EDITOR'S CORNER

Sometimes the devil’s in the details. Other times, it’s the details that offer fascinating insight into the components of that larger construct we call “place.” Not surprisingly, the place we’re talking about in Heritage is the Great Plains, where the details are both varied and fascinating. Consider, for instance, the fact that in this issue we’re able to move from remote prehistory to the automobile. And beyond.

Nancy Vogel’s “Deep Time and Space out West” explores some “big-time dirt sniffers,” (hunters after fossils) and the museum which displays the considerable fruits of their considerable labors. Gia Lane’s contribution, “The Lick that St. John Got”: Prohibition, Republican Party Politics and the Press in Ellis County, Kansas 1878-1881,” highlights the fact that the struggle over how much alcohol, if any, would flow in 19th-century Kansas affected the outcome of more than one election. In “Cowboy Nicknames in Nineteenth Century Great Plains Cattle Country” C. Robert Haywood, well-known to aficionados of the Great Plains experience, recounts many colorful monikers (nom de frontie(1)). Keith Sculle explores the sort of critical leadership role so often played by newspaper editors in “An Editor Hails the Automobile: Al J. Adams and the Sisseton Courier.” Finally, Michael L. Johnson presents a poet’s potpourri of Western characters and themes.

Along the lines of this theme of progressing through a series of interconnected but distinct eras, the Center for Great Plains Studies has gone online, participating in the exciting goings on attending the phenomenal extension of the World Wide Web. Our entry into this new and challenging domain was made possible because of technical support provided by Lendley Black, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Emporia State University. Managing Editor Julie Johnson’s participation in a class on setting up web pages proved not only challenging but fruitful. You can access the result at the Center’s website:


In addition, we can be reached via e-mail: mccoyron@esumail.emporia.edu or johnsonj@esumail.emporia.edu.

From the environs of the remote Jurassic age to the glimmering horizons of cyberworld, the exploration of frontiers continues at the Center for Great Plains Studies.

Ron McCoy
Editor