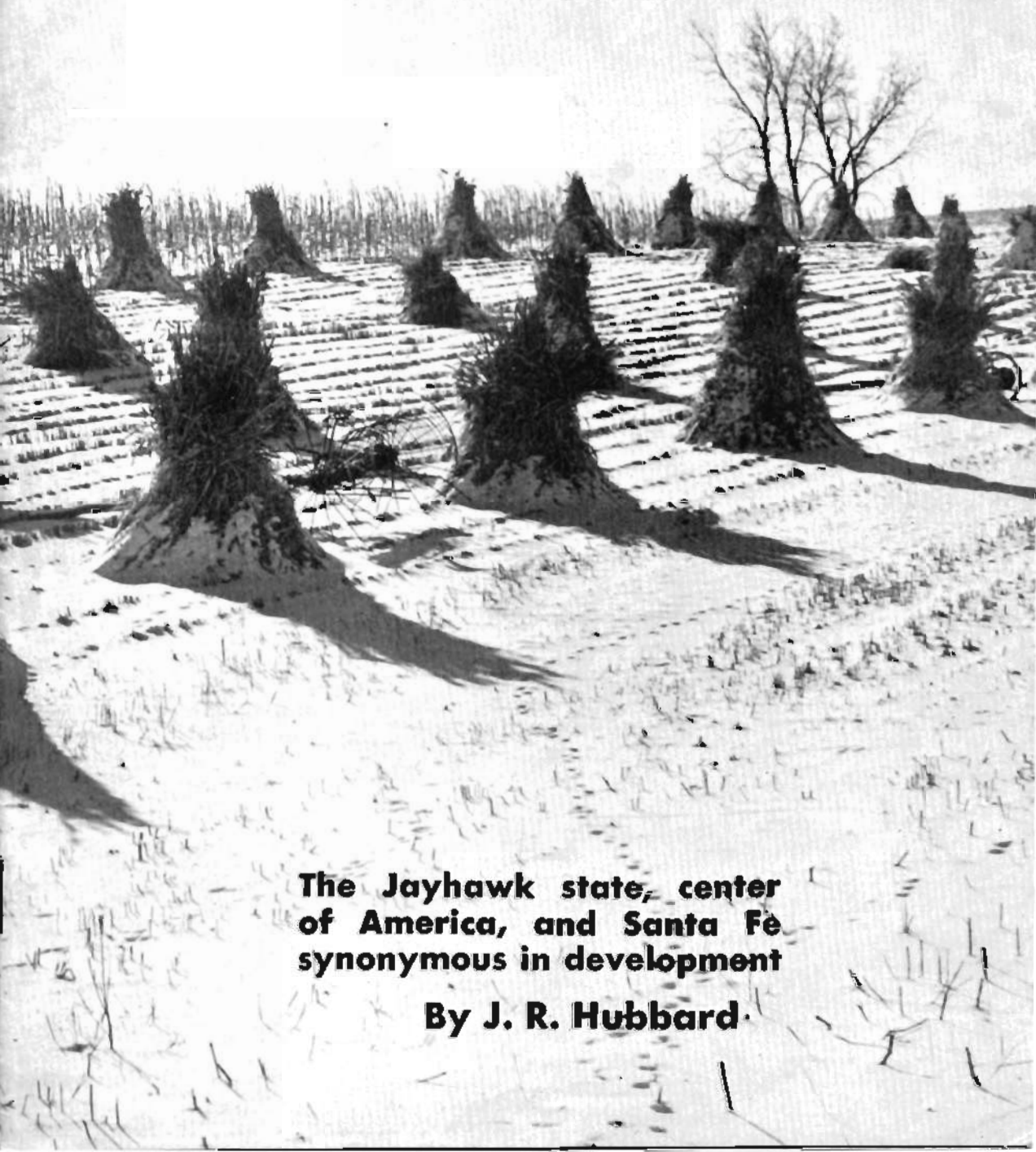


KANSAS—

"home" to Santa Fe



**The Jayhawk state, center
of America, and Santa Fe
synonymous in development**

By J. R. Hubbard



To many Santa Fe employees a description of this picture is superfluous—it shows the company's general office building at Topeka, Kan. The building was completed in 1924.

KANSAS celebrated its 87th anniversary as a state January 29. Organized in the Kansas territory two years earlier, the Santa Fe System has a close kinship with the state, and their histories run parallel in a truly remarkable story of development.

Paced by the pioneering builders of the Santa Fe, development of Kansas really started following the Civil War. Prior to that the state's white population was confined largely to the eastern and northeastern fringe. West of Emporia, Kansas remained much as it had been when first seen by a white man—the domain of Indians and buffalo.

Written history of Kansas starts in 1540, 80 years ahead of the Pilgrims, when Spanish colonial officials in Mexico heard fabulous reports of golden cities of Quivira. The next year Francisco de Coronado made the first recorded exploration of the area.

Finding no gold, Coronado went back to Mexico but a companion, Father Juan de Padilla, returned to found a church and become Kansas' first white settler. He wished to journey from tribe to tribe seeking converts, but the Indians

with whom he lived loved him so much they didn't want him to leave so they killed him.

Spain claimed the territory visited by Coronado and established Santa Fe as its capital. However, little was done to develop even the fur trade with Indians. The French journeying from the Mississippi were more familiar to Kansas Indians than the Spaniards.

THE COVER

OUT over the rambling plains of Kansas, this serene snowscape is typical of what a traveler might see many times a day from the window of a Santa Fe train during the winter months. The photographer caught the tranquility of these sorgo shocks jutting from a blanket of windswept snow in true teepee style somewhere in the great grain producing state. The cameraman wasn't the field's first visitor, however, for you will note distinct rabbit tracks dotting up from the bottom of the frontispiece. Although the state is known principally for producing wheat, probably no grain is grown more widely from border to border than sorgo.

Daniel Morgan Boone, son of the famous frontiersman, is credited with being the first English speaking man to visit Kansas. In company with two Frenchmen, he visited the mouth of the Kaw River in 1795. After Jefferson's purchase of Louisiana was concluded in 1803, Boone returned to Kansas and attempted to teach the Indians how to farm. Traders and settlers gradually moved into East-

ern Kansas along the rivers and streams. Fort Leavenworth was established in 1827.

Meanwhile, Mexico had declared its independence from Spain and when Captain William Becknell reached Santa Fe in 1821 with the first load of trading goods from Missouri he was welcomed with open arms and purses. Traffic along



In the wealthy wheat belt of the Southwest, near Garden City, Kan., are shown combines and trucks working during harvest season. This is the phase before the grain is loaded into

the Santa Fe trail ballooned. Col. George Sibley met chiefs of the Osage tribes at Council Grove in 1825 and arranged permission for traders to cross the Osage lands. Army posts were established at Dodge City, Fort Scott and Fort Riley. With a trickle of settlers moving westward, Congress established Kansas as a territory in 1854.

The bitter fight over slavery waged in Kansas for six years before the Civil War. Called the "Border War," this fight criss-crossed the Missouri-Kansas border and merged into the Civil War. With a scant 100,000 population, Kansas furnished 20,000 soldiers for the Union army. Achieving statehood in 1861, Kansas had to await the coming of peace to really begin development. After the surrender of General Lee's army, a flood of migration swept westward.

Indians of Kansas were reluctant to see their lush hunting grounds despoiled by white settlers. They pillaged homesteads and played hide-and-seek with the army until white settlers had slaughtered all of the buffalo. With the extinction of the buffalo the Indians were forced to

conclude peace agreements and they were herded into Oklahoma and Indian Territory reservations.

As products of Kansas, its people stand first. Aside from the early fur traders, hunters and freighters, the first influx of settlers started in 1854 at the outset of the Border War. This war raged between anti-slavery and pro-slavery groups over whether Kansas should be admitted to the Union as a free or slave state. Participants in this war mainly were idealists, educated and cultured persons who were willing to fight for that which they believed. Adding salty realism were horse thieves, murderers, bigots and barn burners. It was out of this turbulent period that John Brown emerged to stage an armed rebellion and hang at Harper's Ferry.

Preachers and teachers, however, remained to form a moralistic yet liberty loving commonwealth. Education always has been highly prized in Kansas. Compared with other states today, Kansas ranks third in college students per 1,000 population and fourth in per cent of high school students being graduated. There is one state university and four colleges, two municipal universities, 14 denominational colleges and 21 junior colleges.

A second wave of migrants came to Kansas following the Civil War. The population tripled between 1860 and 1870 and rose ninefold by 1880. More than 100,000 of the men who came in that period had served as soldiers in the Union army. These men had risked their lives to save the country they loved. They were public spirited and took an active part in the state and local politics. Ten of the 12 governors following the Civil War were veterans of that conflict.

Along with the tide of veterans came a wave of immigrants from Europe. Many of these were of German ancestry although some of them came from Russia. Seeking relief from compulsory military service and freedom to practice their religious beliefs, these immigrants were guided by idealism, but they brought with them hard winter wheat and



John Stewart Curry's mural of John Brown in the state capitol, aroused a furious controversy and Curry refused to sign it.



Santa Fe cars and begins its way to tables the world over. The present European food crisis has contributed much to spotlighting this area.

thrifty farming practices that have made a deep impression not only upon Kansas, but the entire plains territory.

The Santa Fe was instrumental in bringing some 10,000 Mennonites to Harvey, McPherson and Marion counties. It was this group that introduced growing and milling of winter wheat on a commercial scale. Short crops in Sweden sent thousands of Swedes to America and several colonies were established in Kansas as early as 1868. Other groups of immigrants included German Catholics, Bohemians, Russians, as well as Scots, Welsh, Irish and English from the British Isles.

From this background, Kansas has produced a vice-president (Charles Curtis); two cabinet members (William Jardine and Harry H. Woodring); a Supreme Court justice, (David J. Brewer); two presidential nominees (Alf M. Landon and Earl Browder); a world-famous psychiatrist (Dr. Karl Menninger); a big league baseball star (Walter Johnson); a Broadway theatrical producer (Brock Pemberton); nationally famous newspapermen and authors (William Allen White and Ed Howe); authors Dr. Charles M. Sheldon and Frederick Wakeman; Prohibitionist Carrie Nation; Railroad Builder Cyrus K. Holliday; Generals Frederick Funston, James G. Harbord, and Dwight Eisenhower; and Publisher E. Haldeman-Julius who first advocated trial marriage and urged his daughter to try it.

In addition to these there are hundreds of big names from Kansas in the arts, science, business and finance. Kansas newspapermen, particularly, have gone far. Newspapers of the state have a national reputation for vigor and independence.

When this school of journalism was young the following was not uncommon in the Kansas press:

"Cone (a rival editor) for the three hundred and fifty-fifth time, refers to our being in the guard house on one occasion. We have

acknowledged that fact so often that it is useless to do so any more. Cone—you idiot—you jackass—red-headed, frizzleheaded, mush-headed, slab-sided, brainless deformity and counterfeit imitation of a diseased polecat—we inform you again, once more and emphatically, we were there. But it wasn't for stealing type."—From the *Marysville Enterprise*, May 16, 1868.

Geographically, Kansas is in the center of the United States. Roughly a rectangle 411 by 208 miles, Kansas is the center of a 700-mile circle described by Roger Babson as the richest mineral and agricultural area in the world. Its terrain is a rolling plain sloping upward from the east to an altitude of 4,135 feet above sea level near the Colorado state line. The lowest point is 686 feet, near Coffeyville.



Sheep are fattened in large number on Kansas farms. These are shown in a central Kansas feedlot. Thousands of lambs are fattened on winter wheat pasture.



Night scene of the dome atop Kansas' State capitol building.

Among the minerals referred to by Mr. Babson, oil, gas, coal, salt, zinc and lead, stone, cement, sand and clay are produced in large volume. Asphalt rock, gypsum, chalk, pyrites, rock wool, helium, carbon black, volcanic ash, bentonite and diatomaceous marl are being commercially produced or are available for production. Present annual mineral output is five times that of Alaska and exceeds the famous mining states of the Rocky Mountains.

Nearly a half million barrels of cement are sold annually. Coal production exceeds 4,000,000 tons. More than 100 billion cubic feet of natural gas is produced and about 100 million barrels of oil are pumped each year. The million-acre gas field near Hugoton is considered one of the largest known gas reserves in the world.

Having the second largest livestock market in the country, Kansas' meat packing business leads other industries in dollar volume, but there are 50 classes of manufacturing conducted in the state. Petroleum refining and flour milling rank next with newspapers, printing and publishing ranking fifth in Kansas industry. During the war, of course, airplane manufacture was a leading item in this field. Over the war period more than two and a half billion dollars worth of planes were manufactured in the state.

Industries of the state include the only pipe organ factory west of the Mississippi, a sugar refinery, the world's leading awning factory, an industrial alcohol distillery, a synthetic rubber tire plant, brick, tile and ceramics plants.

Kansas weather is something to talk about—and it is talked about. Having no mountains to break the sweep of winds, the state has sudden and violent changes in weather. Eastern counties receive an average annual rainfall of 40 inches. This amount decreases

to less than 20 inches in the west. More than 250 days of sunshine per year give Kansas a healthful climate and the Sunflower as a state emblem. Whether they like it or hate it, Kansans brag about the weather continually. It's either hotter, colder, wetter or drier than any other, true Kansans contend.

A curbstone philosopher once said, "Rain in Kansas is just like shaking catsup out of a bottle—for a long time you don't get any and then all of a sudden you get too damn much."

All of which doesn't deter Kansas farmers who are described as the world's greatest optimists. Their optimism paid off in 1947 to the tune of a billion two hundred thousand dollars in farm income. Despite the weather handicaps, fertile Kansas soil produces year in and year out about one-fourth of the nation's winter wheat—leading all other states. The state produces a wide variety of garden crops and fruits. Ninety per cent of the nation's apple seedlings are grown here. Kansas ranks second in grain sorghums, third in cattle, fifth in chickens and broomcorn, and sixth in eggs and horses. It is among the first ten states in production of corn, rye, flax, hogs and barley.

Adding the value of manufactured products and minerals to the \$1,200,000,000 farm income, Kansas' earnings for 1947 will soar above the two billion dollar mark.

All this vast wealth was here when Coronado visited Kansas in 1541—it was here when Jefferson bought the huge Louisiana territory for fifteen million dollars—it lay beneath the feet of pack mules and ox wagons of Santa Fe traders as they trudged thousands of miles in search of wealth—it would lie dormant today but for railroad transportation.

Cyrus K. Holliday and others realized this and in 1859 the group met in Atchison to organize the Santa Fe railroad company, with the idea of developing latent richness of Kansas and the Southwest. It was in the fall of 1869 before the railroad actually was in operation. A big increase in Kansas population followed the Santa Fe's progress west and south. Kansas in 1860 had 100,000 persons and by 1900 its population had passed the million mark.



The Jayhawk—a Bird?



This prosperous Kansas farm home is surrounded by golden wheat fields. It is typical of central and eastern Kansas.

Cattle-poor Texans trailed their herds to newly-laid rails in Kansas and returned with tools and supplies to rebuild their war-racked state. The rails crept to and through the Rocky Mountains and on to California. Far-flung settlements of the nation were drawn together through channels of commerce and Kansas was on the main line.

Today nearly every section of Kansas has Santa Fe's 13,000 mile system within reach. Seventy of the state's 105 counties are served by the railway which was born here. Four hundred and eighty-four stations serve patrons along 2,934 miles of mainline. More than 400 bus and truck stations of the Santa Fe Trailways provide fast co-ordinated rail-truck service to Kansans. Only four cities of 5,000 or more population are not served by Santa Fe rails. Large repair and manufacturing shops are operated at Topeka and Wichita. Other repair and maintenance facilities are located at Kansas City, Chanute, Arkansas City, Wellington, Emporia, Newton and Dodge City. More than 16,500 employees in Kansas are paid some \$57,000,000 annually. Taxes in excess of \$2,000,000 go to schools and local government—yes, transportation is an important industry in Kansas—on the mainline of transcontinental traffic.

A land of stormy contradictions, Kansas was one of the pioneers of prohibition, yet many Kansans are incensed at reports that per capita consumption of liquor in any other state is as great. The state's early publicists built an enormous reputation for "Kansas Cyclones," yet for sixty years sister states have consistently suffered greater tornado damage than Kansas. The name of the state's official bird is drummed in the ears of every school child, but less than half of the citizens know that the bird is the Meadow Lark. Ask the first ten persons you meet on Topeka's Kansas Avenue and the majority opinion would be the Jayhawk is the official fowl.

This Jayhawk, a mythical ornithological miracle, recently was the subject of an essay by Kirke Mechem, secretary of the Kansas Historical Society. Mechem traces the myth back to Indian days when, he says, reports were common that Jayhawks were the first residents of the plains.

"They settled here," Indians explained, "because the land was flat. They flew at such great speed that they needed level runways for landing. When the Jayhawks first came to the plains, all the country was a desert, without water or vegetation, and even without wind. For many moons whenever a Jayhawk wanted a drink he had to fly to the Great Lakes. One hot summer day several million Jayhawks started northeast for water at the same time. The tremendous force of their flight started a strong breeze from the southwest. From that day the wind has never



Replica of an early-day settler's cabin. Furnished with genuine pioneer relics, this cabin in Gage Park at Topeka attracts many visitors.



Wheat—grain of Kansas—Staff of mankind.

ceased. Since it blew the first clouds across the plains Indians always credited the Jayhawk with bringing rain and vegetation to Kansas

Spaniards of Coronado's day, Mechem explains, were the first white men to hear these stories from the Indians and the following scientific observations by an apocryphal ornithologist are quoted in the essay:

"These incredible birds," he says, "we first saw on Sts. Peter and Paul day as we crossed the river which lies just below Quivira. They were of all sizes, sometimes appearing in great numbers, then of a sudden not to be seen by the keenest eye, so that the men grew apprehensive, saying they made themselves invisible. This they took to be an omen, but whether for good or ill no one could judge.

"Now that I wish to describe the appearance of these birds it is to be noticed that no two of our soldiers found it possible to agree in any particular. As it seemed to me, they



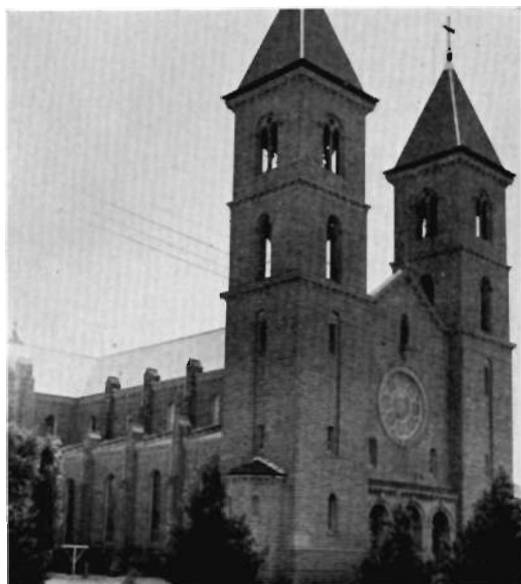
At Rock City in Ottawa County are 50 of these unique spherical rock formations some 12 feet in diameter. Kansas humorists have suggested these rocks were petrified eggs of the mythical Jayhawk.

have a narrow short face, except for the beak, which is long and grotesque, being yellow in color, and curved to a sharp point. The brow of those of the commonest size is two palms across from eye to eye, the eyes sticking out at the side, so that when they are flying they can see in all directions at once. They have long talons, shaped like an eagle's. These claws are so powerful that many of our men, among which even the priest was one, aver that these birds have been seen to fly off with one of those hump-backed cattle in each claw. (He refers to the buffalo.) Some, however, deny this, declaring they have webbed feet.

"However this may be," the Spaniard continues, "there is almost general agreement concerning the tail. This is quite short, being a mere tuft of feathers when these birds are in repose. But in flight or when running



The Kaw River, Kansas' largest stream, lies ice-bound in mid-winter. This scene also shows the Santa Fe line between Topeka and Kansas City.



Called "The Cathedral of the Prairies," this building is said to be the largest Catholic church between St. Louis and Denver. It is at Victoria, Kan., a town of 884 population.

along the ground (where they out-distance our best horses) they carry it erect like a scorpion. The Indians say this tail is poisonous, declaring that in battle they employ it as a weapon, flying backwards, which they do with the greatest ease.

"There are some who profess to believe," he concludes, "that these are the birds Aristophanes described in his comedy, which, living between earth and heaven, forced tribute from both men and gods. Wherefrom it is argued that the squawking of these prairie monsters was merely a demand for tribute. Rather do I believe them to be a species of the Phoenix bird, generated in fire and brimstone, and never ceasing do I offer my prayers of thanksgiving to the Virgin, that I was delivered from their country with a whole skin."



This road sign near Kinsley graphically illustrates Kansas' central location.

Concluding his essay, Mechem says:

"As the myths of the Greeks reflected their humor and idealism, the Jayhawk is peculiarly an expression of the spirit of Kansas. Like the state, it was born in adversity and its flight is to the stars. It is a fighting bird, full of the tough humor of the territorial soldiers who first made it their mascot.

"The Jayhawk is a heroic bird, but don't try to treat it like a hero. You might receive a faint swoosh from its exhaust. It is a bird of peace. It is sentimental, and loves to croon strange words to itself at dawn or in a prairie twilight. Poetic words about ripening wheat, and prohibition, and service flags in the windows of quiet homes, and the purification of politics. Yes, the Jayhawk is heroic, but its heroism was bred in the courage of peace. The courage of a bird that can fly backwards into a dust storm squawking prosperity. The courage of a Phoenix, perhaps, that falls into the fires of adversity only to regenerate itself."



