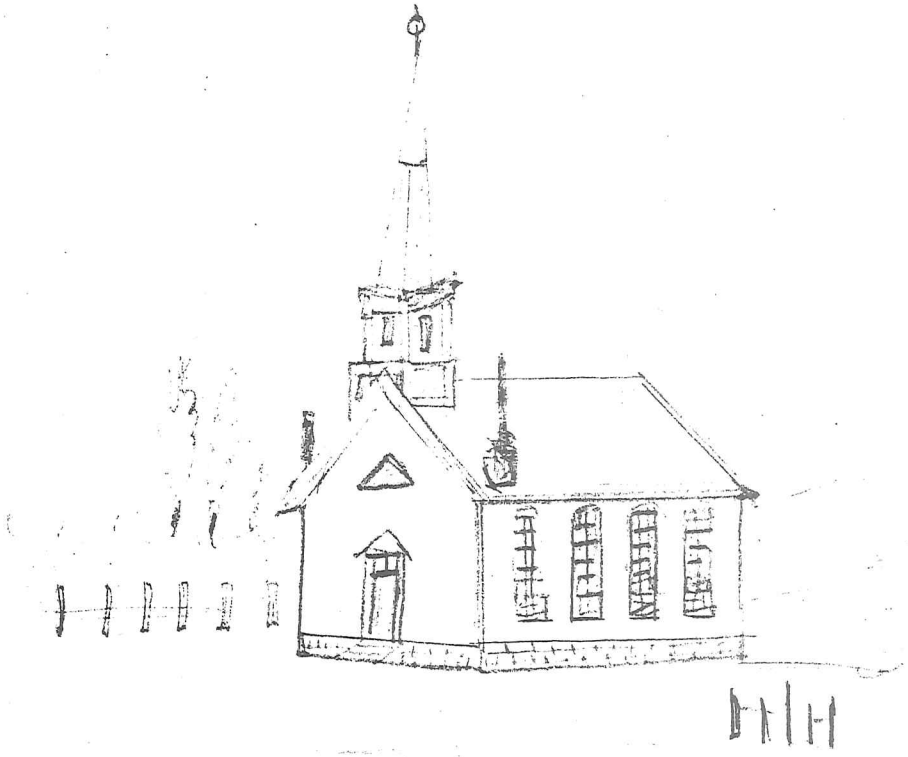
This congregation had been attending church services in a rural church west of Hillsdale and in Olathe, and in 1961 built their church in Spring Hill in the fifth block on West Hale. The last minister of which we have knowledge was Dorman Diller, who had a large group of young people involved in youth activities of the church. At that time the congregation acquired two school buses to use for their youth activities. Since then, about the middle seventies, there has not been a resident minister, to our knowledge. The Committee was unable to contact members of the church for information.

(The building was constructed by Bob Findley, Norris Olson and crew.)

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church was organized December 3, 1864, with ten members. Rev. H. Reed was the first pastor. The committee of organization was Mrs. Isabelle Scott, Mrs. May Garrett, Mrs. John McIlwaine, Mrs. Ann Brown, Mrs. Lucinda McKoin; additional members were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Smith, Miss Elisa Smith, and Mrs. Rebecca Fishel. A church building was erected in 1871 by J. C. Beckley, building contractor in Spring Hill. Other early-day leaders were A. W. Wilson, John Rankin, Wm. Corbet, R. J. Henry. L. C. West, D. H. Bingham, S. S. Olney, A. T. Lowe, and J. W. Gindlesperger.

The church building was on the southeast corner of Nichols and Jefferson (one block east of the Town Square). The manse was erected in 1908, just east of the church on the corner of Nichols and Madison. (The Brown-Wilson home.) The church disbanded about 1937. Ministers who served the church were H. Reed, J. W. Rankin, W. A. Rankin, James C. McElroy, A. Carroll, J. U. Young, A. M. Reynolds, Wm. Howell, A. V. Stout, W. A. Rankin, 2nd time; C. A. Leonard, Hector W. Cowan (1899), W. H. Course, Enos Fleming, and A. W. Mann. Rev. Fleming was the last minister.



Presbyterian Church

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH

Although the official name of this church was Methodist Protestant, it was known as "Lizzie Bailey's Church." Mrs. Bailey was a local milliner and dress maker and Mr. Bailey was a druggist. The church was located at 403 East Hale and from the pictures it appeared to be a pretty frame church with lovely stained glass windows.

According to Andreas' History of Kansas, the church in Spring Hill was organized in 1871 and the church was built in 1878 at a cost of $1,200.00. However, in November 1883, the local newspaper reported the town was to have a new church but did not indicate what denomination or the location. In March 1884, the paper stated "Mr. J. C. Beckley has begun work on the new church. We think it will be built in a short time and in a workmanlike manner if Mr. Beckley has charge of it. He is one of the best workmen in this community." And on April 24, 1884, the editor wrote "the frame and tower of the new church was raised last Monday." According to our records, the Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1869 and the Presbyterian Church in 1871. The "Lizzie Bailey Church" did have a tower.

In 1903 the church purchased Lots 35 and 36, Chamberlin's Third Subdivision to the City of Spring Hill. This was apparently the parsonage. According to an article by Max Deweese on early-day houses on Cherry Street (Hale Street), the house would have been the sixth west of the bank. The only minister he remembered who lived there was Rev. D. M. Pentz in 1909. Rev. Deweese's sister Ethel married the son of one of the pastors, Rev. J. D. Green.

The land for the Methodist Protestant Church was purchased from J. C. Rogers and wife. Trustees of the church were Thomas A. Newton, Iret Rhinehart, James L. Weeks, H. B. Newton, J. C. Rogers, J. M. Willis, and E. A. Sharon. The deed was recorded March 13, 1876. On June 10, 1929, the Methodist Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Protestant Church sold the lot and church building to Tom G. Hess for $300.00. Mr. Hess dismantled the building and erected a house there. Until recently this has been the home of Mrs. Ora Kirby.

On May 4, 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Protestant Church were united, becoming the Methodist Church.

FIRST WOMAN DOCTOR

Two doctors came to Spring Hill in January 1859. They were Dr. C. A. Dayton and Dr. Hiram E. Dayton - mother and son. Dr. Celia Ann Dayton was the first woman doctor in Kansas. Dr. Annie Dayton, as she was called, was successful and well-loved in the community. She lived here the rest of her life. Tradition of the community is that she was very active in the underground railroad. Dr. Hiram Dayton was killed at Blue Springs, Missouri, January 27, 1862, while acting as a Civil War scout against Quantrill's border ruffians.

A large monument in the Spring Hill Cemetery states: Dr. H. E. Dayton, Co. C. of 2nd Kans. Inf., December 4, 1836, in Onadago County, N.Y. Killed in defense of his country, January 27, 1862. Erected to his memory by his mother, Mrs. C. A. Dayton. The other inscription on the stone reads: C. A. Dayton, born January 24, 1815. Married to Amon Dayton, February 15, 1832. Died November 18, 1895.

Dr. Celia Ann Dayton was born in Herkin County, New York. Her maiden name was Hebert or Herbert. She began her studies of medicine with Dr. John E. Todd of Baldwinsville, N.Y. and from there went to Butler, Michigan, where she practiced about five years. She also practiced in Rutland County and St. Albans, Vermont. It is believed her offices in Spring Hill were at one time in the house at 206 East Hale.

In 1933 the Kansas Women's Clubs presented a plaque in her memory and it was mounted on a lovely stone bench in the City Park (Town Square of Old Town). Vandals destroyed the bench and the plaque was later placed in the Methodist Church beside a window which bears Dr. Dayton's name. Early membership records of the church have been lost, but financial records on file in the Kansas Conference Library of the Methodist Church, Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas, indicate Dr. Dayton was a contributor to the local church.

B A N K I N G

Earliest records of banking in town are that in the late 1870s there was a bank operating by the name of Banking House of J. C. Rogers & Company. In about 1884 Mr. Rogers moved his bank to Wamego, Kansas. In the late 1880s a bank located on the east side of Main Street by R. W. Elstun & Co., who "issued drafts on New York and Eastern points," according to issues of the local paper. The January 3, 1889, issue of the paper had a Notice: "The banking partnership heretofore existing between R. W. Elstun, W. P. Holmes, and A. C. Buckner, doing business under the firm name of R. W. Elstun & Co., bankers, was dissolved December 31, 1888, by mutual consent. The business heretofore carried on in the name of R. W. Elstun & Co. will from January 1, 1889, be conducted by the Spring Hill Banking Company at the same place. W. P. Holmes, president."

The 1888 issues of the local paper had advertisements for:

Bank of Spring Hill

L. Chamberlin, president C. Chamberlin, cashier

In 1903 a building which still stands at the southwest corner of the downtown business district was erected, and the Spring Hill Banking Company moved there. Officers were Loren Crawford, president; George S. Sowers, vice president; A. P. Williams, cashier; Anna W. Simpson, assistant cashier. Total assets of the bank were about $110,000.00.

Another bank, The Farmers State Bank, was started April 1, 1912, in what is now the south room of Cade's Hardware. Irwin Williams was cashier; his sister, Osa Williams, assistant cashier. The bank was closed by the State Banking Commission about 1920, causing financial loss to a number of Spring Hill residents.

In 1927 the Spring Hill Banking Company re-organized into what is now the State Bank of Spring Hill. Frank W. Sponable of Paola was president and Ray A. Dunmire, cashier. In the 1930s the State Bank of Spring Hill took over the assets of the Bucyrus State Bank. Harrell Thomas of that organization came to the Spring Hill bank and remained until about 1945, when he went to Olathe.

Ray Dunmire eventually was named President. He was a well-known figure in the community and was known as "Stuffy" to most citizens. (He earned the nickname because of his penchant for fresh air.) Mr. Dunmire died November 5, 1962; immediately his son Fred A. was named president and Neal Janicke was named cashier. In July 1974 the bank moved to its new building at 201 South Webster - on Highway 169. At this time there are 14 employees.

Mr. Neal Janicke contributed the information for the State Bank of Spring Hill.

THE BANK ROBBERIES

Copied from The First 100 Years in Spring Hill:

Probably the most exciting events in the history of Spring Hill were the two bank robberies. The first occurred in July, 1920, when Ray D. Smith, cashier, and Edna Lemen, assistant cashier, were held up at the point of a gun by a masked bandit, and locked in the vault. The robber scooped up the cash and fled on foot. Mr. Smith set off the burglar alarm and the business men who kept rifles in their stores for just such an emergency were soon in pursuit. Ralph Hines brought the robber down in the pasture on the George LaRosh farm (now the Avery place, at 207th and Woodland). The robber was identified as Alfred Ganteret, an Olathe boy. He is buried in an unidentified grave in the Spring Hill Cemetery. Most of the money was recovered along the way.

The other robbery occurred March 23, 1938, when R. A. Dunmire, cashier, and H. P. Thomas, assistant, were held up by two thugs and $1587.27 was taken. These robbers were apprehended about 60 days later and were sentenced after they confessed to 12 bank robberies in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas.

They slugged both Dunmire and Thomas with a blackjack, inflicting cuts on the head and knocking Mr. Dunmire down. After Mr. Thomas had placed the money in a yellow cellophane bag, they were ordered into the vault and the bandits fled in a blue car parked on the south side of the bank, headed west. J. S. Simpson was being waited on when they entered and they waited until he left before making demand for the money. The robbers were E. H. McCarthy and Harry Korte, who had made a survey of the territory by airplane before mapping out the robbery.

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One newspaper described the posse as "consisting of members of the Anti-Horse Thief Association." Another paper called the men "Minute Men." An article about the "Minute Men" is given below. The paper also stated that Ralph Hines divided the credit of bringing down the robber (1920) with Roy Payne and Cleve (Grover) Mayes, both of Spring Hill. The robber was born near the spot where he was killed.

Spring Hill Bank was Robbed Wednesday

masked Bandits Escape after Slugging Dunmire and Thomas and Locking Them in the Vault.

The State Bank of Spring Hill was held up and robbed of currency Hartley looked in, and told Hartley he would see him outside in a few

SPRING HILL "MINUTE MEN"

The following article was reprinted in the New Era, copied from the Grand Forks, N.D., Herald, August 29, 1920:

"A regularly organized and fully accountered reception committee has been formed at Spring Hill, Kansas, to greet any wayfaring bank robbers, highwaymen or burglars who may decide to pay that village a visit. The committee is so well organized and so laden with the necessary equipment for receiving the guests that the town has not been injured by that gentry of the rifle and automatic pistol since December, 1918.

"Spring Hill is in Johnson county. It is not very far from Kansas City and for some time it seemed to be the favorite evening pastime of certain citizens of Kansas City to drive out to Spring Hill, pry off the store door and carry away a truck load of goods or pry open the rear window of a building and blow open the safe and take away a lot of honest-to-goodness money and even larger quantities of Liberty bonds. It was such a pleasing pastime and so profitable that Spring Hill decided that it should make arrangements for properly welcoming the guests and aid them in their departure.

"So Spring Hill merchants, physicians, lawyers, retired farmers and other citizens organized what they were pleased to term "minute men," such designation being given only to those who were able, under a stop watch, to put on a shirt, trousers, shoes and a hat and get from their bedroom to the front porch of the home in exactly one minute--flat.

"The two banks of the town bought a large supply of rifles and they furnished ammunition. Each man who made the test of dressing in one minute, even in the dark, was furnished with a rifle and ammunition. The men went down into the pastures nearby and worked at target practice until they were reasonably proficient and efficient in handling the guns.

"Each minute man has a telephone in his home. The central operator has instructions about ringing those telephones when she is given the alarm. When the alarm sounds, the minute man does not wait to answer and see what it is all about. He gets into his fighting clothes, grabs his gun off the wall and hikes to a certain spot.

"The minute men all have designated jobs to fill. Some are required to go to the band stand in the centre of the town, from which every roadway to the business centre can be swept with rifle fire. Others are to go to the cross roads leading out of town and instructed not to let any one pass.

"This minute man business may sound awfully funny to high salaried Hawkshaws and plain clothes men of the cities, and may even make an ordinary cop smile. But it has produced results."

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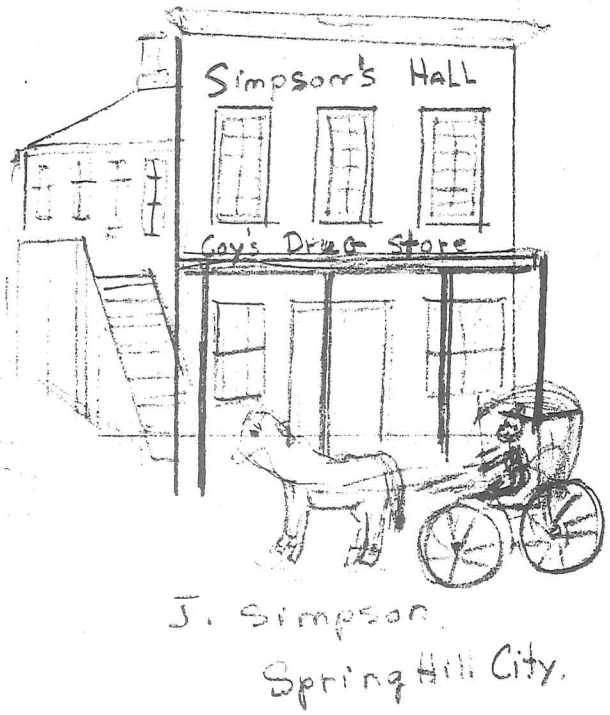
Editor's Note: "The author of the story, whoever he may be, seems to have overlooked nothing to make his story complete except the one big point and it seems no one told him the men were organized and are operating so successfully under the generalship of Max Wendt and Mansel Nicholson."

The above newspaper article was contributed by Carl Weir.



C E M E T E R Y

Although a large granite marker in the Spring Hill Cemetery bears the inscription that Alexander B. Simmons, a surveyor and pioneer, donated the land for the Cemetery, records in the office of the Johnson County Register of Deeds reveal the Cemetery Association paid Mr. Simmons $100.00 for the land in August 1860. ($10.00 an acre was a very high price, compared with other prices recorded.) The land, which is described as SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of NE 1/4, S15, T15, R23, ten acres, is located on the west side of town on a hill. The Cemetery was a 660 foot square. Gravesites were laid out in blocks 58' x 24', divided into four lots, each 29' x 12'. Each lot held approximately eight gravesites. Each block was separated from the next by alleyways on each end and a street on each side. There were 136 blocks laid out in the original Cemetery.

There are two graves which may be considered as the oldest. Elizabeth Sprague, wife of George Sprague, the first farmer in Spring Hill, died on October 15, 1857, at the age of 18. This grave is located along the south street, about half way to the west side. Not too far away is a grave of Mary Tucker, age 21, who "died in the fall of 1857." Although the Cemetery deed was recorded in 1860, the burials preceded that date.

The Methodist Church, which was organized in the spring of 1858, has a lot in which babies of several ministers were buried over the years. The oldest was during the ministry of Reverend J. Biddison, 1872 to 1875.

Early days in Spring Hill saw the deaths of many of the young; few of the original families were untouched. Records of the sale of lots vividly portray the sorrow and hardships of those days. The Sowers family, in a period from January 1, 1863, to September 5, 1879, had six children die. The Barnes family in 1871 had four children, ages from one month to 15 years, die. The year 1871 left very few families intact as there were many deaths in the summer as well as the winter. The first days of Spring Hill saw the deaths of the young, mothers in childbirth, and the old. No one was born in the 1700s as this was a town founded in mid-century by young people.

According to the accepted custom of those days, there was a separate section for the black people. The area is on the north side of the cemetery. These people came to Spring Hill after the Civil War and several graves are marked as being those of Civil War veterans.

Two blocks were designated as Strangers Blocks, being used to bury the unknown and the poor. Spring Hill Township paid for wood coffins and the cost of digging the graves. The coffins usually cost about $2.00. If the grave was that of an ex-soldier, more money was allowed. During the early days of the railroad, a number of men were found dead or fatally injured along the railroad.

One of the beautiful things about the cemetery is the monuments. They range from the small weathered stones with no legible name to huge blocks of granite so engraved as to stand time and weather. Tombstones for babies have lambs and flowers. Many tombstones have scriptures, poetry, quotations from a favored book. One stone is ornately carved in relief, with a woman holding a child, a blowing scarf in one hand. Another stone of interest has a nine-pointed star in relief. One of the largest stones is that of Celia Ann Dayton, the first woman doctor in Kansas, and Hiram Dayton, M.D., her son who was killed by Quantrill's men. This monument states: Dr. H. E. Dayton, Co. C. of 2nd Kansas Infantry; December 4, 1836 in Onondaga County, N.Y.; killed in defense of his country, January 27, 1862. Erected to his memory by his mother, Mrs. C. A. Dayton. The other side of the stone states: C. A. Dayton, born June 24, 1815; married to Amon Dayton February 15, 1832; died November 18, 1895.

Just south of the Dayton monument is the grave of Lt. James Berkshire who had charge of the Spring Hill Militia in 1864. In the same area is the grave of Achilles O. Darland, a member of the 12th Regiment. In February 1863, he was lying on his death bed with his father and friends in attendance when George Todd, second in command to Quantrill, entered the house. After questioning the residents, Todd left, taking all the horses.

The first mayor of Spring Hill, Alex Davis, is buried here with other members of his family. This lot is on the north side, toward the west. One block is designated for Civil War veterans. On Memorial Day, 1884, the Gen. Curtis Post #104 of the Grand Army of the Republic "formed in ranks and marched to that part of the cemetery lying along Central Avenue to select a block to be used for the purpose of interring the remains of veterans who have no regular family burying place. The Secretary of the Interior has agreed to furnish headstones for these graves. The block selected was Block 92, north of Central Avenue, near the central part of the cemetery," according to the Spring Hill New Era, June 5, 1884. On May 30, 1897, the Women's Relief Corps, Post No. 28, dedicated a beautiful monument on this site to Veterans of the War of 1861 - 1865. The monument cost about $400. The two lots behind the marker contain 12 graves of veterans of that war. Some were buried by the township and others by their families. The stone pillars and monument at the entrance were given by the W.R.C. in 1928 "In honor of the Veterans of the Civil War, 1861 - 1865; the Spanish-American War, 1898; Our Country's Defenders in the World War, 1917 - 1918, and the Loyal Women of the Spring Hill Community."

The cemetery had many lovely trees before the tornado in 1957, when most of the trees and monuments were damaged. Many stones were damaged beyond repair. At the time of this writing 16 trees have been planted as a memorial to LeRoy "Skeet" Morrison, given by his family and friends.

On August 14, 1978, the City of Spring Hill was petitioned by interested citizens to annex the cemetery into the City. This was done, providing more funds for the operation and upkeep. Prior to 1981, one could buy a lot and pay an annual assessment for upkeep. On Memorial Day, usually, families would pay the treasurer of the Cemetery Board the annual assessment, which was about $1.00 a year. Now the Board requires perpetual care for all lots sold. One of the first acts of the new Board was to purchase 100 feet on the west of the cemetery. Additional spaces were made by closing alleyways and streets, also.

No history of the cemetery association would be complete without mention of the services of Mrs. Maud Stuckey, who served in various capacities from 1928 until about 1975, and who collected the assessments for many years. Others who have served are Mrs. Kate Sowers, George S. Sowers, G. A. Simpson, P. O. Coons, Caddie Rhinehart, Clifford Williams, J. E. Dillon, Robert Archer, Miss Mary West, Floyd Stiles, Mrs. Margaret Batchelor, who started the maps of the more recent plots, and Mrs. Ardris Londeen (Mrs. Jack), who is constantly working to bring records up to date, digging to save and restore old, forgotten markers, and devoting many hours to making the cemetery beautiful. (And she has no family buried there.) Contributed by Ardris Londeen; last paragraph by the editor.

D O C T O R S

The first doctor in Spring Hill was Dr. Celia Ann Dayton, who came to Kansas in 1859 and had the distinction of being the first woman doctor in the state. Her son, Dr. Hiram Dayton, came with her. He was killed in 1862 while on a scouting mission against Quantrill's border ruffians. Dr. Annie Dayton, as some of the old-timers call her, was a well loved doctor and was present at the births of many family members of early-day families. She died in 1895.

In 1883 or early 1884, The New Era ran an editorial comment that what Spring Hill needed, among other things, was a really good dentist. Some time in that period the editor boldly announced on the front page that he had gone elsewhere to have dental work done and why, and offered to show evidence of the work if people cared to come by the newspaper office.

Records of Spring Hill Township for 1874 -- '75 list a Dr. James D. Baldwin (also spelled Balwin); 1876, a Dr. Danner. In 1878, Dr. C. J. Sawyer became the doctor for the paupers. The local doctors bid for the work, and Dr. Sawyer's was the lowest bid - $50.00 for one year. There were many calls for a doctor for administering to the "paupers." In an article written by Mrs. Jennie Deskins in 1957, she stated Dr. Sawyer, a practitioner, was a tall, distinguished looking man with a kindly face, and that his wife was the former Flora Wiley, aunt of Will Wiley, the dentist. The Sawyers had one son, Clifford. They lived in the house where Mr. and Mrs. Deskins were living at that time, in the 400 block on East Nichols. After a few years Dr. Sawyer closed his medical practice and opened a dental office upstairs in the Grange Store. He left Spring Hill in 1893.

In 1887, the "pauper work" was awarded to Dr. S.G.W. Stevens and Dr. Holcomb at a 25 percent discount, the doctors to furnish all the medicines.

Other early-day physicians were Dr. Sharon, Dr. J. H. Moore and Dr. I. A. Coons. The local paper announced in an 1884 issue that a Dr. Gilmore was coming to town from Burlington, Iowa, where he had practiced for 39 years.

Dr. Stevens was a long-time resident physician. He lived on South Main Street and kept a variety of animals, including the very fine horses which he rode or drove in his practice.

Other resident physicians have been Dr. M. I. Beaver, Dr. O. C. Thomas, Dr. Peterson, Dr. R. E. Eagan, Dr. R. D. Grayson, and Dr. R. R. Becker. At one time there were five doctors in Spring Hill. Dr. Becker, the last resident physician, moved away in 1942.

Dentists, other than those named above, have been Dr. Barker, from whom Dr. L. V. Gast purchased his business, Dr. Howard Johnson, and George Hartley, also a postmaster. Dr. Gast practiced in Spring Hill for over 40 years. One of the "main attractions" of his office was a huge water jar full of teeth he had extracted. At this time Spring Hill has three dentists, Dr. R. Reif, Dr. William Bucher, and Dr. Harry Lydick.

Spring Hill was without a resident doctor for a number of years and Dr. A. S. Reece and Dr. T. W. Reid made trips from Gardner and held office hours two afternoons a week in a building on Main Street. Both doctors made house calls in the area. Dr. Reid was killed at the Gardner crossing while on his return from a call to Spring Hill. Late in the night he had seen Bill Meek into this world and had then come to Spring Hill to the Charlie Bullis home (Mr. Bullis died that night.).

Dr. William Nees, Dr. Derrington, and Practioner Morris Coltrain have practiced here recently but at this time Spring Hill is without the services of a medical doctor.

Dr. Eldon Ellis, chiropractor, has offices on the highway, in his recently built clinic, and has been in Spring Hill about twelve years. Dr. Harold Sutcliffe, chiropractor here for about thirty years, died in 1982.

The livestock of the community also have had their doctors, among them, Dr. Pearson, Dr. Clem Bunnell, Dr. E. E. Smith, Dr. Michaels (who was killed at the Ocheltree crossing), Dr. Herbert W. Avery, Dr. Charles C. Foulk, Drs. Bill and Laura Morland, and Dr. Duke Morland. Two veterinarians are now located in Spring Hill: Dr. Steve Shelor, located on North Webster, and Dr. Elizabeth Lundgren, south of town.

SPRING HILL FIRE DEPARTMENT

The earliest record found of an organized fire department in Spring Hill was in 1923. However, when I talked to some of the older residents of the town, I found they had fire fighting equipment as early as 1910. This was a hand pumper that was housed for several years in a small building west of the Spring Hill Lumber Company and later in a building on North Main Street.

Arthur Ramey, who has been a member of the fire department, writes the following about the hand pumper:

> Remembering from my childhood, the first time I saw the old hand pumper was in 1926. I was going to school at the Spring Hill Grade School. Dave Slaughter's house located about where the present Grade School lunch room is now, caught fire. This pumper was brought there. It was originally made to be pulled by hand, having later been made to be pulled by car or truck. It had a bar on each side that could be handled by five or six men. These were worked in an up-and-down motion to pump water from a well, cistern, or other source of water. This pumper pumped with tremendous pressure and when the hose was shut off, it was necessary to stop pumping to keep from breaking the hose. It had a short tongue with hand holds and also a reel with a rope so that men could pull it by hand. Two men held the tongue and guided it while other men pulled it with the rope. This pumper was used at a fire in 1934 when Nelson and Simpson General Store burned. It was kept as a standby until 1937 when a new Chevrolet truck pumper was bought to replace it. It was stored in the old fire station for several years. In the late fifties or early sixties the City Council decided unanimously to give this pumper to Aryl Miller for his outstanding work and donations to the fire department and for the starting of the Spring Hill Rural Fire Department. Aryl still has this pumper.

There were no organized firemen until 1923, so when there was a fire, the first men to arrive at the hand pumper took it to the fire and each person did whatever needed to be done. Later a two-wheel cart carrying two tanks was used with the hand pumper and the pumper was changed so it could be pulled behind a car or truck.

In 1918, Louis, Maud, and Mary Belle Stuckey lived in a house where the Grade School lunchroom is now. Mary Belle Stuckey Findley remembers January 1918 when their home burned and the hand pumper was used to fight the fire. It was twelve degrees below zero and the hand pumper froze up.

In 1923 the Spring Hill Fire Department was organized and officers were:

H. H. Neff, President
C. D. Kinnear, Vice President
Stewart Simpson, Secretary
J. E. Gay, Treasurer

Trustees were:

R. B. Nelson
Ernest Wilson
George Landis
R. D. Timmons
Herman Stevens

There were twelve firemen in the original department. Cecil Starbuck of our community is the only one still living and has given me some of this information. R. B. Nelson was chosen to be Fire Chief and held the position until 1943 when Aryl Miller took his place. Aryl Miller served until 1974 when he retired. Jack Anderson was the next chief, serving until 1976, when Melvin Murry, our present Fire Chief, was chosen.

In the twenties, H. H. Neff, father of Betty Neff Corliss, operated a drug store on Main Street. He gave the Spring Hill Fire Department his used Buick touring car that was rebuilt to be a fire truck. The two tanks on the two-wheel cart they had been using were mounted on the Buick. This was the first motorized fire equipment for Spring Hill.

December 21, 1934, the Nelson-Simpson store on Main Street was a total loss by fire. The Neff Buick and the hand pumper were both used to fight the fire. The Lenexa Fire Department had a new fire truck at that time and came and helped save other buildings on Main Street. Since Spring Hill had no city water available, trucks were called on to haul water to the store fire.

In 1937 the Spring Hill Fire Department purchased a new Chevrolet fire truck which in 1965 was replaced by a new Ford fire truck, which they still use.

Previous to 1951 there was no rural fire department. A rural truck was needed badly as the city truck was not allowed to go out of Spring Hill city limits because of insurance laws. There was no money for a new truck. It came to the attention of the fire department that the Naval Air Station was offering a used Ford truck at reduced cost. After soliciting donations in both town and country, there was enough money to buy the truck. It needed repairs and alterations but Spring Hill soon had a rural fire truck. A rural fire department was organized and was called "The Spring Hill Community Volunteer Fire Department".

The community was very proud of their rural fire truck and glad to know they had fire protection. This truck was used until 1966 when a new Chevrolet truck took its place.

In 1967 the Rural Fire Department was instrumental in providing the community with a much-needed rescue car. For several years Spring Hill had been without local ambulance service. This was an inconvenience and could be very serious if one had to wait for transportation to a doctor or hospital. The Rural Fire Department found they were qualified to operate a rescue car, so the officers started looking for a used ambulance. After much shopping they found a used Cadillac ambulance which they could afford. This ambulance needed some minor repairs and remodeling. Aryl Miller, who was very interested in the Rural Fire Department, did most of this work in the garage he operated on the highway. Some of the members were trained to perform rescue operation and the rescue car was ready to serve the community by December 1967. There was no charge for use of the rescue car since its expenses were paid for by donations.

Through the years the fire equipment was housed in different places, until in 1977 when a new City Hall and fire station was built on Highway 169. City and rural equipment is all housed in this building.

The City has a 1965 Ford fire truck. The rural equipment consists of:

1966 Chevrolet fire truck
1976 Ford fire truck
1971 Ford truck with water tank
1980 Chevrolet mini pumper
2 1953 Jeeps

The city truck is used only in Spring Hill city limits but rural equipment is used for both city and rural areas.

The Cadillac rescue car was replaced by a 1976 Dodge and then the Dodge was replaced by the 1979 van which is the present rescue car.

At the present time there are forty-two volunteer and three paid firemen. Spring Hill has made great progress with its fire department and we all should be proud of the modern equipment we have. Most of all we should be proud of our efficient firemen who are willing to give their time to fighting fires and working with the rescue car.

Katherine Miller

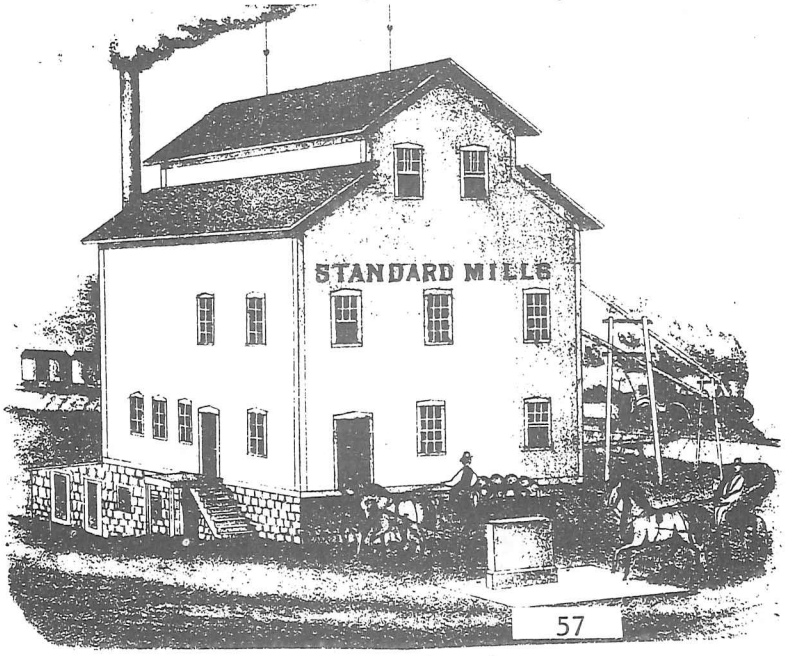
STANDARD MILLS

The first building in Sprague's Addition (new town) was the office of J. C. Rogers and Company, located on the site of the railroad depot in later years. The building was erected in the fall of 1869. J. C. Rogers and his brother W. A. Rogers, a live-stock broker in Kansas City and Chicago, operated a grain and lumber business, and also a bank from this location. In 1870 when the depot was constructed, the Rogers brothers moved their office to the site of the Standard Mill which they built in 1870-1871. The mill was a three-story building, powered by a 60 horsepower steam boiler. It was located on the northeast corner of Nichols Street and Railroad Avenue, next to the railroad. For many years it was the largest business enterprise in Spring Hill. The mill was built by Miller, Gristy & Jenkinson at a cost of $25,000. It had 4 run of buhrs and a capacity of 80 barrels of flour in 24 hours.

In the year 1875 the owners manufactured 100,000 lbs. of meal, 150,000 lbs. of bran, 50,000 lbs. of shorts, and 2,000 barrels of flour. The products gained an enviable reputation and were marketed in Kansas City, St. Louis, and Chicago. In 1874, J. C. Rogers bought his brother's interest in the mill and continued the operation until 1882, when he sold to H. M. McLachin. Mr. Rogers moved with his banking business to Wamego, Kansas. In 1884 Mr. McLachin sold the mill to Mr. Lewis Chamberlin. In the early 1900's the mill burned and was not rebuilt. J. S. Null bought the site in November 1910 and built a grain elevator.

Mr. Null operated the elevator until his death. The business was sold to J. H. Kinnear in 1922 and continued in operation until 1937, when it was closed. The structure was used for a dwelling before being torn down.

F. R. Morrison



THE MAIL

Spring Hill was granted its first post office on October 5, 1857. J. B. Hovey, founder of the town, was the first postmaster and the Post Office was in his hotel. (The Old Hotel across from the Town Square.) Receipts had to pay for carrying the mail once a week from Olathe and according to Mr. Hovey, there were very few receipts. William R. Rutter and A. B. Simmons usually made the trip to Olathe together for protection and company. They often walked that first winter. In 1858 the mail was changed, coming through the distribution office at Westport. J. B. Jackson of Spring Hill contracted to carry the mail weekly. In 1860 the mail was delivered tri-weekly, with A. B. Squires the contractor. In 1863 Jared L. Sanderson contracted to carry the mail for four years for one cent a year, carrying it over the stage line he established from Westport to Fort Scott. Two stops on the route were Spring Hill and the Mahaffie House in Olathe. This mail route continued until the railroad forced Mr. Sanderson out of business.

When the railroad came to Johnson County and Spring Hill was by-passed, the nearest stop was Ocheltree and residents of Spring Hill had to go there for their mail until a switch on the railroad was buit at Spring Hill in 1870.

The first postmaster was relieved of his duties in 1859 when he was elected president of a Republican club. W. G. Davidson was his successor, holding office for several years.

In the early 1870s when the business part of town moved to the railroad and New Town was established, the Post Office was located near the railroad, but records do not indicate where. According to the September 20, 1888, issue of The Spring Hill New Era, "The Post Office will be removed to the new Riffle Building the first of October." This land, according to the records of the Register of Deeds, was the south 20 feet of Lot 4, Block 5, Sprague's Addition. The property changed hands several times; Mr. Riffle was the buyer on two occasions. The land was adjacent to the Grange Store and was where the Landis Plumbing Shop was in later years.

In the early 1900s the Post Office was in the building just north of the old bank building, where the American Legion is now located. The postmaster had a book and stationery shop.

In 1938, Mr. J. E. Gay, postmaster, purchased the building on the east side of Main Street where the Farmers State Bank had been in previous years and the Post Office was moved there. It remained in that location until 1966, when the present building was occupied. The move into the new building was accomplished by the merchants on Main Street as they carried the furnishings, cash box, etc. from the old building to the new. Mrs. Cecil Poisal related

that her husband, Jim, mailed the first letter. She stated, "We had kind of a little parade and then a little ceremony."

Those who are remembered for carrying the mail to and from the many trains which went through Spring Hill are Tom Brown, who used a two-wheel iron cart; Ollie Briggs, Nick Yohe, J. W. Frazee, and Monte Eccles.

Mrs. Leona (Stiles) Riley, age 86, recalls that her Uncle Bert Stiles was carrying the mail on the rural route (now route 2) before she started to high school and that every day her Aunt Rebecca took a fresh team to meet Mr. Stiles about half way through the route. The other carrier was Dave Chaney, who was a carrier in 1905 according to the 1913 history of Spring High School graduates. In good weather, Mr. Chaney often used a motorcycle to make his deliveries. Both carriers had enclosed mail wagons for winter. These square, wood mail wagons had stoves to keep the carriers warm, so in addition to delivering the mail, they also tended fires. Mail was delivered every day except Sunday - Christmas included - in the early days of the Rural Free Delivery. (The route of the Ocheltree carrier in 1908-1916 was 28 miles by mail wagon.)

Cecil Starbuck remembers that about 1912 Dave Chaney purchased a Ford for use in delivering the mail and Bert Stiles acquired a Ford shortly afterward. Of course, there were many places a carrier could not go because there were no roads.

Other pre-World War II carriers were Mike Connors and Jim Arnold, and Jack Timmons was a carrier on route 1 when he left for the service. His wife, like wives before her, became a substitute carrier. She served from July 1942 until November 1945. When Edna needed a substitute so she could go visit her husband before he went overseas, Herman Winkler, editor of the local paper, carried the mail. At times the postmaster, Eddie Gay, had to secure a volunteer from those passing by to serve as substitute. The Civil Service Commission did not give tests during the war years, so George Rodman served as "substitute" for several years.

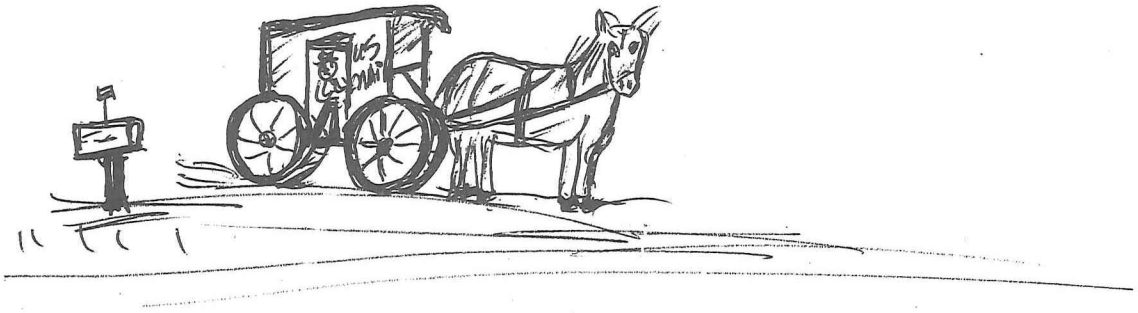
After the war, Jack Timmons resumed duties on route 2 and in 1949, Bill Wilson became the carrier on route 1. They retired in 1973 and 1981, respectively. Route 3 was added in 1979. The current carriers are Keith Stiles, Don Green and Norman Youngman; substitutes, Greg Eilenstine, Ed Cox, and Martha Chase. Substitutes in previous years were Osman Stiles, Stewart Simpson, Emery Sumner, Keith Stiles, Kay Needs, Sandy Hevelone, and Norman Youngman.

In addition to Mr. Hovey and Mr. Davidson, postmasters have been George Hartley, who was also a dentist; O. W. Rhinehart, Clay Reynolds, Fred Ricketts, Roy Payne, P. O. Coons, Sam M. Simmons, J. E. Gay, and Everett Stuteville, the present postmaster. Mr. Gay served under five presidents, beginning with President ~~Eisenhower.~~ Roosevelt.

Postal clerks have been Van Wax, Anna Gay, Opal Gay (wife of the postmaster), and Betty Gilson; Mary Lavery is the present clerk. The substitutes have been Catherine Murphy, Ruth Polfer and Leola (Toots) Wax. The present sibstitute clerk is Arvella Hodge.

During the 1800s and 1890s the Post Office placed notices of unclaimed mail in the local paper, listing all unclaimed letters every 30 days. Some of the lists for Spring Hill are lengthy, no doubt indicative of the transient population.

Until the mid-1970s the Post Office lobby was open at all hours, even on Sunday mornings. However, vandalism became a serious problem and forced the closing of the lobby after the regular working hours.



RURAL CARRIER

THE DEPOT AND RAILROAD

The Missouri River, Fort Scott & Gulf Railroad was begun at Kansas City in 1866. The line was opened to Olathe by December 1869. Residents along the railway were expected to contribute financially toward construction of a railway station in their town. Spring Hill being situated on high land (in Old Town, where the town was then), considerable cutting down through rock would be necessitated if the road should be built through or near the town. This would cost, according to the engineers of the road, $15,000, and the people of Spring Hill were asked to contribute that sum to enable the company to build through and establish a station at the town. This they declined to do. The company therefore built the road one half mile east of the town and established the station two miles north at Ocheltree, possibly as a kind of punishment to the Spring Hill people for refusing to contribute $15,000.00.[1]

For some time the trains did not stop at Spring Hill and the people had to go to Ocheltree for their mail and to take the cars. This was very inconvenient and an effort was made to induce the company to recommend the matter of a station at Spring Hill. A. D. Richardson, who at the time owned 64 lots in the town, went to see Mr. Joy, (whom we assume was a railroad official) with whom he was well acquainted, in reference to the matter, and was successful; the people contributed $1,500.00 toward putting in the side track.[2]

The November 15, 1883 issue of The Spring Hill New Era quotes from the Spring Hill Enterprise, published in 1870, "at this place"..."After many endeavors to induce the company to make a station of this place, a subscription list went the rounds of the place for raising funds to make a switch by which means the switch was constructed. The depot was built by independent enterprise, viz: Geo. Sprague, B. Sprague, and R. T. Thorn, being the first house built at the station, completed the first of April 1870..."

With the establishment of the railroad, the business part of town moved from the original town around the Town Square, and "New Town" and "Old Town" were created. And most new houses built were then constructed in New Town.

The first station was nothing of which the town could be proud. Newspaper articles mention the poor image created by the station as people passed by on the trains. According to a school boy's account in an essay on houses at this time, the depot was a house which sat on wood blocks for a foundation. In November 15, 1883, the editor of the local paper wrote: "The New Depot - If there ever was anything that Spring Hill has long been in

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1 and 2 Andreas' "History of Kansas", published 1883.

need of, it certainly was a new depot and we are happy to record the fact that such a long-needed improvement is now being erected here. The old building is inconvenient in every sense of the word and it is not equal to the business. Spring Hill has suffered for a long time with a miserable depot, but the one now being built for her will be an honor to the place and of which she can justly be proud. It is being built on the same plans and specifications as the one erected in Springfield, Missouri. The building is of frame, 90' x 20', and with a bay window in the telegraph office. The north end of the building is to be used for a waiting room, the second room for the telegraph office and the south end for the baggage room..." The building was occupied January 3, 1884.

But the long-awaited depot evidently burned. The depot remembered by many of the old-timers was constructed of gray cement blocks and had a tile roof. The description otherwise is identical to that of the 1884 depot. The cement block building was started in 1901. The late Earl Chamberlin recalled that business was conducted from a box car while the new depot was being constructed.

The railroad became the Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Gulf and then the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway. Many, many trains went through town - as many as 12 passenger trains a day, and numerous freights. In about 1920 a second track was put down through Spring Hill. J. W. Sowers drove a jitney and took passengers from Old Town to the train. The fare for the jitney-bus was generally five cents. Salesmen, or "drummers" as they were called, stopped at the hotels in Spring Hill to display their wares. Farmers shipped grain and livestock as well as produce, cases of eggs and cans of cream. There was a livestock loading pen south of the present elevator. In 1883, when Kansas was the largest corn producing state in the nation, on one day in December, Lew Chamberlin, elevator operator, shipped 10 cars of corn and had previously shipped 25 cars of corn to Memphis and 2 cars to Richmond, Virginia. In later years, Mrs. Homer Westhoff remembers bringing 5-gallon cans of cream to the 6:00 a.m. train to be shipped to the Paola Butter Company at Paola. The empty cans would return on the next train.

Mr. Frank Emley, who had been agent-operator at Ocheltree since 1884 (at the age of 20), was agent-operator at Spring Hill from 1908 to 1914. J. S. Locke, father of Loren Locke, was operator at Ocheltree around 1915 and in 1917 came to Spring Hill as operator, remaining until 1923. G. N. Samueles and Arthur Marsh were also operators. They had three tricks, which were 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., day; 4:00 p.m. to 12 Midnight, swing shift; 12 Midnight to 8:00 a.m., night. Andy Anderson, husband of Marian Eagan Anderson, was depot agent from the early forties until his death in 1965. Clarence J. Loller was agent when the stone building was dismantled in 1968.

The trains afforded the community residents entertainment, excitement, and unexpected material benefits. Not only did the people go to watch the trains come in (and the passengers come and go), but young people could catch the 4:00 p.m. into Kansas City, enjoy an evening of entertainment and return home on the midnight train. Ladies went by train to do their shopping in Paola, Olathe, and even Kansas City. Mrs. Mabel Stiles remembers the great crowd which gathered at the station when the train carrying Teddy Roosevelt to Osawatomie stopped at Spring Hill and Mr. Roosevelt spoke from the rear platform of the train. He was to announce his candidacy for president on the "Bull Moose" ticket while speaking at Osawatomie. That was 1912.

Men would trap fish at Boicourt, send them to Spring Hill to a fictious name, and when the fish arrived at the station, there would be no one by that name to claim the fish or to pay the shipping. The railroad agent would sell the fish for whatever he could get and send the money, minus the shipping. to the person who had shipped the fish, according to Loren Locke who was closely associated with the railroad.

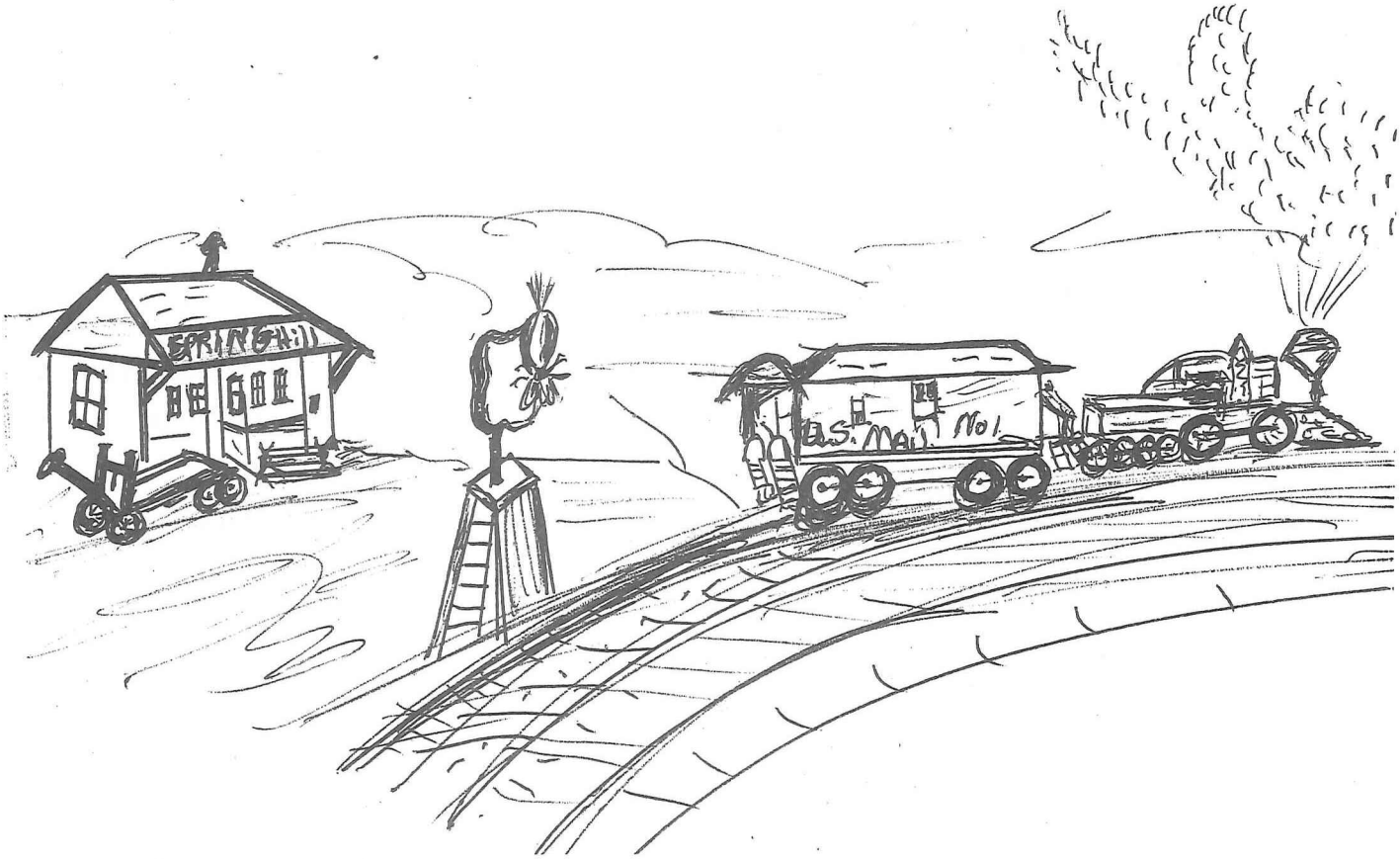
Trainmen lived in or near Spring Hill or knew many of the residents. In summer the train employees conveniently stopped the train when there was a load of watermelons, and managed to look the other way while some of the melons fell from the car. Or they managed to roll some off as the trains went slowly through town. In the winter, coal was the commodity which found its way along the tracks for residents to pick up.

Train wrecks were common and many went to see the wreckage. The trains were the early day form of hitchhiking; newspaper and record book accounts indicate that many young men were killed or severely injured in this venture. The local governing body provided burial.

The arrival of the mail and the newspapers created considerable activity in town as residents came to get their paper and mail. Once a bag of mail was thrown off too soon, and Monte Eccles, who hung the mail at that time, searched for weeks for the lost mail bag. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Westhoff were expecting a check in that mail and when the mail bag was finally found, south of the elevator, Mr. Eccles drove out to the Westhoff farm to deliver the lost check.

Mr. Ed McNeal, who lived in the two-story white house west of the present Post Office (410 East Nichols), worked in the mail department of the railroad, sorting bags of mail on the runs from Kansas City to Coffeyville. The mail car looked like a post office and one had to work very hard and fast to sort all the mail on the run. When the railroads declined in the 60s and mail was transported by trucks, the mail car era came to an end.

After World War II the Frisco Railroad removed one of the tracks through the area. Train traffic continued to decrease; the last passenger train through Spring Hill was about 1965. In 1982 the railroad was sold to the Burlington Northern. The company is making many improvements to the track. Although rail traffice has increased, passenger traffic is not probable. The excitement of riding a train and going down to the depot to watch all the activity as in former years will probably never return.



G R A N G E

Spring Hill Grange (Patrons of Husbandry) No. 279 was organized in 1873. It is not known who organized the Grange as information of the early years is limited. The National Grange was organized in Washington, D.C., December 4, 1867, by a clerk in the Department of Agriculture. While on a trip through the South to gather statistics on rural conditions, the clerk, O. H. Kelly, had conceived the idea of a secret society for farmers for the protection and advancement of their interests.

The first Grange in Kansas was organized in April 1872, at Hiawatha. Among the changes sponsored by the Grange have been railroad regulations, rural free delivery of mail, and women's suffrage. When Sears and Roebuck was getting started, the Grange sold their merchandise through the subordinate Granges by taking orders at the meetings. Members ordered groceries, dry goods and other merchandise. In appreciation for this, Sears established a foundation and each year gives funds to those organizations who do outstanding community service work.

The Spring Hill Grange Co-op was organized in 1877 and the Grange Store building was erected in 1881. In 1882, and again in 1897, the state meeting of the Grange was held in Spring Hill. In 1882 the music was provided by the Spring Hill Choir and Mayor Bert Hollenback gave the welcome. National Master Col. J. H. Brigham was present and spoke.

The Spring Hill Grange Store was probably the largest store the town has had. It was a brick building on the northwest corner of the business block on Main Street (where Ron Stiles' Station is now located). There was a wide, wood stairs leading to the second floor ---- as many as 30 steps. The store carried groceries, dry goods, hardware, and farm machinery in the downstairs. Upstairs were offices and a large hall. Various doctors and dentists had offices there at one time, including Dr. Sawyer, Dr. Thomas, and Dr. Gast. Mrs. Ed Blair ran a millinery shop and Lawrence Lemen had a pantatorium, where Rachel DeTar worked as a presser. The large hall served the community for meetings, dances, vaudeville shows, silent movies, and before there was a gymnasium, the high school basketball teams played there. It also served as a roller rink and the site for election day dinners. Managers of the store were C. D. Flanders, Isaac Rudy, John Lemen, and Ed Blair.

There are many memories of the Grange Store. Some remember the wash tubs, wash boards, and boilers that were on the top shelves in the store and during the dances and ball games, vibrations would cause the tin goods to fall and the clerks were most unhappy the next morning because of the added work of putting merchandise back on the top shelves.

The Grange store closed during the Depression and the building was sold to satisfy judgment on April 14, 1932. Glen Melton purchased the site about 1970 and constructed a filling station there.

The Spring Hill Grange members demitted to Morning Grange in 1934.

Grange Fair Book — 1912

by Orrill Winkler

While tearing out a wall for remodeling and redecorating in the old house they purchased, the Gayle DeNoons found some interesting old items, including a fair book of 1912.

The house is about two miles east of Spring Hill. Inquiries about the ownership of the house revealed that Tom Davis owned the house in 1902. Probably Davis built the house. Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Hines lived there later.

The fair book found was that of the Spring Hill Grange Fair Association, for Sept. 3,4,5,6 1912. Officers of the fair that year were President, J.T. Bates; Vice President, A.P. Williams; Treasurer, Ed Blair; and Secretary, V.T. Nicholson.

The book announced the 8th Annual Fair and was printed by the Independent Print, Olathe, Ks. The advertisers reveal something of the businesses in the Spring Hill community, almost seventy years ago.

The first ad was for the Spring Hill Banking Company. It listed its capital stock at $20 thousand and its surplus at $15 thousand. The cashier was A.P. Williams, and officers were Eli Davis, Thomas Cuddeback, D.J. Ramsey, Caleb Dwyer, W.R. Ruther, Eugene Davis, S.R. Hogue, W.C. Palmer, A.P. Williams, and D.H. Heflebower. Among other ads typical of the times, were those of M.C. Back, manufacturer of light and heavy harness; Mrs. J.C. Bailey, Rose Coomb, and Rhode Island Red Chickens; Floyd Wilson and Son, proprietors of a grain and stock farm; J.S. Hartley, ice; O.E. Mertz, tinner; W.F. Hunter, blacksmith who also sold corn meal and corn chop; A.H. Starbuck, blacksmith; B.H. Saunders, livery barn; J.E. Wikoff, the Commercial Hotel; Willis Keefer, buggies.

The Mijo Telephone Company boasted 529 phones in service in 1912. The Frisco Railroad advertised its steel coaches and chair. Bargains to be had included a subscription to the Spring Hill New Era, for one dollar a year. The Spring Hill Methodist Church ladies were serving dinners during the fair for 25 cents.

Some of the stores who advertised were Bunger Grocery; Homer Neff Drug Store; W.J. Allen, Jewelery and Optometrist; Ralph Hines, meat market; A.G. Rosier Department; The Grange Store, Ed Blair Mgr.; J.W. Janes, Musical Instruments; Hines Bros. Grocery; Denver Bakery and Restaurant.

A number of attorneys and professionals offered their services in Spring Hill in 1912. Attorneys were Sheridan, Meuser and Sheridan; J.W. Parker; John R. Thorne; and John T. Little. The professionals were Dr. H.A. Barkman, dentist; J.F. Hauser, photographer; W.C. Graves, Auctioneer; W.M. Adams, Insurance; E.A. Roofe, Barber; U.S. Realty, owned by Tisdale and Turner; and P.O. Coons, funeral director, who also sold school books in the Post Office.

Mills and elevators of that day included Coop Association, W.W. Frye, Mgr.; Spring Hill Elevator, J.S. Null, Proprietor; Hadley Milling Company; Lanter Lumber, Olathe; and Fordyce Brothers, carpenter and Mill Work, Paola; E. Davis and son, sold furniture and G.A. Simpson was manager of the Spring Hill Lumber Company.

J.L. Pettijohn offered money to loan, and a second bank, the Farmers State Bank had as its officers, Thomas Williams, President, J.W. Sowers, Vice President, Irvin Williams, Cashier, and H.B. Dickey, Secretary.

Farmers who advertised in the fair book of 1912 were George Wedd and Son, Shady Lane Farm; and L. Newton and Son, Longview Farm.

Other items found in the walls of the old house were old shoes, bottles, a book dated 1911, and a "Farmer's Mail and Breeze dated Nov. 4, 1911. A Kansas City Star of March 7, 1912, told of Amundsen, the Norwegian explorer who found the South Pole.

Familiar names among the Star's advertisers were Duff and Repp, Palace Clothing, Robinson Shoes, Wolfermans, Jaccard's, Rothschilds and Emery, Bird and Thayer.

The Star reported cheer ahead for 1912 as crop prospects were fine. Farm market prices listed were: Hogs, over 250 pounds, $6.40 per hundred pounds; 200 pounds and over, $6.35.

The paper was addressed to Theodore Hines, who lived in the DeNoon house, years ago.

HISTORY OF SPRING HILL TELEPHONE SERVICE

The first telephone system in Spring Hill was established by local people who required a telephone. Subscribers furnished their own instrument and built the lines to the central office. In the rural area farmers pooled their resources to extend the line past each of their houses and as many as twenty might be on one line. Maintenance of the telephone instrument and the line to the office was taken care of by the users. Lines extended from Spring Hill into Miami County and the organization was known as the MIJO Cooperative Telephone Association.

As subscribers increased, along with maintenance problems, technology of providing telephone service began changing. Subscribers were demanding fewer people per line and wall type crank phones were being replaced with desk and handset type instruments. Users were having difficulty taking time from their business to take care of telephone requirements and it appeared necessary that operation must be turned over to professionals, so the system was sold to Mr. Lem Snyder. Mr. Fred Rodick had been the previous owner.

Mr. Snyder operated the company until his retirement in 1946, when he sold to Fred Marshall. At this time there was a line call - 4 rings. When this rang, everyone would listen. This call was used for fire or other emergencies.

The co-operative owned Bucyrus Telephone Company was having the same problems faced by all small Co-op's and was taken over by Mr. Marshall and made part of Mijo.

Refinements to telephone service continued to increase as dial telephones were introduced along with automatic switching to replace the central office operator, to require more professional management and financial support. Smaller companies were being absorbed by larger operators to make the big ones more stable and Mijo was purchased by the Kansas Telephone Company who installed dial telephones and began a program of burying cables to do away with overhead lines. The Kansas Telephone Company was absorbed by the Continental System, the present owners, who furnish private line service to all the rural area and direct distant dialing from all phones. Push button dialing is replacing the rotary dial as a subscriber option.

Fred Marshall

MORE ABOUT MIJO

Research has failed to reveal when and by whom the Mijo Telephone Co-op was started; however, it was in operation in 1894 when the exchange was in the Grange Building. The Co-op extended the operation to the rural countryside and Mrs. Ruth (Post) Brown recalls that neighbors got together to cut telephone poles, which were usually small hedge trees. One wondered if the poles would hold up a ladder or if a person could climb them, in order to service the lines. The Bucyrus telephone exchange was part of the Co-op and its exchange was in private homes. In 1907 the Co-op extended coverage to Stilwell. That exchange was sold to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1955.

On February 2, 1909, the Spring Hill exchange was moved to the house a few doors west of the bank corner on East Hale Street (then Pine Street and later Cherry Street). It was purchased from A. C. McGee, manager. In 1913, Mr. W. W. Wickens was manager of the system and in 1925, Fred Rodick was owner.

Even though the Co-op maintained the lines, using a horse and spring wagon for transportation, there was some maintenance the telephone owners had to do, such as watering the ground rod in dry weather (otherwise one could not hear) and restoring weak batteries by putting them in vinegar (usually in a jar lid) to make them last until they could be replaced by a lineman. Then there was the lightning arrestor - three carbon blocks mounted on a clip board on the wall above the telephone. During an electrical storm these would often come off, flying across the room, and would have to be replaced.

The switchboard was open from 5:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., except during harvest when it was open until 10:00 p.m. Calls during other hours were for emergencies only. The ring for the operator, or Central as she was called (and this occupation was considered woman's work), was one long ring. Individual phones were signaled by a series of short and long rings; four long rings was a party-line call for everyone. It was usually a call for help - a fire or some other emergency, but was occasionally used for advertising special events in town.

Long-distance lines ran from town to town. If someone in Spring Hill wanted to talk to someone in Wellsville, Central in Spring Hill would ring the operator in Gardner, who would ring the operator in Edgerton, who would ring the operator in Wellsville, who would ring the party being called. Operators also gave the correct time, which came from an alarm clock sitting on top of the switchboard.

Party lines were large, often as many as twenty parties on a line. Only in recent years have those in rural areas been able to have a private line. These party lines were both

good and bad. The good was the ladies (ladies only?) of the community could keep up on local news and neighborhood gossip. When a phone rang and it was someone else's ring, the ladies, if they weren't busy, could "listen in." Although this was forbidden, everyone did it, with a hand over the mouthpiece so no one would know someone was on the line. No one would think of "butting in" on a conversation. But party lines (and the operator) were helpful in keeping residents aware of their neighbors and friends, passing on information concerning births, illnesses, deaths, funerals, a need, and an emergency. In a small community with only a weekly newspaper, the telephone system drew the community together. A call during the night usually signaled an illness or an emergency and in the morning neighbors could determine if their assistance would be needed.

But the bad part was that with so many on a line, one often had to wait a long time to use the line. If too many receivers were off the hook, the magneto current was weakened so the telephone would not ring. One teenager, after waiting a long time to use the phone, said "Mrs. _____, I small your beans burning!" He got the line. Whether she had beans cooking or was indignant, she got off the line. A gentleman might say, "All right, ladies, let's all hang up and we will try again." Dr. Beaver would say, "Ladies, you'd better hang up. This is Dr. Beaver and I'm going to talk."

Contributed by Francis Morrison

Among those who worked as linemen for the telephone company in Spring Hill were Ernest Wilson, Verne Coffia, and Aryl Miller. H. Roy Shephard was a lineman for Mijo in 1910, according to the 1913 History of the Spring Hill High School Alumni. Several of the young ladies who were graduated from SHHS went to work as operator at the Mijo Telephone Company. Edna Curtis, member of the class of 1903, worked as operator from 1903 until 1911. Marcey Boring, class of 1898, was switchboard operator in 1909. Others who ran the switchboard were Bertha Murphy-Stem, Margaret Walker-Bennett, Ella Geise Stevens, Myrt McCann, Garnet Westhoff, Bertie Sutcliffe Landis, Charlotte Stiles Davis, Betty Barnett, Ella Day, Rickie Duffield, Mildred Wisner, Fern Stuteville, Clara Goff, Marian Anderson, Catherine Marshall, and Ruth Drury.

In 1939 the Mijo Company was owned by L. H. Snyder. In October of that year the company ran the lines under the Frisco tracks on Cherry Street (now Hale Street). The cable contained 50 pairs of wires, according to an account in the New Era. Mr. Snyder sold the company to Mr. Fred Marshall in 1946. The local switchboard was discontinued in about 1959.

J A I L

The first local law enforcement in the new community of Spring Hill was the responsibility of the Township Justice of the Peace, along with the help of the Township Constable. The first Justices of the Peace were J. B. Hovey and W. W. Wilcox; the constables were Wm. Mavity and Robert Victor. As the town grew, the position of night watchman, city marshal, or "door shaker" was created. Early-day "door shakers" were George Reeder, Ben Hakes, A. W. Dawson, Ike Wikoff, and Jack Fultz.

In addition to upholding the law, the duties of these men included grading the city streets. The City had a two wheel grader and with a team of horses, which was hired or borrowed, the marshal graded the city streets. After the streets were paved, the equipment was altered to a wheelbarrow and the duties were to clean the dirt from the curbs and trash from the sewer gratings. One marshal said he had wheeled enough dirt to make a farm if he had had a place to put it.

Early records speak of the "calaboose," but we do not know just where it was. A jail cell, constructed of strap iron, was built in 1927 by A. H. Starbuck and placed in the City building on North Main Street. This building, which also housed the fire equipment, was about 75 feet north of Nichols on the east side of North Main Street. The jail was used to curtail the activities of those who over-indulged with alcohol or who became a little too enthusiastic in their discussions. When the building was dismantled, the jail was given to John Dunn. When Mr. Dunn sold his second-hand business, Rachel and King DeTar bought the jail and gave it to John Dunn's daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Meyer. The jail now sits in her yard. It is used when the City has celebrations and was a great attraction during the Centennial.

Today the County has taken over the responsibility of the incarceration of prisoners. Spring Hill has a modern police department with a chief of police, who is aided by three patrol officers, seven reserve officers, one animal control officer, and one lake patrol officer.

WORLD WAR II YEARS ON THE HOME FRONT

CHANGES! Rural areas such as Spring Hill were still recovering from the Great Depression, when most families had only enough for the barest necessities, if that. Now one or more members of a family had a job with a regular pay check and at wages many considered high, at first at least. Jobs in the Spring Hill area were available at Pratt-Whitney, an aircraft engine factory (where Bendix and General Services Administration are now), the largest building in the country under one roof; North American Aviation in Kansas City, Kansas; Hercules Powder Company (Sunflower Ordnance), DeSoto; Remington Arms Ammunition Plant (Lake City Arsenal) near Independence, and the Naval Air Station northwest of Spring Hill.

Many streets and roads were not improved; travel was not a pleasure. The road to Sunflower was old Highway 7 and Highway 10 - narrow, hilly, and hazardous, but it was paved. Many traveled over gravel roads, and the dust was terrible. About 28,000 people worked at Sunflower. Carpooling was a necessity if one was not fortunate enough to be able to ride a Bradley bus from Paola. Hundreds from Spring Hill commuted each day.

Defense plants "beat the bushes" to find people to come to work. Betty Miller remembers personnel from Sunflower went into the hills of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas, traveling in a bus with a loud speaker, and went up and down the country roads broadcasting about the fantastic jobs and wages available at Sunflower. Mrs. Miller worked in the personnel office; she stated many of those who came could not read or write. Workers came by the bus load; the fortunate found housing in the barracks-type houses built by the Government. (And the only interior door was that on the bathroom.) Some lived in any kind of makeshift dwelling, including chicken houses, and it was common for two or more families to live in a two-bedroom unit. One could rent a refrigerator for twenty-five cents a week, and the person who rented them made money on his venture.

There was no influx of workers into Spring Hill, where housing was not available. Many did take jobs to help out the war effort, and worked long, long hours. Families raised victory gardens, but this probably was not a new activity for most Spring Hill residents, just a new name. Jar lids for canning became quite a problem - no rubber rings for the zinc lids which were common at that time, or for the glass lids. And the two-piece metal lids were extremely hard to find.

Automobiles, farm machinery, metal items, tires, men's rubber boots, and men's rubber work shoes had been removed from the open market, many of them prior to May 1942, when a new word was added to household vocabularies - rationing. On May 4, 1942, families signed up for sugar, the first item to be rationed, and the one to be under controls

the longest, although in June the sugar suppliers were petitioning the Office of Price Administration to increase the allotments as their warehouses were too full. Extra sugar could be obtained for canning, if one certified how much was canned the previous year.

Coffee was rationed in the fall of 1942. Each person over the age of 15 was entitled to one pound every five weeks. Before many months passed, butter, meat, fats, oils, and practically all processed fruits, vegetables, and juices were rationed. Canned foods were on a point system. A family was alloted so many points and could determine how to spend them. Those who lived in rural areas had few problems with their grocery supplies, but those who lived in cities often stood in line to buy butter and meat, and did not have enough sugar in particular for all their canning needs. Some managed to trade coffee stamps for sugar stamps. And it was a treat to go home to the farm where there was no shortage of eggs, butter, milk, cream, and canned foods.

Shoes, fuel oil and gasoline were added to the rationed commodities. Nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect in September 1942, and the speed limit was 35 miles an hour! This limit was necessary because of the condition of most motorists' tires. Gasoline rationing was established on A, B, and C priority. Most were B or C allotments - 3 gallons a week; it was non-essential travel. Bus travel was very popular as well as necessary. There were no safety regulations regarding overcrowding in those years. The drivers packed in the passengers. One could stand in the aisles and sleep for a hundred miles, supported by the many around him. Three and four or more to a seat was a common sight.

Many devised all manner of inventions to make old tires usable. It was easy to notice the condition of the tires at 35 miles an hour. Some had a double rim, indicating one tire inside another. Lucky ones could get their tires recapped. In Spring Hill, King DeTar purchased molds to do recapping. If a motorist had a new tire, he was the object of wonderment - how did he manage? One resident recalls that his cousin had a service station and urged him to buy a set of new tires one weekend, but the resident said he would wait until payday (credit was used only in extreme emergencies, such as buying a house). But on payday the tires were not availabe and did not become available for several years.

Ladies remember the absence of hose. Silk and rayon hose had disappeared from the market. The newest thing was nylons! If a serviceman wanted to make a hit with his date, he gave her a pair of nylons. The hose cost about $1.50 and would wear for at least a year, often three years. If a stocking had a runner, a woman took it to the

hosiery department, where now ladies repaired hose instead of selling them. When the hose became very faded, they could be tinted with Rit. Of course, all women who did not work on the assembly line wore dresses and hose. But sometimes there were no hose, and one did not go without. The ladies wore leg makeup and made the hosiery seam (seamless hose were many years away) with an eyebrow pencil. The painted hose looked very nice on the way to work at 6:00 a.m., but on a hot summer day on a crowded bus with no airconditioning, at 6:00 p.m., the hose became hot, streaked, and the seams began to run! The leg makeup ran, too, sometimes onto white shoes, and it was almost impossible to remove. Offices were hot and it was difficult to keep up appearances.

If you saw women dashing across streets, all rushing toward a store, it was almost a certainty the store had NYLONS! Stampedes for white shirts were mild compared with those for hose. Most men other than assembly-line workers or those who wore uniforms had to wear white shirts, and permanent-press had not been heard of. Many bosses allowed their secretaries to stand in line for hours to get a white shirt, provided the employee got one for the boss, too. This was true of sheets, towels, and household goods, also.

Hand-me-downs were a necessity for newlyweds during these years. One couple managed to find some knives, forks and spoons by rummaging through boxes of a store going out of business, and they considered themselves the luckiest newlyweds in town.

Anything electric was impossible to buy, and this included furnaces. The Healy's new apartment was heated with a Warm Morning coal stove which exploded at least weekly. The washing machine was rented - a wringer type - and was delivered to the apartment complex one day a week, to be used by all four women and be ready for pickup the next morning. Later the machine was left in the complex. For this service the renter paid about $1.25 a month. Telephones could be obtained, sometimes, if one had a doctor's statement that it was an absolute necessity. Often the nearest telephone was five miles away, and there was no gas for making emergency trips. Hitchhiking was necessary.

In June 1943, the Government passed the pay-as-you-go income tax withholding. That same year a steel penny was minted but was not popular and was discontinued, to be replaced with a penny made of salvaged cartridge cases and a small amount of copper. War bonds and savings stamps were a popular and advertised method of saving. School children, as well as others, could buy savings stamps for 10 cents, paste them in a book, and when the book was full, cash it in for a war bond. Betty Miller and her sister, Rachel Barber, recently cashed a bond purchased with their savings stamps. The $17.50 bond was worth almost $98.00.

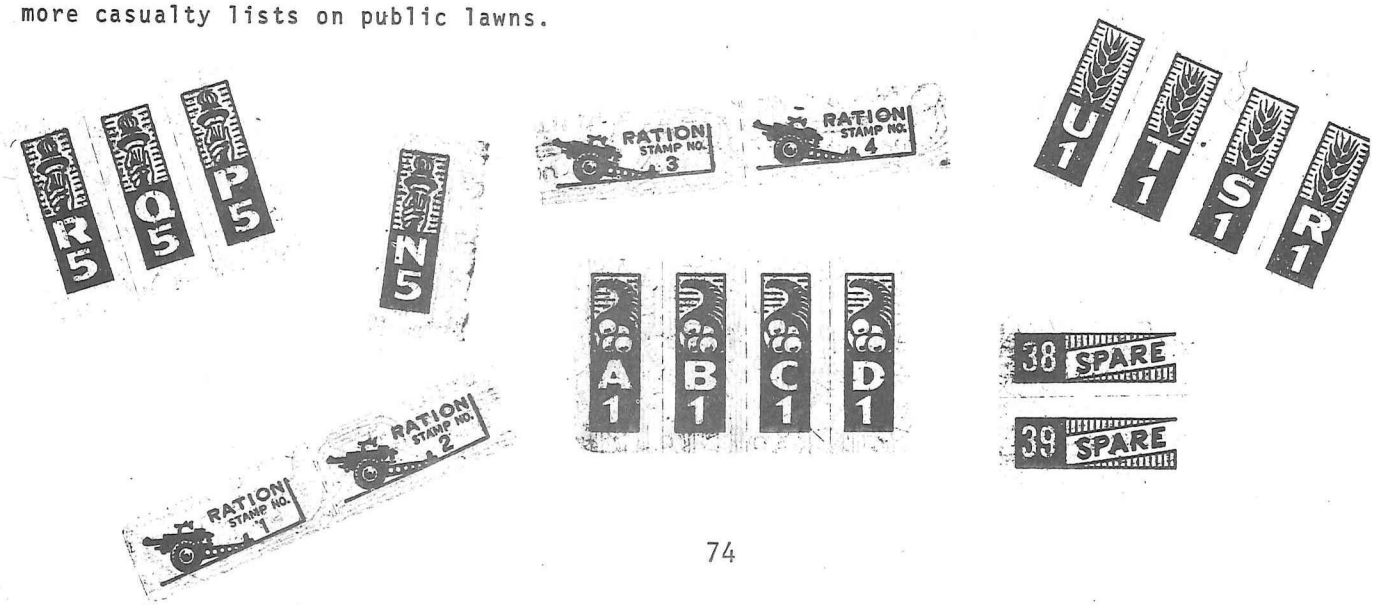
Daylight saving time was initiated. Houses had heavy dark green window shades to be pulled at night so that everything would be blacked out. At times there were no street lights. Young people wrote many letters to servicemen and baked cookies and made candy to send to friends in the service. The best way to ship to the Pacific area was to can the cookies, using a canning machine which required metal cans.

Volunteer efforts ranged from scrap metal drives to used rubber drives, to gathering milk weed pods and walnut hulls. 4-Hers and other youth gathered the milk weed for Mae West life jackets as the silks of the pods were used for filling. Walnut hulls were used in gas masks. Tin foil and string were saved. New recipes were created by the women; a popular one was a sugarless, butterless, eggless, milkless cake. And new ways were invented to repair old machinery, tools, clothing, and household items as many could not buy replacements.

In some communities the Black Market or under-the-counter sales flourished. There was usually more money than merchandise. Early in the war some workers had been "frozen" in jobs so that companies could not practice pirating from each other.

Get-togethers included singing the popular songs. Some recall that "Miss You" was banned from radio broadcasting because it was upsetting to so many listeners. Among the hits were "When the Lights Go On Again All Over the World," "God, Bless America," "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," "It's Been a Long, Long Time," "Oh, Johnny," and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree With Anyone Else But Me."

When victory in Europe was announced and again when the war ended, young people gathered down town, wanting to do something, but there was nothing to do in the way of a celebration and no way to go anywhere. The church bell at the Methodist Church rang, and many prayers were said. Hopefully there would be no more servicemen's flags in the windows and no more casualty lists on public lawns.



NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper in Spring Hill was the Spring Hill Enterprise, which was established in December 1870 as a Republican journal by Buel and Sprague. Mr. Sprague bought the interest of Mr. Buel on January 24, 1871, and soon associated himself with a Dr. Parker. Dr. Parker then bought Mr. Sprague's interest and conducted the paper as a Democrat journal for a time. Early in 1872, W. H. McGown became the owner, changed the name to the Western Progress and the politics to Republican. In 1883, J. W. Sowers and Rolla Leonard are listed as proprietors. The paper became The Spring Hill New Era, and that paper has continued until today, the oldest newspaper in Johnson County.

In 1884, Arthur Havermale was publisher. In 1898, Will F. Wilkerson purchased the paper and remained with it until 1929. Mr. Wilkerson had been editor previous to his becoming owner. For a time the paper was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Will Morton and later by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Martindale. The Wilkersons were in Topeka at those times as Mr. Wilkerson had a state job.

When Mr. Sowers had the paper, it was located on Railroad Avenue just south of the City Hotel for many years. The office was later moved to the west side of Main Street, where it remained until 1938.

In 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Winkler of Gypsum, Kansas, purchased the paper. A notice in the Paola Western Spirit, October 1929, stated: "A Deserving Newspaper - Seems strange to glance at the Spring Hill New Era and not see the name of Wilkersons. I'll be lost without them--husband and wife. Their zeal for the upbuilding of Spring Hill and their devotion to the New Era always impressed me. H. E. Winkler, the new editor and owner, starts out very well, and his success will, in a measure, make up for the loss of the Wilkersons to that valuable publication. By the way, I feel sure that for more than five years past the business people and the readers generally, in Spring Hill, have overlooked the importance of their home newspaper. If they should lose the New Era, they would wake up to the importance of its power and its value."

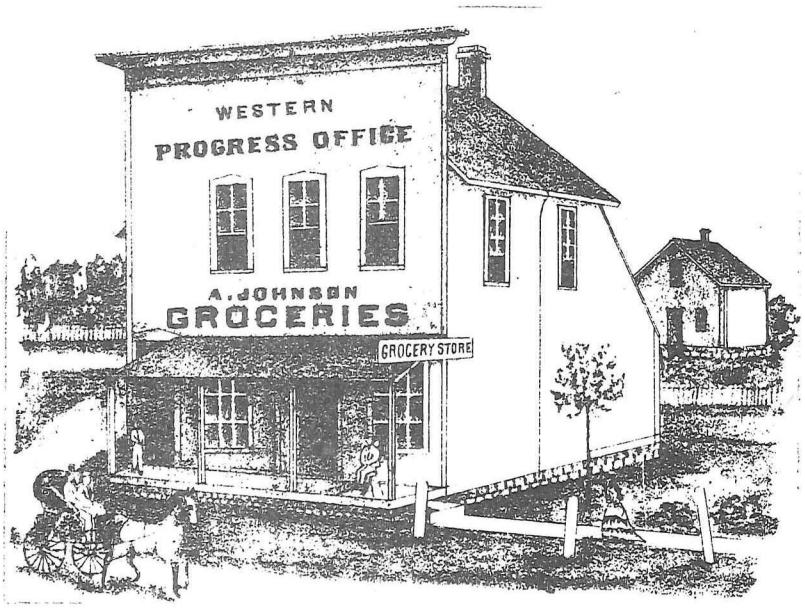
When the Winklers took over the paper, they had one employee, Miss Ettanet Allen, a typesetter. Miss Allen had been with the Wilkersons for a number of years; she was an efficient employee and operated the complicated machine with two fingers. She met every train, and old-timers liked her newsy newspaper. A later employee was Miss Edna Curtis.

One of the biggest stories of their early days for the Winklers was the closing of all the banks by President Roosevelt in 1933. The paper put out a four-page edition, pages the size of typewriter paper. Another story of that era was the fire which destroyed the Nelson-Simpson store and the IOOF Lodge Hall.

In 1938 the Winklers moved the paper to the east side of Main Street, where it remained until 1950 when the paper was moved to Gardner. In the late '30s or early '40s, Mr. Winkler sold part interest to Lloyd Wilcox, but two years later he bought back Mr. Wilcox's share. After the paper moved to Gardner, the Winklers and James Cole drove from Spring Hill each day. In 1965 Winklers sold the paper to The Johnson County PUblishers. Melvin Clingam was owner and Brad Lowell, editor. Bill Whipperman has been editor and publisher since May 25, 1975. He purchased the paper in August 1982.

For many years Maud Stuckey wrote local news for the paper. Since she had a wide acquaintance, especially of early-day families, she wrote of many family events and relationships. After she retired, Fern Traul wrote local news for several years and also wrote special articles on early-day history. Other regular reports for the New Era have been Carol Moser, Shirley Cuthbertson, Mary House, and Orrill Winkler. Local coverage has been almost non-existent for the last few years. The paper is primarily sports news and advertisements. Marty Green is the sports news reporter. Tim Janicke was photographer during his school days. Occasionally the Olathe paper has a picture relating to Spring Hill community. Sandi Wilson writes a column in The Blue Valley Gazette.

Orrill Winkler contributed the material about The New Era.



ENTERTAINMENT
(And Pranks)

One source of entertainment during the '20s and '30s was the old silent picture show. The movie house was on the east side of Main Street and was operated by Roy Payne and later by Lawrence Cantrall. One could pay his dime and watch Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, or Fred Granger ride across the sand, through the sagebrush, and around the mountains, accompanied by music. Among those who provided the music were Ruth Tisdale, Eva Locke, Faye Gast, Crawford Neff, and Hortense Young.

The theater had none of the modern-day conveniences, but was a store with a level floor and wood chairs. When a young man sat too close to his date, or put his arm around her, the people in the rows behind could not see. The movie operator flashed a notice on the screen, naming the young man and telling him to move over and/or remove his arm from around _____ (and named the girl), and if he did not want to do that, he could come to the window and get his money.

During the Depression the merchants sponsored free movies to attract people to town. They also did this in later years during the summer months, showing outdoor movies downtown, to entertain youngsters and to attract business.

Medicine shows occasionally came to town. Three or four traveled with the troup, entertaining with plays, skits, and songs, selling medicines--snake oil and other Indian herb remedies. If one took enough, he was bound to feel better as the medicines were usually cascara and 80% alcohol.

One summer night Lawrence Cantrall, operator of the movie, rigged up a blower from a threshing machine to cool the building. This was set up in the alley behind the building and worked well until some pranksters decided things were just too quiet in town and dumped a can of black pepper into the fan. Interest in the show stopped and the building emptied in seconds.

Halloween night in the early 1900s was the highlight for the youth of the community, occasionally spilling over to the Not-so-Youthful. There wasn't a choice of "Trick or Treat," - JUST TRICKS. The usual pranks were dumping outhouses, ticktacking windows, unhinging gates, and carrying off various articles. The next morning Main Street was usually full of articles that had to be reclaimed by their owners.

One memorable Halloween night, a group of boys approached the rear of an outhouse, intending to dump it over. What they did not know was that the owner had anticipated this and had moved the outhouse about four feet to the front. Consequently, the boys found themselves

up to their hips in the old pit. One morning after Halloween, residents found a donkey hitched to a spring wagon on top of E. Y. Gay's Hardware Store. No one ever knew just how that happened. And on another occasion, Dr. S.G.W. Stevens' Jersey cows were taken up the wide stairs in the Grange Hall and tied to the pillars supporting the roof. The next morning there were two rings on the floor around the pipes. (And an angry doctor?)

EARLY DAY ENTERTAINMENT

The following was written by Mrs. Harry Dalzell in Spring Hill's First 100 Years:
During the 80's and 90's a wave of Spiritualism swept Kansas and Spring Hill had a little more than its share, and a good Spiritual seance was considered very good entertainment and ghosts and moving tables were a part of everyday living of some of the people. Lectures, literaries, dramatic studies at night, and in summer medicine shows were the entertainment but much fun was had at sleighing parties, taffy-pulls and just plain parties. The oldsters read more than they do today and politics always created quite a lot of excitement and in election years, quite a few fights. Most of the settlers who came just after the Civil War were veterans of that war and nearly all from the Union side. A few had been Democrats before the war but fought on the Northern side, and they all took their political beliefs very seriously.

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Memorial Day and the Fourth of July were days of celebration in Spring Hill and families usually took well-filled baskets and gathered in the Town Square/City Park for speeches, music, visiting, and feasting.

School children ice skated during the noon hour, as well as after school, on a pond on the Cuddeback place. The school bell would sound several minutes before time for classes to start, to give the students time to get to the school building. Old timers tell of the big snows in the winters and all the ice skating; records of the late 1800s and early 1900s reveal roads were completely blocked for some time by heavy snows, and those children had more snow to play in than the children of today. Young people, of course, had ice cream socials. The ice was cut from the creek east of town and stored for summer use. And then there was baseball!

The town had baseball teams and played in a regular league in the 20s and 30s. There were 8 volley ball teams and 8 soft ball teams then. Roy Brown of Spring Hill played in the minor league ball teams and later was a pitcher for Spring Hill. One hot day in the 30s the Spring Hill team played the Kansas City Blues. Roy Brown and Gail Cooper pitched; Walt Coffey was the catcher. It was a very, very exciting day! Cecil Starbuck Carl Nelson, and Lloyd Tisdale were among the players. SPRING HILL WON!

Spring Hill's field was to the east of the old high school building. Spectators could sit in the shade of the trees.

The following story from The Spring Hill New Era, September 19, 1929, expresses the town's enthusiasm for baseball.

"...Tizzie (Lloyd Tisdale) began the fun. In the first inning, Jim Lackey made a beautiful hit. Tizzie followed with an easy roller to second, which put Jimmy away, but Tizzie stole second the next ball thrown, and then the LeLoup player who was batting and playing for our Buck (Starbuck) made a slow sacrifice to the pitcher and Tizzie was moving, was at third when the pitcher picked up the ball and when it was going over to first for that put out, Tizzie was nearing home. And Tizzie was home, two feet before the return from first! Tizzie stole the game from Wellsville right in the first inning.

"But there were other interesting features in the game. Spring Hill's second baseman made a score on Cal Nelson's hit and as he did not move out from the plate fast enough, the catcher pushed him away--pushed him away on the nose, which irritated the LeLoup player some and other players had to hold both of them for a while. Game resumed, but Spring Hill has no grudge...

"Wellsville, dear, we call it a glorious day.

"Wheeler Chamberlin and S. M. Simmons are begging Tizzie to return the backstop to Wellsville as they may need it. They must not steal everything when visiting..."

The score was Spring Hill - 7 Wellsville - 2.

MEMORIES OF THE CITY PARK

The park was a wide playground for the Old Town children...We cannot vouch for the part of the park history that fascinated us most. Originally there was a well near the center of the park. A town pump once served the public. In our time the well was covered by a wooden platform and we were cautioned repeatedly not to become too curious as to what might be beneath that platform. "Keep away," our parents warned us. "There's a well under there. You might fall in." The truly intriguing feature that held a world of appeal for us children was a wide circle of earth that had been thrown up around the well. It was only a few feet high, sloping gradually inward and outward. I have no definite idea how large the circle was but it was supposed to have served as breastworks if the little town was attacked by Indians. A small company could have found shelter there and at the same time defended their precious well.

This story may not be true but it is interesting and plausible. Indians were abundant in eastern Kansas one hundred years ago and white settlers may not always have been welcome.

We do not know if any traces of the old fortifications remain. Time would naturally level, but of its presence in our childhood we have vivid memories. We ran up and down its grassy slopes and chased back and forth across the enclosure, always being careful to turn out for the old well.

We remember tall old oaks, maples, elms, cottonwoods, locusts. In their shade went on much more than just play for the Old Town children. In summertime the public made frequent use of the place. A band stand stood just to the south of the center. The Spring Hill brass band was an institution of which we were proud. They displayed their skill here especially on the Fourth of July, an occasion which for many years was celebrated in the park. A block of hand-built seats in front of the stand held an appreciative audience as the reading of the Declaration of Independence and the outbursts of florid oratory popular in that day kept even the children quiet. Hitching racks around the park were ready for the horses that drew the buggies, the spring wagons, the surries and sometimes even the clumsy vehicles called lumber wagons.

Several church ice cream festivals were held in the park each summer. Lit by Chinese lanterns those scenes were fairy land to childish eyes. Family picnics were not infrequent. Often religious services were held on Sunday evenings. Sometimes these were by one or the other of the churches and sometimes they were union meetings. There was a charm in the cool park with the music coming through the half darkness.

When the public was not making use of it, the park was ours for a playground. We had never heard of the games and devices used today to lure children to our city parks but we were aware of no lack of interesting activities. In the twilight we chased fire flies, lightening bugs we called them then. In the autumn we rolled up huge piles of dead leaves for forts or set them in smaller rows as walls for playhouses. In winter we tramped out paths in the snow for games of fox and geese or snowballed one another from vantage points behind the big trees.

Jo E. Boring

The above article is copied from the July 4, 1957 issue of The Spring Hill New Era. Jo E. Boring was a graduate of the Spring Hill High School class of 1896. She later taught English and drawing at a school in Kansas City, Kansas.

The Old Hotel, by Jo E. Boring

"In our early childhood we lived in what was popularly known as The Old Hotel...As we knew the building it was a big red-painted structure with a string of three one-story rooms running across the back...We lived in the east half and the family of Joseph Russell lived in the west...It was the hall that held for us youngsters mystery and fascination, for in the floor of the closet under the stairs were traces of a trap door. That door opened into a narrow tunnel leading to an outlet just outside the west wall of the house. The old house had been a station on the Underground Railway by which slaves escaped to Canada and freedom. How much of this is true we cannot know, but it was a favorite story of George S. Sowers. George's father was the owner of the building as we knew it...and the hotel keeper in its early years...

"Two huge maple trees, one at the front and one at the back, furnished shade for the playhouses we loved to build. A well of the old oaken bucket type was near one of the back doors.

"The new Baptist Church stands just west of what was the site of the old building which was razed a few years ago."

FAIRS TO FALL FESTIVALS

Spring Hill's Fairs began in 1904 as a stock and farm exhibit on the street, according to Ed Blair's 1915 history of the area. The next year, two acres of ground adjacent to the City on the south were leased from Mrs. Mathews. These two fairs were so successful that in 1906, the fair board leased fifteen acres, fenced it and erected a floral hall, put up stables and pens for stock and each year for at least 11 years made more additions, and the fair was considered one of the finest in Eastern Kansas, and "without horseracing, considered as one of the great drawing features of a fair," according to Mr. Blair.

Spring Hill merchants maintained a band, and it was an attraction at the fairs.

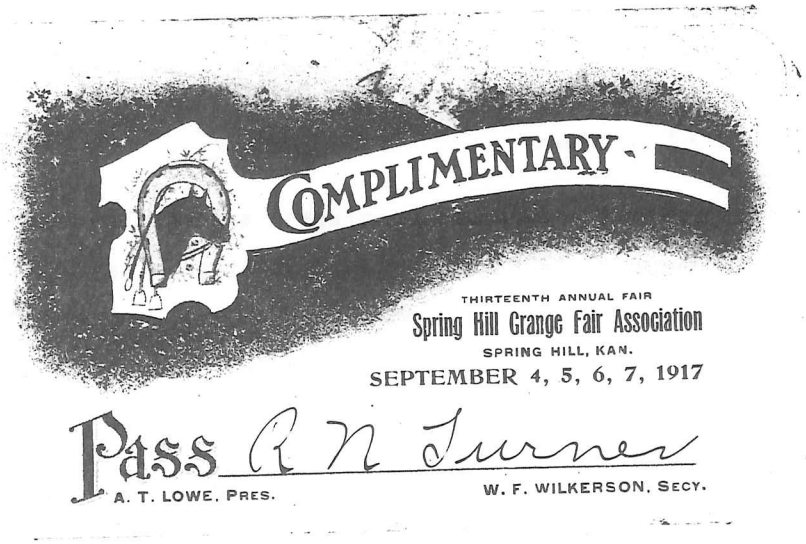
Loren Locke, long-time druggist, remembers in 1925 or 1926 the fair was held in the Grange Hall. There were displays of vegetables, ear corn, wheat, dresses, hand work and baked goods, canned fruits and vegetables, and many other items. Later the name was changed from the Grange Fair to the Spring Hill Community Fair. Officers were elected from the area and the fair was moved to the Rural High School grounds. Amusements consisted of ball games, football, horseshoe pitching, music contests, turtle races, and contests for children. In 1935 a platform for programs and dances was constructed. Some of the men had turtles entered in a race (Loren Locke and Ott Timmons, among them) but according to the school journalism section of the local papers, the high school students won the races with their turtles.

The Fairs were discontinued during World War II and as Gardner was having the Johnson County Fair, the community fairs were not started again. In the fall, for several years, the community would have a carnival and displays of baked goods, canned fruits and vegetables, and handwork. (The last one we remember was about 1950.)

In 1954, the Fall Festival was started. The last weekend of August finds the town positively booming with activity - fishing derbies, horse pulls, rock concerts, PARADE, street dancing, and carnival-type booths along Main Street. In recent years one of the highlights of the Saturday night activities has been the naming of the Citizen of the Year. Those who have been honored are Mr. and Mrs. Loren Locke, Mrs. Cecil Poisal, Mrs. Donna Gibson, Mr. Neal Janicke, and Mr. Melvin Murry.

On Sunday morning there is a combined church service in the Park. For many years families brought well-filled baskets of food for a combined basket dinner after the services. In recent years this has been changed to a Bar-B-Q chicken dinner sponsored by the Ruritan Organization. Hundreds of chickens are cooked on the 40-foot long barbecue pit, and they are supplemented with Marlys Meek's potato salad and baked beans, which require, among

other ingredients, 200 pounds of potatoes, 20 dozen eggs, and 16 gallons of beans. In the afternoon activities include visiting, bingo, horse shoe pitching, concerts, games, contests, and ice cream and cake. The home-made ice cream has been replaced with the "boughten" kind, but it is good, and all in all it is one big weekend to remember. (Sometimes we even have a politician or two or three who come to speak.)



DECORATION DAY

One of the biggest celebrations in Spring Hill was May 30 of each year when little girls, dressed in white organ y, met at the Methodist Protestant Church, located on East Hale where Ora Kirby lived until recently. The church was known as the "Lizzie Bailey" church. She was the Sunday School teacher and also the owner and operator of the milinery shop.

Men marched along side the hay rack, pulled by a team of horses, that carried the girls with baskets of flowers to decorate the graves of those who had passed on. A Memorial Service was held at the cemetery and people came from miles away to attend.

In the early 1940s, Eddie Gay, Stewart Simpson and King DeTar marched with the firing squad with flags to place on graves of soldiers.

In 1941 the ladies at the Methodist Church voted to prepare a noon meal for those who had come a great distance for the memorial service. Proceeds that year were $31.00. People stood in line to be served. Each year, more and more people came, and by 1956, proceeds for the dinner were $173.00. In 1967, 250 dinners were served to adults for $1.50 and children for $0.75. The dinners were not served after 1972 because the women worked too hard to prepare for so many and space was limited. They served baked ham, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, baked beans, tossed salad, pie, cake, tea, coffee, and bread and butter.

The Legion Post #350 was formed in 1947. Mansel Nicholson played taps. A. W. Dawson and Carl West were Spanish-American War Veterans.

In 1969, Jim Meyer, son of Albert and Marjorie Meyer, erected a flag pole at the cemetery and dedicated it to the Meyer and Dunn families. Every year the flag has been raised on Memorial Day by Jim or Marjorie.

For years, Fern Stuteville took flowers to the cemetery and decorated the graves of those whose families could not come.

When the date of the Decoration Day holiday had been changed, it became confusing to the people and the services stopped.

Garnet Westhoff

MEMORIAL DAY

The earliest recorded parade and celebration on Memorial Day was 1884, when the celebration was to be held in the park because the editor of the local paper had urged it and the people accepted, "since no one church would hold everyone who will be there." The paper ran a notice that "all sons of veterans over 10 years of age and under 16 are to dress in dark or black clothing and all those daughters over 10 and under 16 are to dress in white with a rosette of red, white and blue on her left shoulder." After the program in the park, they would march to the Cemetery to decorate the graves. At this Memorial Day the G.A.R. marched to the Cemetery to choose a lot for burial of Civil War veterans.

In future years the procession was led by Captain Francis Morrison, who usually rode a white horse, and the girls rode on a decorated wagon. They were no longer the daughters of the veterans but the young ladies of the community. And in later years the old soldiers, too, rode to the Cemetery for the program. Women who remember those parades, and who participated in them, include Ella Stevens and Helen Newton.

In recalling his boyhood in Spring Hill, Max Deweese told how the boys would run to town when they heard the G.A.R. assembling. Jerry McCanse, the town's negro barber, played the fife and L. C. West was drummer. In the 1950s a trumpet player from the high school sounded Taps. American Legion members were flag bearers. For many years members of the Spring Hill Rustlers 4-H Club placed flags on the graves of the veterans. They were supervised by Carl Weir and C. G. Weir of the 4-H Club and in later years by Bill Wilson of the American Legion.

SCHOOL MEMORIES OF GARNET WESTHOFF

I cannot begin to name all the people who helped make the Spring Hill schools as they are today but I cannot forget the ones when our children were going to school. The oldest, Mary Esther, started at Tuckerville but the next year those students went to Spring Hill Grade School. There was a teacher for each two grades. Dorothy Simpson, Betty Jean Lloyd Kappelman, Goldie Ramey, Rachel Hoopes Rakestraw, Isabelle Adamson McCracken, Betty Corliss, Glen Peer and Ione Ramey, to name a few, gave students a good start on their education and laid a good foundation in their lives. Our children began school in 1942.

Arthur Allen Ramey and Bill Stuteville were custodians for many years. Thelma Bilyeau served delicious hot lunches and growing boys enjoyed seconds. I helped Thelma in 1947 through 1951. Other cooks were Grace Tisdale, Dorothy Miles, Marjorie Meyer and Yolanda Thurman.

The P.T.A. was organized and playground equipment and books for the library were bought for the school.

Our children were graduated in 1955, '57, and '58. I am reminded of all the activities - band, pep club, ball games, plays, and banquets. Having three daughters in high school at the same time was quite something to be proud of when they were all dressed in their pastel colored net formals to go to the school prom.

We appreciate the education they received under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. V. O. Ward, Geraldine Avery, Lena Secrest, Bertly Masterson, Gail Heckert, Nannie Simms, Joanne Fisher, Joann Barr, Scott Harmon, and Merle Gibson. I do not know the faculty since that time. I realize Gerald Swope has been coach for many years. How shocked and saddened the community was May 19, 1973, when his wife Carolyn and son Barry were killed in an automobile accident coming home from the Kansas high school baseball tournament.

Edna Mayes was honored in 1977 when she retired after teaching 25 years in Spring Hill schools. Betty Corliss, Caroline Morrison, Harriett Dawson, Alberta Makadanz, Rachel Rakestraw, Catherine Stiles, Isabelle McCracken, and Mrs. Straney are a few of the full-time and substitute teachers of the community. Josephine Neff taught in Olathe many years and Louise Wiswell was county superintendent from 1928 through 1932.

Marlys Meek helped Stella Cantrall in the hot lunch program at Hilltop until the school burned in 1965. She then went to Spring Hill Grade School after Mrs. Bilyeau retired. Marlys is now food service supervisor for all the schools in the district and does a wonderful job, with the assistance of Agnes Cox, Emaline Jones, Julie Joeckel, Yolanda Thurman, Donna Turner, Violet Coffey, Jean Cole, Sharon Owens, Helen Fickel, Jeannie Roberts, Blanche

Fountain, and Velma Zink.

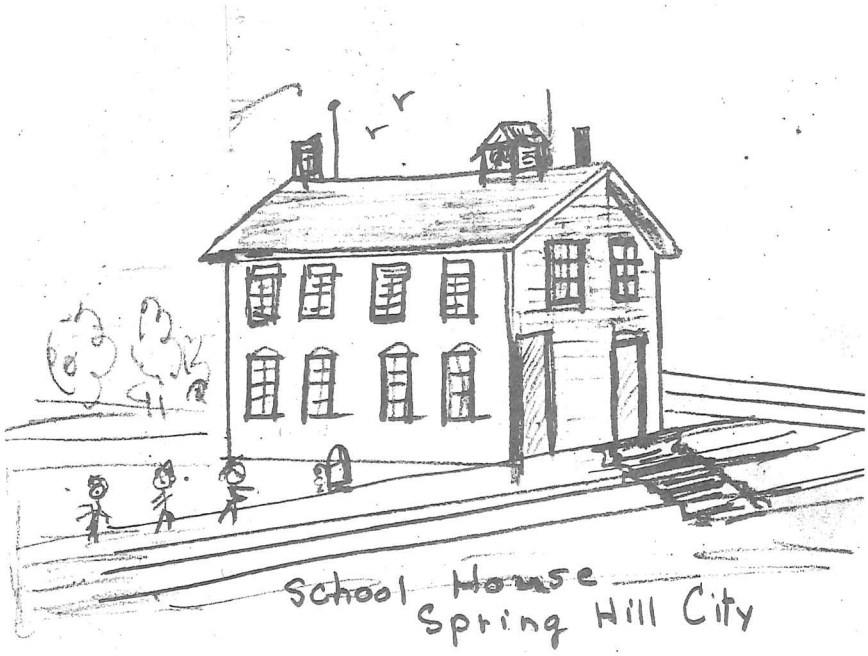
Custodians are Cathy Morrison, Hilltop; Roy Sullivan and Barbara Haney, Grade School; Archie Richardson and Ben Whittaker, Middle School; Brenda Boydston and Harold Mahon, High School. Vance Meek, Jr. (Bud) is maintenance supervisor.

DeLores Makadanz Funk is a full-time nurse at the schools. What a job that must be!

Also a word to the bus drivers, driving through all kinds of weather and over all kinds of roads. Thanks to all of you. I understand that Lois Watson has driven a school bus for 12 years.

In the present school system are 11 secretaries/office personnel, 7 teachers at Hilltop, 22 teachers in the elementary school, 22 at the middle school, 25 at the high school, 9 para-professionals, 13 food personnel, 9 custodians, 15 transportation personnel, 2 crossing guards, 7 superintendents, principals and assistant principals, and 14 special services personnel.

Looking back 125 years to the first school and to the progress Spring Hill has made, we wonder what the next 100 years will bring.



SCHOOLS

In the early spring of 1858, when Spring Hill was less than one year old, the people of the area expressed a need for a minister and a school. A supply minister was obtained from near Baldwin City, from the Methodist Episcopal Church, and interest was so great that the residents decided to build a house which would serve as a church and a school. In one week they constructed a building. Research has failed to reveal just where this building was but we are certain it was in Old Town. One record indicates it was where the grade school is now located; another thought it was in the first or second block on North Madison, on the east side of the street - near the intersection of the blocks.

In March, 1858, the Methodist Episcopal Church appointed Rev. Richard P. Duval (or Duvall) to Spring Hill. He and his wife, Sarah Black Duval, were college trained young people who had come to Kansas from Ohio. Mrs. Duval became the town's first school teacher. One early-day historian stated it was a subscription school and that she held her first classes that summer.

In 1880, A. B. Simmons, one of the first residents, deeded Block 21, Lots 1 through 8, to the City of Spring Hill. The City sold all but Lot 1, which was the school site. This deed was probably recorded after early informal transactions had taken place. In 1868 a "fine large frame school house was built at a cost of about $4,000.", according to Andreas' "History of Kansas", published in 1883.

In the spring of 1882, an election was held for the purpose of voting bonds to build a new school. The issue was defeated by a vote of 23 for and 92 against. At that time, according to Andreas, there were 700 people in Spring Hill, 215 children of school age. On January 11, 1883, for consideration of $1.00, Lot 2 of Block 21 was bought from Hiram Mitchell by School District #4.

The November 22, 1883, issue of The Spring Hill New Era stated "Our school is quite full and still more are entering every day. Mr. Fertig, the principal, has 31 enrolled, embracing 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grades. Miss Smith, the intermediate instructor, has under her care, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, numbering 55; while Miss Lockwood takes charge of 65 in grades 1 and 2, in all making 151."

In 1883 the paper held a contest among the grade school children. Two students in the lower grades wrote about the school building. (One of them was June Chamberlin, later Mrs. Joseph Holdren, mother of Mrs. Josephine Neff.) They wrote that the school faced the south, had two south doors, ten windows - four on the east and on the west and two on the north with a chimney in between. One wrote that the room had blackboards and a wood tray to hold the

"crayons." In 1887, the school was graded into eight grades by R. M. Brown, principal.

Early in 1889 the editor of the local paper wrote that "the board have secured the colored church for a school room and school will begin in a few days." On January 10, 1889, he wrote: "The school board is having a high time trying to please its constituents. Much fun is being had by some of our citizens discussing the question as to who should pay for the improvements made to the colored church - the school board from their private purses or the church officials. The members of the school board are 'at sea' over the matter and one member has left town to brood over the matter while he looks over his farm; this leaves a democrat and a republican to face the frowns of those displeased. We hope to report all serene by next week." Later he wrote: "The school board is having 'heaps' of trouble in securing a room suitable for a school room. It seems the board did not consult the proper authorities about the use of the colored church. After the church was made ready for school use, the board received notice to vacate it and look for new quarters - which they are now doing. It seems the church is a union church and the ownership is not well established."

And the next week: "The school board have finally secured a room for school purposes. They have rented the old Odd Fellows Hall and school began Monday. It makes a rather public place for school - on the main street - but was the best the board could do, we presume... and we hope that all will acquiesce in the selection by the board." A note thanked some of the young men for helping take the furniture through the windows of the upper floor into the hall.

An unhappy parent had written during the first week of the "mixup", "Give us a new high school building in the city park and end this trouble about school room. Let us begin the agitation and by spring we can be ready to vote the bonds. A high school will do more good than a new railroad."

A note in an account of the early school days indicated that school was held in two buildings for a time. The first brick building was built in 1893-94. The old frame building was purchased by Peter Stahl and moved to his farm at what is now 207th and 169 Highway, where Charlie Van Schoelandt lives.

The new brick school had four rooms, two downstairs for grades 1 through 6 and two upstairs for grades 7 through 12. There were three grade school teachers and one high school teacher. The principal was Edward T. Barber and he instituted the name Spring Hill High School in 1894. The first graduating class was in 1896 and there were five graduates, Cora Boice, Roland Casad, Jo E. Boring, C. C. Nesselrode, and Clyde O. Groves. (Mr. Nesselrode became an outstanding physician and surgeon.)

This was a town school--anyone who came from the country to attend high school paid tuition. Students walked, rode horseback, or drove a horse and buggy to school. A school year was 9 months and high school consisted of 3 years until 1907, when it was changed to a 4-year requirement. (Thus there was no graduating class in 1906.) Students in rural schools attended classes in one room, one-teacher schools and went only 8 months because of obligations to help at home with the planting and harvesting of crops. These students went 9 years instead of 8.

Going to school was a privilege and discipline was strict. An early-day graduate said he did not know who sat behind him as one did not look around. Mrs. Ella Stevens, the oldest native-born citizen, remembers her classes started with prayer and Bible reading each morning and she feels this helped the students and the discipline.

The country schools of the area were Toad Hollow (actually Beckley, but few called it that), Walnut Grove, Happy Hill, Ten Mile, Pleasant Ridge, Cottonwood, Union, Tuckerville, Carol, Rock, Sunrise, Hutchison, West Aubry, and Ocheltree. For many years, those finishing the eighth grade could take summer courses and teach in the country schools; in later years, high school graduates attended Ursuline Acadamey in Paola for summer training, and taught in the rural schools. However, beginning in 1940 the schools closed and students went to nearby towns to school. The last to close was Tuckerville, which was consolidated into the new Hilltop consolidated grade school district in 1952. Hilltop opened in 1953.

Before classes resumed in Spring Hill in the fall of 1910, a large addition was added to the building and this west wing became the high school. The upstairs of the original building was the study hall. The curriculum was for college preparation, primarily, and consisted of English, Latin, mathematics, government, history, and later, home economics and manual training. And, of course, there was music. The first music teacher was Grace Knapp, in 1906. For many years the school had an orchestra. School plays, programs, commencement, and basketball games (both boys and girls) were held in the Grange Hall down on Main Street.

In the 1920s the curriculum consisted of English, Latin, math, history, government, physics, physiology, typing, bookkeeping, home economics, and manual training. Students were active in glee club, chorus, football, basketball, and track. Football started in 1922. The 1923 team was undefeated. There were 17 boys in the entire school and they had an eleven-man team. The star player was Cecil Starbuck. Among the others on the team were Carl Weir, Wayne Morrison, Glen Wiswell, and Loren Locke. Practice and games were held in a field in back of what is now Hale Street. The players furnished their own uniforms and transportation and used a nearby barn to change clothes. According to Max DeWeese, who was graduated in 1909, the first basketball court was constructed out of doors on a lot west of Webster and south

of the school. Among the first to drive cars to school in the early '20s were Cecil Starbuck and Wayne Morrison. They parked the cars south of the grade school next to the manual training building, which was across from the school in the corner of the Holdren property. Cecil Starbuck drove a 4-cylinder Buick part of the time and Wayne Morrison had a new Ford.

In 1920 the Spring Hill Rural School District was established and consolidated and it remained so until unification in the late 1960s. The old brick building served as the high school until 1925-26 when the brick building on the highway which is now the Middle School, was constructed. That building, which cost $65,000.00, was erected on a beautiful 20-acre plot of ground which cost $8,000.00. The new school had a barn to stable the students' horses. The barn was located about where the superintendent's office is now located and was torn down in 1937. Total enrollment was about 80.

The first vote for the new high school had been defeated. One resident remembers an early "demonstration" held by a group of young people who wanted a new school very badly. When a prominent farmer-educator, who opposed the building, came to town on Saturday night, he was surrounded and the young people voiced their opinions. The farmer did not come back to Spring Hill after that. But the new building was erected.

The first class to be graduated from the new high school was the class of 1927 and each of the school board members had a son or daughter in that class. There were 18 members of the class; one, Archie Weir, died during his senior year. Mr. J. H. Loganbill was the principal; Cecil Starbuck, the custodian. Several times during the next several years there were fewer than 15 graduates, but never less than 8; it was many years before there were more than 30.

The old grade school-high school building was torn down in 1937 and the original portion of the present grade school was built for a cost of $18,000. The gymnasium and many more classrooms have been added. On June 30, 1943, for $1.00 and other considerations, L. R. Stuckey sold to the School District #4, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Block 21, Original Town of Spring Hill - those lots which had been deeded back in 1880 and then sold.

In 1937 the name "Bronco" was given to the high school when Chester Van Hercke, editor of the High School Broadcaster, wanted the school to have a name to add color to his writings.

In the early '40s the district started running busses to outlying areas. The first bus drivers were Ike Wykoff, Emery Sumner, and Earl Conn. By 1953, students attended from Aubry, Hillsdale, Bucyrus, Chiles, and the wide surrounding countryside. The busses

traveled many, many miles each day and over very unimproved roads - 35-mile square area.

Some time in the 1950s the senior trips started, the favorite get-away being Noel, Missouri, where the 1957 class was the night the tornado hit Spring Hill.

In 1963 the marching band got new uniforms - heavy black ones with a heavy white overlay. The first appearance in these new uniforms was on Saturday, October 5, 1963, at Band Days at Kansas State University. The temperature was 95 degrees at 5:30 that evening! Several Spring Hill students, along with hundreds from other schools, spent the afternoon in Manhattan's Hospital and at the Campus Health Center, after passing out or becoming ill from the heat (and no time for lunch). Spring Hill had an excellent marching band and concert band and they were chosen to march at the inauguration of Governor William H. Avery in Topeka in 1965.

The Madrigal Singers began in 1964. The next year the group competed at the State Music Festival in Lawrence against larger schools and received a I rating. The Madrigals continue their outstanding performances and at this writing have received a I+ rating in state competition. Most of these years they have been under the direction of Mrs. Audrey Mohn.

In 1964 the new unified school system was created, to be effective in 1966. Spring Hill lost part of the area it had formerly served. Most of Bucyrus became a part of the Louisburg district; other areas went to Olathe, Gardner, Paola, Stanley-Stilwell (later Blue Valley). In the middle of the school year in 1975 a new high school building was completed. The land and building cost $865,000.00; an addition, which cost $948,000.00, was added in 1977-78. The present enrollment is about 1,220 in the system; the proposed school budget for '83-84 is $4.6 million; the school system in '82-83 operated 3 kindergarten buses, 2 Hilltop routes, 10 regular routes, 2 special routes, and 3 vocational routes. There are 156 teachers, supervisors, administrators, and employees.

Time and space do not allow for the listing of all the teachers who have given so much of themselves over the years to make Spring Hill school system one of which the residents have usually been extremely proud. It continues to be one of the greatest assets of our community and a "drawing card" for newcomers.

T O R N A D O

Monday, May 20, 1957 - a day to remember. A storm had started in Franklin County that evening and was moving toward Kansas City. Storm warnings were given several minutes before it reached Spring Hill; neighbor warned neighbor. Jim Shields of Olathe drove up Hale Street, sounding his car horn and calling a warning. Residents fled - to basements, caves, out of town. Many waited out the storm at Hillsdale. The Lloyd Barkis family took refuge in a culvert. Their house was on wheels, being moved from east of town to its present site at Madison and Spring Streets, and was parked on the east side of Highway 169 at South Street.

The tornado had first touched down at Williamsburg about 6:15 p.m. and continued on its destructive route to the northeast and was on the ground virtually all the time for one hour and 38 minutes. Part of the time there were at least two tornadoes traveling parallel to each other. One family living southeast of Spring Hill watched two funnels come together to form one large one, headed directly for Spring Hill. Twenty-two farm homes were wrecked between Ottawa and Spring Hill, including the Starbuck home on the Bucyrus-Antioch Road, the Totten house west of Elston Steel Products, the Elston factory, a building 100' x 300' (located where Morland's veterinary clinic was later built), and the Elston house.

After hitting the factory, the tornado followed a hedge between there and town, going north to the cemetery, where it again started north and east. It was 7:10 p.m. The tornado continued northeast to the rural area of Spring Hill, on to Martin City, Ruskin Heights, and Knobtown, Missouri - 71 miles with at least 44 dead and 200 in hospitals.

After the storm many gathered in the highway near the Arthur Meek and Cuddeback places, trying to determine what damage had been done. The only light was flashes of lightning. The Isam Davis family of four could not be found; their new house was gone. By 11:00 p.m. the bodies of Mrs. Barbara Davis, our fourth grade teacher, and the two daughters, Pamela and Tamara, aged 6 and 5, were found near each other. Mr. Davis's body was some distance away. All were on the Alfred Larson property north of 207th Street on Highway 169. Their station wagon had been found on the Arthur Meek place. The vehicle was a twisted mass.

Most of the serious damage was in the area between Allen and King Streets and the Cemetery and Jackson Street. The Emmett Dodson house was gone. The family had taken shelter in an outside cave. The new house next to the Davis's was moved off the foundation and so badly wrecked it had to be torn down. The owners, the Charles Bartletts, were out of town. Trailer homes belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Keith McMahon, Mr. and Mrs. Jack McMahon, and Mr. and Mrs. Gaylen Taylor were completely demolished. The bodies of the trailers and their contents were swept into a grove of trees west of where the trailers had been located. The trailer frames and wheels were scattered in a field to the northwest. A dump truck belonging to the employer

of the three men was carried northeast to the garden east of the Duffield house. The trailer home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Stuteville was overturned and practically demolished. Their car, parked near the trailer, was undamaged.

The home of Mrs. Hazel Moser on the northeast corner of Allen and Washington was gone. The mother and ten children and grandson, David Cade, had taken refuge in an outside cave. When neighbors and friends arrived, all were in the station wagon, crying. The next morning a child's tricycle was still parked in front of the entrance steps that led to nothing. Across the street west, the home and outbuildings of newlyweds Arthur and Marie (Trammell) Duffield were demolished. The couple was in the house and Art was injured about the head and had to be hospitalized.

The Cemetery was a shambles. According to one record, there were only two trees undamaged. All others, and there were a great many then, were uprooted or topped. Monuments were broken, toppled, and scattered. It was a sad sight.

At the Alfred Larson home, just north of 207th Street on the west side of the highway, Mrs. Larson and two daughters were safe in the basement, but just as Mr. Larson entered the basement, the house was ripped from its foundation. He was slightly injured but a year later more serious injuried developed from that head injury. The family pickup was blown onto the highway, into the path of Frank Barricklow, livestock dealer from Paola. Mr. Barricklow was severely injured and died a few days later. (Lewis Gilson, who lived in the first house north on the east side of the highway, had tried to warn Mr. Barricklow not to proceed into the path of the storm.) Also demolished in this area were the barn and outbuildings on the Cuddeback farm (southeast corner) and the Charles Van Schoelandt barn and silo (northeast corner).

After crossing the railroad, the first house hit was that of Jerry and Mary Helen (Calderwood) Hendrix; next, the Lawson's at 199th and Ridgeview, where two houses and other buildings were demolished. Here, one wall of the home was left standing and all kitchen appliances were in place on the floor. The Harry Dickey home was next. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dickey were ill and in the care of a nurse. He was sitting in his chair, waiting for the Lawrence Welk show on TV. She was in bed. When the storm was over, Mrs. Dickey was under the bed, a chimney on her. Mr. Dickey was injured, and the nurse, Mrs. Clara Martin, was down in the foundation. She managed to walk and crawl to the W. D. Jones home for help. Other families in this area who suffered extensive damage were the Clarence Bacons and Byron Morrisons. Many had damage, but most were minor compared with these.

Many assisted with immediate emergency aid. Lt. Commander Leonard McFord, who was stationed at the Naval Air Station and who lived in Spring Hill, manned one of the mobile transmitter stations. Walt Cullison, Communications Officer at the Air Station, set up a short wave transmitter in the Disaster Headquarters. He and Norman Seavers, the TV store owners, operated the units. Mr. Seavers was named chairman of the disaster committee. King DeTar, Leonard Dawson, and Lloyd Wilcox manned the battery-powered lights so Dr. Reece of Gardner could care for the injured. Ham operators with mobile transmitter units in their automobiles assisted.

Tuesday morning the cleanup began by neighbors, friends, and many, many others. The women of the Methodist Church organized the meal and snack center. Many contributed time, money, food; the women fed the workers, who came in relays. Mayor Norris Olson dispatched workers to the various areas where they were needed. Captains and organizers named by the mayor were Dan Adkins, Frank Storch, Sr.; Glenn Peer, Loren Locke, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Alexander of the Methodist Church and Rev. Marshall Schirer of the Baptist Church. Roy Heisey of Bucyrus set up his loud speaker system. On Sunday, church services were cancelled; everyone was busy helping his neighbor. When sightseers were allowed into the area, the Scouts and the Lions collected funds. Finally, more clothing and materials of that kind were sent than could be utilized. The Red Cross disaster canteen had gone from place to place on Tuesday. One of the workers, at either the Bacon's or Morrison's, remarked to this writer that it appeared they were not needed - that Spring Hill was taking care of its own. Indeed we were, but with a great deal of help from others, and the Red Cross assisted in ways we could not.

Many incidents were told of the tornado. Mr. and Mrs. John Calderwood were hurrying to their home northeast of Spring Hill. They had their grandchildren, the Hendrix children. As they pulled into their yard, and rushed to safety, Mr. Calderwood saw a refrigerator fly over his head. He remarked that it looked like Mary Helen's (his daughter)--and indeed it probably was. One man hurrying to take shelter was ahead of his wife, and when she asked him to wait and help her, he is reported to have replied, "_____, it's every man for himself in times like these." At least that was good for some chuckles during the cleanup and for many years after.

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Following excerpts are from The Spring Hill New Era of May 23, 1957 and May 30, 1957:

"Tuesday afternoon a force of men, trucks, and power equipment started in on the task of clearing the shattered trees and major debris from the Spring Hill cemetery, and by evening a minor miracle had been accomplished. All of the fallen trees, the large limbs, and other major debris had been cleared...Men and equipment from the Pittman Construction Co. of Kansas City, the Ready-Mix Company of Olathe, State Highway Department trucks and men from Miami County, men and trucks from Gardner, Bill Newton's bulldozer, plus numerous other trucks and men from Spring Hill, Gardner, Olathe, and the surrounding community had completed the cleaning up... When surveyed early Tuesday morning, the cemetery looked like it would be almost a hopeless proposition to ever get the driveways cleared so that persons who wanted to get into the cemetery could drive in past the entrance."

"...With all long distance lines out of service the only outside contact was through the mobile radio telephone (in the car of Mr. Herbert Welsh of the East Kansas Telephone Company) with which to contact his crew to bring material and linemen to repair damages...It is expected that all service will be restored by the end of this week (May 30). During the period of the storm Mrs. Mildred Wisner and Mrs. Clara Goff were on duty as operators. They remained on duty getting calls to patrons to evacuate or go to basements or cellars for protection...

"By late Sunday evening, the gigantic clean-up operations following last Monday's tornado had been virtually completed...The work of cleaning up in the city area began Tuesday when as many as 300 men were working cleaning up the cemetery and the streets in Spring Hill. On Saturday the clean-up was extended to the rural areas, and approximately 425 men were working cleaning up farms and property within the city. On Sunday about 275 men were at work...The organization of the clean-up effort was a marvel of efficiency...At the noon hour, the men were brought into Spring Hill and fed at the Methodist Church. Even during the feeding operation, no time was wasted as groups from different farms were brought in at different times... Almost 500 were fed on Saturday and a lesser number were fed on Sunday. The American Red Cross supplied the food served to the workers, with the exception of the pies. The pies were furnished by church groups in Spring Hill and Gardner.

"It is almost unbelievable how much was accomplished in the two days. The only way it was accomplished was by the willingness and cooperation of the volunteers who came to help, and they did help..."

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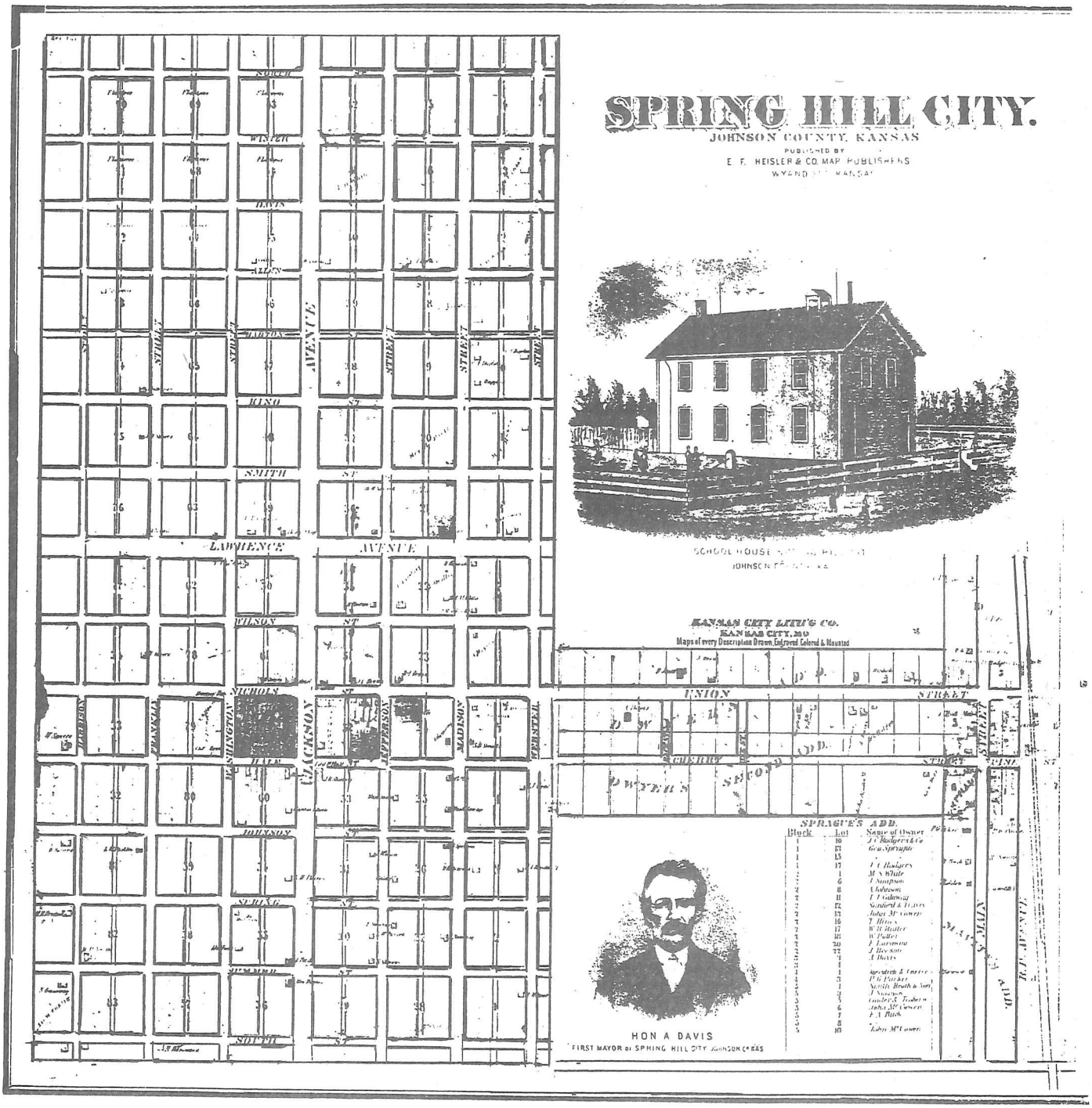
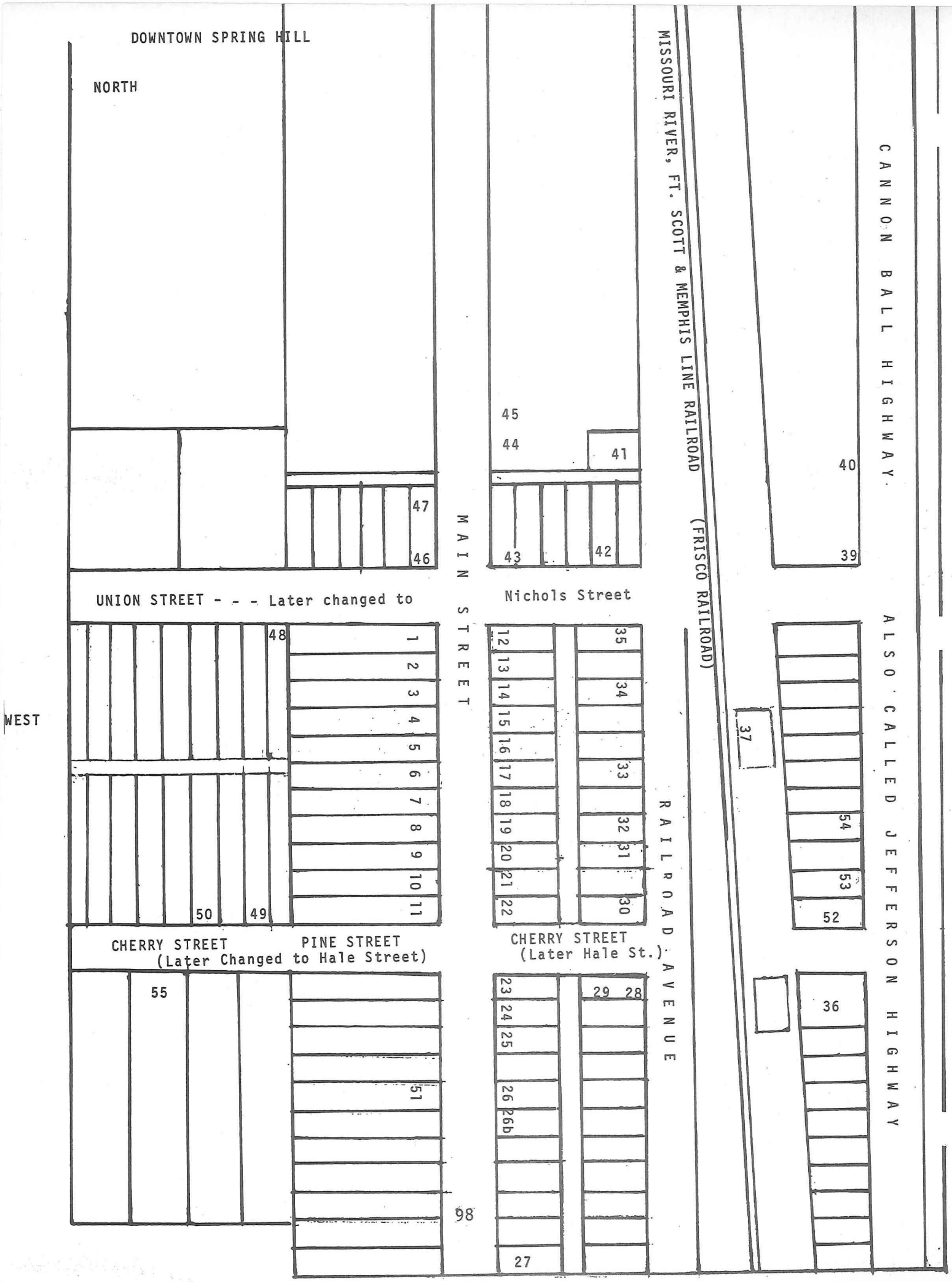
The Senior Class had gone on their Sneak Trip to Noel, Missouri. Knowing they would be anxious about news from home; Mr. C. B. Masterson went to Bucyrus to place a call to the group. The principal, Mr. V. C. Ward, returned to Spring Hill immediately. After the Seniors were assured their families were safe and that they would not be needed, they continued with their planned trip, and returned home on Thursday.



Editor's Note: This map is from the Atlas and History of Johnson County published in 1874. Jackson Street and Washington Street are reversed. Washington Street was platted as 100 feet wide and remained so until in the 1950s and on. Washington and Lawrence were used by the parades to the cemetery on early Decoration Days, when the old soldiers marched to decorate the graves.


DOWNTOWN SPRING HILL
NORTH
WEST
MAIN STREET
MISSOURI RIVER, FT. SCOTT & MEMPHIS LINE RAILROAD (FRISCO RAILROAD)
CANNON BALL HIGHWAY.
ALSO CALLED JEFFERSON HIGHWAY
RAILROAD AVENUE
UNION STREET - - - Later changed to
Nichols Street
CHERRY STREET
(Later Changed to Hale Street)
PINE STREET
CHERRY STREET
(Later Hale St.)
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DOWNTOWN SPRING HILL

These business locations represent the best of our research for the various firms from about 1895 through July 30, 1983.

1 & 2 - Grange Co-op Store; Spring Hill Oil Company - owners, Glenn Melton, Jim Bachnick, Ron Stiles

2 - - - Grange Co-op Store; Russell Werntz Blacksmith Shop;

Upstairs - Dr. Barker, Dr. L. V. Gast, Mrs. Ed Blair, millinery; Mrs. Lizzie Bailey, millinery and dressmaking

3 - - - Post Office; A. C. Back, harness and shoe maker; George Landis, plumber and tinner; Karyl's Kasual's & Mary Roger's Beauty Shop; Gordon Riley Plumbing & A/C

4 - - - New Era Newspaper; W. E. Wilkerson, H. E. Winkler, owners. Pool Hall - - owners, Butch Ferguson, Fred Beets, Grover McLane, and Claude Leavell.

5 - - - Dever's Bakery; Ernest Wilson Restaurant; Ethel Rittenhouse Cafe; Hess Grocery; Kash Grocery; Loren Locke Drugs; Gibson Drugs.

6 - - - Jerry McCanse, barber; Chase Barbershop; Earl Roofe Barbershop; Roofe & Reames, barbers; Reames Barbershop; Harold Dey Barbershop; A. E. Brown Barbershop.

7 - - - J. W. Wikoff meat market; Ralph Hines meat market; Jim Hupp meat market; J. W. Timmons meat market; Hines Grocery

8 - - - Adams Drugs; Homer H. Neff Drugs; Crawford Neff Drugs; Bob Culver's Furniture; Ruth Kersey's Ceramics.

9 - - - Post Office; Kash Grocery; Herman Kuhn Grocery; American Legion Hall.

10 - - - Bert Hollenback and W. W. Allen, jewelers; Roy Payne, cleaners; Wikoff Restaurant; Dodson Restaurant; Cullison & Seavers, TV Repair;

11 - - - State Bank of Spring Hill; Railroad Savings & Loan; Upstairs - Masonic Lodge

12 - - - S. R. Hogue hardware; Rhinehart and Beets Hardware; E. Y. Gay and Sons, hardware; Ed and Clyde Gay, hardware; Glenn Melton, hardware; John VanDerberg, hardware; Clifford Lloyd, hardware; Toohey Ewing, hardware; Walter Cade, hardware

13 - - - Farmers Bank; Jim Wikoff Restaurant; Post Office; Walter Cade, hardware

14 - - - Roy Payne Theater; Lawrence Cantrall Theater; Ted Cunningham feed store; Johnson Paint Store; Granny's Attic; AA; Jenkins Auction

15 - - - E. Upton Drugs; Curtis Shoe Shop; Frank Land, grocery; Timmons Creamery; Spring Hill New Era; Bruce Furniture; Winterscheidt Auto Parts

16 - - - Hines Bros. Grocery; Kuhn's Locker Plant

17 - - - Art Bunger Grocery; Kuhn's Grocery (An old-time picture also shows Kash Grocery)

18 - - - W. M. Rutter, undertaking and furniture; E. Davis, undertaking and furniture; Ralph Davis, undertaking and furniture; Paul Coons, undertaking and furniture; Lloyd Wilcox, undertaking; Norris Hogue, variety store; Kuhn, variety store; Poisal's, variety store; Yocum, variety store; Dean McReynolds, western store; David Morrison, furniture

19 - - - IOOF Hall, upstairs; down, Bryant & R. B. Nelson, grocery; Bunger and Nelson, grocery; Nelson and Simpson, grocery; Lloyd Wilcox, mortuary; Roy Bruce, mortuary

20 - - - Vacant lot - location of Simpson's Hall in early days

21 - - - Lizzie Bailey's Millinery Shop

22 - - - Charles Bailey Drugs

23 - - - W. A. Adams, real estate and insurance; Jack Burns, barbershop; Roy (Curley) Brown, barbershop; Roy Reames, barbershop; Harold Dey, barbershop; Betty Brown, beauty shop

24 - - - Dever's restaurant; Shepard restaurant; Floyd Stiles, creamery

25 - - - Hunter's blacksmith shop

26 - - - John Lambert, tinner and plumber, downstairs; IOOF Hall, upstairs; Ralph Starbuck, photographer,

26b- - - Cook's egg house

27 - - - Blacksmiths - Dave Swartz, Laskey, Alonzo Starbuck

28 - - - Lumber Company - J. S. Mackey; Leidigh & Havens; Hodges Brothers; Spring Hill Lumber

29 - - - Location of first building used to house hand pumper fire equipment

30 - - - Dr. Eagan; Dr. Thomas; Keeping Up Club Library and meeting room

31 - - - J. W. Sowers printing; New Era Newspaper, W. E. Wilkerson

32 - - - George Simpson Grocery in early day

33 - - - J. Wikoff Hotel; Edwards Hotel; Jones Hotel

34 - - - Leidigh Garage; Pearl Lathrop Overland Auto Agency; Edwards Garage; Tony Benish Garage

35 - - - Hotel, L. W. Hodgkins

36 - - - Spring Hill Farmers Union Coop, established 1920, Ralph Wedd, Frank Laskie, Robert Creamer, Emmett and Warren Schlaegel; Farmers Union

37 - - - Depot; location of first bank and lumber yard, J. C. Rogers

38 - - - Pat Murphy Drugs; George LaRosh, creamery; Timmons Bros., produce

39 - - - Billy Molleson livery stable

40 - - - Tibbetts garage; _____ Creamery; Roy Payne ice house; Harry Corliss, Meat Processing; J. C. Mullen, Meat Processing; Chuck Smith, Meat Processing, David House, Meat Processing

41 - - - Standard Mills, J. C. and W. A. Rogers; M. Clavin; Lew Chamberlin; J. S. Null, elevator; Charles Kinnear, elevator

42 - - - Office of Standard Mills, bank, Null and Kinnear elevators

43 - - - Spring Hill Oil Company - V. C. Ziegler; Ziegler and Burris; Glenn Melton; Car Wash - Glenn Melton; Claude Greufe; John Blanchon

44 - - - Township Hall

45 - - - Old City Hall and fire department and jail

46 - - - Ainsworth, livery; George Kevin, livery and drayage; L. W. Hodgkins, livery; Pruitt Garage; Ralph Starbuck, battery shop

47 - - - Art Holcomb, ice house; Timmons, ice house

48 - - - Sharon's store

49 - - - W. E. Tisdale, insurance and real estate

50 - - - Mijo Telephone Co. office

51 - - - George Cook, implements, downstairs; IOOF Hall and Modern Woodmen of America, upstairs

52 - - - Farmers Union Co-op Bldg.; later used for feed and fertilizer storage. (See No. 36.)

53 - - - Dever's cabinet shop

54 - - - Dever's Lunch and Tavern

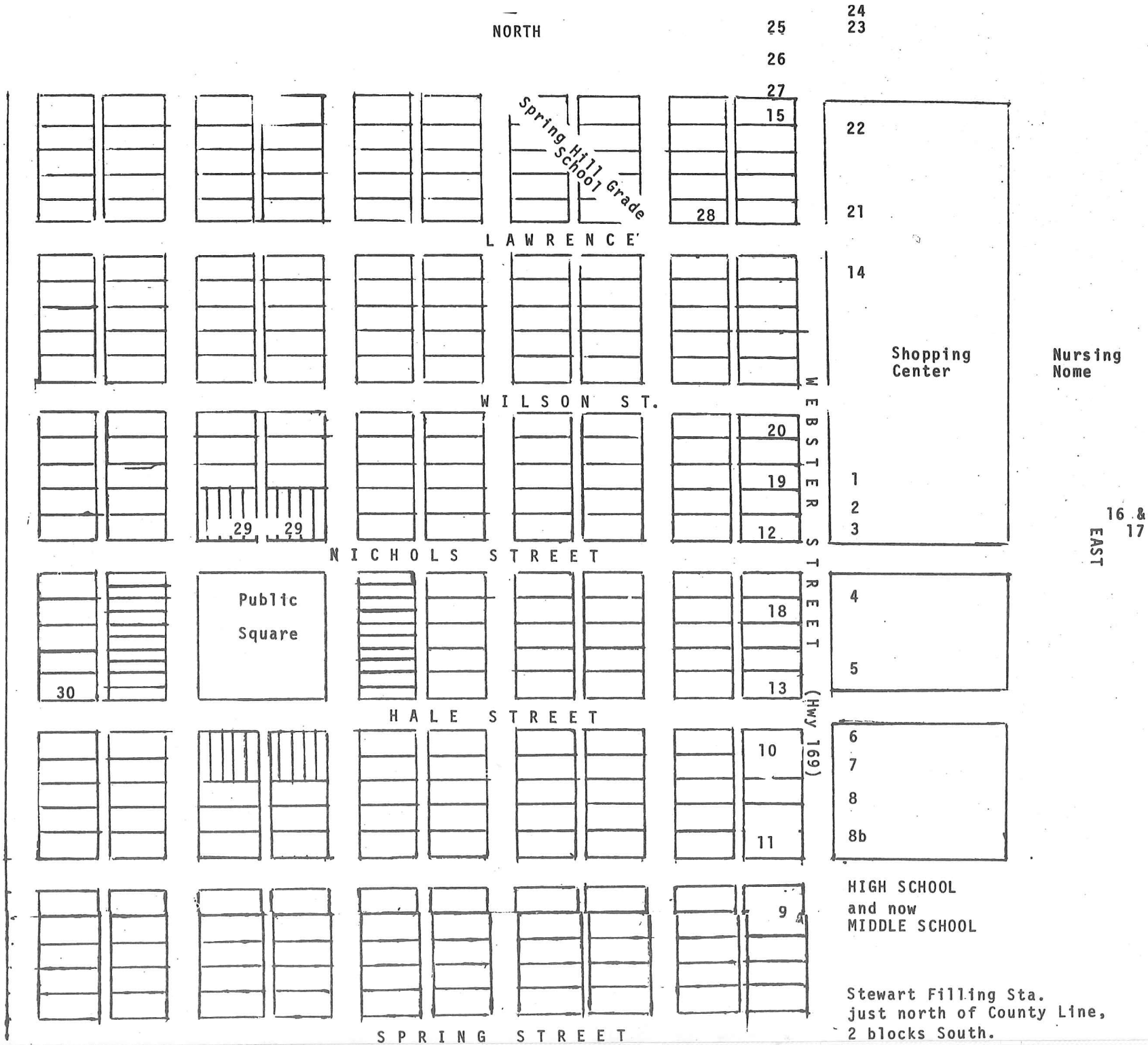
55 - - - Drs. Eagan, Northrup, Grayson, and Becker

George Sowers ran a taxi service in 1926 and 1927;
Ollie Briggs had one in 1926, 1927, and 1928

BUSINESSES IN MARCH, 1884

Copied from the Spring Hill New Era

Livery, Feed and Sale Stable	- H. Mitchell, east of railroad) and S. Swarts
Drugs and Medicines	- Patrick Murphy; Chas. Stevens
Elevator and Mills	- Lew Chamberlin; M. Clavin; H. Fairbanks
Spring Hill Hotel	- L. W. Hodgkins
Avenue House	- Joe Simpson
Lumber and Bldg. Materials	- J. S. Mackey
Harness & Saddles	- J. M. Giffee; O. F. Hopkins
Bakery & Restaurant	- W. G. Boisvert
Hardware, Stoves, Implements	- J. A. Hanna; S. R. Hogue
Dry Goods and Groceries	- John Beeson; W. H. Andrews; E. A. Sharon; Steele, Evans & Co.
Bed Spring Factory	- I. S. McPherson
Tonsorial Artist	- G. H. Hough
Groceries & Provisions	- Wm. Potter; Drum & Moore; R. O. Bruffet
Furniture & Undertaking	- W. R. Rutter
Palace Drug Store	- J. H. Pratt
Gents Furnishings, Goods	- J. O. Johnson
Job Printing	- A. M. Havermale, editor of the Spring Hill New Era
Barber	- Jerry McCanse; G. H. Hough
Blacksmithing & Woodworking	- Alex Davis; R. W. Rogers; Andy Peterson; David Sprong; Geo. Colbert
Meal, Flour & Feed	- M. Clavin
Co-operative Store	- C. D. Flanders, manager
Stoves & Tinware	- Caddy & Wiley
Skating Rink	- J. Simpson
Boot Maker	- J. M. Webb; D. S. Curtis
City Meat Market	- Steadman & Craine
Milliners & Dress Makers	- The Misses Flanders; Mrs. J. R. Skinner
Physician & Surgeon	- J. H. Moore; I. A. Coons
Merchant Taylor	- H. P. Smith
Dress Making	- The Misses Murdock
Real Estate & Insurance	- S. F. Coons
Books & Stationery	- J. S. Gasaway, Post Office Building
Nursery	- John Deem
Painters	- Dale Coons; E. Goodrich
Contractors and Builders	- Ferguson & Lyon; Vandeveer & Bell; Tidd & Son; H. D. Bronson; W. G. Finch


NORTH
24
23
25
26
27
15
22
21
28
Spring Hill School Grade
LAWRENCE
14
Shopping Center
Nursing Nome
WILSON ST.
WEBSTER STREET (Hwy 169)
20
19
12
1
2
3
16 & 17
EAST
29
29
NICHOLS STREET
Public Square
18
4
5
30
13
HALE STREET
10
6
7
8
8b
11
9
HIGH SCHOOL
and now
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Stewart Filling Sta.
just north of County Line,
2 blocks South.
SPRING STREET

BUSINESS LOCATIONS Along Highway 169 and West:

1 -- Jim Wikoff Restaurant; A. W. Dawson Grocery

2 -- Ed Spena Garage; Aryl Miller Garage; City Fire Dept.

3 -- Filling Station - Fred Deskins; Howard McVey; Holland Wilson; Joe Hines; Dari-Anne - John Cantrall; Clifford Lloyd, Jerry Whitesell; Krummels

4 -- J. K. DeTar Phillips 66 Station; Powell's Service Station; O'Malley's Service; Taylor Oil Company

5 -- A. W. Dawson Grocery; Leonard Dawson Grocery; Dawson Laundro-mat; Green Laundry; North end - City Hall; various; East end - Various beauty parlors, present - Diana's

6 -- Service Station - Osman Stiles; Fred Meek; T. R. Devault; Clarence Divelbliss; Atteberry B-B-Q; Newton Produce; City Produce Market

7 -- Everett Makadanz and Marvin Makadanz Garage; Everett Makadanz Garage; Winterscheidt Garage

8 -- John Dunn Antiques; Earl Stiles Everything Store; Hubert Cunningham Antiques; Yardley's Antiques; 8b - Trailer Court

9 -- Spring Hill Furniture - Bob Culver; Also a building to the west on Johnson Street

10 -- State Bank of Spring Hill

11 -- Howard Victor Service Station; Frank Ledom Garage; O. B. Nichols Restaurant & Station

12 -- City Hall and Fire Department, City and Rural

13 -- Multi-Service Center (Library)

14 -- Richard's Service Station; _____; John Stanley Service Station

15 -- Phillips 66 Station - Jim Cole; Robert Israel; Arthur Meek, Jr.; Joel Skinner

16 -- Methodist Church

17 -- Methodist Parsonage

18 -- Zweimiller Feed Store; DeGraves Liquor Store; Medlin's Liquor Store

19 -- Real Estate - J. K. DeTar; Ted Hecke

20 -- Prairie Center Plumbing

21 -- Car Wash - Hubert Cunningham; John Blanchon

22 -- Dental Office, Dr. Harry Lydick

23 -- J. R.'s Restaurant

24 -- Veterinary Clinic

25 -- Arthur Ramey Restaurant; Masterson Restaurant

26 -- Real Estate - Ralph Ramey; Darrel Stiles; Law Office of G. Wm. Hankins

27 -- Real Estate and Medical Center now; various in previous years

28 -- Dr. R. Reif, dentist

29 -- Baptist Church and Parsonage

30 -- Church of Christ

Off the Map to the North on the west side of Webster: Casey's QuikStop; Dr. Eldon Ellis, Chiropractor.

BITS OF THIS AND THAT

One of the places where stage drivers changed horses was at Spring Hill. A stage barn was located about 100 feet north of the Old Hotel. The stage barn owner's duty was to have fresh horses harnessed and ready when the stage rolled in. In an account in "Pioneer Women", Carrie Stearns Smith tells of her trip from Kansas City to Fort Scott, in 1867, via stage from Westport to Paola, and on to Fort Scott, where they "diverged to the southeast and southwest here and there for the delivery of mail...Whenever we halted for relays of horses, the traces were loosened, and the released spans marched unled to their long low shed barns, and those to be driven marched each to his accustomed place in front of the stage--not an animal led or driven. Two or three minutes only were consumed in the exchange."

Stage barns were located about every eight to ten miles along a route. To allow for fresh horses at each change, eight horses were kept at each barn. Eight were kept at Spring Hill with Pat Murphy presiding over the barn. He had come to Spring Hill in 1866 with Jared L. Sanderson, a man who was interested in the establishment of stage routes and carrying the mail.

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Thomas Parker, William Auld, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Prunty were early-day merchants in Original Town of Spring Hill.

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In 1858-59, the Kansas State Legislature passed an act opening a state road from Leavenworth to Fort Scott, via Olathe, Spring Hill, Paola, and Mound City. A military telegraph line was constructed on the road during the war. This road was known as the Military Highway.

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Dr. S. G. W. Stevens wore a full beard and sat very erect in the saddle when he rode his beautiful horses. He also drove a high-stepping team to a buggy. He had several deer and a flock of game chickens as a hobby and some Jersey cows. These cows were a source of fun for Halloween pranksters one memorable year.

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In 1874, according to a history written by Oliver H. Gregg, Mr. James B. Hovey, founder of Spring Hill, was a resident of Upper Alton, Illinois. In the Spring Hill New Era of 1883, the editor quoted an article from the paper in 1870, and referred to Mr. Hovey as Dr. Hovey of St. Louis, Missouri.

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BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Cont.

When my grandmother was a young girl she worked in the Old Hotel. She earned $1.00 a week. One rainy or snowy day she put her new shoes too close to the fire to dry and burned a hole in one. She told how she had to work three weeks to earn enough money to buy another pair of shoes. - - Mrs. Leona Stiles Riley

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Prior to the very late '60s or early '70s girls were not allowed to wear slacks to school and blue jeans were unheard of!

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In the era of the full skirts and many can-cans, the bus drivers complained bitterly about how much room a girl's skirts occupied and, of course, the girls did not want to be crowded as that would crush the full skirts.

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Mr. C. H. Brooks, principal at Spring Hill from 1902 to 1907 left the district to go to Abilene High School, where Dwight D. Eisenhower was one his pupils. When asked whey he was leaving Spring Hill, he is reported to have replied the district could afford to pay him only $65.00 a month (for 9 months then, not 12), and he could not afford to stay. He later became a professor at Kansas State Teachers College, Hays.

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The junior-senior high school enrollment in 1968-69 was 329; the high school enrollment in 1978 was 330.

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In 1908 there were 2 members of the high school graduating class. Prior to 1913, the largest class was 14 members, in 1909. The oldest graduates as of this writing area Wilbur Zehring and Max Deweese, 1909; Mabel Smith Stiles, 1911; Floyd Stiles, 1912; Arlo Bates and Eva Crawford Sampson, 1914.

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Members of the school board when the high school was organized in 1894 were Jerry McCanse, director; Bert Hollenback, treasurer; Dr. S. G. W. Stevens, clerk.

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Two Spring Hill principals became State Superintendent of Public Instruction; they were W. T. Markham (1917) and George A. Allen (1910).

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Early-day residents said the plains around the town were largely treeless, the only timber being along the creeks, where the raging prairie fires did not reach. The upper reaches of Ten Mile Creek across to the north of Bucyrus were lined only with the giant slough grass and the water was clear and the pools very much deeper than now. - - Jim Crawford

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As a boy, Streeter Blair worked on local farms, mostly for the Newtons and Crawfords, and although he tried, the farmers felt his success in life was probably not going to be very much. He became Spring Hill's most widely known product; his paintings are now valued in the many thousands of dollars. - - Jim Crawford

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From the City Park, Asylum Hill at Osawatomie was clearly visible, as was the town of Aubry to the northeast. This seems not plausible today, but I think it to be true as the people I recall saying it did not lie. - - Jim Crawford

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Sam Mower, a large landowner southeast of Spring Hill (east on the Bucyrus Road two miles), planted the first alfalfa grown in Eastern Kansas, planting 40 acres. No one knew how it produced or really very much about it. In those days neighborhood farmers helped each other with projects such as haying, woodsawing, etc. That 40 acre field of alfalfa wore out the neighborhood men and boys, according to my father's account. (The men were accustomed to haying once a season.) - - Jim Crawford

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Mrs. Ed Blair, wife of the poet, was a flower lover, and a beautiful climbing rose grows in our yard, an offshoot from one Mrs. Blair gave my mother long ago. They were close friends and that rose has always been called Mrs. Blair's rose by our family. - - - Jim Crawford

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Pauper's field is in the northeast corner of the cemetery. Transients found dead along the railway, or in other locations, were buried there. Also a bank robber slain north of town rests there. These graves were clearly identified only in the early spring because the grass greened there first.

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In the 1950s, Mrs. Cora Wiswell, mother of the late Clayton Wiswell, wrote a column in the local papers. It was "Aunt Sally's Corner," and told of many interesting events in pioneer days. Following are some excerpts from her articles. "The first landmark I would mention (in Spring Hill Township) is the 'Old Traveler's Rest', that was built by a man by the name of Hovey who came from Georgia in 1857 and built the first cabin on the land where Spring Hill is today. I often wonder why this man left Georgia for Kansas...Was it just for adventure or more serious-minded in planning for his future, or was it the slave and free state question...?...At the time Traveler's Rest was built, Mr. Hovey helped finance a livery stable to take care of the stock of the traveler. Mr. Newt Ainsworth, who came in '58, said that when the Traveler's Rest changed hands, the name was changed to Hotel but in the beginning it was truly a traveler's rest because in the small settlement of Spring Hill there were hardly enough people to fill the rooms in a two-story building."

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"The landmark for Sharon community is a freak of nature, not only was it a freak but a miracle and a blessing. It was an immense cedar tree which stood alone on the prairie a mile and three-quarters east of Bonita on the same elevation. I have talked with people off and on for fifty years about that cedar tree and never have I found one who had ever seen one like it. The leaves grew flat like on our ornamental cedars but the tree grew like a great pine and its limbs spread like an oak. When Mr. Joseph Williams brought his family here in '58, they found that the only shade tree on the whole section of land, with the exception of a few cottonwoods and willows along the creek banks...The mother insisted on their home being built in the shade of that tree. It was half dugout and half sod house. It was a miracle that the tree ever grew in the burning suns of summer and blistering winds of winter..."

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Near the east line of the township, land was "homesteaded by three members of one family and their families, two brothers and one sister. One brother was a blacksmith. He would work in this shop for the farmers while they would take their teams and go to his fields to pay their blacksmith bills...On rainy days...(farmers) would go to the little blacksmith shop and exchange news with the neighbors...These letters were composed of from three to five pages of fools-cap paper written on both sides, bringing not only family news but city, county, and state news from the folks back home. There were very few newspapers in those days. So the little blacksmith shop became a social center for the farmers on rainy days in the late fifties and early sixties, just as the little territorial postoffice on the

Boonville trail...took care of them on cold stormy days. (The postoffice was at Squiresville.) ...The second brother was a minister (of the Methodist Episcopal Church) and this community had the privilege of Sunday services by a residing minister which few pioneer communities ever had. The sister had been a tailoress but out here on the frontier she was called a seamstress. She had the only sewing machine in the community and made overcoats and suits for men and boys, cloaks for the women, and even household sewing for those who could afford to pay. But one thing she always sewed free of charge - the cloths and shrouds for the dead. And the minister would always be there to hold services..." The brothers were named Seiss. The sister's name was French. The blacksmith and his wife were the grandparents of Mrs. Eva Locke, who supplied the copies of "Aunt Sally's" writings.

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A sign of the times. The following is from the Spring Hill New Era, September 30, 1970. The paper had copied the article from the Bronco Roundup, the Spring Hill High School paper. "In these first days of school, we men (?) of the school have noticed a fashion trend that keeps our minds off our school work. The skirts some of you wear are --- uh, enGrossingly high.

"You see, when Adam and Eve first donned their fig leaves, their purpose was to cover themselves. Now, your skirts can't show enough. It's bad enough when you are standing, but when you sit down, ugh!

"Maybe it doesn't bother you, but it should. Boys have a grapevine, too, and by the end of the day, half the boys in school know how much someone saw. So do yourself a favor, and try to hold those hemlines down.

Grandpa"

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BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Cont.

During the Spring Hill bank robbery, at 11:00 a.m., March 23, 1938, the police were summoned by a private telephone system from the vault. - from "The Echo", the Bucyrus School paper, March 25, 1938.

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The Fort Scott Stage Company traveled 122 miles from Kansas City to Fort Scott, with stops at Westport, Little Santa Fe, Squiresville, Spring Hill, Paola, Osawatomie, Twin Springs, Brooklyn, Paris, Moneka, Mound City, Dayton, Mapleton, Osage, Fort Scott, and Warrenton. A ticket cost $11.00. The general superintendent of the company was A. B. Squires and James H. Roberts served as the agent.

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When Ocheltree was platted in 1867, the name recorded was Spring Hill Station. Later legal records gave the name as Spring Hill Station, commonly known as Ocheltree.

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In Ed Blair's "History of Johnson County," the author stated that when Pat Murphy, who kept the stage barn in Spring Hill, came to Johnson County, he came with Jared L. Sanderson. Mr. Sanderson was interested in establishing a stage line and carrying mail. In 1863-64, he established a line from Kansas City to Fort Scott. The Mahaffie House at Olathe and Spring Hill were two stops on the line. Mr. Sanderson contracted to carry the mail for four years for one cent a year. He figured the passenger traffic, freight, and express would make a nice profit and he could afford to carry the mail, and by so doing would keep out competitors. With the coming of the railroads, the stage line was put out of business. When the old Gulf railroad reached Fort Scott, Mr. Sanderson had 400 head of horses on hand. Another man was operating a stage line from there south and he went to Sanderson to ask him what he intended to do with all his stock. Mr. Sanderson told him he was going to open a new line through to Fort Smith, Arkansas, by way of Baxter Springs, Kansas. The other man said he would put Mr. Sanderson out of business, and Mr. Sanderson told the man to buy him out - for $40,000.00, and the man bought the stock. Mr. Sanderson is reported to have said he hated to give up Mahaffie's and Sprague's at Spring Hill more than any of the other stations in his business.

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BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Cont.

When John Deem, mayor of Spring Hill in 1884, moved from Spring Hill, Mr. Deem advertised his nursery stock for sale. The first week, the fruit trees were $15.00 a thousand. A week or so later the paper carried an item that Mr. Deem had sold his great stock (thousands, I believe) of cedar trees to Mr. Holdren to be used for protection for Mr. Holdren's apple orchard.

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On April 17, 1872, the Spring Hill Township trustees met in Olathe for the purpose of agreeing on a basis of valuation of personal and real property. Real Estate in Spring Hill was to average $10.00 per acre. Personal property included:

1st class work horses - valued at	$80.00
2nd class work horses	55.00
1st class mules	125.00
2nd class mules	80.00
Work cattle (good)	80.00
Beef cattle, per lb.	00.035
Milk cows	From $15.00 to $20.00
Milk cows, blooded	From $40.00 to $60.00

The assessment for the City of Spring Hill was Real Property - $31,649.00
Personal Property - $17,349.00

The next year, 1875, it was down slightly.

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January 30, 1888: The Township requested permission to build a shed adjoining the City Calaboose so the Township could store tools and implements. On February 8, 1888, the City Council granted permission for the Township to build the shed, provided the City could use it for the same purpose. D. H. Bingham, Township Trustee, noted the shed was built for $10.25.

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During the Home-For-Christmas Campaign of the VietNam War, Olathe conducted the drive two years. The first year, Kenneth Allenbrand and Richard Hoffman of Olathe were two of the GIS returned for Christmas. The next year, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Broockerd nominated Harold Marshall. At the time of the nomination, there were only 4 or 5 names on the list, but it grew to over 12. Spring Hill friends wanted to be assured Harold would get to come home, and were told if they would raise the money and pledge it for Harold Marshall, this would be done. The community immediately raised the money, much of it through the efforts of Morning Grange. The fare was $500.00; the extra $177.77 was donated to Olathe.

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Remember when (1960s?) the telephone company limited a call to 2 minutes, and the phone automatically disconnected at the end of that time? There was so much dissatisfaction with the system that it was discontinued.

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In 1884 a City ordinance was passed which prohibited livestock running at large in the town. The next week the editor commented on how nice it was that the young boys were herding the livestock.

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In the 1960s an ordinance was passed which prohibits keeping of livestock within the city limits.

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February 28, 1962: Final date on which special assessments could be paid on Sewer District No. 1. If the assessments were not paid on or before that date, they would be charged against the property as taxes. In order for the City to be able to afford the sewers, a number of property owners agreed to pay their assessments in advance, thus reducing the city's debt. $24,325.82 was paid in advance payments.

January 11, 1962: The ordinance fixing amounts of special assessments for property in Sewer District No. 1 was published in the New Era. The editor wrote that "In practically 40 years of newspaper work, this is the longest legal publication which we have ever worked." The ordinance required 14 full newspaper columns.

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In May 1966, Spring Hill was honored to have both a governor and a senator as commencement speakers. Governor William H. Avery, governor of Kansas, was the high school speaker; U. S. Senator James B. Pearson, the grade school speaker. Governor Avery said he agreed to speak for two reasons: first, because his nephew Herb was a graduate, and second, because his mother, Mrs. Herman Avery of Olathe, had taught in the school system 70 years ago.

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Steele and Evans operated a store in Old Town and moved it to New Town about 1874. We do not have the location. Elliott & Hines also had a grocery store in the 1880s.

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BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Cont.

The picture of the Walnut Grove School was found at a garage sale by Betty Miller. (In Olathe) The picture post card was apparently written by the teacher. It is signed May and May Rhinehart was the teacher. The writer remarked, "Don't we look good?" She also told of Maud and Lewis (Stuckey, no doubt) going to Overland Park in Bush's car (Bush Newton) and that Bunn (Bunn Rhinehart Matthews) had a box social. Someone by the name of Mabel was getting married on Wednesday night.

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The 1875 census gave the following as manufacturing merchants in Spring Hill: W. H. Hendricks, shoemaker; John Lord, wagon maker; Paul Swartz, blacksmith; William Rutter, cabinet maker; Mr. McLaughlin, blacksmith; Standard Mills, millers.

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In 1884 there was a need for houses. The local paper said every house large enough had two families; a little house of 2 or 3 rooms rented for $5.00 to $7.00 a month.

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From the New Era, October 31, 1929: "Mrs. Wilbur Zehring was holder of the lucky number which won the Aladdin lamp given by the E. Y. Gay Hardware at a demonstration Saturday night. The lamp was given as a prize to introduce the lamps in this vicinity. About 100 persons were in the Store Saturday night (at 9:00 p.m.) when the drawing was made. A total of 150 numbers were given out to people living outside of Spring Hill City where electricity is not available for lighting purposes. The Aladdin lamp is a kerosene mantle lamp..."

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From the same issue of the New Era: "A final dividend of 6.6% will be paid to those having claims against the defunct Farmers State Bank of Spring Hill...This final payment ...makes a total of 56.6 per cent which the bank has paid out..."

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September 12, 1929: "Tom Hines is building a cistern in the rear of the business occupied by Locke's Pharmacy."

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Found recently at the old Rhinehart place on North Jefferson (west of the Grade School), where Findleys used to live: a dog tag, in very good condition, bronze color, size of a quarter, which has embossed on it:

Spring Hill
Dog Tag
1894
#42

BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Cont.

Mrs. Leona (Stiles) Riley recalls stories her grandparents told of Civil War days. The residents of Spring Hill and surrounding area could hear the guns at the Battle of Westport in 1864.

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Tales of the Border Warfare and Quantrill's raids reveal some interesting bits. Mrs. Riley's grandmother told that her mother hid the father between quilts hanging on the clothesline. Another family was not so fortunate. The raiders came in the night, and the wife hid the husband under the mattress (probably a straw or feather tick) and threw his boots out the back door. When the raiders entered the house, they could not find anyone, but on leaving by the back door, one stumbled over the husband's boots. A thorough search was made then, and the husband found.

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In 1939, bacon was 15¢ a pound.

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THE LAMPLIGHTER.

Mr. Daniel Bingham was Spring Hill's lamplighter. He had come to town in 1878 and had a garden, berry farm, and orchard on South Madison. His property was from Madison to Jefferson and extended two blocks north from the county line. Both Max Deweese and Ella Stevens, old timers, remember Mr. Bingham, his lamp lighting, and his strawberry patch. He and Mr. Darwin Curtis raised strawberries commercially. Mr. Bingham had a well and a windmill on the property. After the gas well was drilled in the Public Square, in 1898, the City installed gas street lights in New Town. Mr. Bingham lighted the lamps each evening and extinguished them each morning. He made his rounds in a small spring wagon pulled by one horse. Children delighted in following him on his rounds, watching him light the lamps with a 36-inch metal wand which had a slot to turn on the gas and a hole in the end to hold a match. The wand was the property of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. DeTar for many years after electric lights replaced the gas ones about 1920.

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Globes from the gas lights of the Methodist Church, which was built in 1911, are used in the church's Christmas decorations each year.

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BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Cont.

Spring Hill City Ordinance No. 99, July 18, 1898, granted W. M. Mills the right to drill one gas well in the public park. The lease was approved by the City for 35 years. A notation on the lease states the well was drilled about 1906 and is 600 feet deep. According to Arthur Allen Ramey, Ed Smith from Olathe drilled the well. A steam boiler was used as source of power for the drilling and upon completion of the well, the boiler ignited the gas. It had burned for a week or so and the City had sent to Paola for a man (an expert) to put out the fire, but the children playing in the park made a large snow ball and put it on top of the pipe, putting out the fire before the expert arrived. The legend is attributed to Schuyler Ramey.

Spring Hill Ordinance No. 251, May 1, 1934, granted a ten-year franchise to Union Gas Company. The Mayor had vetoed the motion but the councilmen overrode the veto.

In 1950 the well was re-drilled because of rusty casing and put back into production.

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In an effort to provide local entertainment for the youth of the community, the Keeping Up Club operated Teen Town in their club rooms on East Hale. Due to lack of interest on the part of the young people and difficulty in finding sponsors, the effort was discontinued about 1958, after less than two years.

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Tom Brown, who took the mail to the trains, also took the movie films to the trains and for this he received two free tickets.

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Rachel DeTar remembers the smell of the tornado and the blackness of the air around them as she and her husband and Leonard and Harriet Dawson waited out the storm at the south-east edge of Spring Hill. The odor was that or burned tires.

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Old Timers told that the body of James Hovey, founder of the town, was brought to Spring Hill for burial in the local cemetery; however, the cemetery records do not substantiate those beliefs.

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Ladies Committee for Cleanup after the tornado sold what was left of clothing, etc. at a rummage sale and donated the proceeds of over $700.00 to the local Church Disaster Committee.

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BITS OF THIS AND THAT - Cont.

Copies of the Spring Hill New Era which were in the possession of owners of the paper have been destroyed. The only copies available are on file at the Kansas Historical Museum in Topeka. The papers are not on microfilm and are very yellow and brittle. There are issues from November 15, 1883 to January 18, 1885; then there are no papers until August 1888. The papers are supposed to be continuous since that date

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In 1884 the editor of the New Era was campaigning for sidewalks, which were supposed to have been promised by the city government. The editor was urging the walks be constructed from Main Street out to the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was one block east of the Town Square. Following is an account from the weekly paper. We are indebted to Mr. Frank Victor of Topeka for searching the records for us.

February 7, 1884 - "Why don't those sidewalks loom up?"

March 1, 1884 - "Why don't those sidewalks loom up?"

March 13, 1884 - "What the New Era would like to know - "Why those sidewalks are not being built?"

April 10, 1884 - "We wonder - When the new council will tackle the sidewalk problem, and have those new walks put down?"

May 15, 1884 - Local News. "The mayor and council met last Saturday evening and passed an ordinance for a sidewalk to take the place of the old one, from the corner of the Grange Store to the M.E. Church."

June 12, 1884 - "A couple car loads of lumber have arrived for the new walks. Why don't they put them down?"

June 26, 1884 - "The new sidewalk still progresses but will not be finished this week."

June 31, 1884 - "Sidewalk building has been stopped due to lack of lumber."

July 10, 1884 - "Work has not been renewed on the sidewalk yet - no lumber."

July 24, 1884 - "The new sidewalk is completed and it is just a nice walk to the park where the band boys will entertain you so nicely next Wednesday evening."

July 31, 1884 - "The new sidewalk, eight feet wide, on the east side of Main Street, improves the appearance of property 50 percent; now let's have some on the other side down to the post office."

After the sidewalks were built, the editor started championing for hitching posts.

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Other Spring Hill youth in the VietNam war were Donald McPherson, Harold Lucas, Kenneth Beets.

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In 1910, on October 1, a receipt was given to Rhinehart and Beets for post office box rent for one quarter. The rent was 45¢ and the receipt was signed by P. O. Coons, postmaster.

In 1910, when the hardware store was Rhinehart & Beets, their charges for gas, by the Spring Hill Gas and Oil Company, were $1.75 for 7,000 cubic feet. Signature on the receipt appears to be that of John Dunn. The receipt for the April telephone bill, to Mijo Co-Operative Telephone Company, is signed by W. C. Palmer, collector, and the bill was $1.00 for local service and $1.50 for toll calls.

On January 4, 1909, the Olathe Gas Company, Olathe, Kansas, had written to the hardware store and sent a check for $1.00 for purchases. It appears the hardware store had billed the gas company several times. The gas company replied that they had just now learned the name of the town in which the hardware was located and were now able to pay the bill.

In 1894, S. R. Hogue was billed $11.00 for four fancy custom-made dress shirts.

In the Cade Hardware is an elevator, used when the store carried farm implements. It is operated by a large rope and wood pulley. The counter-balance is nail kegs, filled with square nails and discarded parts of stoves and farm machinery.

Thanks to Walt and Dottie Cade for sharing the above information.

COZY HAVEN

Cozy Haven is a "dream come true." The dream started in front of a big fireplace at Camp Chippewa, Methodist Church camp near Ottawa, Kansas, on a cold, snowy night in January 1971. At the church retreat members of the church's council on ministries were dreaming of what they might do to help improve Spring Hill. One of the most urgent needs seemed to be to provide low-rent housing for citizens who could no longer maintain their homes because of age or economics. The dreamers included Vance Meek, Jr.; Ernest and Ruth Adams, Betty Miller, Margaret Dunmire, Ethel Mae Healy, and the Reverend Raymond Bell. After the meeting, members of the Methodist Church contacted the Farmers Home Administration and with the support of Mr. Hanserd House of that organization, surveyed other areas which had senior citizen housing projects.

In April 1971, the dream became a community project and a community-wide steering committee was formed. That committee worked until June 29, 1972, when a permanent board of trustees was elected. Members of the Steering Committee were Jerry Curtright, Robert Sowers, Betty Miller, Loren Locke, Cecil Poisal, Margaret Hopkins Stranathan, Dan Adkins, Andy Haynes, Mary House, Vance Meek, Ralph Ramey, Clayton Wiswell, and Ethel Mae Healy. The local community had to raise money for the land and incidental expenses prior to the building. Mr. and Mrs. Andy Haynes made a large wood thermometer and installed it on Main Street to record the project funds.

The first donation for the project was presented by the SHAYS (Spring Hill Association for Youth). One of the main events of the community was the Womanless Wedding, directed by Betty Miller, chairman of the Steering Committee. The "bridal party" consisted of Loren Locke, bride; Ron Stiles, groom; Clayton Wiswell, minister; Dick Newton, father of the bride; Marion Buchanan, mother of the bride; Charlie Burger, bridesmaid; Neal Janicke and Darrell Joeckel, ushers; Jim Compton, soloist, and Gayle DeNoon, flower girl. The community raised approximately $5,000.00 prior to ground breaking.

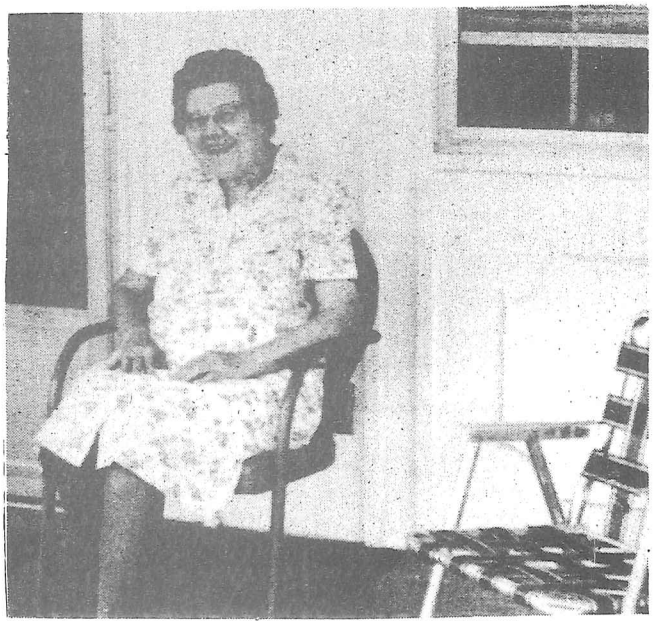
On May 1, 1972, Cozy Haven, Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit corporation by the State of Kansas. An architect was hired and plans were being made for letting of bids when President Nixon discontinued the funding for senior citizen housing through the Farmers Home Administration. Letters and telegrams were rushed to our congressmen. They worked hard for Spring Hill and in May 1973, the Board was notified that Spring Hill was one of two or three locations chosen among many to receive a grant for senior citizen housing. The community was elated and all are appreciative of the help of Senator Bob Dole, Representative Larry Winn, Jr., and Senator James B. Pearson, and of Maurice Hubbard of Olathe, the project attorney. (After his death, his son Jim became the project attorney.)

On January 7, 1974, ground was purchased in the 300 block on South Washington. The land, which cost $4,956.95 including interest on an option, was purchased from Mr. Jack Watkins. On January 27, ground breaking ceremonies were held and the project was dedicated September 22, 1974. Congressman Larry Winn, Jr. was the featured speaker. Maude Ramey was the first resident, having moved in on August 1. She lived at the project about six weeks before other units were opened.

Cozy Haven has 12 ground-level apartments (four structures) and a separate community room-laundry-storage facility. The units are brick veneer and are designed for senior citizens. The community room is furnished with stove, refrigerator, piano, television, divan, and chairs. Residents at the project use the room when entertaining family and friends and for their group activities. The project cost $170,000.00; the federal grant was $160,000.00.

Many organizations and individuals gave, and continue to give, time, money, needed items, repairs, for the furnishing and upkeep of the non-profit corporation. The units have been occupied almost 100 percent of the time. Members of the current Board of Trustees, who are elected for three year terms (at a meeting on the coldest, snowiest night in February, usually), are Betty Miller, who has served as chairman since the group was organized; Dorothy Miles, Floyd Cundiff, John West, Ken Needs; Edna Mayes and Cecil Poisal, co-treasurers; Loren Locke, and Ethel Mae Healy, who has been the secretary since the group started. Loren Locke was treasurer for several years. Other board members have been Vance Stiles, Herman Winkler, Ernest Adams, and Clayton Wiswell.

FIRST RESIDENT of Cozy Haven senior citizen housing project in Spring Hill is Maude Ramey. Miss Ramey is a retired school teacher and lifetime resident of the Spring Hill area. The Cozy Haven project has just been completed after years of work from concerned citizens and groups in Spring Hill. Miss Ramey's apartment consists of three rooms with wall to wall carpeting, built-in appliances, and a sit-in shower. Having first choice, she said she chose unit 9 because of its lovely view.



GIRL SCOUTS

In the fall of 1969 a mother-daughter meeting was held at the home of Carol Honn to organize Girl Scouting in Spring Hill. Two Brownie Troops, ked by Dollie Harkness and Katy DeNoon, and two Junior Troops, led by Carol Honn and Effie Bates. The following year a Cadette Troop was added. From that beginning, Girl Scouting in Spring Hill has grown to three Brownie Troops, 4 Junior Troops, and one Cadette-Senior Troop in 1982, serving approximately 75 to 85 girls each year.

Many special things have happened over the years. To celebrate Girl Scouts birthday each year, on March 12, many Daddy-Daughter Date Nights have been held with lots of good food, singing, and energetic folk dancing, including the Virginia Reel. One year the girls sent happy greetings up in a big balloon launch. One greeting was answered by a farmer in Georgia who found the balloon in his pasture.

After saving Betty Crocker coupons for two years, with the help of the Cub Scouts and town folk, the girls bought and installed three rocking horse-type animals in City Park. In the summer of 1983, the Cadettes and Seniors established two perennial flower beds and planted two pine trees at the Park.

When the Methodist Church needed to replace the roof on the church, the Cadettes donated $100.00 of their newspaper money, since the church serves as a sponsor for the troop. They also helped the Cub Scouts purchase a piano for Spring Hill Manor nursing home. When Swope Park Zoo was in need of financial assistance in order to remain open, some of the troops made donations and "adopted" animals to help the Zoo.

In the fall of 1977, the Cadettes applied for and received a special grant from Reader's Digest Foundation. Adding to this some more money they earned selling old newspapers, the Scouts purchased street name signs for Spring Hill. A TV news strip covering the project was made and shown on national TV. A former resident, S.R. Hogue, saw the news at his home in Georgia.

Each year at Halloween time, the girls dress in spook costumes and Trick or Treat for UNICEF. In the summer the girls enjoy day camping, troop camping, and resident camping at their big resident Camp Kivawood, southwest of Ottawa. After collecting papers and aluminum cans and holding fund-raising projects for two years, the Cadette troop went as a Trek group to National Center West, a wilderness camp in Wyoming. In 1977, Carrie Harkness, Cindy Zahn, and Dollie Harkness joined other senior scouts from Louisburg and Paola and went to Colorado on a backpacking trip.

Debbie Zahn helped at a resident camp in Wyoming in 1980. Several of the older Scouts have participated in special events called Wider Opportunities. Laurie Harkness, Amy Kutknecht, and Lavonda Ball went to Wyoming for Saddle Straddle. Rita House went to Nebraska for "A Taste of Medicine," a career sampling event. Susan DeNoon worked as a counselor with physically and mentally handicapped girls; Melissa DeNoon went to Indiana to attend "Arts in Action," where the girls learned to make and play a dulcimer and to make a TV commercial.

Carrie and Laurie Harkness both served as members of the Board of Directors for Santa Fe Trail Council of Girl Scouts and both attended national conventions. And in 1980, the leaders, Dollie Harkness and Katy DeNoon attended Wyoming Wanderlust.

Katy DeNoon and Dollie Harkness

MASONIC LODGE

On March 5, 1867, the Spring Hill Lodge No. 56 held its first communication. The Master was M. F. Moore. On July 29, 1892, a special dispensation was issued by the Worthy Grand Matron and ordered the Past Grand Patron, Brother Wm. Julien, to transact business and charter would be granted at Grand Chapter. The first Worthy Matron was Sister Sarah Davis and Worthy Patron was Iret Rhinehart.

On May 9, 1903, bids for building a new bank and Masonic Hall were awarded to J. H. Petty, contractor, for $4,921.00. The lodge was to pay $2,492.25 and the bank was to pay $2,428.75. This building is the one at the corner of Main and Hale, where the lodge continues to meet.

W. C. Palmer, Master, called a special meeting July 4, 1903, for laying the cornerstone for the new building. Deposited in the cornerstone was a history of the Masonic Lodge No. 56 from 1867 to 1903, a history of Covenant Chapter No. 98 of the Eastern Star and a history of the State Bank of Spring Hill.

The Masons celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1977. The Eastern Star celebrated their 90th anniversary in 1982.

Glen and Louise Wiswell

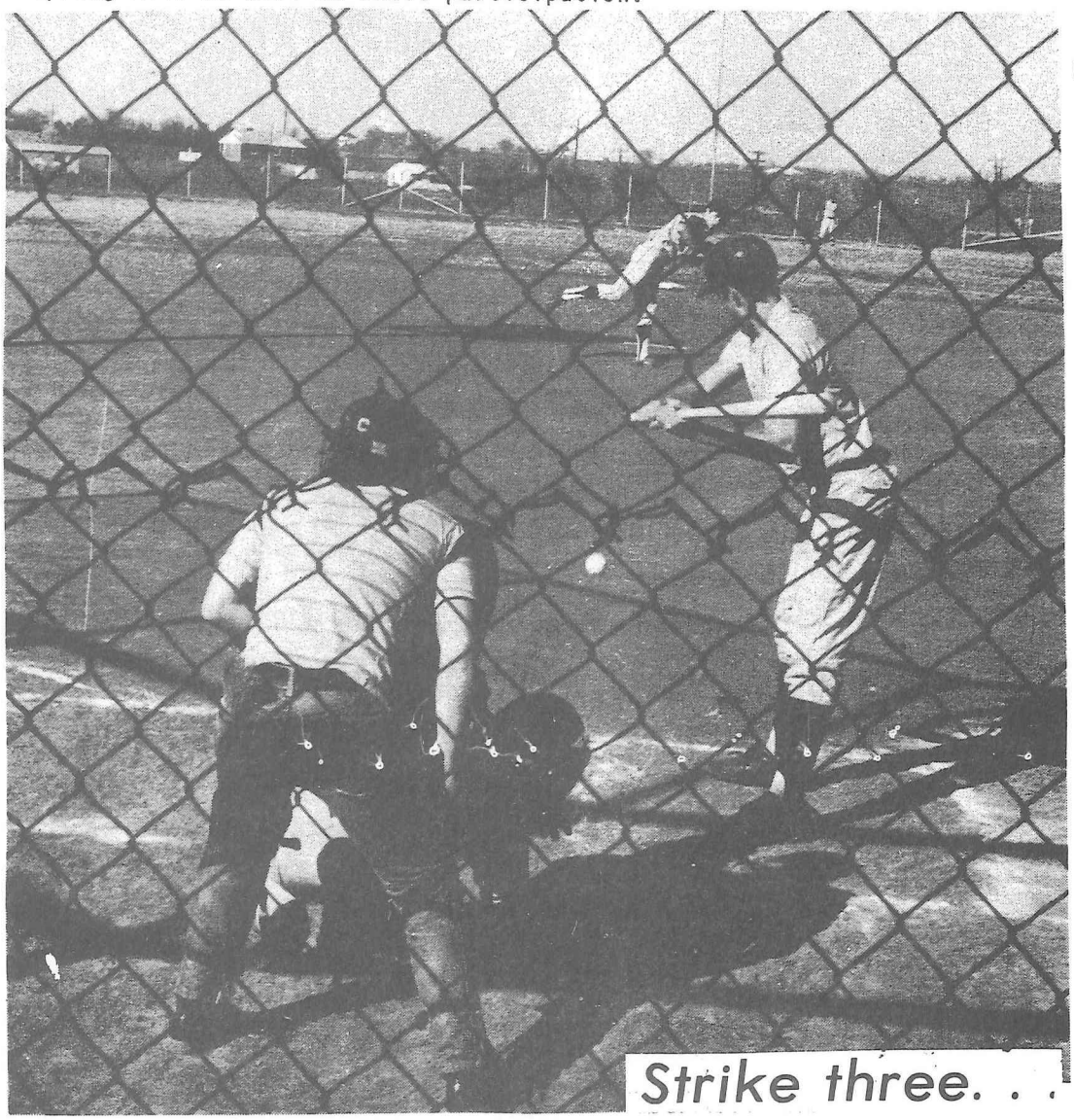
SPRING HILL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

A steering committee was elected in 1966 to launch a fund raising campaign for the town's first recreation center. The committee members were Phil Holtgraves, Richard Findley, Mrs. Margaret Dunmire, Neal Janicke, Duke Morland, Charles Cochran, H. L. Cunningham, Vance Stiles, Leonard Rakestraw, Max Brochus, Mrs. F. Bockelman, Mrs. Peggy Ross, and Dave House. The old Mower property, which bordered Highway 169, was acquired. Fund raising drives netted $14,446 that year and an additional loan from the Farmers Home Administration, in the amount of $64,800.00, was acquired.

Ground breaking ceremonies followed in 1967 and a seven-man Board of Directors was elected. These directors were: Dave House, president; Dick Findley, vicepresident; Neal Janicke, treasurer; Duke Morland, Bert Ewing, Vance Stiles, and Chuck Cochran. Phil Holtgraves was legal advisor.

Soon Spring Hill had their first swimming pool, ball fields equipped with lights, and an ever increasing summer sports program. This has added a much-needed boost to the youth of Spring Hill as well as adult participation.

Betty Miller



Strike three. . .

"O V E R 5 0" C L U B

In January 1970 or 1971, Mrs. Howard Collett, wife of one of the local teachers and a Sunday School teacher at the United Methodist Church, decided to get the women of the town who were over 50 years of age together on Kansas Day. Mrs. Betty Miller helped her with this project.

Mrs. Collett sent cards to all women of the town to come to a pot luck dinner at the United Methodist Church. Kansas sunflowers were used on the tables and each woman received a sunflower with her name on it. Everyone had such a lovely time they decided to meet again. After several meetings it was decided to invite the men.

When Reverend Ronald L. Starr became pastor of the church, he suggested naming the club The "Over 50" Club. In December 1975 the club was officially organized. Caroline Morrison was elected president and Alberta Makadanz, secretary-treasurer. Each month volunteers serve as hosts and hostesses. They decorate the tables, arrange the program, make tea and coffee, and procure the rolls. Those who attend pay 25 cents for those expenses and bring a covered dish for the noon meal.

In June 1975 the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department for Senior Citizens was established. Through this organization the senior citizens of Spring Hill are able to participate in activities at the center in Olathe, including a monthly dinner, ceramics, sewing, knitting, quilting, playing pool and snooker, going on tours, folk dancing, and singing. Lydia Bartels, Rachel Rakestraw, and Opal Gay are members of the Sunflower Singers. Ruth Adams was formerly one of the group. Rachel Rakestraw is one of the Chorus Line Dancers.

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church. Anyone in the community, or anyone who has lived here or has friends in the community, is welcome. The Johnson County Health Department sends two nurses to the meetings to take blood pressures.

Alberta Makadanz

LIBRARY-MULTI—SERVICE CENTER

Spring Hill Library/Multi-Service Center was started by a group of concerned citizens who donated their money, time and services to provide health care for the community.

This group contacted Trish Kelley-Moore, director of the Johnson County Office of Human Resources, for county help in starting the Center. Working with $3,050, which was the amount the county allowed for remodeling the Locke building on Main Street, plus the generosity of local merchants, the Center was opened at the Main Street location in early 1976. Trish Moore encouraged other Johnson County agencies to participate in the Center. These agencies were the Health Department, CETA Job Services, Library and Mental Health. Activities at the Center are now being coordinated by Geraldine Bass, who is employed by the Office of Human Resources and Aging.

The Center now has a new building at 109 South Webster. The Library features the Parent-Child Learning Center, easy readers, junior and young adult books for the youth of the community, and adult fiction and non-fiction plus magazines and the daily newspapers for adults. There is also a reference section featuring a Magazine Index plus a County bulletin board and pamphlets.

The Health Department holds a clinic twice a month. The nurse checks blood pressure and gives school immunizations for a small fee. A CETA employee is at the Center one day a week to help find jobs for the unemployed. Counseling is offered by the Mental Health Department. The Center coordinator administers funds for emergency payment of utility bills for eligible persons and has food on hand for needy families. The cheese program (distribution of excess cheese owned by the Government) is part of this service.

The Center has a small meeting room available for non-profit group meetings. The local Advisory Board consists of Mrs. Caroline Morrison, Mrs. Margaret Dunmire, Mr. Loren Locke, Mr. Fred Marshall, Mrs. Sue McRae, Mrs. Louise Smothers, and Mrs. Tressa Stone.

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RURITAN CLUB

The National Ruritan organization was founded in Holland, Virginia, in 1928 for the purpose of helping rural and town residents get together to work for community betterment. The emphasis has always been on the smaller communities and the goal is to have a membership composed about equally of country residents and town business men and leaders. The present National Headquarters is at Dublin, Virginia.

The Mid-America District No. 37 is comprised of all the clubs in eastern Kansas and part of western Missouri. Jerry Meek, of the Spring Hill club, is district Governor in 1983.

The Spring Hill Community Ruritan Club was founded in April 1973. The sponsoring club was the Hillsdale Ruritan Club. That group also helped start clubs at Bucyrus and Louisburg in 1973 and later started clubs in Block, Fontana, and Paola. Wilbur Riley, John Wood, and Darrel Stephens were the Hillsdale members most actively involved in helping the Spring Hill club get started. The first officers were: Bob Culver, president; Ron Starr, vicepresident; Vance Stiles, secretary, and Lloyd Conn, treasurer. Bill Nevius, Bob Newton, and Eldon Ellis were members of the board of directors. The following have served as president in succeeding years: Eldon Ellis, Ed Landers, Bill Meek, Fritz Schumacher, Jerry Schmitt, Jerry Meek, Mel Mohn, Frank Healy. Paul Sowers is president for 1983.

Charter members included: R. M. Culver, Ron Starr, Vance Stiles, William Nevius, Lloyd Conn, Eldon Ellis, Robert Newton, Ernest Adams, Emmett Cantrall, John Culver, Tom Ewing, Ralph Faris, James Funk, Jack Fulton, Phil A. Green, Cal Guillory, Glenn W. Haas, John Hermon, Frank Jamison, Neal Janicke, R. J. Kaps, William Meek, John C. Mullen, Wayne Nevius, Richard Newton, Ray Perkins, Frank Polfer, Marvin Read, Allen L. Shafer, Robert Sowers, Robert Stiles, Norman Youngman, Everett Stuteville, Dave Trombly, Ed Landers, John Hanser, Fred Soetart, Don Lloyd, Herb Avery. Active membership since has been around 25; there are presently 31 on the roll.

The Club meets monthly in Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church. After enjoying the meal and much fun and fellowship, an entertaining or informational program is presented. After that is the business meeting, in which plans for the many community projects are discussed and finalized. Club projects have included sponsoring the community blood drive and Little League ball team; building the community shelter house in the City Park and the fence at the Grade School; holding benefit events for worthy causes and needy people; helping with the Fall Festival, and many others.

Vance Stiles

BOY SCOUTS

The earliest record we have of scouting is a picture of a troop named Hawk. The scoutmaster was Rev. Harry P. Hunter, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church from March 1917 to March 1918. Scouts in the picture are Lawrence Fisher, Lloyd Tisdale, Bruce Beaver, Willie Wilson, Robert Turner, Vaughn Dillon, Joe Hines, Ray Fisher, and Bernard Stiles, and the scoutmaster.

The next record is about 1939, when grade school principal, Ferman Border, was scoutmaster. Shortly after that, J. K. DeTar, better known as "King," and long-time operator of the Phillips 66 Station at Nichols and Highway 169 (Webster), was scoutmaster. Some of the boys in that troop were Donald and Damon Simpson, Homer Land, Maynard Land, Rex Land, and Joe Dunmire. When King resigned as leader after four or five years, the troop died out for a time. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Jim Starrett was leader. On a Sunday morning during services at the Methodist Church, the pastor's son, Paul, who was a college freshman, received his Eagle Scout award. Bob Starrett, son of the scoutmaster, also received the Eagle Scout award but the troop was no longer active in Spring Hill and had gone to Olathe, where Mr. Starrett was scoutmaster. Several of the local scouts were in his troop there.

Scouting was renewed in 1958 under the present Troop 289. Some of the scoutmasters over the next few years were men who were stationed at the Olathe Naval Air Station, whose names we do not have. Scouting was dropped and restarted a time or two because of base transfers. About 1964, the troop was again started with Ron Morland as scoutmaster. When he left the troop in 1967, it was started again with Joe McSpadden as scoutmaster and Farley Compton as assistant. Two years later Farley Compton became scoutmaster and remained until January 1980. At that time Larry Sumner, who had been in the troop since he joined as a tenderfoot at the age of eleven, went on to become scoutmaster. He served until January 1983, when Pat Yelton took over the position.

The troop was sponsored by the Methodist Church for many years. In 1967, the sponsorship was taken over by the Spring Hill Lions Club. Sometime around the mid-seventies, the sponsorship was assumed by the Parent Teachers Organization; then in 1982 it was taken over by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, the sponsors have been very important to the troop as it is their function to furnish a meeting place and help the troop in any way possible. No troop can function without a good sponsor.

One of the primary purposes of scouting is to develop character, leadership, and love of the outdoors. The troop usually tries to have eight or nine campouts plus a week-long summer camp. This requires a lot of time and hard work on the part of many individuals. Over the years a large percentage of the fathers and many who just enjoy the outdoors

spent many weekends assisting with the camping program. Many of the boys camped years ago and are now spending time with their sons, and probably with grandsons, doing the same things.

For many years the troop was a part of the Kaw Council, which was entirely in Kansas. In 1947 the Missouri and Kansas Districts were combined to form the Heart of America Council. Troop 289 is a part of the Twin Rivers District, which includes Miami, Linn, Anderson, and Franklin Counties. The troop usually starts the year with about twelve boys and ends up with about eighteen. Many men and boys from the area can look back over the years to a goodly number of weekends of fun, good times and hard work, and times of heat and cold, rain and snow, but still times to remember.

Farley Compton

Editor's Note: Jim Starrett was scoutmaster from September 1949 through September 1953. Patrol Leaders in 1939 were John Fann, Donald Simpson, and Neal York.

JAYCEES

In November, 1971, twenty young men of Spring Hill became charter members of the Spring Hill Jaycees, with Keith Dave as the Charter President. The Jaycees' emphasis is on the individual: encouraging a young man to become aware of himself and his duty to society. Young men between the ages of 18 and 35 serve this many-facted organization as president, community development vicepresident, individual development vicepresident, chapter management vicepresident, state director, secretary, treasurer, and membership directors. The Jayceettes are the female counterpart of the all-male Jaycees.

As a non-profit organization, members raise money by selling Christmas trees, cutting firewood, selling sweet corn, holding dances, and sponsoring auctions and drawings.

Service to the community is one of the top Jaycee priorities. Annual projects include presenting the Spring Hill Fall Festival, Spring Clean-Up, a B-B Shoot and Hunter Safety courses for the youth, and an excursion for the elderly from Spring Hill Manor. In June, 1977, the Jaycees constructed a one and a half mile pipeline to replenish the City's failing water supply.

With emphasis on the individual, the Jaycees offer programs such as Time Management, Financial Planning, CPR Training, Personal Dynamics, and Communications Dynamics.

The local Jaycees support Kansas Jaycees projects, such as Kansas Jaycees Cerebral Palsy Ranch, Outstanding Young Men Program, State B-B Shoot.

The success of the Spring Hill Jaycees is reflected in the number of members who serve on the City Council, School Board, Recreation Association, Kansas Jaycees State Officers and Chairmen. Local members have earned state and national recognition in membership competition. The chapter has earned No. 1 ranking in Kansas twice (1978 and 1980), one No. 2 ranking (1982), and one No. 1 ranking (1980) in the national inter-chapter competition.

John House

L I O N S C L U B

Prior to 1953 several efforts had been made to form an organization that could perform service projects for the community. None of these groups was able to function to the satisfaction of concerned community leaders. The Paola Lion Club members became aware of the situation and proposed a Lion Club for Spring Hill. It was explained that a Lions Club would have benefit of the experience of clubs at area, state, and national levels toward becoming a dynamic influence in the community. This appealed to a number of service-minded people and the Paola Lions Club sponsored our membership. A charter was granted in 1953.

The young club lost no time engaging in fund-raising projects and performing community services. One of the first major projects was building a shelter house at the City lake. The Club has sponsored projects at the rate of one or two a month, representing a great variety of activities. Hundreds of pairs of old eyeglasses have been collected and put into the Lion program for aiding poor people all over the world who have defective vision. The Club has provided new glasses for many needy students whose poor vision was holding them back in their school work. No Christmas has gone by without the Club's providing presents to those who might not have received any. At the Club's first Christmas, a Santa Claus program for the children was begun and has continued ever since. Many local people who were victims of misfortune have been aided by the Lions. Each year a band student has been sent to Convention Band. The Club sponsored Stanley-Stilwell as a new club and has provided a District Governor and a Zone Chairman from the local membership.

A variety of fund-raising projects has produced money to finance the Club's activities. Broom sales and pancake feeds have been the most popular; a circus netted the greatest amount for a single project. Members have never been assessed to finance Lion projects; they work for the money selling services and products.

For thirty years, under the leadership of dedicated members, the Club has been useful to the Spring Hill community. The Club is now working toward its Fiftieth Anniversary.

Fred Marshall

KANSAS KAPPA OMICRON
CHAPTER BETA SIGMA PHI

Beta Sigma Phi, an international cultural and social organization, was founded by Walter W. Ross on April 30, 1931, at Abilene, Kansas. The Spring Hill chapter, Kansas Kappa Omicron, Chapter 9749, was organized March 6, 1975. Charter members were: Judy Gott, president; Alberta Compton, vicepresident; Cheryl Perkins, recording secretary; Carol Aust, secretary; Carol Green, treasurer; Janet Bachnick, Jane Hanser, Jeanne House, Rosemary Hass, Fran Cook, Marilyn Landers, Linda Soetaert, Ralone Claggett, and Donna Silsby. As of this date, May 14, 1983, Jane Hanser is the only charter member still active in the Sorority. Honorary members are Mrs. Margaret Dunmire and Mrs. Beth West Greer.

Besides social and cultural activities, the organization has also been active in many service projects. A popular project is the Community Friend Project. Each year members choose a community friend from a list of elderly widows or single women of the community. These ladies are remembered throughout the year with gifts, cards, and other thoughtful deeds. It is felt that both members and the community friends benefit.

The Sorority currently has 17 active members. They are: Diana Meek, president; Vicki Whisenant, vicepresident; Kathy Morrison, recording secretary; Debbie Chandler, corresponding secretary; Brenda Watson, treasurer; Anita Bloodgood, reporter; Carol Bollin, Martha Chase, Wanda Davis, Jennifer Favor, Linda Hammen, Jane Hanser, Connie Healy, Cathy Morrison, Janet Newton, Claudia Veatch, and Wanda Yoakum. Members on leave-of-absence are Myrna Morrison and June Seavey.

I O O F

Priscilla Lodge No. 70 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized March 10, 1871. The Lodge was named in honor of Priscilla Rudy, who made the regalia for the new lodge. At the first meeting the following were admitted by card: D. G. Tremain, James Furgeson, Valentine Recker, W. M. Hendricks, B. P. Wiltz, A. Rudy, George Moss, Aaron LaRue, and John Corbit. Candidates initiated were W. F. Moore, Thos. Manning, G. L. Evans, F. R. Morrison, and R. C. Craine. D. C. Tremain was the Noble Grand and Valentine Recker the secretary.

It is interesting to note that the Lodge met every Wednesday evening and elected new officers every six months. They reported to the state organization on June 30 and December 31 of each year. The first report, on July 5, 1871, listed 27 members, 4 rejected, and 1 expelled for adultery and misrepresentation.

The Lodge met in the upstairs of a building on the southeast corner of the Original Town Square. The building was owned by J. Skinner, and the Lodge bought the upstairs of the building in 1873 and continued to meet there until 1882, when they sold the upstairs back to Mr. Skinner. They then bought a building in the second block on South Main Street. In 1890 they sold this building to the Modern Woodmen of America and moved across the street east to the Lambert Building, which was located about a half a block south of what was then Cherry Street (now Hale Street).

In 1901 the Lodge purchased lots from Josephine Coons on the east side of the first block on South Main and erected a two-story building. They rented the downstairs and used the upstairs for a meeting hall. The building burned in 1934 and was rebuilt on the same site. For many years a funeral home occupied the lower floor.

The Rebekah Marie No. 7 was organized January 22, 1892, and closed August 8, 1952.

AMERICAN LEGION and AUXILIARY

The American Legion Cole-Smith Post No. 350 was organized in 1948 with ten charter members. The Post was named for O. C. Cole, jr. and Tommy Smith, who gave their lives in World War II. The first commander was Lloyd Wilcox and the first adjutant was Glenn Melton. The Post is still active, with a membership of 58.

The American Legion Auxiliary Cole-Smith Unit 350 was organized in 1950 with 19 charter members. Galetha Cook was the first president. The first Girl Stater was Cloris Knoche in 1952. The present membership is 113.

These organizations are service organizations and strive to serve others. Child welfare, Veterans Administration hospitals, community service, and rehabilitation are some of their very important programs.

Cecil Poisal

EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS UNIT

The Spring Hill Extension Homemakers Unit was organized in the spring of 1930 at the home of Mrs. Blanche Chamberlin. Johnson County Home Demonstration Agent Mary Elsie Border was present to help organize the club; Mrs. Fred Griffin was elected the first president. Charter members were Mrs. Giffin, Mrs. Chamberlin, Mrs. C. A. Bullis, Mrs. Ed Blair, Mrs. H. B. Dickey, Mrs. Wilbur Zehring, Mrs. Tom DeVault, Mrs. Vance Meek, Mrs. Frank Cole, Mrs. H. G. Ramsey, Mrs. Otto Timmons, and Mrs. Florence LaRosh. There were 31 members the first year. Meetings were held once a month in the members' homes. Members enjoyed learning to make hats, cheese, dress forms, baskets, how to do upholstering, furniture refinishing, sewing, landscaping, and studying nutrition and many other things. The organization was called Farm Bureau until 1946 when the name was changed to Home Demonstration Units. In 1967, the name was changed to Extension Homemakers Units.

Many members have come and gone but the club is still very active, meeting once a month at the homes of club members. Mrs. Lela Timmons is the only charter member who is still active. She received a certificate of recognition from the state and National Extension service for being a member for over 50 years. The club has received many awards from county, district, and state for their achievements.

SPRING HILL 4-H RUSTLERS

The Spring Hill Rustlers 4-H Club was organized in 1940 under the supervision of Mr. C. T. Hall and Miss Berniece Sloan, county extension agents. Charter members were: Neil York, Martha Newton, Dick Newton, Everett DeVault, Edgar Arnold, Loretta Stiles, Marian DeVault, Dorothy Jean LaRosh, Evalyn Arnold, Milton Arnold, Loran Arnold, Charles Bath, Barbara Hartley, Joe Newton, Bill Stiles, Vance Stiles, Frank Stroch, Jr.; Ursula Storch, Beatrice Whitney, Bill Whitney, Bobby York, Leland York, Dorothy Richards, William Richards, and Dorothy McLane.

The Rustlers held their monthly meetings at the Legion Hall when first organized, and have since met at various places, including the Grade School, Old High School (present Middle School), Baptist Church, and the Methodist Church, where they meet at the present time. 4-H Sunday is an important day which is observed in church services once a year.

The Spring Hill Rustlers celebrated the 40th anniversary in 1980. Many young people through the years have made 4-H a worthwhile organization in our community. Community leaders have been: Mr. Jim Arnold, 1940-42; Mrs. Fred Giffin, 1940; Mrs. Jennie Laskie, 1941-45 (assistant in 1946); Mr. Harry Dalzell, 1943-44; Mr. Dick Newton, 1945; Mrs. Martha (Newton) Crawford, 1946-48; Mrs. Geraldine Avery, 1947-64 (assistant in 1947-48); Mr. Carl Weir, 1946-57; Mrs. Jim Hedrick, 1952; Rev. Marshall Schirer, 1955-56; Mr. Keith Bliss, 1958-59; Mr. Marion Buchanon, 1961-62; Mrs. Alice Youngman, 1965-66; Mr. Scott Anderson, 1965-66; Mrs. Ethel Mae Healy, 1966-73; Mr. Bud Malone, 1967-68, Mr. Mr. Lloyd Myers, 1969-70; Mr. Phil Holtgraves, 1969-72; Mrs. Marilyn Landers, 1973-78; Mrs. Jean Grauberger, 1973- ; Mrs. Pat Meek, 1982- . Mrs. Avery (now Mrs. Lee Green) was a leader of another club prior to coming to the Rustlers, and she received a 20-year leaders pin at a recognition service at the Baptist Church when Mrs. Youngman was leader.

A great many, too numerous to mention, have served as project leaders over the years. Most parents who are willing can find a job in 4-H, too. In addition to her services as community leader, Mrs. Avery was clothing project leader for a great many years.

Loretta Zimmerman

"To Make The Best Better"

ACTIVITIES OF SPRING HILL RUSTLERS

Activities of the Spring Hill Rustlers 4-H Club during its first year (1940) included a club picnic at Gardner, an ice cream social, a 4-H tour, and a stand at the Spring Hill Fair.

During World War II the club helped our country by collecting scrap iron, rubber, and paper for reprocessing, and by having a defense stamp drive. In 1946, the club planted memorial trees for the three young men of the community who gave their lives in the service of their country. The trees were planted in the yard of the Spring Hill HIgh School (now the Middle School). In 1962, one of the trees died and was replaced by the Rustlers at a ceremony at the school. Vance Stiles repeated the address he had given as a 4-H member in 1946.

Other activities of the club over the years have been planting shrubs at the cemetery entrance, clearing weeds and grass at crossroads, distributing flags at the cemetery on Memorial Day, planting trees at the swimming pool, painting of parking lines on Main Street and at the Community Center, and planting a flower garden at Cozy Haven.

Events in which the club has participated are 4-H Sunday, 4-H week, 4-H project tours, county 4-H Club Days, Regional Club Days, fairs at Spring Hill and Gardner, Old Settlers programs and parades at Olathe, and the Spring Hill Fall Festival. Members have attended 4-H camps and Round-Up and have been delegates to the American Royal.

A community service of the club has been improving the city park. In 1967, the club planted a pin oak in the park and in 1974, placed two picnic tables and three grills there. With labor donated by the Spring Hill Ruritan Club, the 4-Hers built a shelter in the park. It was completed in 1980 and two more picnic tables were added the next year.

4-H in Spring Hill continues to be an active part of the community. Monthly meetings are held the second Monday of each month at the United Methodist Fellowship Hall.

Carol Stiles

Correction: From The Spring Hill New Era, May 30, 1946: Five hard maple trees were planted at Spring Hill Rural High School, two on the front lawn, one on either side of the sidewalk to the north entrance and one in the triangle made by the drive. The trees were dedicated on Sunday, May 26, 1946, to five graduates of the school who died in World War II. They were O. C. Cole, Jr.; Kenneth Baldwin, Thomas Eugene Smith, Homer Land, and John B. Griffin. Vance Stiles gave the dedicatory address as a part of a community (Bucyrus, Hillsdale and Spring Hill) homecoming for those who served in the war. About 75 servicemen registered; about 1,000 attended.

SPRING HILL KIDS WRESTLING

Spring Hill Kids Wrestling was first chartered with the Kansas Kids Wrestling Federation in 1981. The purpose of this winter activity is to provide young people with basic skills in wrestling and to prepare them for competition of high school, college, and some even, the Olympic teams. With these goals in mind, a $200.00 donation from the J.C.'s and the help of Booster Club member Carol Aust and high school wrestling coach, Tom Carbajo, the group managed to obtain use of the elementary school gym. The first coach was David Michaels. Soon he was looking for help with all the inexperienced kids. Mitch Strader, who was a former high school and college wrestler, volunteered.

In closing the 1981 season, Mr. Michaels had moved on to other opportunities, and Mr. Strader finished out the season taking the following to the Kansas State Tournament: Travis Roberts, 12 under, 3rd; Dusty Strader, 8 under, 6th; Jeremy Mackey, 8 under; Fred Keeney, 8 under.

In 1982 Coach Strader again volunteered his evenings, along with those of his wife Jackie. Once again the efforts of the kids and the coaching of Mr. Strader paid off with the following wrestlers going to State: James Sloan, 12 under, heavy weight, 1st; Davey Phillips, 8 under,75 pounds, 1st; Anna Honn, 10 under; Travis Roberts, 14 under; Trent Roberts, 14 under. James Sloan qualified for nationals but was unable to attend because of a broken arm. With the end of the 1982 season, the club was again faced with finding another coach. Mr. Carbajo was helpful in the selection of a new coach.

Election of officers for the new season, held at a picnic, was as follows: Dennis Joeckel, president; Frank Martinez, vicepresident; Debbie Seamands, secretary-treasurer; Lou Holsapple, tournament director; Jack Kilcoyne, tournament director. The club was happy to accept the volunteer help of coach Mike Ford of Olathe, and his assistant, Randy Newport of Osawatomie. Mr. Ford has had five years of experience and a fine record of state champions and placings at Nationals.

The following qualified for State competition: Travis Roberts, 1st; Jed Birchard, 2nd; Tony Bibee; Angie Sloan, 3rd; James Sloan, 1st; Davy Phillips, 5th; Mark Jenkins; Chip Martinez, 3rd; Jeremy Newport; Fred Keeney, 3rd; Jeremy Mackey; Dusty Strader; Chris Weems. The following boys, who placed 5th or better and are 10 years of age or over, qualified for Nationals: James Sloan, Jed Birchard, Angie Sloan, Travis Roberts, Fred Keeney, Davy Phillips.

The season ended with a banquet to honor all participants. The following were elected for the new season: Mitch Strader, president; Dennis Joeckel, vicepresident; Debbie Seamands, secretary-treasurer. - - Dennis Joeckel

Note: In July, Angie Sloan won first in her division in the National competition.

P T A a n d P T O

Spring Hill Grade School Parent-Teachers Association (PTA) was organized October 27, 1938, by Mrs. Siebert, Johnson County PTA Chairman, and Mrs. Frisby, District Extension Chairman. The first officers were: Mrs. Fred Lollar, president; Mrs. Harry Dalzell, vicepresident; Mrs. Norris Hogue, secretary; Mrs. R. A. Dunmire, treasurer; Mrs. J. S. Simpson, historian; and Mr. Joe Dobbs, principal, advisor. (Mrs. Lollar could not serve because of a policy in her husband's business, and Mrs. Dalzell was the president the first year.)

The PTA was formed to help promote welfare of children and youth in home, school, church, and community. It also aimed to help raise the standard of home life, secure adequate laws for those youth, and bring closer relationships between home and school. To obtain this goal, Miss Beth Moore (Mrs. Kenneth Henley), county superintendent, suggested at least one hot dish be provided to those children who brought lunches on cold winter days. In 1939, the PTA furnished food, usually soup or cocoa and cookies, for the hot dish. In January and February, 1940, hot lunches were served on 20 days. The food was donated and prepared by the PTA. This venture qualified the school to be rated a Grade A school. The hot lunches were discontinued in 1942 but started again in 1944 and soon became part of school life.

One of the first projects of the PTA was to raise money to equip a kitchen. Baked goods were auctioned; food sales were held; chili suppers were given. There was also a kitchen shower. A stove was purchased for the sum of $3.00.

Each year the PTA had a money-making project to raise funds to purchase items for student and school use. Some of the projects were: annual stunt night, white elephant sales, chicken and noodle or tuna and noodle suppers, variety shows, cookbook sales, school carnivals, Whizzo the Clown show, ham and bean dinners, chili suppers, and paper drives. The money was used to purchase playground equipment, library books, curtains for stage and lunchroom areas, encyclopedias, song books, chairs, lumber for benches, pictures for classrooms, band uniforms, lunchroom tables, radio and speaker unit for the grade school, records, filmstrips, film and movie equipment, basketball goals, bags for basketball boys, rain coats for patrol boys and girls (the hoods were sewn on by Mrs. Frank Storch, Jr.), an audiometer, math calculators, and many other worthwhile items. The organization also sponsored an essay contest on "Why I Love America," Block Mothers, Civil Defense Program, Scouts, benefit polio basketball game, basket suppers for the teachers and community, taxi service for elections, physical hygiene programs, parent education classes, "Bundle Day" (clothing to be sent to schools in the Appalachian

Mountains), eye checks for children and adults, drug education programs, the Picture Lady programs, PTA open house, Dad's night, last-day-of-school suppers, Founders Day Teas, room mother program, Fall Festival floats, Back-To-School night, and the Campbell's Soup Company labels for Education Program.

Through the continued efforts of the PTA, sidewalks were constructed on a portion of Nichols Street. This was done with the combined efforts of PTA, community, and business donations. PTA and community action also secured the "Wink-O-Matic" school signal.

Each month the PTA held a monthly meeting with a guest speaker, film, or entertainment by the children. Over the years committees were formed to conduct and carry out the work brought up at these meetings.

On March 20, 1979, the PTA was disbanded. Members felt too much of the PTA dues were sent to the National Organization of the PTA. With the thought of keeping the money for local use, the Parent-Teachers Organization was formed. Thus the objections of the local independent group remained basically the same. The PTO also added objectives of providing specific activities, functions and projects each school year. The PTO has one meeting each school semester. The organization has sponsored many of the projects of the PTA as well as skating parties, the Docent Art program, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Book Fair, and selling of school T-shirts and jackets.

Money has been raised through chili suppers, school carnivals, selling of Dingles, a booth at the Fall Festival. Proceeds have been used to purchase basketball goals, help buy asphalt surfacing at the Middle School, Christmas trees at Hilltop School, and purchasing audi-visual equipment.

Past Presidents of the PTA:

1938 - 41	Mrs. Harry Dalzell
1941 - 43	Mrs. F. A. York
1943 - 45	Mrs. R. A. Dunmire
1945 - 47	Mrs. Homer Westhoff
1947 - 49	Mrs. Harry Corliss
1949 - 52	Mrs. James R. Hedrick
1952 - 54	Mrs. Lewis Gilson
1954 - 55	Mrs. Robert Creamer
1955 - 56	Mrs. John Buckley
1956 - 57	Mrs. James Starrett
1957 - 58	Mrs. Lynn Hollenbeck
1958 - 59	Mrs. H. E. McNeal
1959 - 60	Mrs. Jess Phelps
1960 - 61	Mrs. H. E. McNeal
1961 - 63	Mrs. Joe Newton
1963 - 64	Mrs. Robert Flett
1964 - 66	Mrs. Ted Hecke, Jr.
1966 - 67	Mrs. Bill Ross
1967 - 68	Mrs. Wayne Spencer
1969 - 70	Mrs. Robert L. Foster
1970 - 71	Mrs. Ted Hecke, Jr.
1971 - 72	Mrs. Walter Cade, Jr.
1972 - 73	Mrs. Wayne Crisler
1973 - 74	Mrs. Donald G. Lloyd
1974 - 75	Mrs. Ronald Kossenjan
1976 - 77*	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stephens
1977 - 78	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elliott
1978 - 79	Mr. and Mrs. Mark Corder
1979 - 80	Mrs. Janet Bachnick
1980 - 81	Mr. and Mrs. Joel Aust
1981 - 82	Mrs. Loretta Wilkelm and Mrs. Nancy Lee
1982 - 83	Mrs. Jennifer Hanser
*1975 - 76	Mrs. Connie Murphy

Hilltop Past PTA Presidents:

Mrs. Dale Custer, Mrs. Ray Sheldon, Mrs. Francis Morrison, Mrs. Clayton Wiswell, Mrs. Frank Worden, Mrs. Bert Brooks, Mrs. U. H. Scheuneman, Mrs. Elmer Brunker, and Mrs. Bill Russell.

SPRING HILL WALKING CLUB

Following is an article from the Olathe paper in 1897:

> "Some of our inhabitants in the South part of town were very much startled and surprised last Saturday evening, over the appearance of six limping, wayworn looking travelers, but upon investigation it proved to be the Social six from Spring Hill, who had undertaken the hazardous journey to Olathe on foot. At Mrs. W. W. Williams they made a halt, who in her motherly kindness administered unto them a little water and a whisk broom, after which the girls looked like themselves again. The party consisted of Misses Ruth Holdren, Bertha Stiles, Emma Turner, Ollie Lyons, Florence and Jennie Palmer. As none desired to walk home they returned on the evening train."

The Spring Hill paper gave the following account:

> "The Young Ladies' Walking Club of Spring Hill walked from Spring Hill to Olathe, Saturday, June 5, leaving Spring Hill at 11 o'clock a.m. and arriving in Olathe at 2 p.m., returning home on the 6:30 train, making the walk of ten miles in three hours. These little 'before breakfast constitutionals' are quite 'Henglish you know,' and are very fashionable and beneficial."

These young ladies were later known as Mrs. Everett Ramsey (Ruth Holdren), Mrs. Tom Hines (Bertha Stiles), Mrs. Alex Lowe (Emma Turner), Mrs. George Fordyce (Ollie Lyon), Mrs. Mose Holdren, mother of Mrs. Edith Fike (Florence Palmer), Mrs. Ray Morley (Jenny Palmer).

BYGONE ORGANIZATIONS

Sons of Temperance organization was very active in the post-Civil War days. Newspaper accounts of their meetings are numerous, but there is no information about their beginning or purpose.

Ku-Klux Klan. It is believed this organization was active in the area after it was officially disbanded in 1869.

Anti-Horse Thief League. This group is mentioned in the newspaper account about The Minute Men. No doubt most of its activities centered about enforcing the law on the local level.

Royal Neighbors, the women's auxiliary of the Modern Woodmen of America. It was active until about the mid-30s.

Modern Woodmen of America Lodge. Markers in the cemetery which look like tree trunks are those of Modern Woodmen members.

Ohio Club. This group was a reunion, and later a regular club, of those people who came from Ohio to this area after the Civil War. The settlers, and later their descendants, were members of the club. Many early-day settlers came from Ohio.

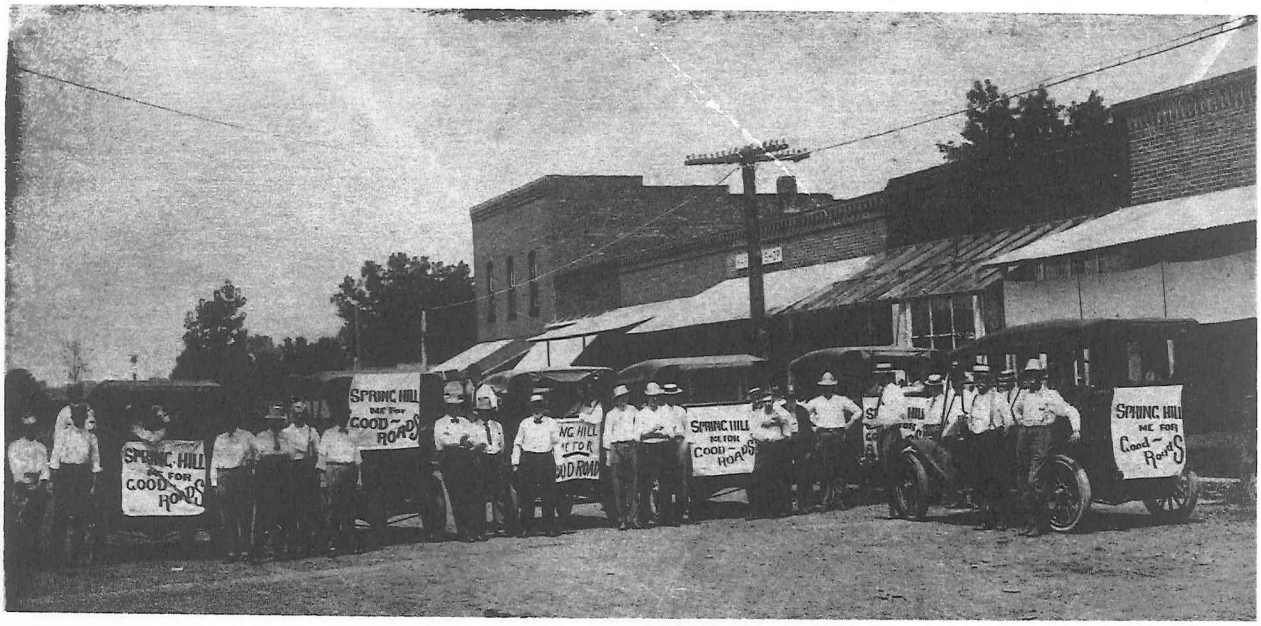
Keeping Up Club was founded in 1915 by Mrs. Maud Davis Wilson and was federated in 1916. Many ladies of Spring Hill have been members. It was discontinued in 1963. A highlight of the club's activities was the annual Christmas vesper service at the Methodist Church. It was a beautiful service with the telling of the Christmas story in scripture and music, as well as a club memorial service for deceased members. For many years the club operated a lending library in a small house across from the lumber yard.

SHAYS - an organization for Spring Hill youth to provide recreation at the churches or other facilities.

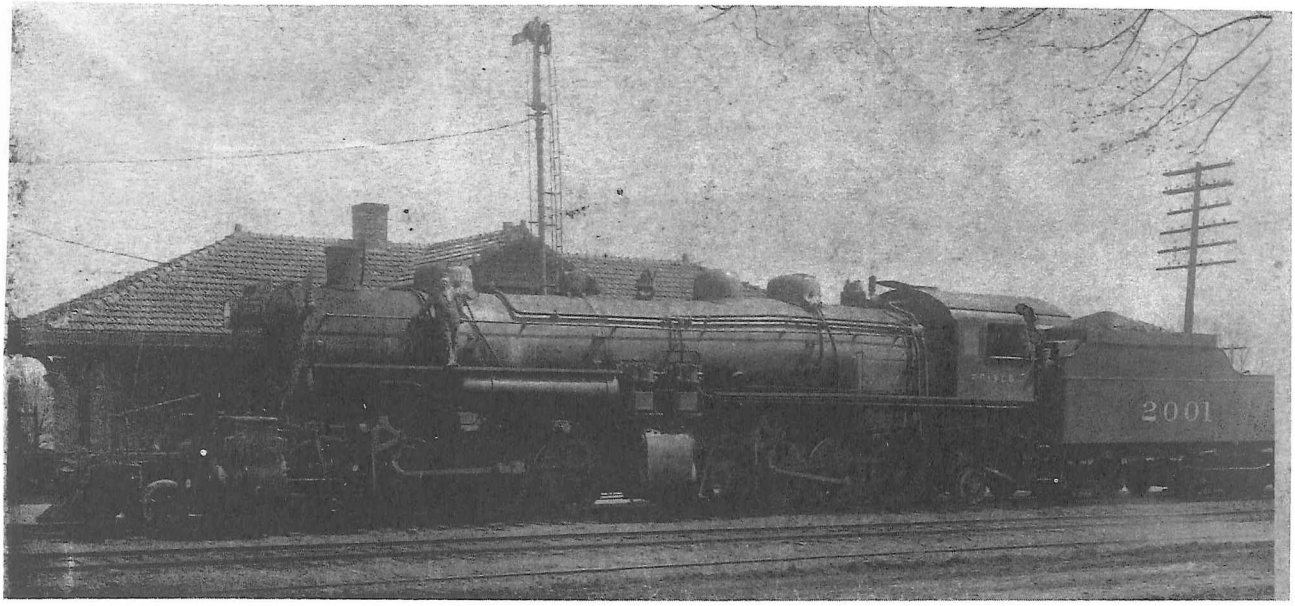
G.A.R. - Grand Army of the Republic which was active for many years after the Civil War and the auxiliary, the Women's Relief Corps, was finally organized at the urging of the editor of the local paper in about 1883.

Picture History

MAIN STREET - Prior to 1910



HIGHWAY THROUGH SPRING HILL - MAIN STREET
Main Street was paved in the Fall of 1929.



A T T H E D E P O T

All Dressed Up
And.....

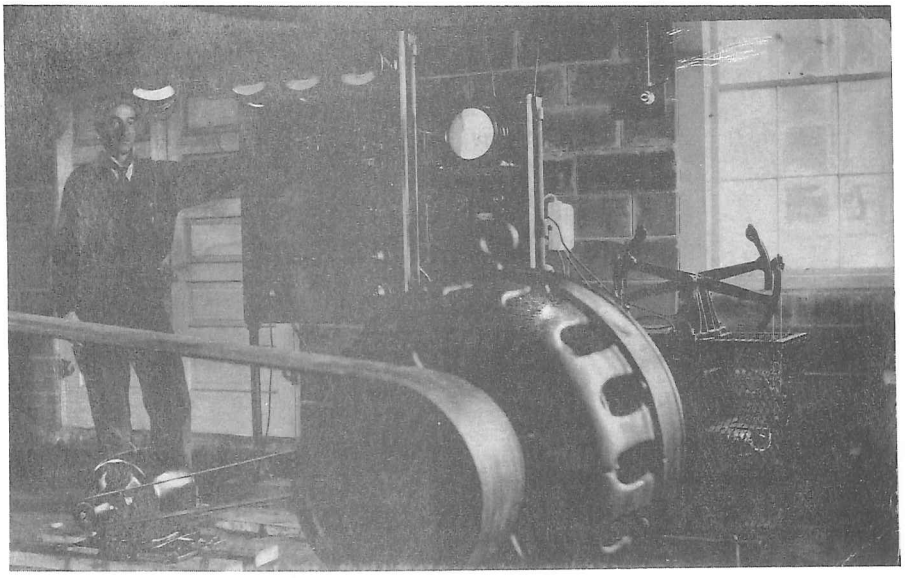
Billy Molleson (left),
Ralph Burgess (center),
Sam Hurdon (right).

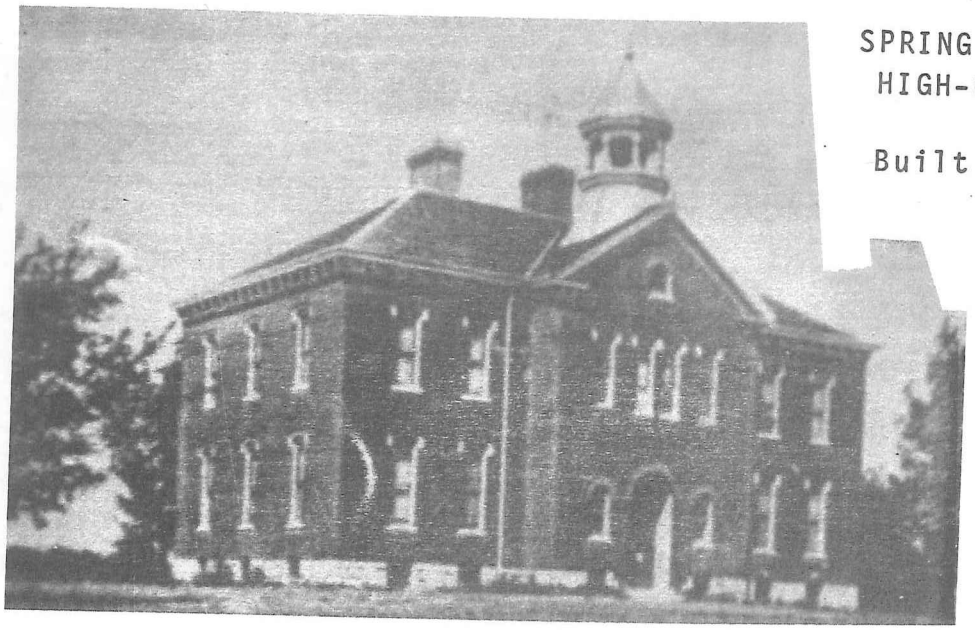
South Main Street

Looking north from
residence of
Dr. S.G.W. Stevens.

This street was the
highway from Olathe
to Paola.

Warren Landis
operating electric
generating plant
on North Main Street

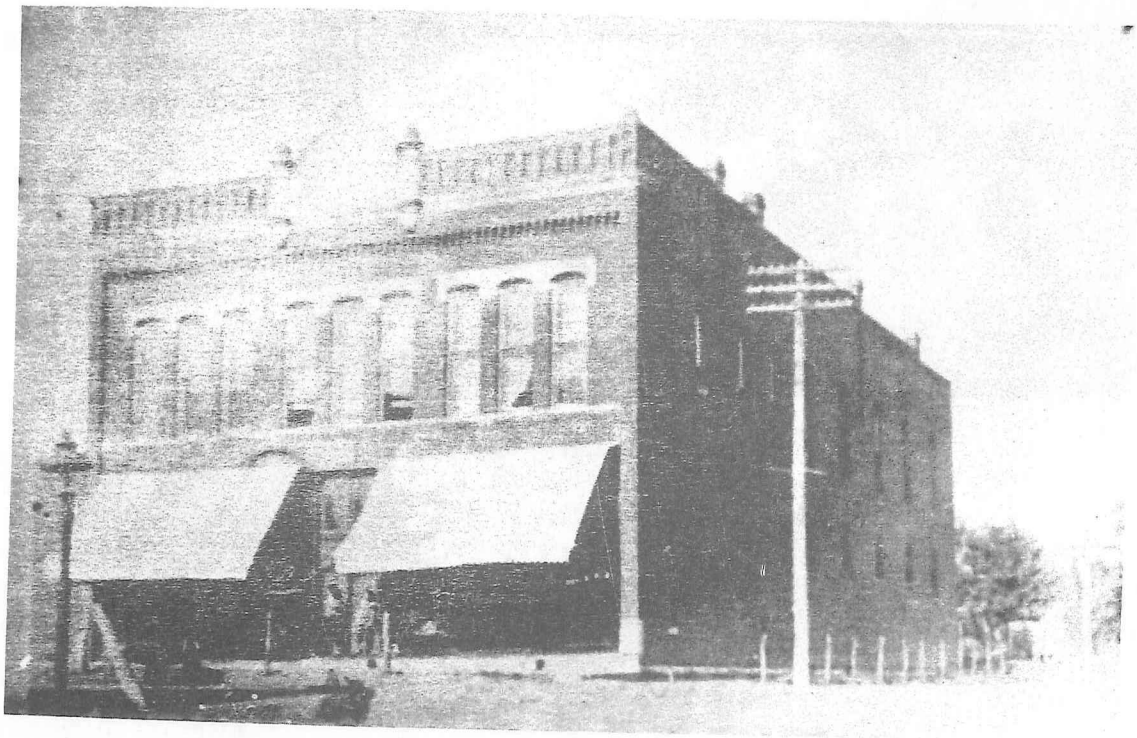




SPRING HILL
HIGH-GRADE SCHOOL

Built in 1893-94

THE GRANGE STORE, Southwest corner of Main & Nichols



First Store Building, 1857.

This store was built and operated by Mr. W. G. Davidson. It was located east of the Town Square, on the north side of the street

THE DEPOT

Main Street, 1930.

Loren Locke, owner, stands in front of the business he operated 42 years.

Locke's Drug Store

Freshman Class, 1919-20
Class was in building where Grade School is now located. Members, Front Row, left to right: Dora Coons Hedricks, Cecil Shepard, Cecil Starbuck; Back, Elizabeth Gordon, Ray Johnson, Geraldine Matthews, Vera Cuddeback Simons, Esther Westhoff Dover, Velma Wikoff Shepherd, Barbara Nelson Elliott, Loren Locke.

SPRING HILL WALKING CLUB
June 1897
Ruth Holdren Ramsay, Bertha Stiles Hines, Emma Turner Lowe, Ollie Lyon Fordyce, Florence Palmer Holdren, Genevra Palmer Morley.

1917 Home Economics Class

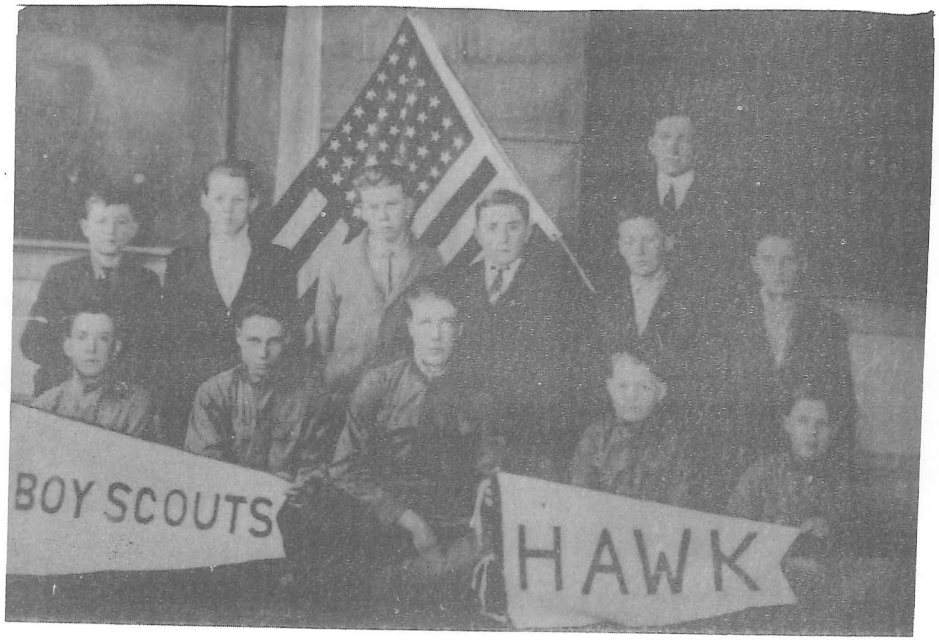
Motto: "Whatsoever a girl seweth, that shall she also rip."

Front, l-r: Mildred LaRosh, Peggy Tibbets, Ethel Wilson, Mae Brune, Miss Macklin; 2nd: Ruth Starbuck, Evelyn Snyder, Mildred Cornell._____, Margaret Smith, Hazel Starbuck, Anna Edwards, Martha Martha Nevius, and Mary Day

1922 Foods Class

Left to right: Fern Lucas Stuteville, Margaret Lucy Thomas, Thelma Long, Dorothy Caswell, Vera Turner, Charlotte Stiles Davis, Edith Morrison Lucas, Nira Geise McVay, Edith Holdren Fike, Mabel Ramey.

1918, Rev. Harry P. Hunter, Scoutmaster

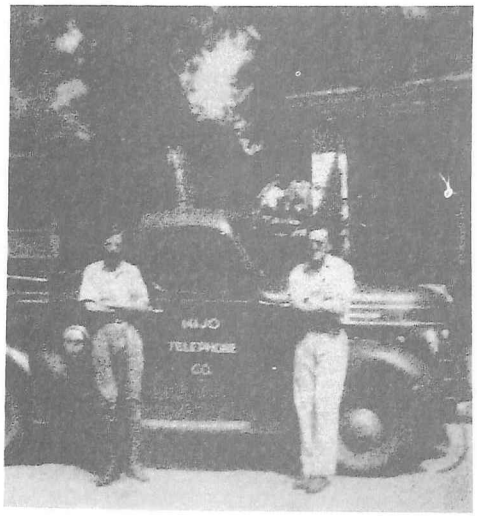


Back Row: Cashie Morton, Lawrence Fisher, Lloyd Tisdale, Bruce Beaver, Willie Wilson, Ray Fisher

Front Row: Robert Turner, Osman Stiles, Vaughn Dillon, Joe Hines, Bernard Stiles (l.to r.)

SPRING HILL HIGH SCHOOL GLEE CLUB, 1917

Left to Right, Front: Gertrude Null, Gertrude Wilson, Helen Weir, Harriet Robinson, Margaret Smith, Martha Wilkerson, Second Row: Mr. Markham, principal; Thelma Foote, Dorothy Chaney, Edna Cole, Velma Tibbetts, Agnes Brune, Viola Chaney; Third Row: Ted Weir, Earl Weir, Glenn Morris, James Ramsey, Vaugh Dillin, Beryl Dickey; Rev. Harry Hunter, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the director of the Glee Club. Fred Meek was pianist.



MIJO TELEPHONE CO. TRUCK
(1940 International)
Herb Snyder (right)
David Golf (left)
In front of telephone office located on E. Hale.

Mrs. Clara Goff 1947
At work - switchboard
Mijo Telephone Co.
Button used to ring noon whistle
(Whistle button is just above Mrs. Goff's head.)

CENTENNIAL - 1957

Queen Candidates

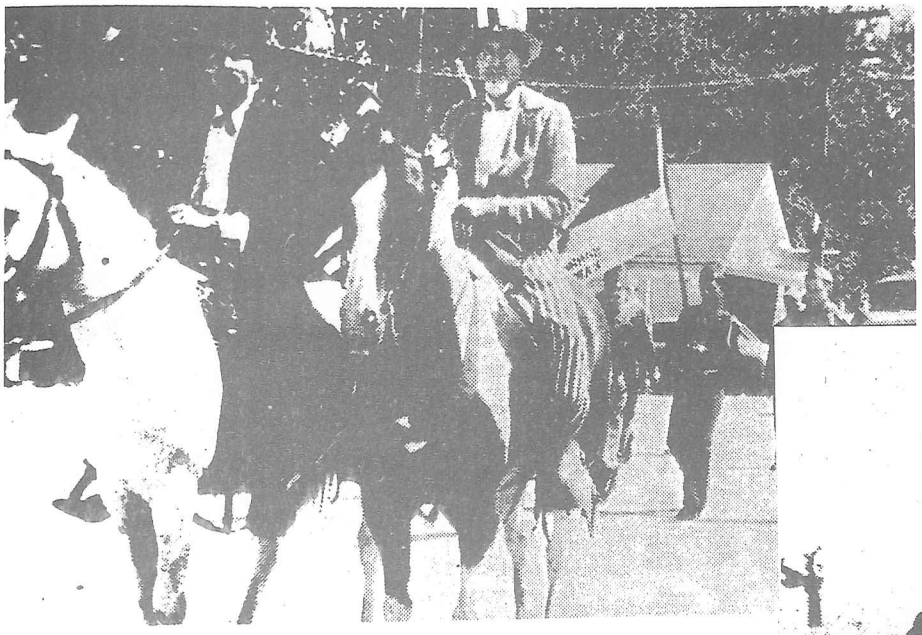
Back, left to right:
Margaret Eastland,
Marilyn Peer,
Joy Morrison,
Nancy Rice;

Front:
Dorothy Newton,
Mildred Stanton,
Myrna Westhoff,
Joanne Mayes.

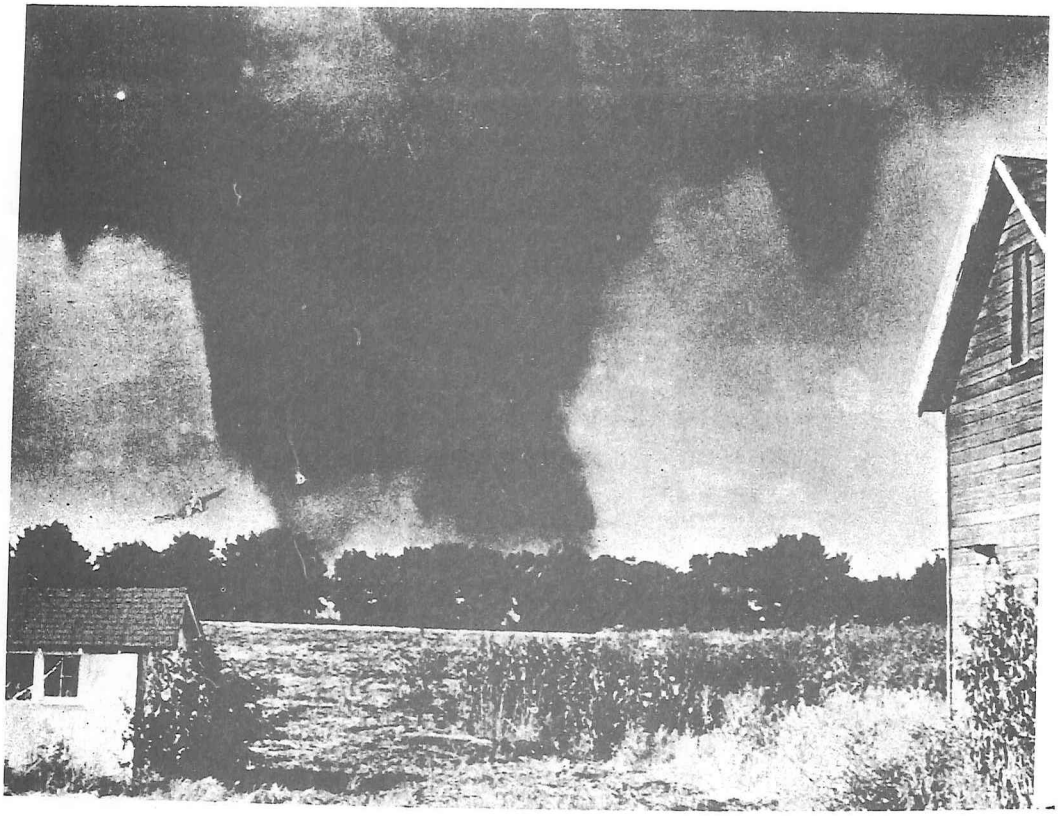
Mayor Norris Olson and Harold Dey lead the Parade.

Best Dressed:
Norris Olson,
Dick & Anita Findley;
Alice Polfer
(Mrs. ~~Frank~~ Ralph Polfer)

Sunday Services at the Old High School. Rev. Bill Ellis of the Methodist Church delivers the morning sermon.



Farm of Mr. and Mrs. Byron Morrison



This picture was taken by Rev. Robert Alexander from the north porch of the former parsonage of the Methodist Church. The original photograph hangs in the State Bank of Spring Hill.

WALNUT GROVE SCHOOL, 1912

This rural school was on the Bucyrus Road, about one and a half east of Railroad.

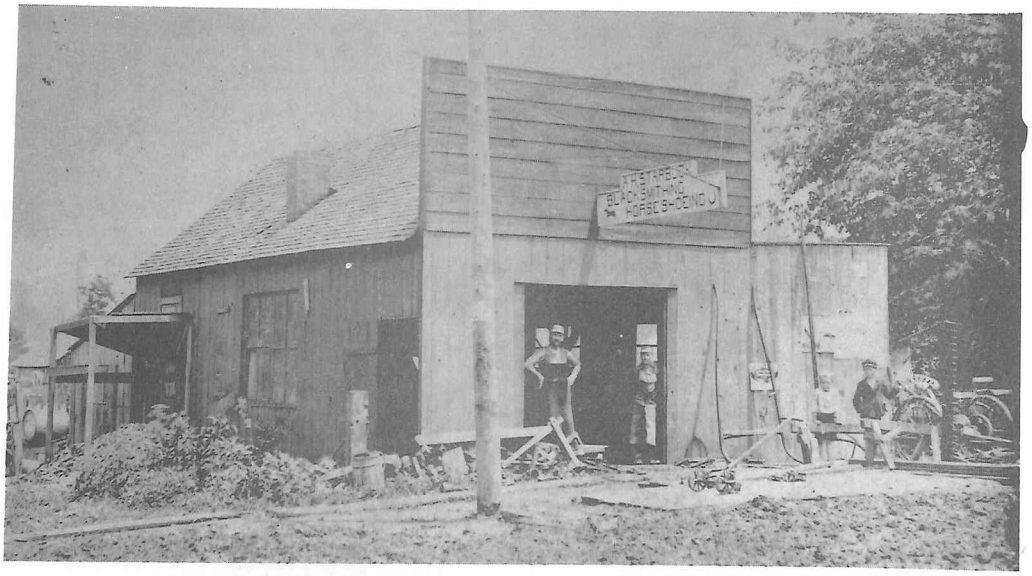
Front Row, left to right: Lewis Holdren, Charles Bobbitt, Lyndon McVey, Ivan Kay; Second Row: Sam Nevius, Emily Stahl, Raymond Thomas, Freeman Thomas, Howard McVey, Gayle Cooper; Third Row: Oma Bobbitt, Hallie Cooper, Martha Nevius, Hattie McVey, Edith Holdren; teacher, May Rhinehart.

HOMECOMING PARADE, about 1956

A. H. Starbuck
Blacksmith Shop

On South Main

The boys are
Cecil and
Ralph Starbuck



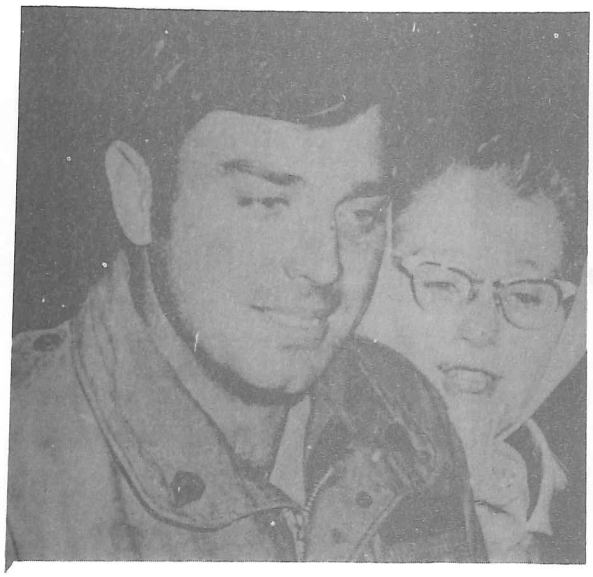
Main Street,
early 1900s.

Note the water-
melons.

Large building
burned in 1937.

This garage faced east
on Railroad Avenue. It
was behind the Cade
Hardware Store.

One of the first garages in Spring Hill. The building, which faces east on Railroad Avenue, is now used for storage by The Spring Hill Grain Co., and Lloyd's Hardware.



HOME-FOR-CHRISTMAS--1971

December 22, 1971, Harold Marshall is greeted by his mother and friends at the Johnson County Airport. He and 10 other young men arrived from Vietnam to spend Christmas with family and friends, their gift from the various communities.

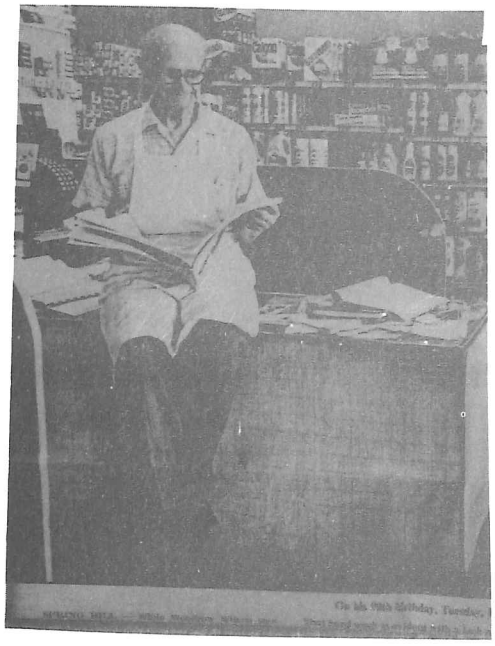
HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
MR. KUHN

July 19, 1983.

Mr. Kuhn has operated a grocery in Spring Hill since 1941.

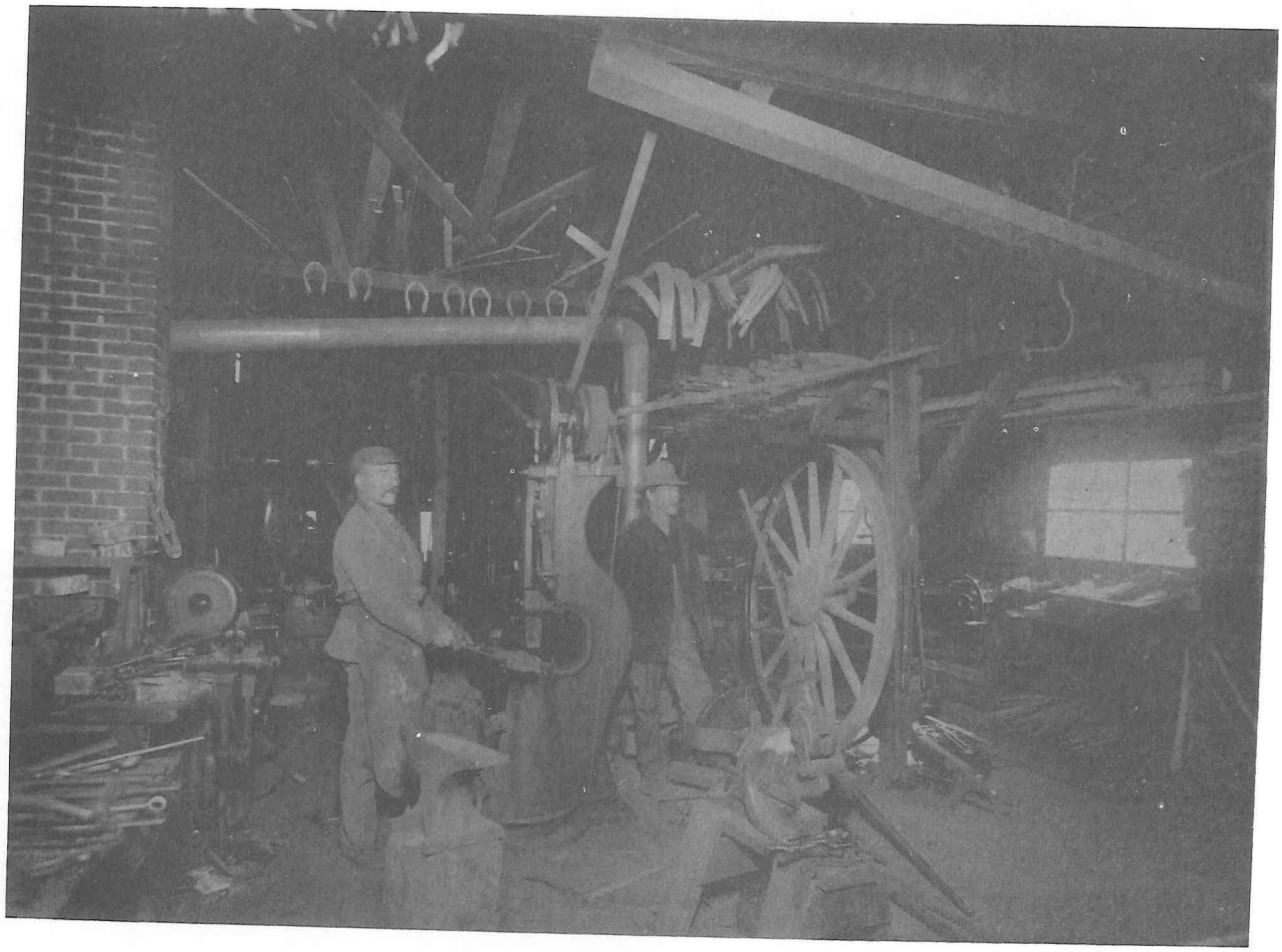
At 90, Herman Kuhn is still the

Family Grocer



Mrs. Pauline Broockerd of Spring Hill presents the check in the amount of $677.77 from Spring Hill friends of Harold Marshall to pay his way Home for Christmas.
Mrs. Broockerd had submitted Harold's name early in the campaign.

Morning Grange aided significantly in this effort.



STARBUCK BLACKSMITH SHOP, South Main Street

Carol Ann Wendt, one of the candlelighters for the unusual Bible reading service Sunday in Spring Hill, Kan., has her angel wings pinned on by the pastor's wife, Mrs. Robert Alexander.

A BIG EVENT

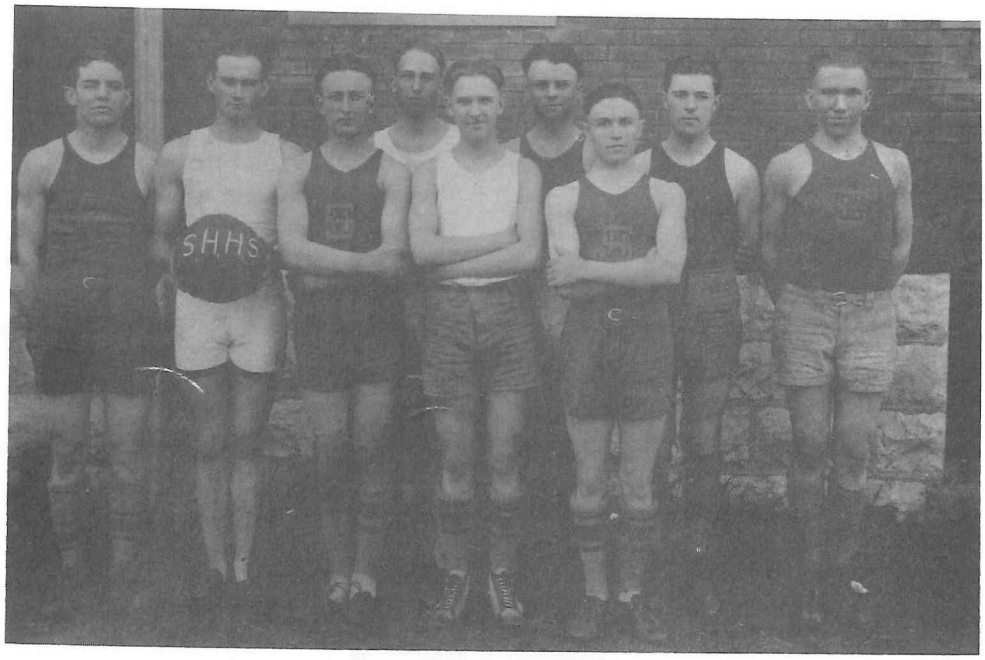
At 2:30 a.m., Sunday, December 10, 1952, the Methodist Church, under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. Robert Alexander, held an 18-hour Universal Bible Sunday Observance. With pantomines and songs, the scriptures were read continuously.

This picture, from Capper's Weekly, Topeka, shows Mrs. Alexander pinning wings on Carol Wendt. Seventy-one people in the community participated in reading the New Testament.

The continuous reading ended at 8:45 p.m. Sixteen people remained in their seats the entire time. The church was full most of the time.

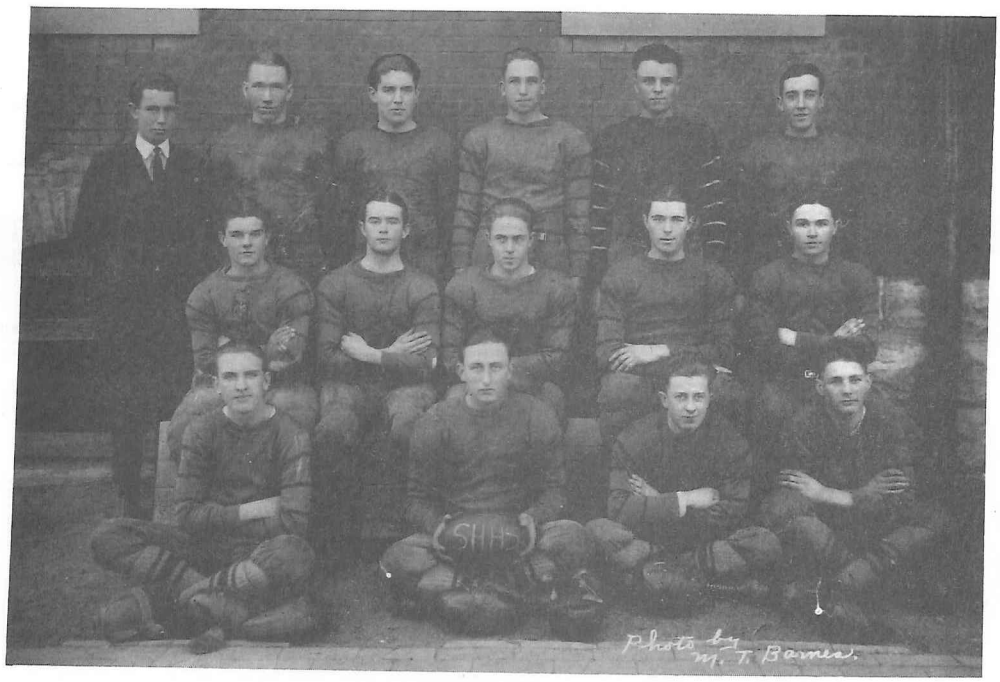
MARCH 23, 1938
(From The Kansas City Times, March 24)

SCENE OF THE RAID—The two young bandits slugged the two employees of this state bank at Spring Hill before escaping. Dunmire and H. P. Thomas, assistant cashier, suffered scalp wounds from the blows of a blackjack. The picture shows an exterior view of the bank.



SPRING HILL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM
1923

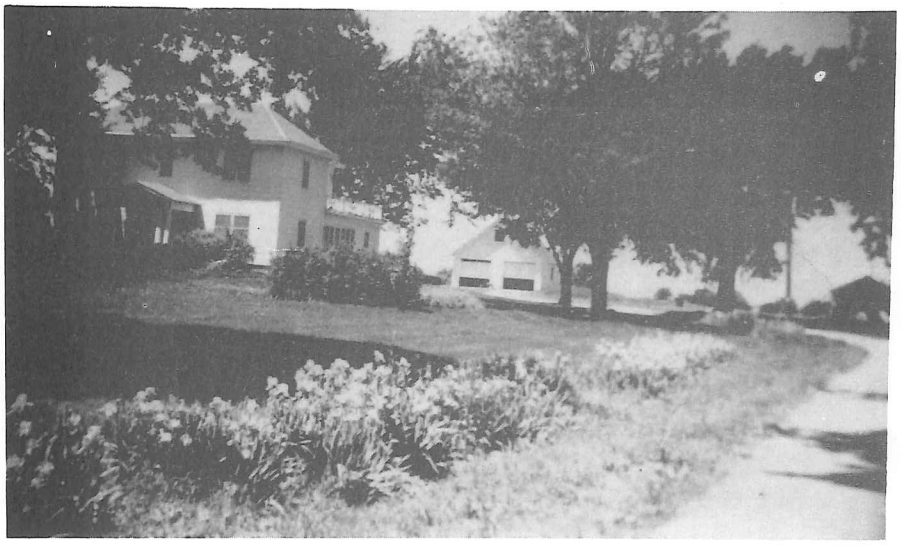
Left to right: Loren Locke, Wilbur Stiles, Wiley Wren, Ralph Woldt, Carl Nelson, Howard McVey, Therma Cuddeback, Cecil Shepherd, Cecil Starbuck.



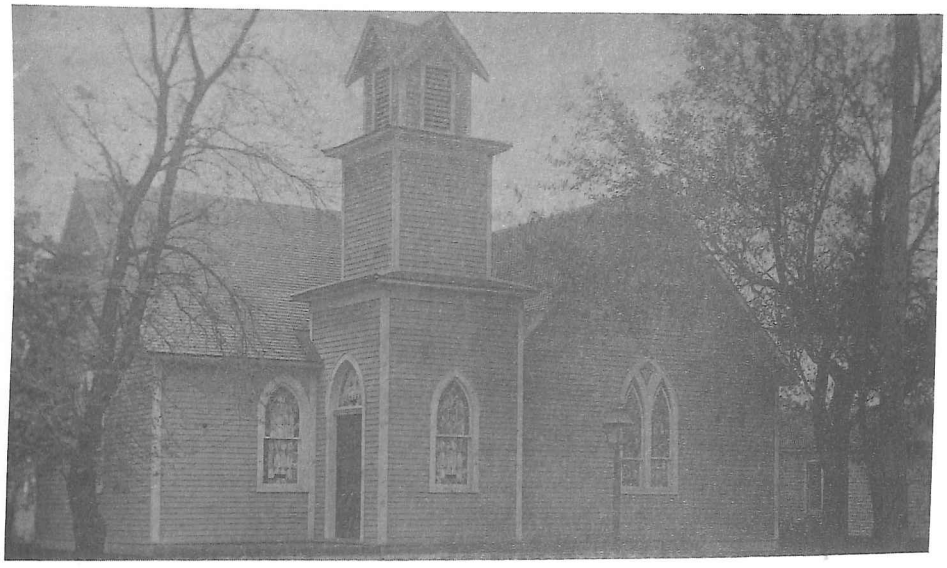
SHHS 1922-23 FOOTBALL TEAM

Cecil Starbuck, Loren Locke, Ralph Woldt, Howard McVey, Bob Turner; Middle Row: Gussie Pruitt, Glen Wiswell, Wayne Morrison, Cecil Shepherd, Therma Chadwick; Front Row: Karl Nelson, Wiley Wren, Carl Weir, Ted Fisher. Coach was Lee Scott. (Left to Right)

METHODIST
PROTESTANT
CHURCH



Dr. Celia Ann Dayton,
First Woman Doctor
in Kansas



Community Church
until Summer
1983

(Formerly Hopkins
Home)

PLANTING TREES AT THE SWIMMING POOL

Spring Hill Rustler 4-H'ers Frank Healy (left), David Broockerd (center), and Jim Holtgraves plant trees as a community project. The new Bradford pear trees were planted. 1968.

Girl Scouts Laurie Harkness, Lavonda Ball and Cindy Zahn pose beside one of the street signs which the Girl Scouts installed.

March 26, 1968 - SHHS Student Walkout

This picture was taken from The Olathe Daily News of March 27, 1968.

school students leave building in mass protest

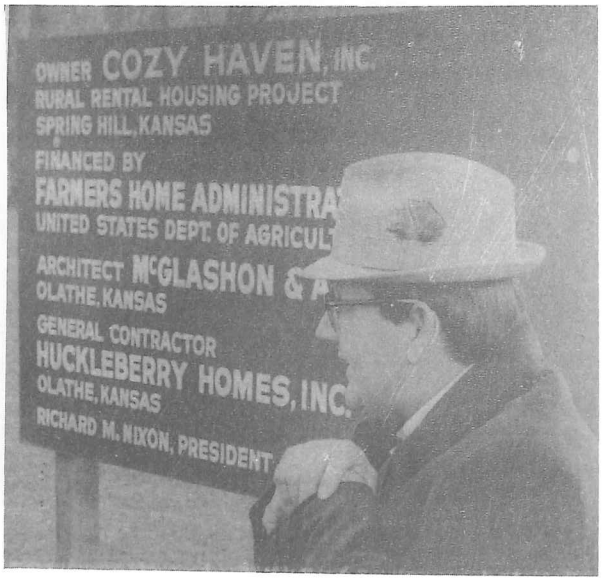
Spring Hill Grays, 1896
(Picture of the ball team copied from New Era, March 6, 1958)

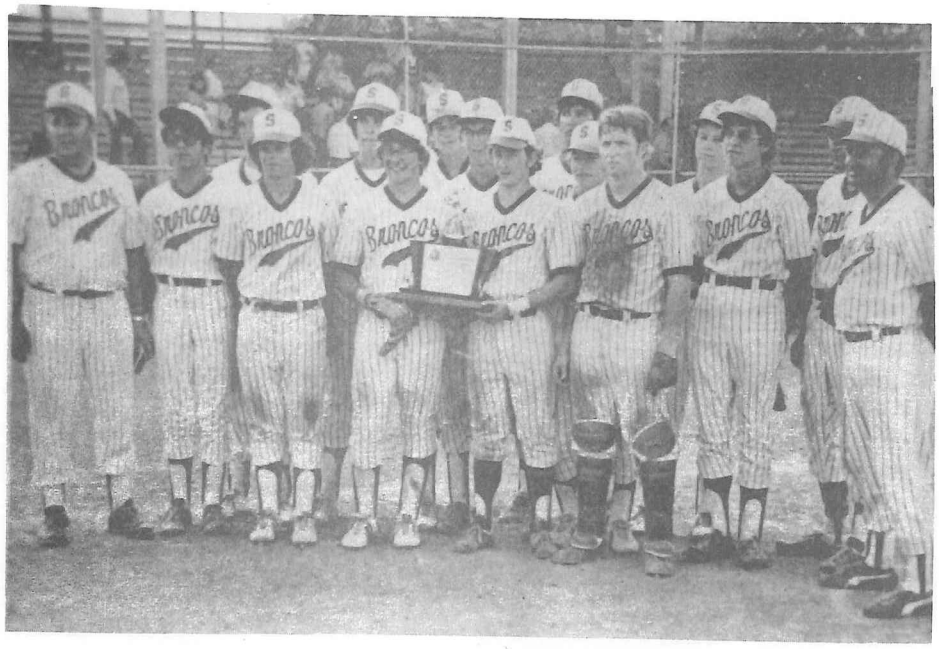
Left to Right, Top Row: Babe Shelby and Babe Gasaway; Second Row: George Simpson, George Hines, Herbert Savidge, Bud Swartz, James Cuddeback; Front Row: _____, Charlie Selby.

COZY HAVEN, INC. GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES, January 27, 1974
L. to R: Jim Hubbard, attorney; Bob McGlashon, architect; Hanserd House, FmHA; Andy Haynes, Mary House, Loren Locke, Betty Miller, Dan Adkins, Ethel Mae Healy, Clayton Wiswell, Dorothy Miles, Herman Winkler Cecil Poisal, Ernest Adams, Larry Huckelberry, builder.

Below: Mary House, Gordon Riley, Maude Ramey, Floyd Miles (back), Cecil Poisal, Margaret Hopkins Stranathan, Orrill Winkler, Maude Stuckey. Hidden in back - Lydia Bartels.

Vance Stiles at Project Sign.





LEAGUE WINNERS, '58
(undefeated)

Left to Right: Larry Brune, Richard Bowles Jerry Price, Karl VanMeter, Dick Dawson, Coach Duffey, Wayne Brown, Lannie Eads, Charles Frankenfield, and Steve Newton.

1972 STATE CHAMPS

Back row, l to r, Gary Davis, Jack Fulton, Tom Duncan, Pat Findley, Larry McGuire, David Myers, Gary Watson, Darrel York; Front, Coach Gerald Swope, Ron Isham, Danny Turner, Doug Jones, Dan O'Malley Ed Anderson, Mike Fulton Coach Max Brockus.

INSTRUMENTAL WINNERS, 1969

Trumpet trio, front, l to r: Bill Pratt, Mike Newton, Joel Skinner; Back row, l to r: Brass Ensemble: Jim Compton, Darrel Stiles, Frank Healy, Mike Findley and Ed Anderson. Soloists: Glen Cunningham and Brian Findley.

SPRING HILL RURAL HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA, about 1925

Edwin Taylor, drums; Mary Young, flute; Crawford Neff, sax; Hortense Young and Bill Phegley, violins; Vernice LaRosh and Harry Gall, clarinet; Kenneth Longenecker, cello; Ruth Hildebidal and Lawrence Cantrall, violins; Lewis Holdren (left), Wiley Wren, Carl Nelson, trumpets. Standing, Ruth Tisdale, left; Miss Montgomery, right.

LEAGUE CHAMPION GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM, 1921-22

Left to Right: Vera Turner Graves, Dora Coons, Henricks, Muriel Drury McCall, Thelma Hines, Barbara Nelson Elliott, Edith Holdren Fike, Nira Geise McVay, Elizabeth Jordan

The Postoffice News Stand

IS THE PLACE TO BUY YOUR SCHOOL BOOKS.

WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES OF ALL KINDS.

Fred H. Ricketts

SPRING HILL, KANSAS

Landis Brothers

Tin, Sheet Iron and Furnace Work

Plumbing and Electrical Wiring

Guttering and Roofing

A member of the National Warm Air Heating and Ventilating Association.

Do You Want Real Music for Your Dances?

We can furnish you any number of pieces for dance work ranging from two to seven pieces. We have all the latest dance numbers and can furnish you with music full of "PEP."

Spring Hill Orchestra

Open for All Kinds of Engagements

TOM HINES, - - First Violin
STEWARD SIMPSON, First Cornet
ROBT. NELSON, Second Cornet
HOMER NEFF, - - Clarinet
JOHN RUSSELL, - - - Drums
FRED MEEK, Director and Pianist

Phone 141

C. H. MOSSMAN
H. E. MOSSMAN

C. H. Mossman & Co.

DEALERS IN

General Merchandise
Grain and Coal

HIGHEST PRICE PAID FOR GRAIN AND PRODUCE

Grain is Our Specialty

Give us a trial and be convinced.

Phone 34A

OCHLETREE, KANSAS

The Spring Hill Banking Company

CONSERVATIVE! SAFE! PROGRESSIVE!

This bank is managed with conservatism. Speculation plays no part in its conduct. It encourages home enterprises, all of which make for soundness and satisfactory bank service.

We co-operate with those who patronize this bank in every manner permitted by best and conservative methods. We assist by extending credit when credit is due, by advise, by counsel, giving the customer the benefit of our knowledge and experience and taking an active interest in his welfare.

We want your business and will guarantee you satisfactory service.

Capital and Surplus $35,000.00

DEPOSITS GUARANTEED

Kansas Press Assn. Prize Winning Newspaper 1963

Volume LXXXVII

The Spring Hill New Era

Since 1883 - The Oldest Newspaper in Johnson County

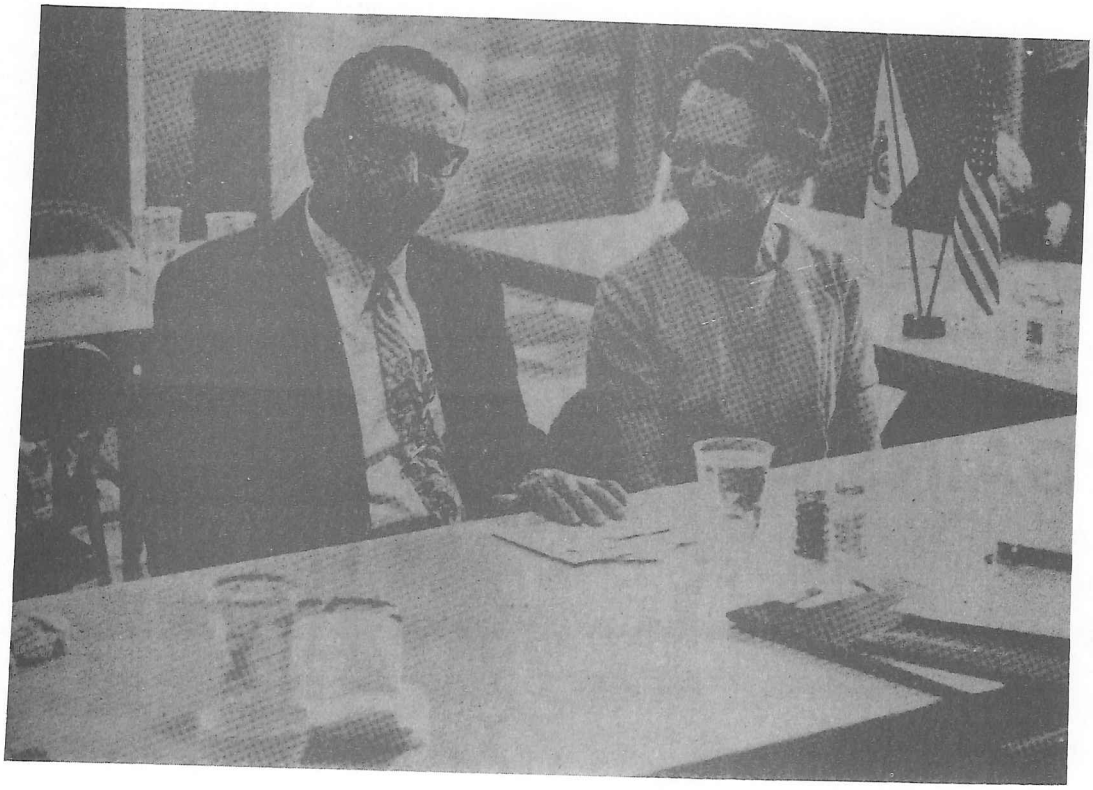
Spring Hill, Johnson County, Kansas 66083 Wednesday, November 26, 1969

Number 11

SPRING HILL KANSAS 66083

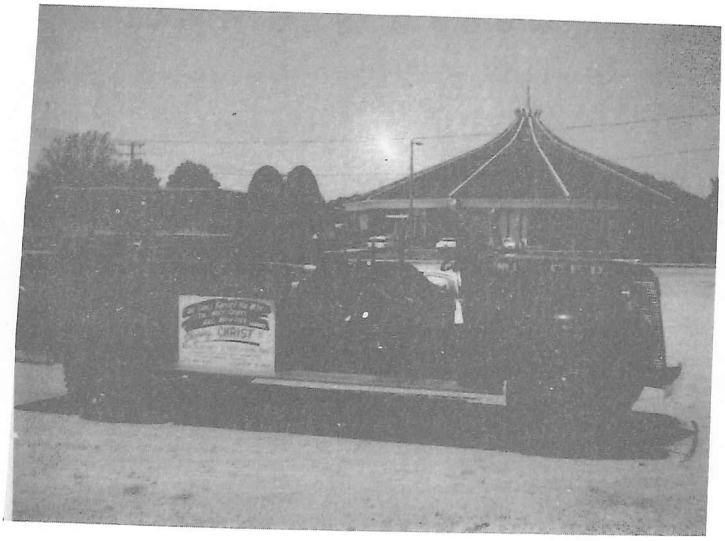
House Notes By Mary L. 686-3984

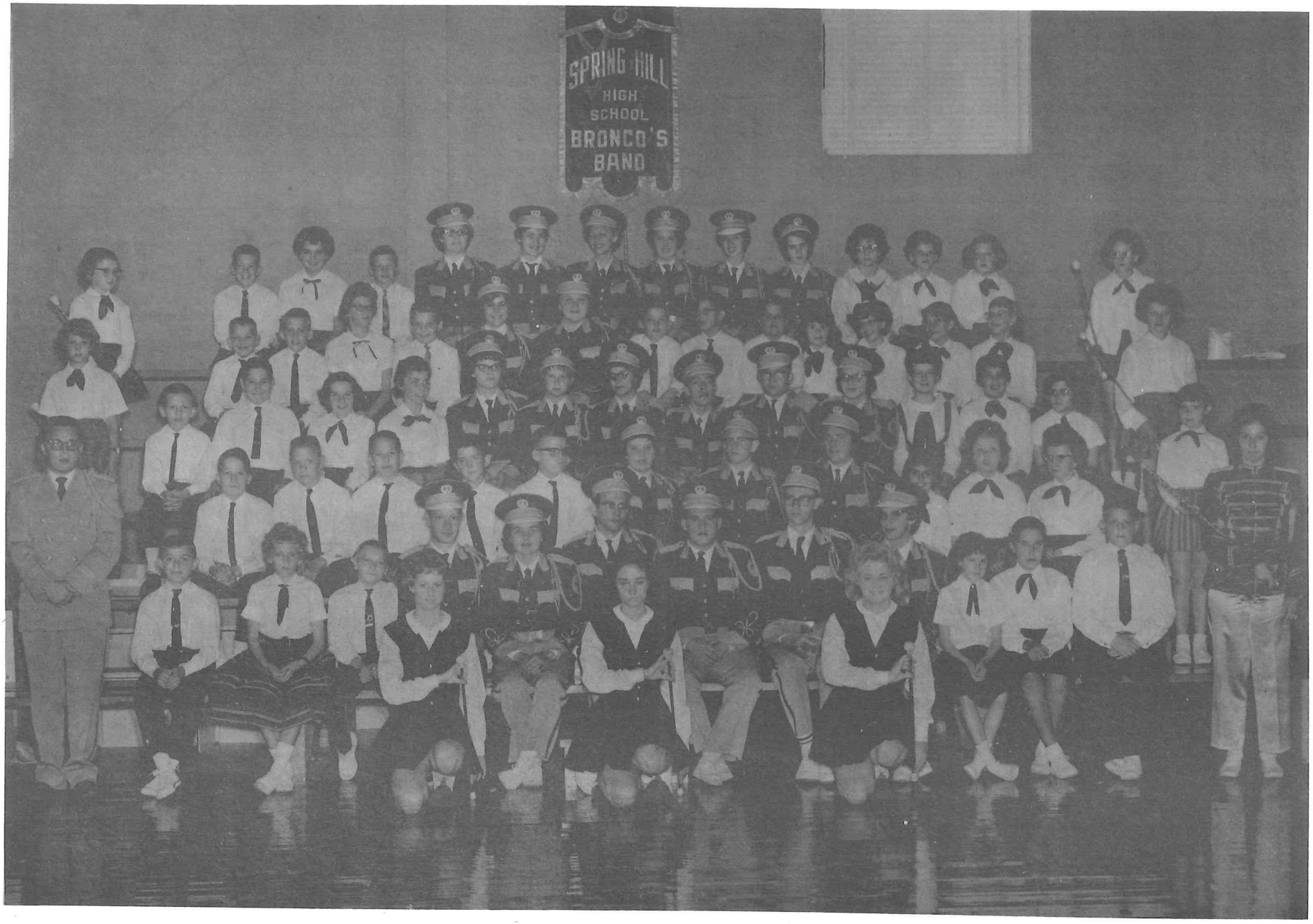
Ads are from 1977 Yearbook RED AND WHITE, the first and last for many years. All its pictures were by Roy McVay.



Ruritans honor Miller

Honored for 23 years of service as Rural Fire Chief.




SPRING HILL
HIGH
SCHOOL
BRONCO'S
BAND

COMBINED GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL BANDS - 1962

(Girls' unmarried names are used.) Left to Right. Back Row: John Buchanan, Phyllis Ramey, David Bacon, Ann Cunningham, Susan Flett, Leslie Rudolph, Kathy Wilson, Judy Flett, Carol Ann Eakey, Charlene Van Schoelandt, Laura Partridge, Diane Brookerd;

2nd Row: Eddie Storch, Steven Crane, Mary Barkis, Gayle McPherson, Lynda Bilyeau, Sherry May, David Hallmark, Chris Flett, Linda Youngman, Connie Swearingen, Connie Timmons, Linda Goettig, Judy Stone.

3rd Row: Victor Compton, Larry Powell, Barbara Healy, Marjorie Newton, Nancy Manning, Peggy Shafer, Carol Shafer, Larry Furnell, Kent Winn, Carolyn Beck, Kathy Leavell, Margo Flett, Patricia McNeal;

4th Row: Herb Avery, Charles Creamer, Richard Roberts, Terry Long, David Manning, Linda Sheldon, Doug Rudolph, Rosalie Briskey, Susan Crane, Susan Wren, Michelle Healy;

Front Row: Darrel Stiles, Sydney Rudolph, Marion Shafer, Duane Brooks, Linda Rice, Roger Hollenbeck, Don Joeckel, Jerry Price, Jane Stone, Julia Kuhn, Kathleen Billington, Delbert Joeckel.

Twirlers: Joyce Larson, Kay Furnell, Doris Brown; Left, top to bottom: Andra Haynes, Beth Kuhn, Max Green, Director; Right, top to bottom: Janet Price, Jane Reed, Majorette Judy Henley.

Spring Hill High School, 1925

Front, left to right: Ethel Post, Blanche Wiswell, Vernice LaRosh Hedrick, Mattie Cram, Bunnie Lucas; Middle Row: Damon Higgins, Crawford Neff, Lewis Holdren, Alice Montgomery, teacher; Velma Fisher, Hortense Young, Vera Dill; Back Row: Anna Weir, Gertrude Graves, Ruth Tisdale, Veda Cole, Homer Westhoff, Ralph Ramey, Gayle Cooper, Howard Jones.

Opposite Page, Top, School Picture of SHHS, 1924

Front Row, (left to right): Hazel Longnecker, Blanche Wiswell, Ethel Post, Harry Leighty, teacher; Margaret Wikoff, Bob Geise, James Berkshire; 2nd row: Hortense Young, VErnice LaRosh, Velma Fisher, Katherine Roofe, Chauncey Chaney, Sarah Brown, Dorothy Riley, Marybelle Stuckey, Margaretta Graves, Evelyn LaRosh; 3rd row: Carrie Johnson, Bonnidell Nickelson, Amanda Longnecker, Ruth Tisdale, Gertrude Graves, Oma Bobbitt, Leslie Cornell, Lawson Chadwick, Calland Nelson, George Acker.

Opposite Page, Bottom, Fifth and Sixth Grades, Spring Hill, 1925-26

Front Row, (left to right): Harriett Holdren, Margaret Cuddeback, Opal Land, Marjorie Dunn, Margaret LaRosh, Bonnidell Graves, Jacqueline Burns; _____, teacher; Back Row: Herman Cramm, Helen Rittenhouse, Harriett Dawson, Vernon Coleman, Leonard Burch, Leonard Dawson, Arthur Allan Ramey, Betty Timmons.

Top, Opposite Page, L to R: Back Row: Raymond Dill, Lawrence McCracken, William Litchfield, Frank Victor, Leonard Burch, Harold Litchfield, Howard Victor, Leonard Dawson, Clyde Wikoff, Robert Brooks, _____Moser, Ernie Brown, Vernon Morris, Ray Stewart, Floyd Dillon, Phil West.

Fifth Row: Wayne Tisdale, Wilbur Rowlette, Howard Skinner, Robert McLane, _____, _____, Leonard Coleman, Frank Jameson, Margaret Burris, Betty Timmons, Bernice Mongold, Barbara McCracken, Harriett Holdren, Lyda Lucas, Opal Stewart, Juanita Bullis.

Fourth Row: Arthur Ramey, Raymond Wiswell, Tom Taylor, Paul Dillon, Marjorie Beets, Vivian Beets, Reva Pearce, Alice Dill, Natalie Young, Velma Dill, Mary Kirkpatrick, Margaret Lucas, Katherine Moody, Martha Duffield, Gladys Tisdale.

Third Row: _____, Harold Brooks, Edwin Weir, Carl Rodick, Pete Harrison, Cy Adams, _____, Elizabeth Esgar, Ethel Coffia, Bonnidell Graves, Margaret LaRosh, Hazel Longnecker, _____, Inez Gall, _____, Bernice Dillon, Ruth Robinson.

Second Row: Harriet Dickey, Mary Susan Dickey, Agnes Rodick, Margaret Cuddeback, Miss Kimball, teacher; Mr. H. H. Loganbill, principal; Miss Carol Jones (Mrs. Harrel Thomas), teacher; Miss Anderson, Marjorie Dunn, Wilma Land, Opal Pearce, Betty Neff.

First Row: Everett Duffield, Shirley Weir, Van Wax, Herman Cramm, Leonard McLane, Elton Ginn, Robert Bush, _____, Jim Berkshire, Henry Rodick.

Bottom, Opposite Page, L to R: Back Row: Mabel Ramey, Edith Fike, Esther Dover, Frances Ramey, Marie Graves, Barbara Nelson, Muriel Drury, Vaugh Dillon, Bob Turner, Loren Locke, Lloyd Tisdale, Cecil Starbuck;

Next to top row: Hallie Cooper, Elsie Ramey, Lucretia Berkshire, Velma Wikoff, Nira Geise, Vera Turner, Leona Locke, Margaret Null, Josephine Null, Verna Cuddeback, Dora Coons;

Third Row: Margaret Lucy Thomas, Marie Wikoff, Mary LaRosh, Elizabeth Gordon, Lela Duling, Ruth Johnson, (back). Jim Arnold, teacher; Fern Lucas, Mr. H. H. Livengood, principal; Hope Knauer, Eva Hines, Thelma Hines, Charlotte Stiles, Dorothy Caswell, Herb Geise.

Bottom Row: Ray Johnson, Oral Wilson, John Gordon, Howard McVey, Wibur Stiles, Cecil Shepherd, Meek Graves, Wayne Morrison, Bernard Stiles, Glen Wiswell, Carl Weir, Sam Nevius.

SPRING HILL RURAL HIGH SCHOOL - 1929

SPRING HILL HIGH SCHOOL - 1920-21

Material on this page was contributed by Walt and Dottie Cade.

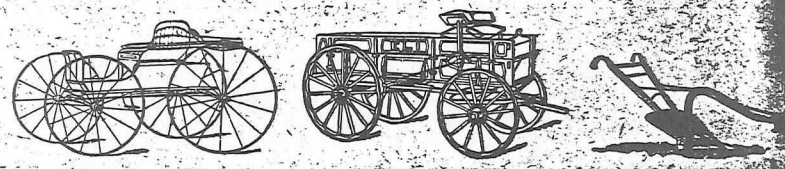
All of this material was found in old files at Cade Hardware.

S. R. HOGUE,

Dealer in

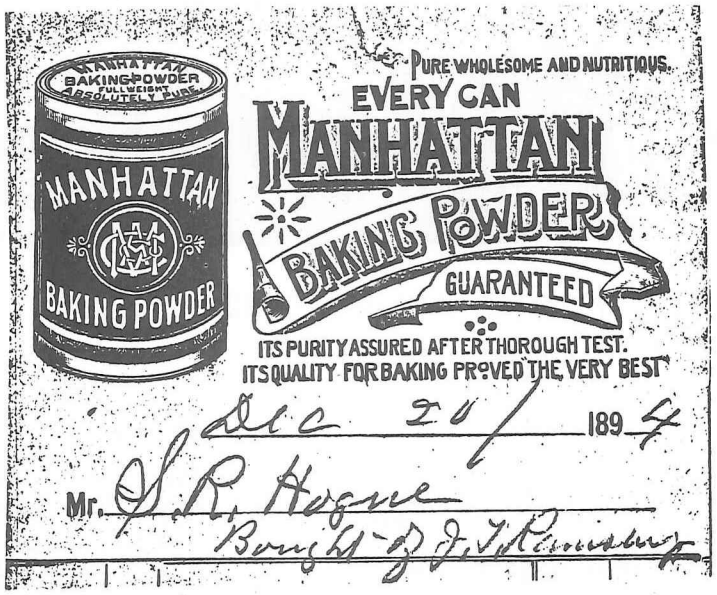
Hardware, * Stoves, * Farm * Implements

AND VEHICLES.



Spring Hill, Kan., May 9 1896

Rec'd from S. R. Hogue



Dec 20 1894

Mr. S. R. Hogue

Bought of J. T. Ramsbury

DEPOSITED WITH THE

SPRING HILL BANKING CO.,

OF SPRING HILL, KANSAS.

May 20 1896

By S R Hogue

For Collection

Credit of

Currency,		
Gold,		
Silver,		
Checks,		
" J Barrall	75	00
"		
"		
Total,		

E Davis

Cashier.

CHRISTMAN, FREDONIA

CALEB DWYER, President — S. R. HOGUE, Vice-President — A. P. WILLIAMS, Cashier — W. C. PALMER, Secretary

The Spring Hill Banking Company

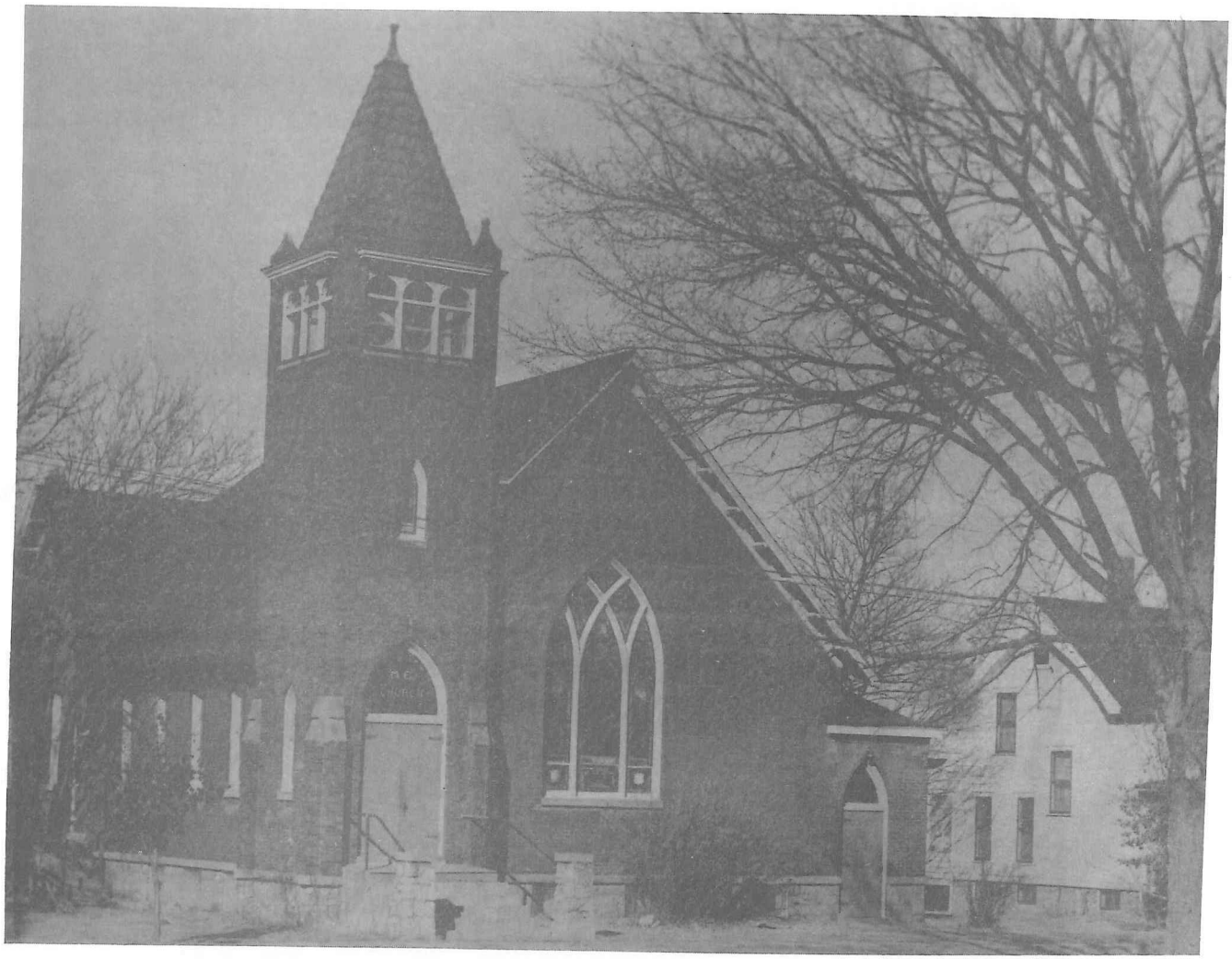
Capital Stock, Paid in, $20,000.00

Surplus Fund, $11,000.00

Spring Hill, Kansas,

SENIOR CLASS, 1923
L. to R. Back: Barbara Nelson, Dora Coons, Cecil Shepherd, Loren Locke, Cecil Starbuck, Robert Turner; Front: Elizabeth Gordon, Velma Wikoff, Mr. Fred Giffin, Esther Westhoff, Vera Cuddeback.

FRESHMAN CLASS OF 1920 - - Back Row (L to R): Charlotte Stiles, Nora Geise, Edith Holdren, Mabel Ramey, Howard McVey, Wayne Morrison, _____, Orall Wilson; Middle: Carl Weir, Glen Wiswell, Bernard Stiles, _____teacher; Edith Morrison, Dorothy Caswell; Front: Margaret Lucy Thomas, _____, Vera Turner, Meek Graves, Herb Geise.



Spring Hill United Methodist Church and Former Parsonage

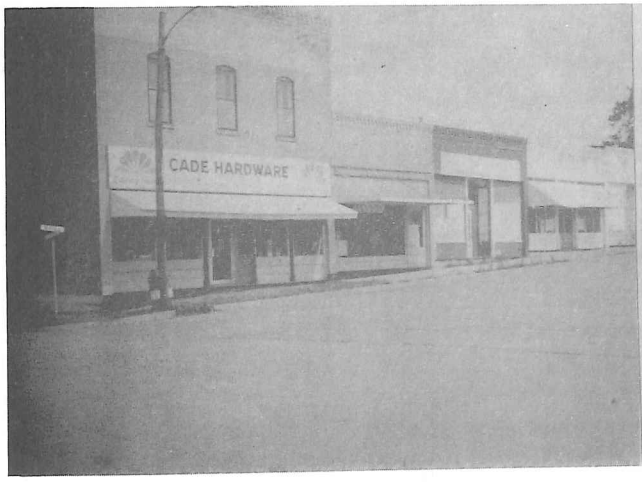
Around Town,

July 30, 1983

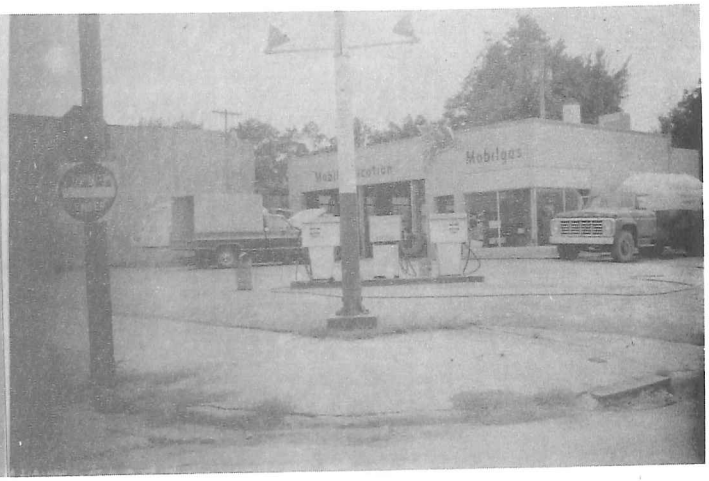
MAIN STREET - 1907

The two-story building was destroyed by fire in 1934. The tall building on South Main Street was the IOOF hall. It was known as the Lambert Building and the second floor was removed in later years. It is still on South Main. The cross street, Cherry and later Hale, is to the left of the first white building.

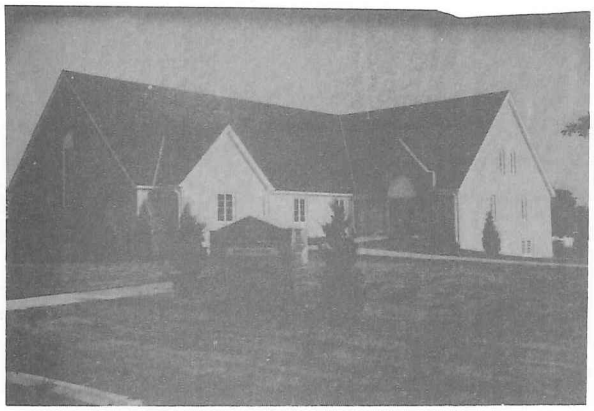
The wagon on the east side of Main Street, farthest to the north, is the delivery wagon of the Hines Grocery Store. Note the barber pole on the right side.



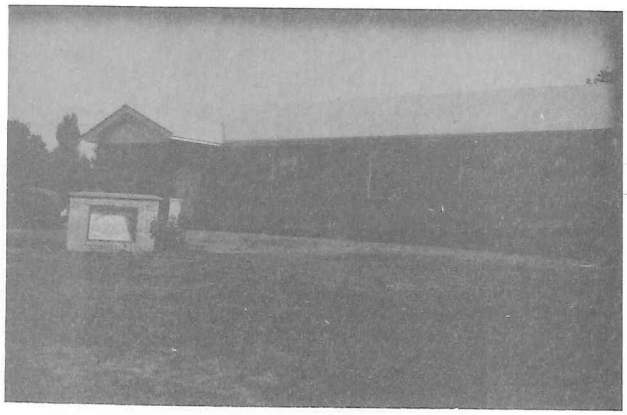
CADE HARDWARE, Main & Nichols



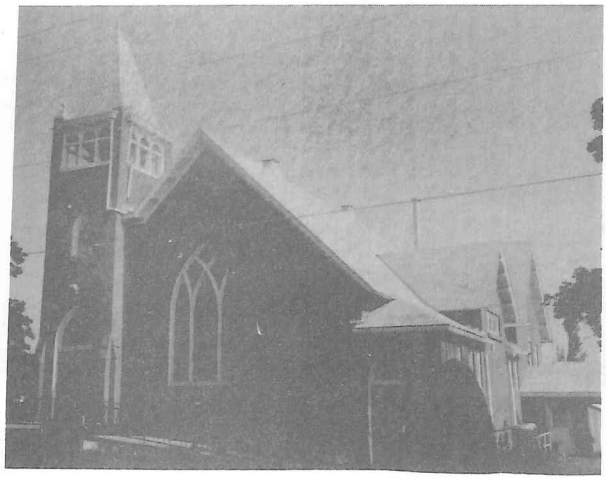
RON STILES' STATION, Main & Nichols



BAPTIST CHURCH

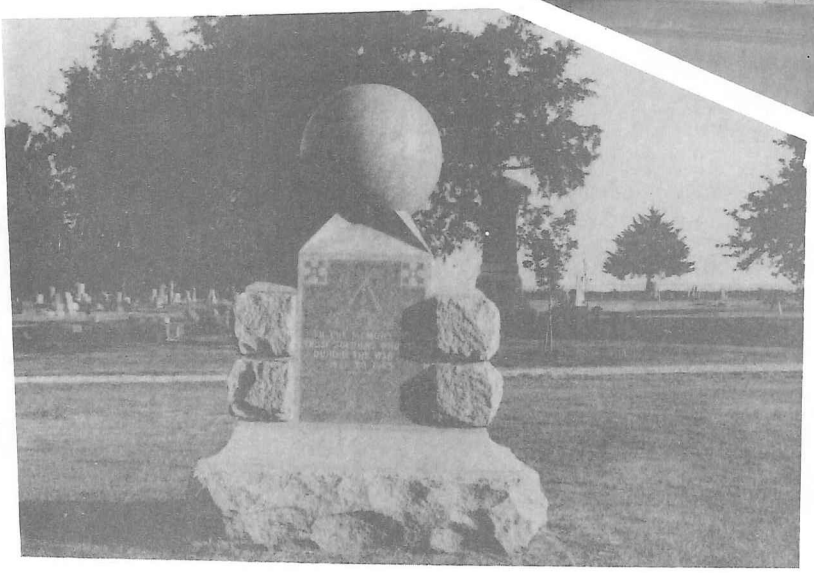


CHURCH OF CHRIST

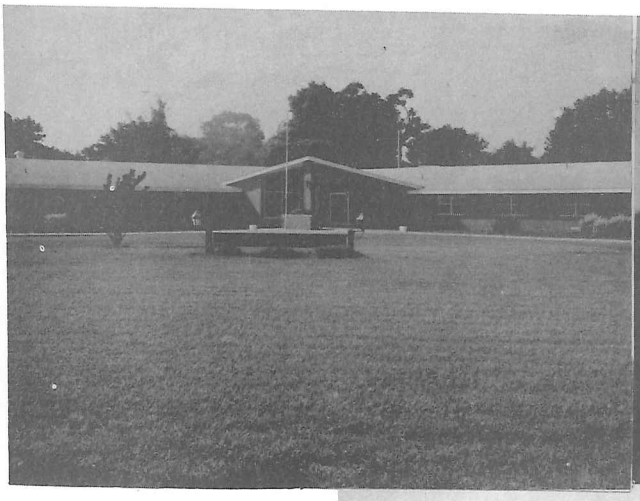


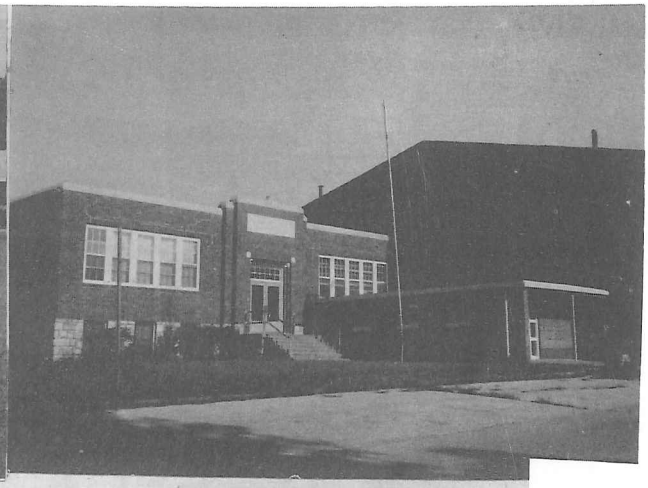
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
and
PARSONAGE

United States Post Office, right

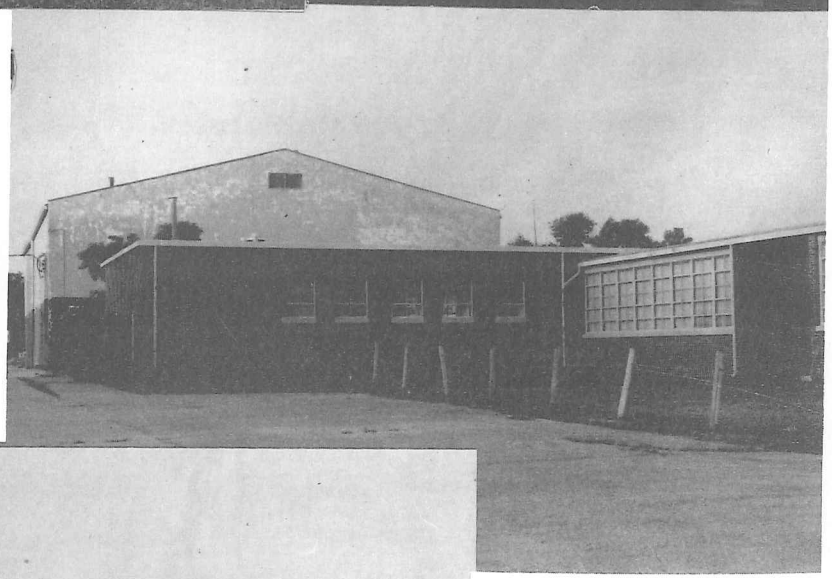


MONUMENT TO
CIVIL WAR VETERANS
SPRING HILL CEMETERY



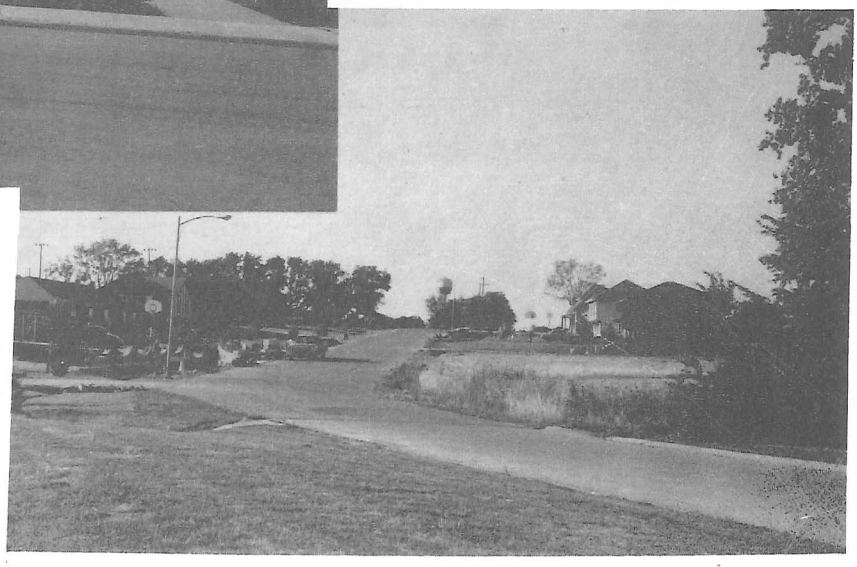


Spring Hill Manor
Nursing Home

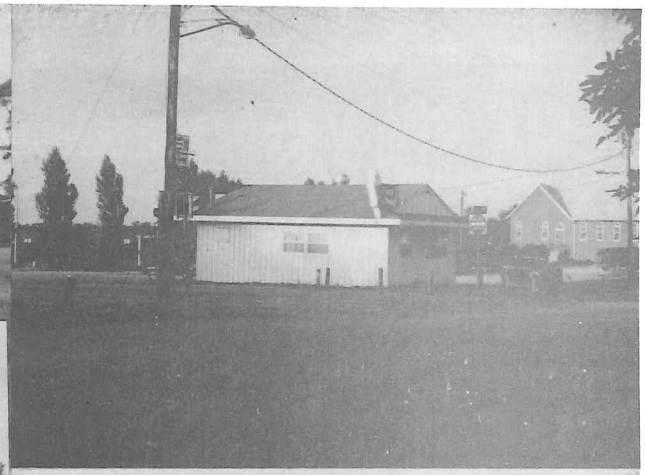


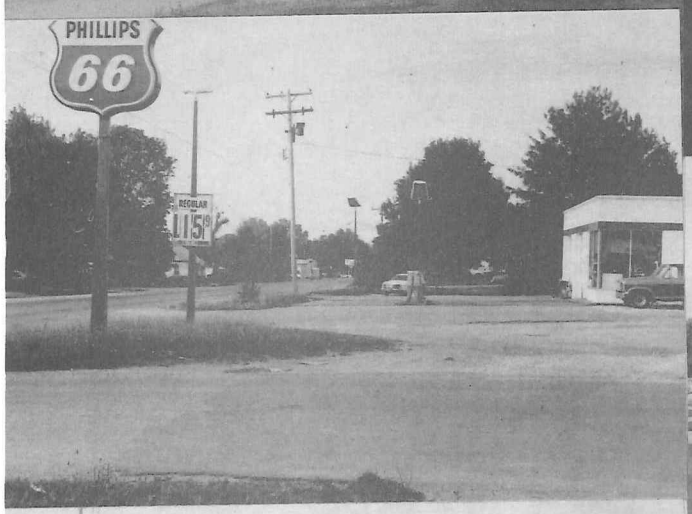
Above right:
Grade School
Right: Grade
School Gym
and Additions

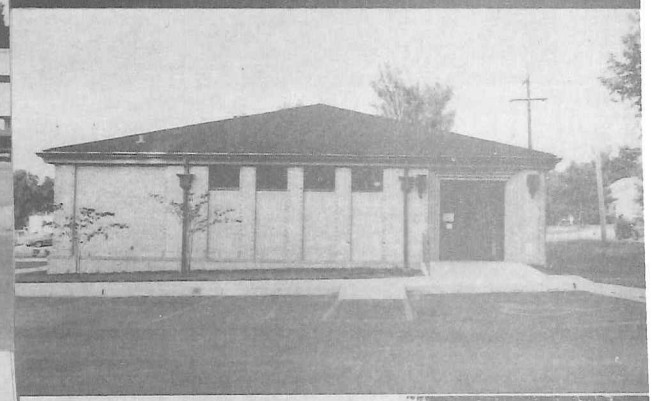
SPRING HILL HIGH SCHOOL
(left)



One of the New Housing
Additions



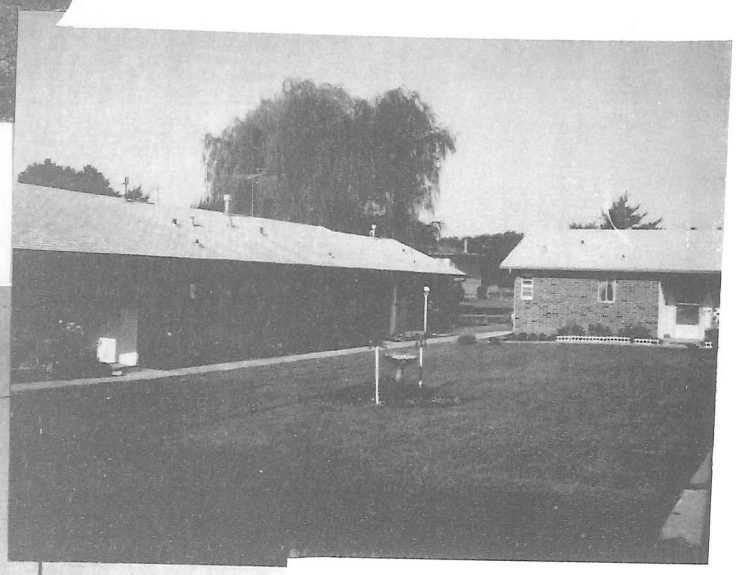




Left row, top to bottom: Looking north on Webster from Culver's Furniture Store; looking south on Webster from Joel Skinner's Service Station; City Hall; Franklin Savings and State Bank of Spring Hill.
Right row, top to bottom: Dari-Anne; Multi-Service Center (Library); Community Bldg.; View of State Bank of Spring Hill from Hale Street, showing drive-up areas.

Left:

HILLTOP SCHOOL



Above:

COZY HAVEN, INC.

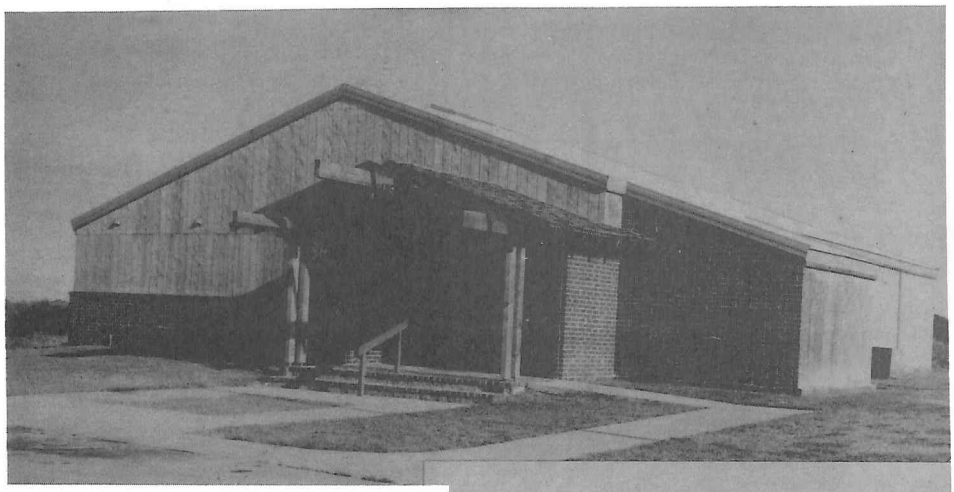
Above:

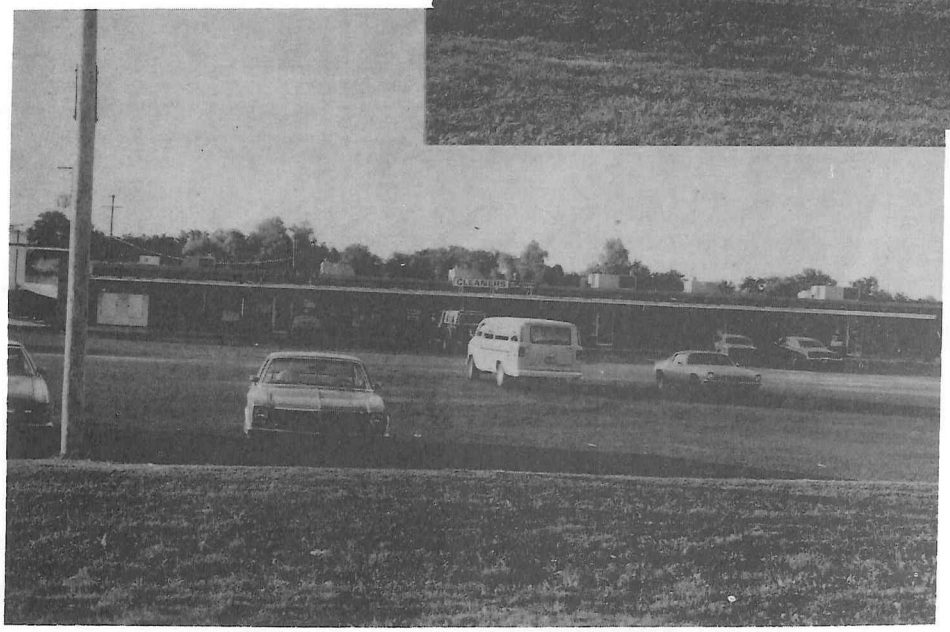
MAIN STREET

Right:

BASEBALL FIELD

(All Star girls at practice)

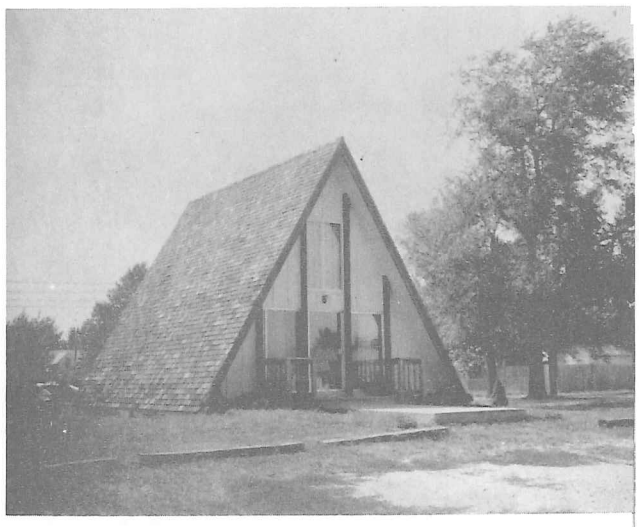


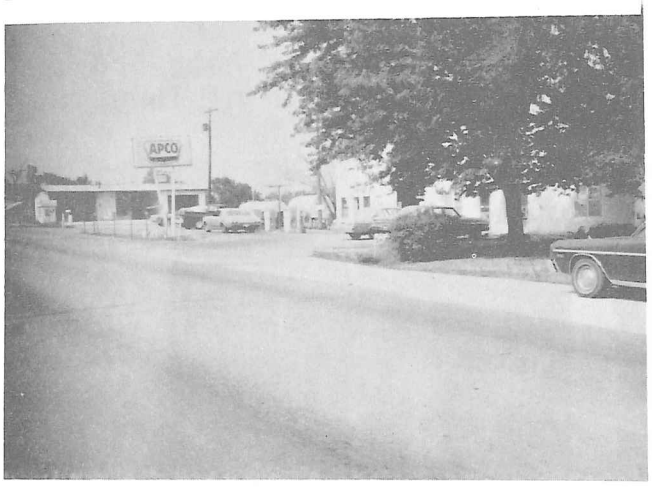


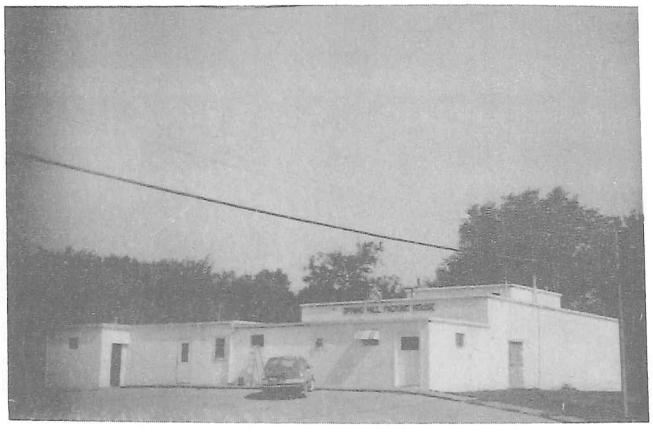
SPRING HILL COMMUNITY CENTER

Cash Saver GROCERY

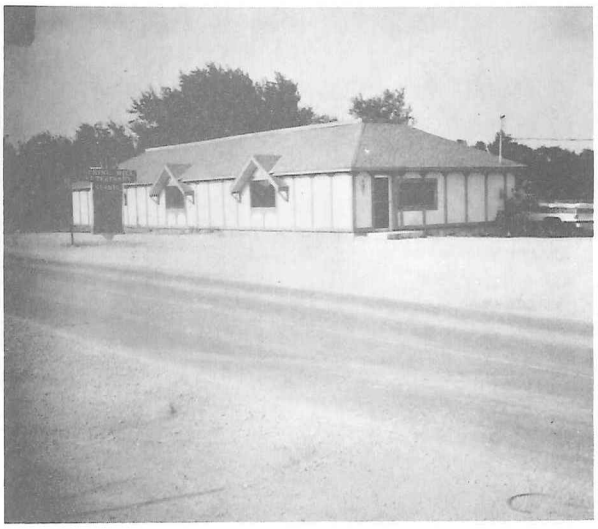
EAST HALF OF SHOPPING CENTER

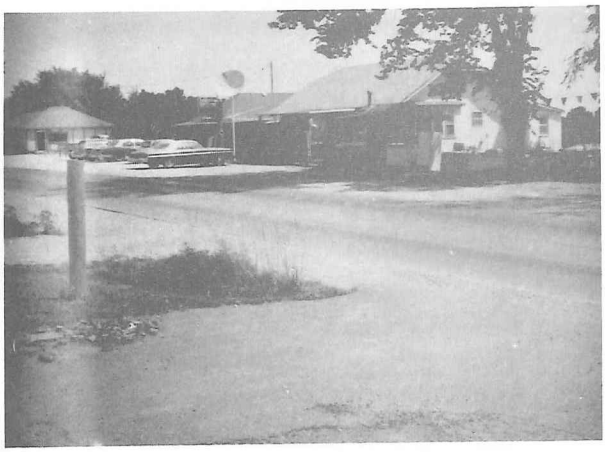






On North Webster: Law Office of G. Wm. Hankins; Ted Hecke, Real Estate & Prairie Center Plbg.; Dr. Eldon Ellis; Car Wash & Service Station; Right, top to bottom: Masterson's Restaurant; Dr. R. Reif, dentist; Wilbur Brooks' Antiques; Packing Plant, Dave House, Mgr.





NORTH WEBSTER STREET

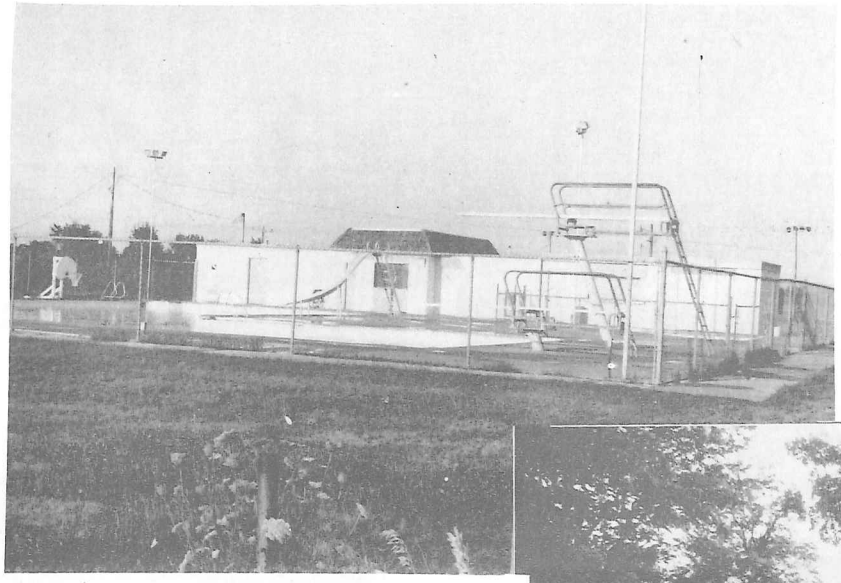
Veterinary Clinic;
Real Estate and Medical Clinic.

Casey's;
J.R.'s Restaurant

- - - - - - - - - - -

Yardley's Antiques on Webster

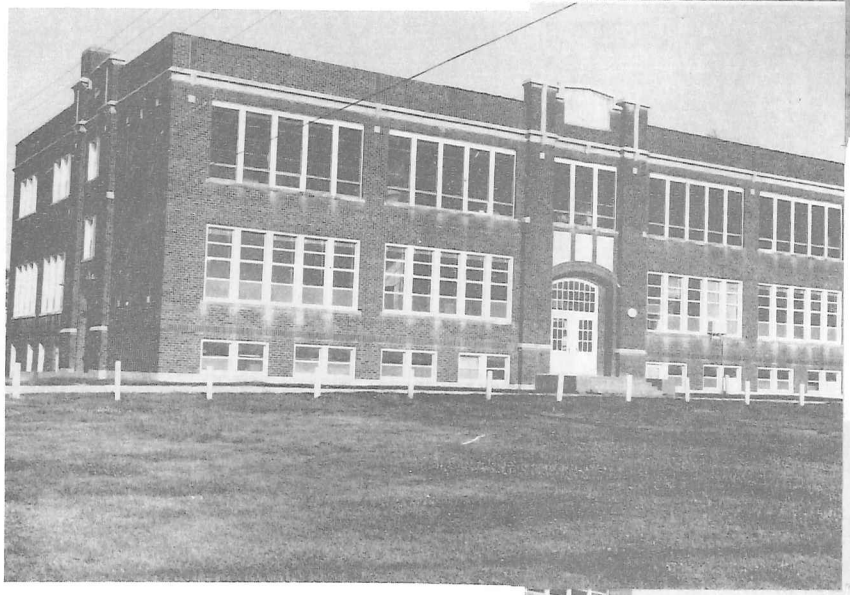
levis Auto Body,
South of Town



Original Public Square,
Platted May, 1857.

Now City Park.

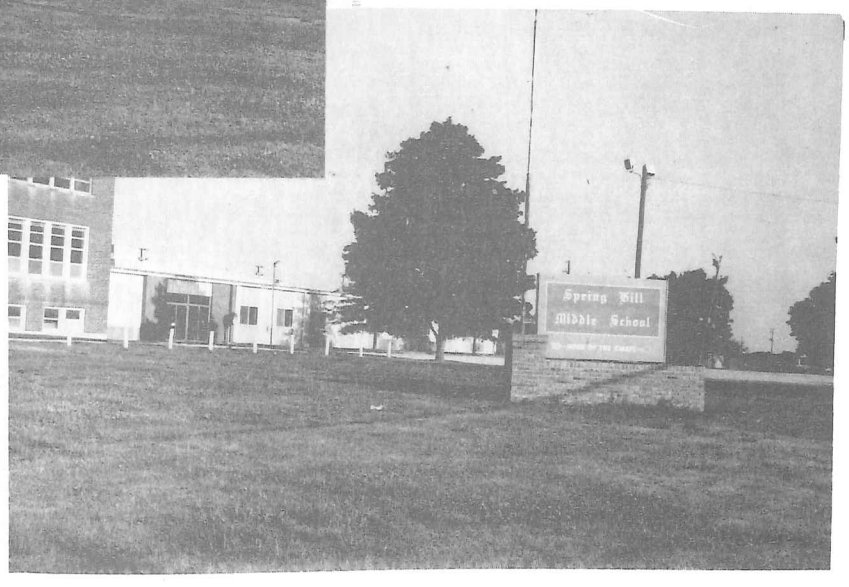
Swimming Pool - built by Spring Hill Recreation Association through funding by Farmers Home Admin.



Built in 1926 for
Spring Hill Rural High School

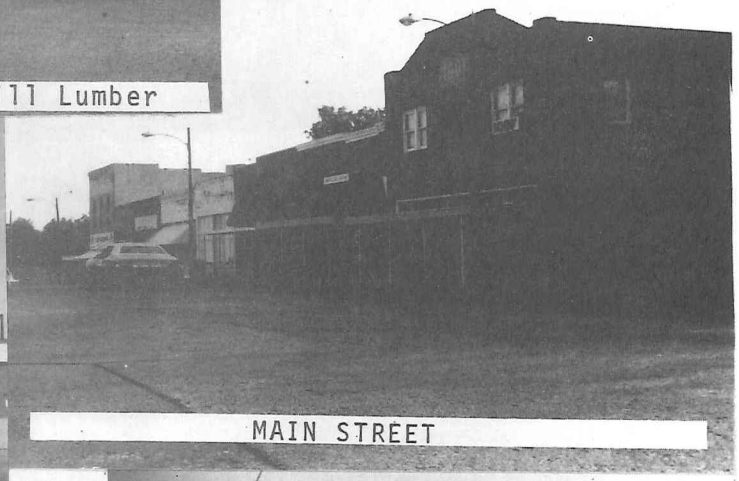
Became Middle School in 1975

Below: Gymnasium, Science Department, Offices added to High School in 1970.
Seventh and Eighth Grades started classes here in fall of 1970.



Spring Hill Grain Co.; Spring Hill Lumber

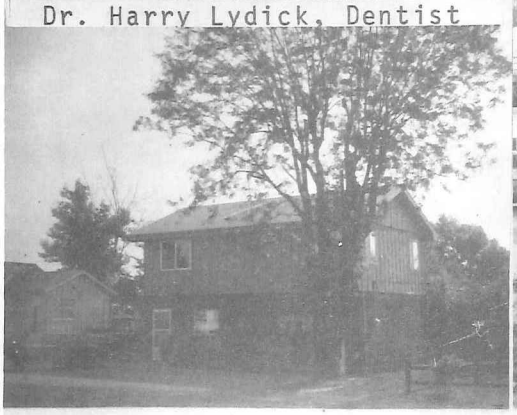
Laundromat & Beauty Salon

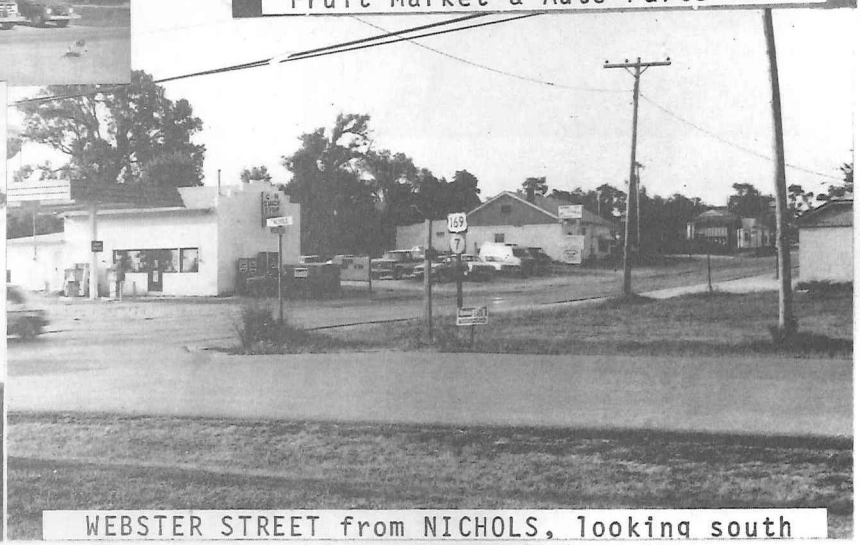


MAIN STREET

Fruit Market & Auto Parts Store

Dr. Harry Lydick, Dentist





WEBSTER STREET from NICHOLS, looking south

AFTERTHOUGHTS:

Francis Morrison maps used to locate the various businesses, public buildings and churches.

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One old-timer recalls that Lizzie Bailey rewarded the boys and girls who went to Sunday School at the Methodist Protestant Church. Her husband ran the local drug store; the boys and girls who went to Sunday School on Sunday got an ice cream cone.

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Traffic markers on Main Street were round "bumps" about 15" in diameter. There was one at each intersection. They were a nuisance or worse, especially for a parade. All rejoiced when they were removed (and you would no longer get a ticket for turning on the wrong side or be embarrassed because you ran over one of them.)

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In the late 70s, the remaining graveled streets (or just dirt) in Old Town were paved. No more mud on the paved streets!

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In 1913 the Spring Hill High School Alumni Association was organized. The group published a book listing all former teachers and board members, as well as graduates. Bunn Rhinehart (Matthews) was the first president of the Alumni. At that time the largest graduating class had been 14 members in 1909, and 147 students had been graduated from the school.

The first school board members were Jerry McCanse, Bert Hollenback, and Dr. S. G. W. Stevens, who served from 1894 until 1898.

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In the early days of the schools, the pupils wore long underwear, coats and overshoes in the classroom when it was very cold. In later years (perhaps 50), the students wore their coats and heavy clothing because there was not enough gas pressure to heat the building.

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The first automobile was owned by Harry Leighty, according to two old-timers. Homer Neff had sone soon after that.

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According to Max Deweese, 1909 graduate of SHHS, Ketchum Snell was an outstanding athlete, excelling in football, weights and shot put.

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A receipt signed by Claybourn W. Reynolds, postmaster, on April 1, 1895, was for post office box rent for one quarter, and it cost 25 cents. Another receipt, to S. R. Hogue, was from the New Era for advertising for $1.00 for advertising for a month and $1.50 for 18 months' subscription. J. W. Sowers signed the New Era receipt.

AFTERTHOUGHTS - Cont.

Oxford was founded in 1857 in eastern Johnson County near the state line. Historians describe an election on October 5 of that year in which 42 or 43 residents actually voted. Manipulation of voting records showed that 1,600 persons had voted in the election. Oxford residents were Southern sympathizers and during the Civil War joined the Confederate Army, the bushwackers, or moved with their slaves to Texas. Union soldiers used the buildings of the town as barracks, according to an early history of the county.

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Census for 1983, according to the Olathe paper of July 29, 1983, is Spring Hill City - 2,112; Spring Hill Township, 1,608. The city population in 1920 was about 500; in 1950, 619; in 1960, 896.

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March 1970, the high school participated in the TV show "Categories." Participants were Nick Kramerich, Debbie Broockerd, Bill Higgins, Eric Kramerich, and Mike Newton.

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An event at an early-day Fair was a race between an automobile and a horse, which was the winner, we believe. The horse was the property of Frank Jameson.

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October 21, 1952:

The City approved building a new city water works lake rather than repair the old W.P.A. lake. The W.P.A. lake is across south from the present city lake. The new lake was constructed in 1953 on Rutter property.

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In January 1962, 24 paintings of primitive artist Streeter Blair, formerly of Spring Hill, were on display at Ursuline Academy at Paola. Inclued in the works were several painted from area scenes he remembered from childhood in Spring Hill. One painting was Fox and Geese, another Picnic, and the Teddy Roosevelt Park in Paola, which was purchased by Citizens State Bank of Paola. The Fox and Geese appeared on a Hallmark Christmas card. One dpicted Quantrill's Raid on Lawrence. A great many people from Spring Hill attended the showing.

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Total amount of the sewer bond fund was $100,000.00. The sewer lagoon was constructed on 40 acres purchased from Ralph Wedd just east of town on the county line.

March 20, 1928: City Council Minutes (these are the oldest records the City has) Moved and seconded that P.O. Coons be allowed $10.00 legal fees for services on getting Highway 7 through Spring Hill. Motion carried.

Same date: Moved and seconded that light line be run to Ed Dillon and Mrs. Cuddeback if fourth parties will take electricity. Motion carried.

April 3, 1928: Moved and seconded that street light be installed on Edna Bath corner.

April 18, 1928: Moved and seconded that city council employ B. M. Baff engineer to make survey and draw plans for grading, curbing, gutter and otherwise improve Main Street, Pine Street, Cherry Street, and Union Street.

Sept. 19, 1928: Engineer's estimate on street improving in City of Spring Hill was $22,561.00.

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The cornerstone of City Hall contains memories of Spring Hill's oldest native-born citizens, Ella Geise Stevens, Crawford Neff, and Lucretia Berkshire Wendt - 1977. Records in the cornerstone are to be opened 50 years after erection of the building.

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During the Great Depression Years, W.P.A. workers constructed a lake west of Spring Hill (south of present lake).

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In 1968 SHHS team for TV's "Categories" won. Contestants were David Meek, Patty Compton, Brenda Damron, Barbara Healy, and David Cochran.

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During the summers of the late 50s and early 60s, Emery Sumner drove a school bus to take youngsters to Olathe to participate in the Red Cross swimming program. Local mothers organized and supervised the program.

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In the 1880s a petition for opening a road in Spring Hill Township was turned down as it was unnecessary. There was already a road there - one four feet wide which had been in use at least 15 years.

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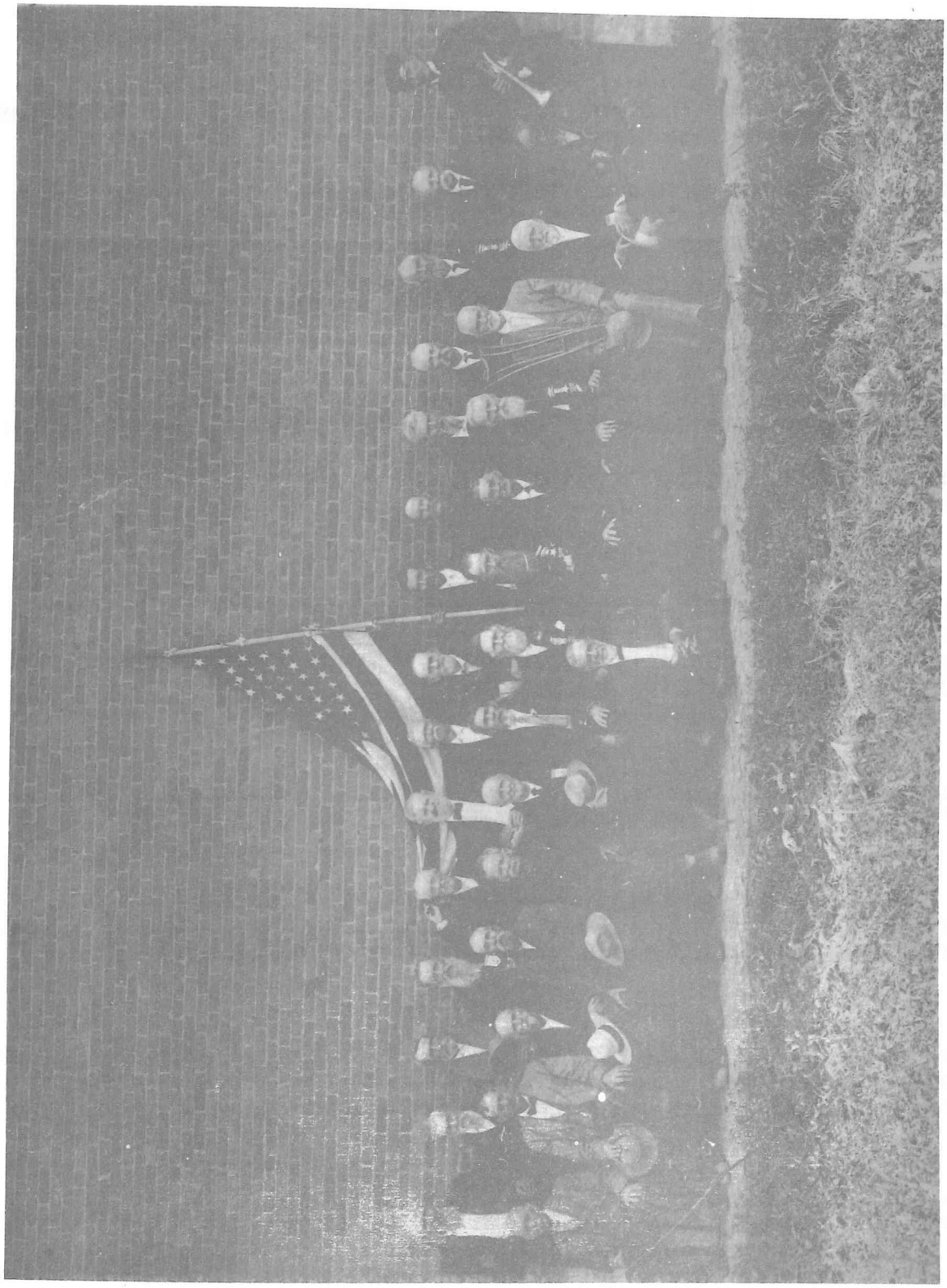
At the time of school unification, there were 88,000 acres of territory in non-high tax district; 18,260 acres had been attached since the first of the year.

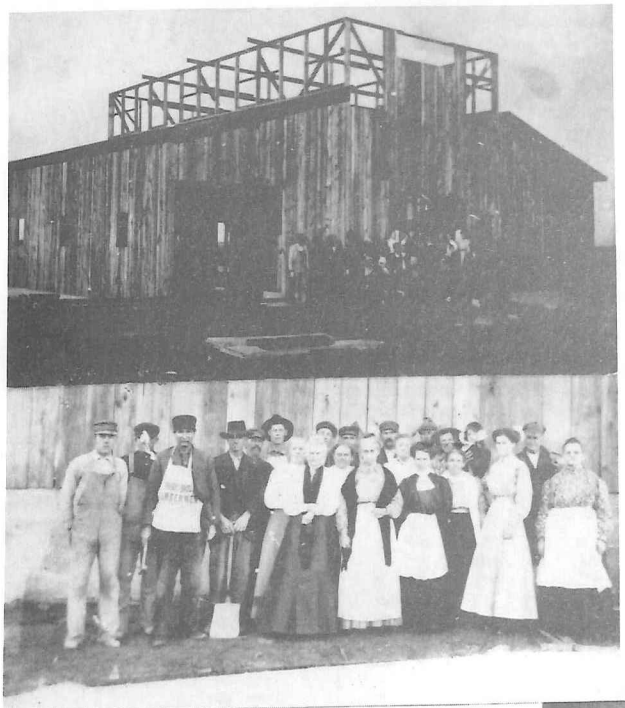


On the back of the picture, and on a plaque at the American Legion Hall is the following notation: Spring Hill, Kansas, April 22, 1899. Organized under the director of the Post Commander, J. C. Walkenshaw, Charter granted July 25, 1882. Was mustered in...with 19 charter members. Alex Davis was Post Commander; post was given the name of Spring Hill Post and remained so until February 17, 1883, when the name was changed to General Curtis Post, in honor of the Commander of the Department of Missouri, for the years 1862 and 1863. The Post has mustered in 146 members, 111 having died or withdrawn by card or otherwise, leaving a membership of 35, with L. Nicholson Post Commander.

Among the Veterans of the Civil War are A. B. Vandeveer, W. M. Adams, Iret Rhinehart, F. R. Morrison, R. J. Henry, W. R. Rutter, S. R. Hogue, Mathias Blain, I. N. Bell, J. W. Lindemood, B. Boice, Wm. Evans, W. H. H. Chamberlin, C. F. Worthington, G. H. Robinson, Jerry McCanse, D. S. Curtis, Dan Furgason, L. Nicholson, J. H. Berkshire, Archibald Morse, H. B. Newton, Frank Rutinger, Robert Foster, George Kent, Lewis Chamberlin, Alex Davis, Darwin Curtis, ___ Reed, Bingham, John Swartz, Reuben Kent, Tom Drake, West.

Those whom Mrs. Ella Stevens can identify are: front right, Jerry McCanse; man with crutches, James Berkshire; to his right, Mr. Adams, Mr. Reed, Mr. Bingham, John Swartz; man in front, Mr. West; man with horn, Reuben Kent; to his right, Darwin Curtis; Left end, second row, Francis Morrison; next, Mr. Drake; next, W.H.H. Chamberlin; _____, _____, S.R. Hogue, _____, _____, Alex Davis (with flag).

Mr. Darwin Curtis was the last survivor of the Spring Hill General Curtis Post. Mr. Curtis died in 1939. He had been a resident of Edgerton for several years.

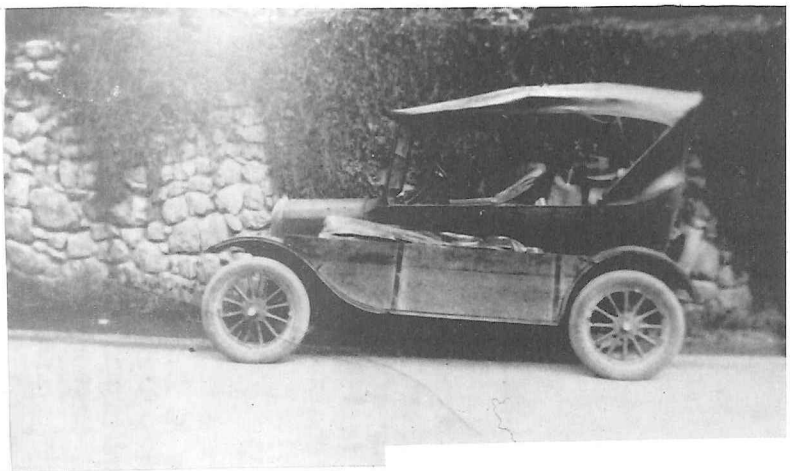


Neighborhood Barn Raising

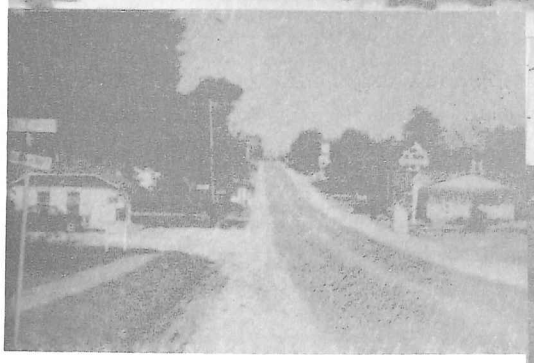
A group of neighbors northeast of Ocheltree put up a barn. The little girl in the picture is Josephine Wiswell (Mrs. Leroy "Skeet" Morrison.

About 1918.

Left - Early Town Fire Truck
Below- Off for a Colorado Fishing Trip - 1925



Ladies Aid Meeting of the Presbyterian Churc



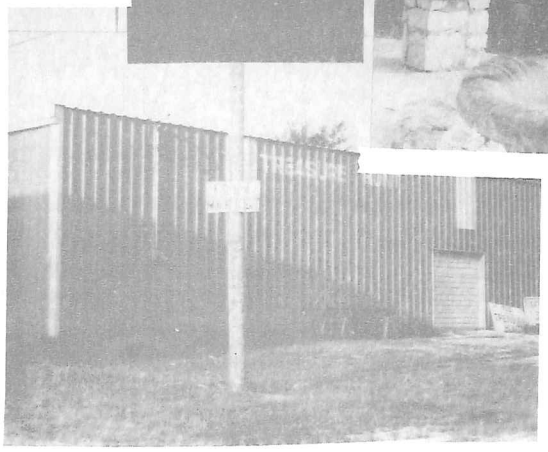
Top: Downtown business people move Post Office, 1966

Highway Businesses, 1983 and 1966

(Treasure Hunt and Wempe's Garage; Looking north on Webster from Hale.)

Right Center: Swope Memorial Fountain at Spring Hill High School.

Right Bottom: Kansas Pioneer Queen, Mrs. Minnie Dickey. Miss Carol Jean Shafer was Centennial Queen 1961



Top: Ruritan President Paul Sowers and Rev. Dan Rhodes of the Baptist Church present gift to SHHS student Laura Hawk and her parents. Ruritan and Jaycees sponsored benefit basketball game between Kansas City Chiefs and Spring Hill. Rev. Rhodes obtained Chiefs players.
1983

Notes & Clippings

We could not include all stories or facts worth retaining. Add here items you wish to remember to make the history complete for your family. (You might need to help write an update - perhaps in the year 2007 or 2057.)

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A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

To recognize the efforts of those who made special contributions to make this history possible, the Committee expresses a special Thank You to the following:

George Miller	For his art work.
Francis Morrison.....	For his extensive knowledge and research of local history; for gathering old pictures and reproducing them; for special writings; for advice.
Rev. Ron Starr	For initiating the history; for guidance.
Rev. Don Powell	For guidance and enthusiastic participation since his appointment to the church in June.
Frank Victor, Topeka, Kansas.....	For researching files at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, on the issue of the sidewalks.
Garnet Westhoff	For special drawings.
Cecil Starbuck, Mrs. Ruth Brown, and Bill Wilson	For answering innumerable questions (often late at night).
Darrel Stiles	For providing camera and equipment for last-minute pictures.
Barbara Healy Walters.....	For her research material on the high school.
Ardris Londeen, Fred Marshall, Cecil Poisal, Dennis Joeckel, John House, Kathryn Miller, Dollie Harkness, Katy DeNoon, Laverne Compton, Jim Crawford, Glen and Louise Wiswell, Carol Stiles, Loretta Zimmerman	For their special article(s).
Church History Committee, Loren Locke, chairman; Eva Locke, Rachel DeTar, Edna Mayes, Vance Stiles, Catherine Stiles, Betty Corliss, Emmett Cantrall, Alberta Makadanz	For serving as advisors and critics; for providing information and articles.
Carol D. Healy.....	For being advisor, helper, photographer, preparing layouts; for many, many hours of errand work.
Ourselves, the Town History .... Committee of the Spring Hill United Methodist Church	For gathering information, pictures, and writing the history.

We trust you, the reader, will enjoy and treasure the history as much as we have enjoyed producing it.

Homer Westhoff, Chairman
Garnet Westhoff, Betty Gilson, Betty Miller, Edith Fike, Judy Monroe, Francis Morrison, Rev. Don Powell, Ethel Mae Healy, editor.