

The Hoisington Dispatch

Hoisington, Barton County, Kansas, 1899-1989

Dear Readers

Welcome to our edition recognizing the hundredth anniversary of the Hoisington Dispatch. It is remarkable for any business, for particularly a newspaper, to stay in existence for this long. In this age of social media, brick and mortar stores and newspapers face the same problem - the online presence. Each are endangered of being replaced by shopping and reading on the Internet.

The Dispatch has survived because of support by the local community as readers, subscribers, and advertisers. It has survived because of owners who wanted to make sure a newspaper stayed in Hoisington and of a staff dedicated to that same idea. Research shows a newspaper in a community adds value besides documenting birthdays and deaths and births. Communities with newspapers see their property taxes lower and they see their business district more vibrant. It is to the community's advantage to have a local newspaper.

Newspapers document the important milestones in an individual's life. Yes, photos are great to post on social media. It is inexpensive and quick to do that but in the long run is it? Will that social media platform be there in 100 years when future family are looking for information about you?

The history of Hoisington and its population is the history of the Hoisington Dispatch and vice-versa. The Dispatch is the history book detailing what happens here. We encourage you to continue adding to the history of the Dispatch by sharing your history and, in turn, the history of Hoisington.

*We thank you for your support,
The staff of the Hoisington Dispatch*

*Reprinted from The Hoisington Dispatch,
Thursday, March 7, 1889*

The Dispatch

IRA H. CLARK, Editor and Proprietor

SALUTATION.

In presenting this the first issue of the Hoisington DISPATCH to the reading public, we wish to state in a few words the causes which have led to the establishment of the journal and what course we expect to pursue in its publication.

The DISPATCH is launched on the turbulent sea of journalism strictly as a business venture, no vision or thought of glory has led to its establishment, for glory is fading and will not supply the more substantial wants of man. Having great faith in a brilliant future for Hoisington, and being convinced that her people and citizens of Barton county are disposed to give good support to a newspaper that will properly represent them; that will fight their battles; that will rejoice in their victories, and be a factor in the upbuilding of all things that tend to the social, moral and business advancement of the town and community, we therefore chose Hoisington as our home.

Politically, the DISPATCH is Republican, but the aim of the proprietor is to give a good local paper, interesting and instructive to all and not "cranky" on politics.

We are willing that the DISPATCH shall rise or fall on its merits. If the paper is meritorious, it is your duty and to your interest sustain it; if unworthy, the sooner you squelch it the better for Hoisington.

The paper is published on a conservative plan - small at present but ready and willing to be enlarged when business warrants such a change.

We come without exacting promises of the people and have but few promises to make in return, but feel save in insuring the people a fit return for money expended in the DISPATCH office. Your assistance and forbearance is earnestly solicited in your labors with you.

Respectfully
IRA H. CLARK

From the Great Bend Register, Thursday, June 9, 1904

The Hoisington Dispatch

Hoisington's newspaper, the Dispatch, was founded in March, 1889, by the present editor of the Register. The first issue was a six column folio, one-half home print, which size it remained until 1892, when it was enlarged to a five column quarto, it's present size. It remained under one ownership until 1899, when the paper was sold to J. R. Logan and D. S. Geiger, who almost immediately sold it to W. H. Carr (now deceased). Carl Miller and sister then guided the destinies of the publication for about a year, when they sold it to W. D. Franklin, who remained in charge about six months. Walter and Roy Cornelius bought the paper early in 1903 and are now editors and proprietors. The paper has always stood up for its town and has enjoyed a large patronage.

Prior to the establishment of the Dispatch, Hoisington had two newspapers. The Echo was the first newspaper venture and was launched in 1887 by J. H. Herr and James White, and afterwards sold to Chas. R. Vert. The Hoisington Mascot was a publication started in 1888 by W. J. Shaughnessy, and was short life. In 1892 the Hoisington Blade was founded by Joe H. Borders and existed but little over one year.

April 28, 1921

NOTICE.
After Tuesday, May 3, we will be located in our new offices in the Millard building, over Degen's grocery store, where we welcome our old friends and new ones.
Drs. Barnes & Mitchell.

THE HOISINGTON ECHO ~ 1887

The first edition of the Hoisington Echo hit the newsstands on Saturday, July 30, 1887. Starting in August, papers were dated on Thursday. The reasoning for the name is "characteristic of the nature of our paper, as we intend it shall on all occasions echo forth everything of interest to the citizens of Hoisington that comes under our notice. It will echo the thoughts of the best writers of the present day through its columns. It will echo the news of Hoisington and Barton County in a creditable manner, and shall always endeavor to make its echo's have a pleasing sound to our readers."

SALUTATORY
The baby Echo is born at last. We are permitted to see it for the first time. It is not as big as it may be when it gets older. It is natural for infants to be small. If it grows it will necessarily have to be fed. It must be fed by the people of Hoisington, it is for them to say, whether they will let the baby starve, or whether they will feed him and take care of him and see him rise up in future and call them blessed. A new born infant requires lots of milk.

We intend, if he lives, to train him for a fighter. We do not mean by this, that he will be unnecessarily disagreeable and belligerent, but he will fight in self defense. He will fight for the right. He will fight for temperance, for school houses, Sunday schools and for churches. He will fight for the rights of the oppressed laborer and the colored man, and for everything that tends to elevate and benefit the race. He will fight for Hoisington and her citizens, and the Echo will raise its mighty hand against bonds and exorbitant taxes being heaped upon our citizens to aid railroads and other corporations, from which they will never receive any benefit. The Echo will do all this and more; he will

not permit a single citizen of Hoisington to be imposed on without raising its voice in objection. He will be devoted to the interests of Hoisington and vicinity for that is where his interests will be; he will love it above every other place for there is where he was born and where his early days of infancy were spent. The "kid" Echo will not be a kicker, but a boomer as his future career will testify. So with no more promises for the future and without asking any further favors of our patrons, we send the baby forth. Take him and do well by him; feed him and he will grow; speak a good word for him and he will never fail to do you the same favor. Early news-

papers advertised cures for diseases of the blood, liver, stomach, kidneys, bowels, also dyspepsia, constipations jaundice, bilious complaints, dropsy, consumption and many other health problems that no longer exit.

The firm of G.N. and E. R. Moses, Hoisington Hardware & Implement Company and Claflin Hardware & Implement Company put out a souvenir book. The book gave illustration of different stores and different departments in each store, also prominent buildings in the county and pictures of all who are connected with the company's stores. The following write-up of Hoisington appears in the book: "Hoisington, Kansas, in Barton county, is a thriving

town just ten miles north of Great Bend on the Missouri Pacific Railway, which road has a division at this point. It is a live, wide-awake town, having good schools and churches and pushing, energetic people. The railway has its machine shops here and employs quite a number of men. Hoisington has a new flouring mill just built, several elevators and a creamery. It is growing all the time, and there is not a vacant house nor can one be rented.

Just south of Hoisington stretches the great Cheyenne Bottoms, which are expected to be converted into a great lake that will be the reservoir for the great

See Hoisington ECHO page 3

Train Schedule, The Hoisington Dispatch Thursday, March 28, 1889



MO. PACIFIC.		
EASTWARD.		
No. 202,	Passenger,	5.55 a. m.
No. 218,	Fast Freight,	9:00 p. m.
No. 220,	Local Freight,	4:00 a. m.
WESTWARD.		
No. 201,	Passenger,	11:30 p. m.
No. 219,	Fast Freight,	6:30 p. m.
No. 217,	Local Freight,	11:15 p. m.
GREAT BEND BRANCH.		
LEAVE HOISINGTON.		
No. 273.	Mixed Train,	6:05 a. m.
No. 271	Passenger,	11:40 p. m.
SANTA FE.		
(At Great Bend.)		
EASTWARD.		
No. 2	Atlantic Express	5:17 p. m.
" 4	New York Express	4:30 a. m.
" 6	Eastern Express	7:12 a. m.
WESTWARD.		
No. 1	California Express	10:13 a. m.
" 3	Mexico and Arizona Ex	9:41 p. m.
" 5	Denver and Utah Express	9:52 p. m.

Join Us In Looking Back...

January 5, 1899

The Hoisington Dispatch went from six columns to five columns. It was enlarged to a five column quart size. "Bro. Clark has shown great enterprise in making the change and the merchants should show their appreciation by an increased patronage." The subscription price of the Dispatch was reduced to one dollar per year to all who pay strictly in advance. For those that did not pay in advance, the subscription price was \$1.50 per year. As they printed "A cash dollar is worth more to us than a credit dollar and a half."

Articles in 1899 were brief and personal. Who is sick, who is visiting, what changes are going on in town and surrounding areas. Larger articles were mostly world news.

A fine parsonage is in the course of construction at the St. Peter and Paul parish. It is a commodious two-story dwelling and will be completed in a short time.

"Hotel Cheyenne" is no more. "Hotel Monon" is now the name of that popular stopping place. S.F. Collett and mother are running a good hotel.

The Hoisington Lumber Co. is building some lumber sheds.

Seventy persons took the recent county teachers examination.

A farmer named Fred Metz, living near Ellinwood, mortgaged wheat that he had already sold, for \$3,200 and has skipped out. His wife and sons are interested in the case and have been arrested.

A Great Bend lady was in town the first of the week delivering some work and incidentally looking for a husband. Geo. Mosier is in on the deal and will get a good commission if he succeeds in landing a prize at the fair one's feet.

You are cordially invited to attend the services at the Christian church next Sunday. Subjects: 11 a.m. "Beef and Greens" 7:3 p.m., a Christian Endeavor sermon. J.N. McConnell, Pastor

Read the Advertisements

You will enjoy this publication much better if you will get in the habit of reading the advertisements; they will afford a more interesting study and some excellent bargains. Our advertisers are reliable, and send what they advertise.

March 16, 1899

Moving Picture Exhibition. At Hoisington Opera House, Monday evening, March 20.

An exhibition of Edison's famous animated, moving pictures produced by a powerful lime light. The animated pictures will represent fire scenes, comic scenes, scenes from the

large cities, trains going at full speed, and other views full of fun, interest and excitement. Over 40 views of late Spanish American war, including the battle of Santiago, showing movement of troops as real as life.

Admission 25 cts.

Children 10 cts.

Edison Moving Picture Co.

April 27, 1899

It's the DISPATCH that records all marriages, births and deaths. To the four-page compendium of the happenings of the world you are not so much as a cipher. To get a mention from them you must steal a large sum, commit an awful crime or else have half dozen wives. But the local paper watches over you with indulgent care; it magnifies all your good qualities and don't mention your bad ones; if you are sick it is sorry and hopes you may soon be able to come in and pay up; it tells when you come and go on a visit; when your house burns down and when you build a new one; who's Johnnie has the Mumps and Mary the measles, and also how much Peter weighed when he arrived. Dear fellow sufferers, take the city papers if you are interested in Africa. If interested in home doings take the DISPATCH, if not interested in anything take all the Great Bend papers.

May 18, 1899

One of the true essentials to an enterprising town is a live newspaper - one

that can be relied on week after week. The Dispatch was established the first of March, 1889, by its present proprietor and is looked on as one of the substantial enterprises of the town. It rejoices in proclaiming the beauties of Hoisington and Barton county and never tires in extolling the virtues of the country and her people. It is well equipped with facilities for doing first-class job printing.

July 27, 1899

The two political conventions held in Hoisington last Saturday were handled very nicely and we hear from all parties words of praise concerning the accommodations our town offers. The democrats held their convention in Masonic hall and the populists occupied Athletic Hall. Both halls were sufficiently large to accommodate the delegates and visitors. Our hotels and restaurants took care of the crowd at the dinner hour in good shape. Yes, Hoisington is a good convention town.

August 3, 1899

\$100 has been raised by the W.C.T.U. of this city to offer as rewards for evidence leading to the convention of liquor sellers in Hoisington. It looks as if there was evidence to burn as everyone knows that liquor is sold openly, but a conviction - that is where the rub comes in. However, this plan was adopted by the temperance people

See Looking Back page 2