



THE SUNFLOWER

Reno County Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 5

Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-0005



Volume 37 No. 4

November 2015

The Reno County Genealogical Society of Hutchinson, Kansas was founded in 1978 for the purpose of fostering genealogical research, promoting the exchange of information and encouraging the deposit of genealogical and historical materials in established libraries and archives. Membership in the Reno County Genealogical Society is open to anyone interested in genealogy or local history. Dues are \$15.00 per year, per couple from January 1 to December 31 each year. Meetings are held the third Saturday of each month in the Auditorium of the Hutchinson Public Library, 9th and Main, 10:00 A.M. – 11:45 A. M.

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If you subscribe to Newspaperarchive.com or Newspapers.com and would like to research and type information for the quarterly please notify us at:

RenoCoGenSoc@gmail.com

Thank you!



Gale Wall
Acting Editor

My sincere apologies for the delay of your quarterly issues.

As acting editor I can compile the issues for print, but submitted material is needed until a permanent editor is in place.

ON THE COVER

A close up of the contents in the Teter shadowbox. See page 69.



Thank you, Rita Lingg for sharing the Teter information.

LAST BIG FRAMED BUILDING RAZED

Queen City Hotel, Recently Used as Saint's Home Soon to Be a Memory

The old Queen City Hotel on West Avenue E, which during its history has been the scene of many wild escapades as well as having served more recently as a Saint's Home for aged Negroes, is being wrecked at the present time.

The building is owned by Chas. Carter, a hotel operator at Elkhart. The building is being torn down under the direction of Coons-Hare, local real estate agents.

Built 40 Years Ago

The old Queen City Hotel building is one of the last of the old large frame buildings to be wrecked. Senator Frank Vincent, whose memory is still good on the things that happened here in the early days, states that the old Queen City Hotel building constructed by Thomas Hutchinson, a man who moved in from the country to go into the hotel business. Senator Vincent says the old hotel was erected about 1886, which was about the time the Rock Island came into Hutchinson.

"When first erected the Queen City Hotel was one of the finest in the city," Senator Vincent explained. "It was erected where it is with the idea of getting the transient travelers from the Rock Island depot. Only a short time later, the better hotels were constructed farther north, which knocked the Queen City Hotel out of business. It then deteriorated into a regular "dive."

Hutchinson News Thursday May 27, 1926

Submitted by Kathleen Dankanyin

.....

WANTED

**Your submissions of city, county, and family
information, along with photographs.**

Send to renocogensoc@gmail.com

Ben Blanchard, continued

The Fiction

There have been many legends and stories told of Ben Blanchard's exploits. Below are some of the most pervasive.

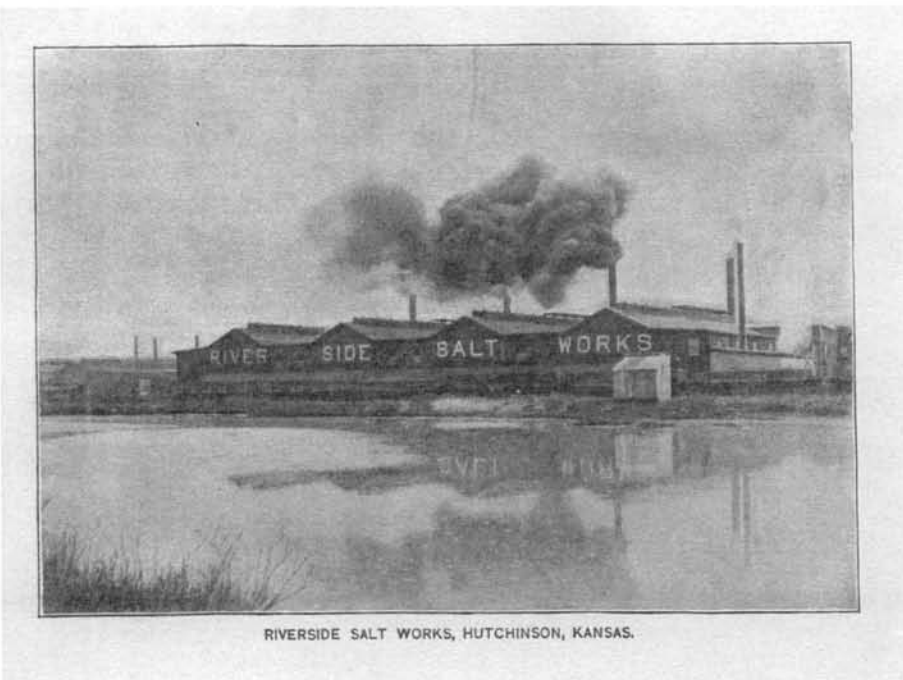
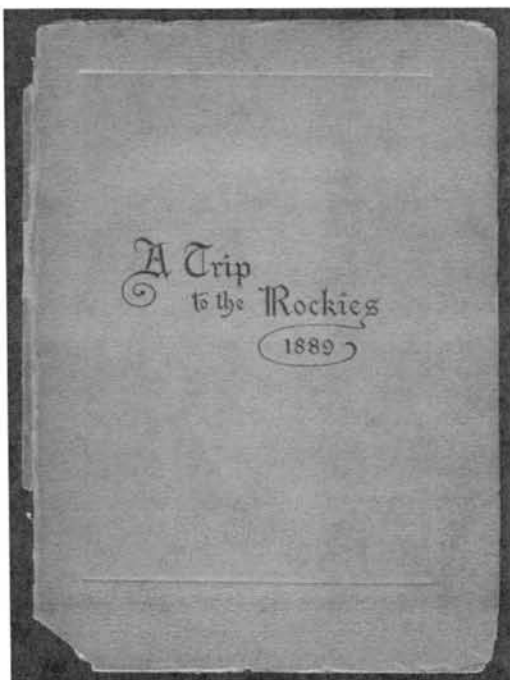
Myth #1: One popular local legend states that Ben arrived in Hutchinson by rail, wearing crinolines while being pursued on the same train by a detective from Terre Haute in 1886. Lore has it that the detective helped "a lady," actually Ben in disguise, off of the train. This story was told in a history written and recited by Janice Brown at the 1986 South Hutchinson Centennial Celebration: "A strange appearing creature in female garb rode the Sante Fe into Hutchinson, Kansas, and was assisted off the train by a detective. The detective was seeking Ben Blanchard. After the detective departed, Blanchard stepped out of the petticoats which had so effectively disguised him from the officer and emerged as his true self, a real estate promoter from Terre Haute, Indiana."

My research convinces me that this story is false. The story originated in Terre Haute in October 1885 when Ben was alluding capture on fraud charges. While this deception was originally reported in the Terre Haute Gazette, it was recanted the following day. The Gazette account can be read previously in this article. Far from arriving as a fugitive, Ben first arrived in Hutchinson on September 16, 1885, on the luxurious Pullman "Paradiso" railroad car; along with him came a large party of investors that purchased Reno County land.

Myth #2: One of the most frequently told stories is that in the midst of drilling for oil, Ben poured a barrel of oil into the hole so that he could convince investors that he had discovered oil. Although several stories have circulated surrounding Ben's actions while exploring for oil, gas or coal, I could find no concrete evidence confirming this action. Like all good tales, the truth of this tale may have to remain shrouded in a bit of a mystery.

Myth #3: Another frequently told story is that either Ben never realized that he had discovered salt or that he left town either under duress because of business deals gone bad and that he never received recognition or profit from the salt discovery.

I think that I can debunk all of these myths. For this, I will reference a fascinating book, "A Trip to the Rock-



ies, by Major B. R. Corwin.” This book is a first person account of a two-week excursion from Brooklyn, New York on Ben Blanchard’s Pullman Palace, the “Dalmatia.” This trip occurred in 1889, two years after the salt discovery while Ben was President of the Empire Loan and Trust Company of Hutchinson, Kansas. He had outfitted the seventy-foot Pullman car to accommodate bankers, investors and their wives (a total of twenty-two people) for a trip across the county to a banking convention in Kansas City. From there the group was to tour Kansas and go on to Colorado. This book clearly shows that Ben continued to work and find investors for at least two years after the salt discovery and was lauded for this. The manuscript gives a fascinating look into the lives of business tycoons in the late 1800s. Excerpts from the book are below:

“ The car was decorated with silk flags and flowers and every possible provision was made for not only the comfort but royal entertainment of the tourists. An excellent library, beautiful portfolios, dainty note-books bound in Russian leather, checkers, chess, dominoes and other games and in fact every thing that could possibly be thought of to fan the leaden wings of time were placed at the disposal of the party...One of the sets of dominoes that were in the car was made of genuine shell pearl and is the costliest set in the county.”

The group visited Topeka, Emporia, Newton and Hutchinson where a large group of dignitaries met them, including E. L. Meyer, Cashier of First National Bank.

“ After a night at the Brunswick Hotel, guests boarded elegant carriages and set off to the salt works (Riverside Salt Works) where the pure white salt was admired by all...Standing by the side of one of the leading bank presidents of Hutchinson, at one of the great salt wells, one of our party, not knowing whose energy and enterprise discovered and developed the great industry, made the remark: ‘I should be willing to take off my hat to the man who first struck salt here.’ The bank President replied: Well, you may take off your hat to Mr. Blanchard, the President of the Empire Loan and Trust Company.”

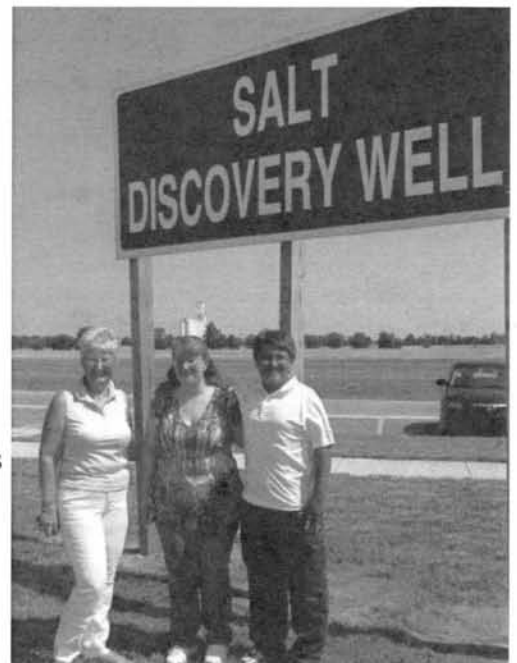
The group was driven past all 12 of the salt works, the ice factory, toured several farms and visited the Hutchinson Daily News. When interviewed about their trip to Hutchinson, Edward Merritt, Esq., President of Long Island Loan and Trust Company said: “We have been delighted and surprised at the wonderful development of the State of Kansas. The growth and progress of Hutchinson are marvelous. The discovery by Mr. Blanchard of the salt fields underlying this section of the country must certainly add largely to the wealth of the city and its inhabitants.” After returning home, the party selected a beautiful present of sterling silverware, inscribed as follows: To Mrs. Ben Blanchard, from the Dalmatia Party, Sept. 23, 1889.”

From these accounts, it seems clear that Bold Ben really had received some recognition during his lifetime for his salt discovery and perhaps, in some small ways, enjoyed some of the profit.

The Family

In June 2010, Karen Peters from Wichita Falls, Texas called and talked to KUSM staff member Tonya Gehring. Karen said that she had heard about KUSM and wanted to visit. She then shared that she was the great - great granddaughter of Ben Blanchard. Tonya immediately engaged her in conversation and even read her the script that the docents use when telling Ben’s story to guests. Karen booked a tour on June 26th for herself, her son Mathew and her mother, Terri Utz. Terri’s father, Howard Blanchard was a major contact of Michael McCormick (writer for the Wabash Valley Profiles) and actually knew his grandfather Ben.



By contacting South Hutchinson officials, we helped arrange a won-



derful reception for the three generations of Blanchards that included a visit to the Salt Discovery Site, a tour of South Hutchinson and lunch with invited city and county officials. In the afternoon, the family received a tour of Underground Vaults & Storage, a trip into the Hutchinson Salt Mine and a VIP tour of the salt museum. They were surprised and delighted by the warmth and excitement surrounding their visit. We were thrilled with the Ben Blanchard artifacts that they brought to donate to the Reno County Historical Society. These included an original copy of the book "A Trip to the Rockies," pictures of Ben at different stages of life as well as his family members, a copy of the Blanchard Coat of Arms, and a passport from the time that Ben was in London. Terri also told family stories and was able to fill in some gaps in Ben's life. Of particular interest was the news that her grandfather Clyde was actually born to Ben and Avis in Hutchinson in 1888, after the salt discovery. Terri related that Ben was generally estranged from his children and that although she knew Clyde, he never spoke of Ben. Terri's father, Howard, spent time with Ben as a child visiting his mining sites in Arizona and Nevada.

The Legacy

Although small of stature, Ben Blanchard was larger than life. With his charismatic personality, Ben charmed his way into investors' pocket books and many a young ladies hearts. He reflected the entrepreneurial and often cavalier spirit that emerged during the booming times that were raging across the land as the population raced west across the nation. Ben has left his indelible mark on Reno County for many generations to come. As that Hutchinson bank President suggested in 1889, "You may take off your hat to Mr. Blanchard...."

IDENTITY BOOK No 91792

Issued to BEN BLANCHARD
(Name)

of St James Court
Buckingham Gate London S.W.
(Address)

(Serial or Reference Number) A.D. 149
12329

Issued at Cannon Row
(Date) 24 July 1916

For Police use. Not to be filled in by applicant.

For penalty for misuse see back.

Anyone finding this Book and unable to restore it to the person whose name and address are entered above must deliver it to an Officer of Police without delay.

This Book should contain Sixteen pages.



Samuel Teter - Shadow Box Photographs



Preserving Your Family Photos

By Lynn Ledeboer and Ashley Maready, Reno County Historical Society

If you're reading this article, it's a safe bet that you have a collection of treasured family photos, and you need a little help keeping them safe for the future. In the following article, you will find information about the different types of photographs, potential problems with your photo collection, and ways to keep photos looking their best for years to come.

What is a photograph? It is a picture made using a camera, in which an image is focused onto film or another light-sensitive material, and then made visible and permanent by chemical treatment or digital storage. Photographs have two parts. The emulsion layer consists of metallic particles or dyes (in the case of color photos) held in a binder such as gelatin; this is the image layer. Underneath is a support layer, usually composed of paper, glass, metal, or plastic. The earliest photographs were on rigid supports (daguerreotypes and ambrotypes are on glass, while tintypes are on polished iron), and usually not duplicated. Later photographs were on paper or plastic supports (paper prints, including cabinet cards and cartes-de-visite, as well as more modern photographs) and could be reproduced from photo negatives. Now many photographs are "born digital" and remain so, with people seeing them on social media or cell phones, rather than in albums or frames.

There is no definitive answer as to how long we can expect photographs to last, given the variables of handling, storage, and the photo materials themselves. Photographs should be considered an impermanent medium regardless of circumstances; but I hope that through the information given here, you can take the necessary steps to make your photos last well into the future.

Identification is the first step to preservation. You should always label your photos with the names of the people in them (using full names, and not just "Dad" or "Grandma") and circumstances, along with dates if you have them (or at least an approximation). If you're not sure, spend some time with other relatives who might know, and ask them. Use a soft pencil or a photo blue pencil (these write on modern resin-coated photos, and can be bought on the internet) to label the backside of your photos. Try not to press down hard, as you can easily break the emulsion layer on the other side. A black permanent ink pen can be used to label photo negatives. The names, dates, and locations are vital to maintaining the link to the past that your photos represent (and the staff at the local museum will appreciate your efforts if they end up receiving your photos someday!).

Physical damage to photographs is common, but can be prevented. Light fading damage is a particular



problem for color photographs, whose dyes render them not as stable as many black and white photos. When you display or store photos, keep them out of direct light, and consider using UV-blocking glass in your frames. You can even have reproductions made of your most treasured photos, and display these, keeping the originals safely stored. Photos should always be handled with care. If a photo print gets bent or creased, the emulsion layer can be split or cracked, or it can even peel away from the support layer. Photos on glass, like ambrotypes or glass plate negatives, can be very brittle and are easily broken. Photos are also susceptible to scratches, and should be kept in closed boxes or albums, to keep dust from collecting on their surfaces. If your photos become dusty, gently blow the dust off instead of wiping or brushing it off.

Your photos are also susceptible to environmental conditions. It is important to store your photos in moderate temperature and humidity, without fluctuations. For this reason, I recommend keeping your photos out of your attic or basement; these parts of your home are often not heated or air-conditioned, and the temperature and humidity

change with the seasons. Your photos want to be comfortable, so keep them in the parts of your home occupied by you and your family. Heat can accelerate the chemical deterioration of photos with each 10-degree jump in temperature, and humidity that is too high or too low can cause mold growth (high humidity) or desiccation and curled photo prints (low humidity). The emulsion layer of some photographs is tempting food for molds, and mold can stain photos, plus it is dangerous for you too. Photos can be vulnerable to chemicals like ozone, which can cause fading. And black and white photos are often composed of silver particles, so they can tarnish to black when they come into contact with sulfur. Rubber and leather give off sulfur, so keep photos separated from items made of these materials.

Sometimes, despite your best efforts, historic photos or photo albums will deteriorate due to inherent vice. This means that the materials themselves are the problem, because they are of poor quality or are unstable, or they interact with other materials. The earliest incarnations of modern substances, like plastic, commonly suffer from inherent vice. Sometimes inherent vice is a quality to be found in modern products sold to store or display photos. Cheap photo albums often feature unstable plastics that can stick to your photos in high temperature or humidity conditions. It is safest to buy photo albums that are labeled as having passed the PAT, or Photographic Activity Test. This is a test developed by the Image Permanence Institute to evaluate photo storage and display products. It checks the interactions between photo images and enclosures used to store them. You may have to do your research and pay a little more to buy albums and storage boxes and sleeves that have passed the PAT, but your family photos are worth it.

Digital scanning technology has come a long way in the last few years, so if you find yourself with photos that have deteriorated, it may still be possible to scan them and make improvements digitally. Read on for information about the Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board (KSHRAB), your ally for preservation.

The preservation of historical photographs and documents helps every one of us understand who we were, who we are, and shares that information with future generations. The Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board (KSHRAB) informs organizations and individuals about the importance of preservation. Here is a quick run-down about KSHRAB.



The **Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board (KSHRAB)** is the central advisory body for historical records planning and grant funded projects developed and carried out within Kansas under the auspices of the **National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)**. The KSHRAB also serves as a coordinating body to facilitate cooperation among historical records repositories and other information agencies within the state, and as a **state-level review body of proposals for grants**.

Established by Congress in 1934, NHPRC encourages efforts by private organizations and governments to preserve and make available for use documentary sources relating to the history of the United States.

For 2015-2017, we created the **All Access Passport** program to encourage visits to Kansas archival repositories, with northeast Kansas being a starting point. Prizes are awarded for the first three passports presented each year to have visited at least eight sites.

For 2016-2017, we have created the **KDAHR (Kansas Digital Access to Historical Records Regrant)** program: we will provide multiple \$2,500 matching grants across two years for online/digital access projects.

We are continuing to provide at least **five scholarships & travel stipends** of up to \$500 each per year for archival training to continuing education offerings such as the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) or Society of American Archivists (SAA) conference.

We will also continue to collaborate with **Kansas Partners in History**, and other history and humanities-based organizations to further the promotion of the importance of historical records preservation.

Additionally, we are focused on digital preservation of all documents, including photographs. One wonderful benefit of scanning photographs is the ability to alter or correct damaged photographs. Not only does scanning preserve wonderful memories, but it provides the opportunity to repair and improve an image that time or mishandling had marred. We've included a "before" and "after" example from the Reno County Museum's artifact collections.

To contact the Kansas State Historical Records Advisory Board:

Kansas Historical Society

6425 SW 6th Avenue

Topeka, KS 66615

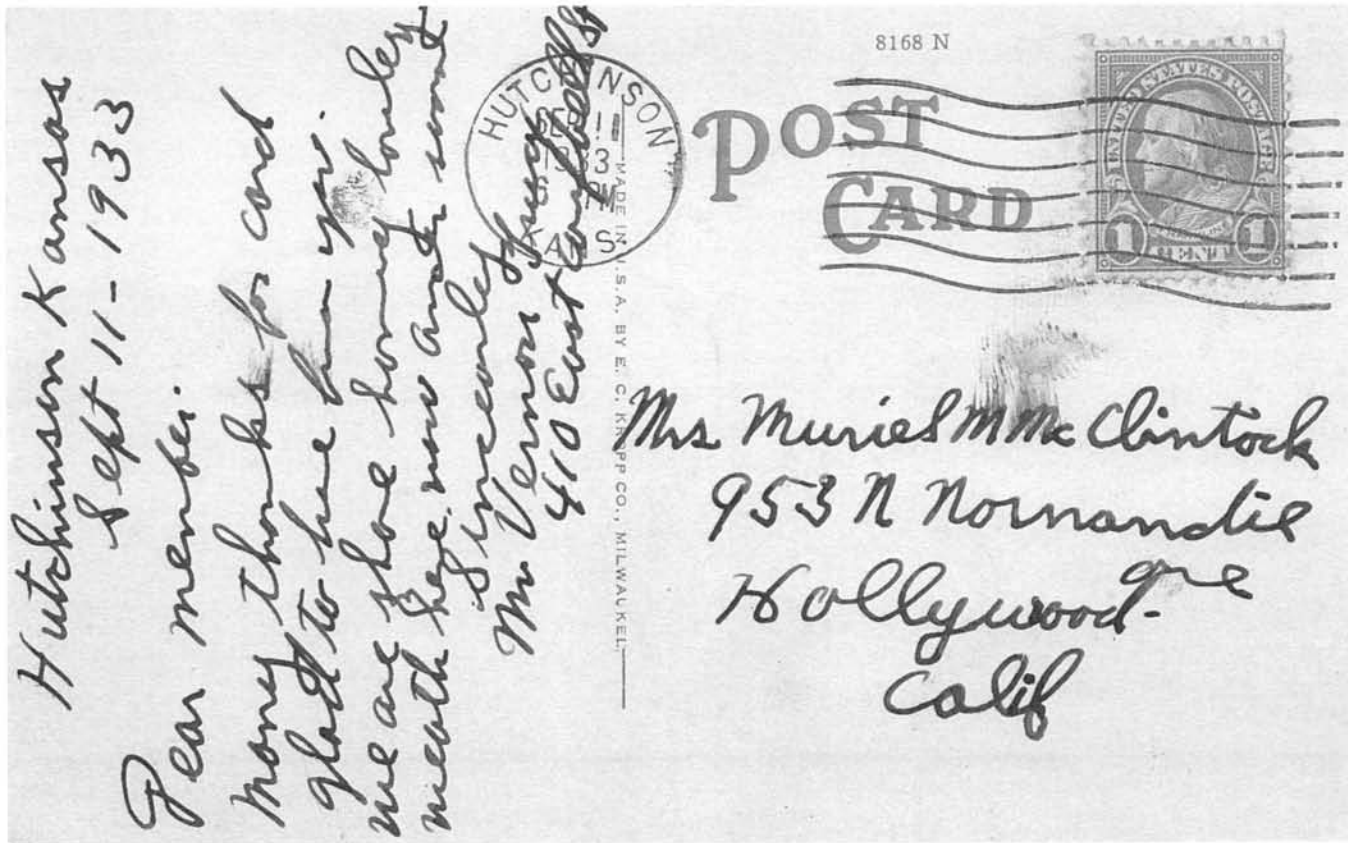
(785)272-8681 ext. 325

kshrab@kshs.org



Snail Mail

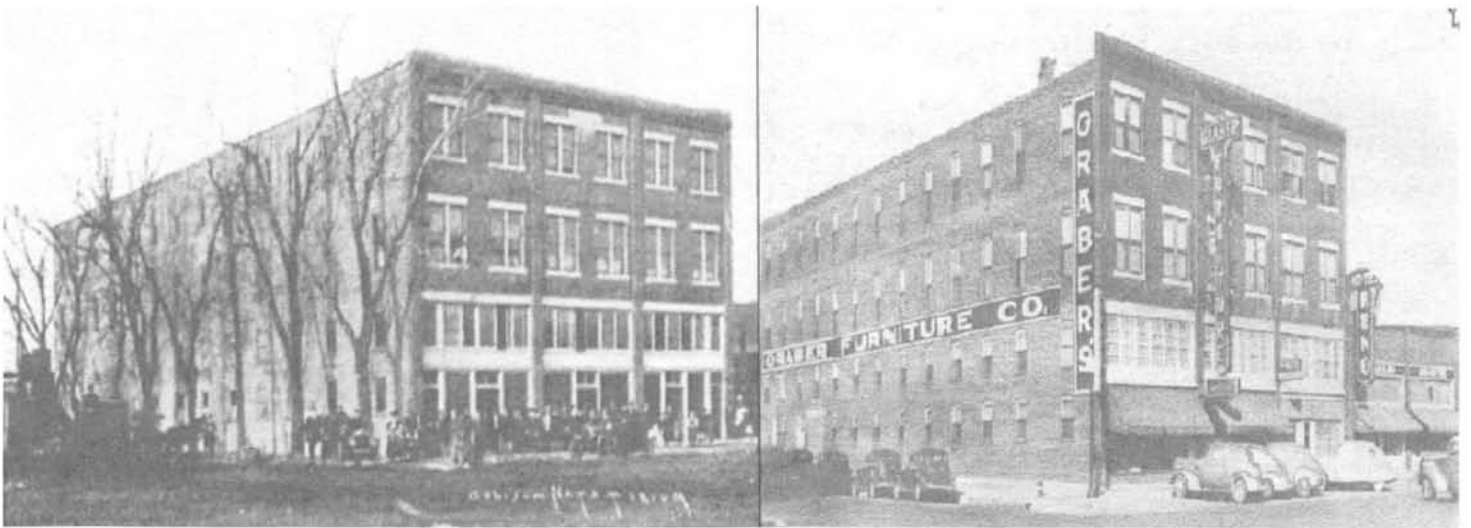
An old postcard featuring the Hotel Leon. Present day apartment building in downtown Hutchinson. Mrs. Vernon Truax to Mrs. Muriel McClintock. 1933.



Then and Now: Corner of First Avenue and Washington Street

This installment takes us to the downtown corner of First Avenue and Washington Street. The building at 28 West 1st, has had a long history. Built in 1908 by Frank Manda, it was opened as the "Coliseum European Hotel" and included the Hutchinson Sanitarium. It featured a salt water swimming pool and baths. In the 1920's it was renamed the Reno Hotel. By 1935 it had become Graber Furniture which was there until 1984.

The first set of photos show those occupants. In 1988 it became Woody's Furniture. On January 17th, 2001 the Hutchinson Gas Explosions happened. The second set of photos shows Woody's at opening in 1988 and Woody's on fire right after the explosion in 2001. The third set of photos shows a monument pillar in the parking lot, with some plaques detailing the property history. That is all that remains.



Historic photos from the Conard - Harmon Collection





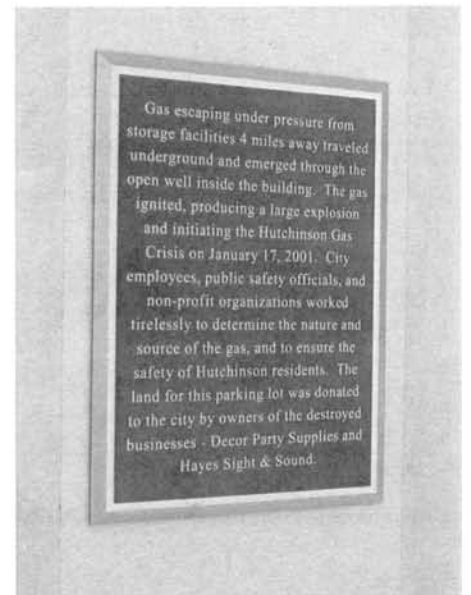
These 2 photos provided by Steve Harmon.

Buildings that once stood here were constructed in 1908 as the Coliseum Hotel and Saltwater Natatorium. The Coliseum Hotel was designed on a European plan offering 75 guest rooms, commodious dining room, library and a fine gymnasium and the only salt water swimming pool east of Salt Lake City. The hotel obtained salt water from a well 740 ft. deep on the property. A single story addition covered the well casing which remained hidden from changing owners, but provided a tube from the subsoil to the surface inside the building.



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These 3 photos taken by Gale Wall



Gas escaping under pressure from storage facilities 4 miles away traveled underground and emerged through the open well inside the building. The gas ignited, producing a large explosion and initiating the Hutchinson Gas Crisis on January 17, 2001. City employees, public safety officials, and non-profit organizations worked tirelessly to determine the nature and source of the gas, and to ensure the safety of Hutchinson residents. The land for this parking lot was donated to the city by owners of the destroyed businesses - Decor Party Supplies and Hayes Sight & Sound.

Hutchinson Photographers

A beautiful photograph by Hirst & Bilbrough, Hutchinson photographers.

More photographer information coming in 2016...



Support RCGS via Community Rewards Program

It is time to renew your community rewards designation. You should have received an email concerning this. Thank you for continuing to support RCGS.

Congratulations on RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY's acceptance into Community Rewards! Community Rewards is designed for non-profits of all sizes.

RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY will get credit for every purchase its members make using their registered Plus card. You have been assigned a new NPO number **80570**.

A customer must have 3 things to register and begin supporting RCGS:

- A Plus card, which is available at any store by asking an associate
- A valid email address, which can be obtained from any free online service and can be anonymous
- A personalized account at our website, which again can be anonymous

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2. Click on "*Enroll Now*"
3. Enter the 5-digit NPO and search
4. Select your Organization and click on "*Enroll*"

TO CREATE AN ONLINE ACCOUNT AT OUR WEBSITE:

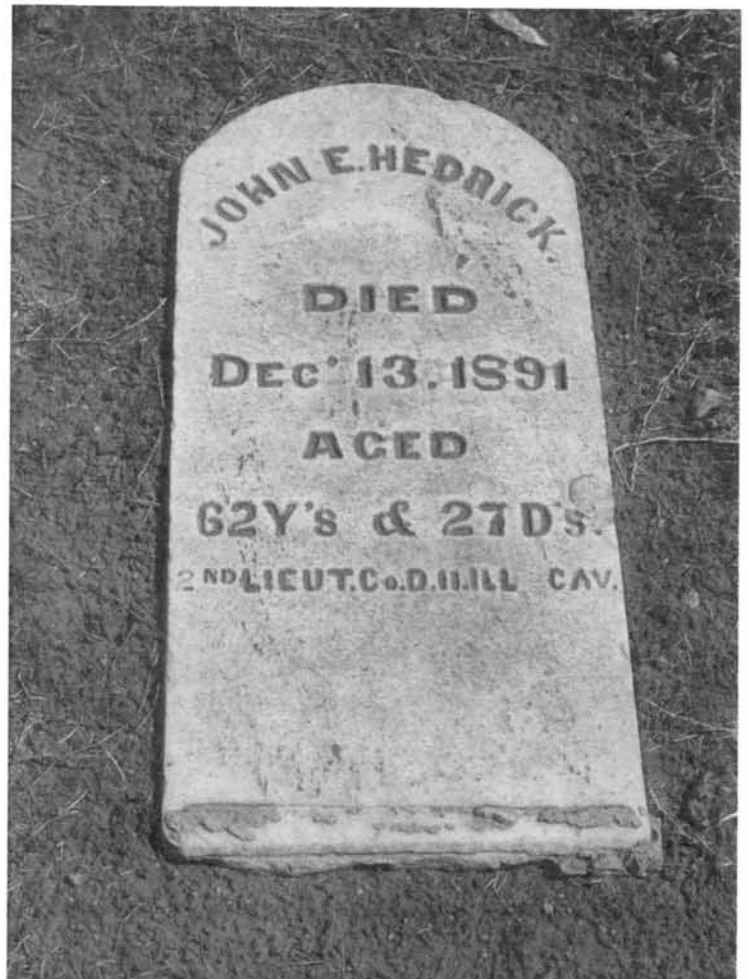
Visit our website at www.banner.com/communityrewards (substitute Dillons, Bakers or Gerbes for banner depending on your location)

1. Click on "*Register*" at the top of the page
2. Enter your email address, password, zip code (select preferred store) and check the box if you desire to receive email communication from us
3. Click on "*Create Account*" at the bottom of the page
4. You will receive an email confirmation to your inbox, to activate your account click on the link in the body of the email and enter your sign in information to confirm

For assistance setting up an online account or with general questions, please feel free to contact us at [800-576-4377](tel:800-576-4377) option 3. Administrators are always welcome to email us at DCR@dillonstores.com.

Eastside Cemetery - Lot 10

Hedrick	J. E.	Marked
Hedrick	Sarah	Unmarked
Powell	Ella	Unmarked
Powell	W. W.	Unmarked
Wootens	J. D.	Unmarked



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RENO COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 5
 HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-0005

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



McMannis, Darren J.
 P.O. Box 387
 North Newton, KS 67117-0387

Be sure to visit our blog for events & news : renocogensoc.blogspot.com

Births - Recorded Early Births of Reno Co. 1890-1911 & Index	\$5.00	Naturalization Records of Reno County Index 1875-1955 filed at courthouse	\$8.00
Cemetery Book of Reno County, 1865-1978	SOLD OUT	Teachers of Reno County, 1884-1966	\$15.00
Cemetery Records of North Inman, Superior Township, McPherson County, KS	\$5.00	<i>The Sunflower</i> Back Issues - CD ONLY	\$10.00
Deaths - Recorded Deaths of Reno County 4 volumes, 1890-1911 & Index	\$5.00	Harper's Weekly 1888 - City of Hutchinson featured supplement - PDF on CD	\$5.00
Homestead Records of Reno County Name, location & file date 1875-1945	\$10.00	Plat Book of Reno Co. 1902 - PDF on CD	\$10.00
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