

# In Memorium: E.R.B.

On August 8, 1975, a Kansas pioneer died. His name was Elmer Rinker Broadie. Most people will not recognize his name, just as they would not know the thousands of individuals who moved namelessly westward, spreading the frontier and settling a rugged, demanding country. History selects the few, the Boones, Carsons, and Goodnights, to be frozen in the print of books, but Kansas and America have been hewed out by the less flamboyant and grandiose.

Born in a sod house, E. R. Broadie lived all of his eighty-five years in the red clay country of Clark County. His entire adult life was consumed by two things: his land and his family. There were no frivolous diversions or hobbies. He farmed some, but that seemed a secondary task, necessary to the cattle operation. Fine cattle were a source of pride to E. R. Broadie, although I cannot remember my Grandfather ever openly bragging about them. In fact, his virtues were all quiet ones, loyalty, a powerful honesty—almost to a fault—, wit, good humor, and a strong sense of family.

When bits of memories drift back—a mule team named Hell Devil and Peezlegolly, his casual mention of roping coyotes as a young man, lore like “Never saw a good horse wring its tail when it worked”—I am struck by a double sense of loss. My Grandfather is gone and so many questions about his and this country’s past never got asked. It is sad to lose both.

But personal reminiscence dulls the real purpose here. I can think of nothing more appropriate than for something called *Heritage of Kansas* to be dedicated to E. R. Broadie and what he stood for.

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*Only a few of us are left now, and they are scattered from Texas to Canada. The rest have left the wagon and gone ahead across the big divide, looking for a new range. I hope they find good water and plenty of grass. But wherever they are is where I want to go.*

Teddy Blue

## NEW EDITORIAL STATEMENT

A change of editors usually carries with it at least some change in philosophy, preference, and goals. To make this transition as smooth as possible, I should outline what I hope will be the direction of *Heritage of Kansas* for the foreseeable future.

As a Kansan, I know that our state occupies a unique place in this country's past and present history. Our heritage is a proud one. We are, after all, the only ones who seem to have mastered the correct pronunciation for that river called the Arkansas. But we are also an integral part of a larger area, the Great Plains. Many customs, manners, beliefs, and traditions are unfettered by state boundaries, which in some respects are artificial creations. I would hope *Heritage of Kansas* capable of presenting material on both Kansas and the Great Plains.

Still, that is a bit general to be of much assistance for potential contributors to *Heritage of Kansas*. Articles on the literature, language, folklore, history, art, and music of Kansas and the Great Plains will be welcomed. But even those general categories are much too confining. As long as some aspect of Kansas or the Great Plains is the focal point of the manuscript, the only restrictions will be the ingenuity and energy of the writer. And while poetry and short fiction will not be the journal's main emphasis, they, too, are invited if they deal with the same sort of regional perspectives as the non-fiction.

Good writing is a key to a journal's success, but there is another equally important one which must also be stressed. I would prefer deluding myself into thinking that the subscription list for *Heritage of Kansas* will increase magically without effort. Unfortunately, it does not happen quite that way. The School of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been generous in its support of the journal, but ultimately *Heritage of Kansas* should stand on its own feet financially. Although many journals require contributors to subscribe, I would rather not implement such a policy, at least at the present time. However, if you are not receiving your own copies of *Heritage*, I encourage you to do so. If you are affiliated with a school, a library, a historical society, a community organization, does it receive *Heritage of Kansas*? Give a gift subscription to a friend or relative. Help make this journal self-sustaining.

Finally, a word of welcome to Melvin G. Storm and Patrick O'Brien who will join James Hoy, Walter Butcher, and Carl Hoffmans on the Editorial Board of the journal.

We welcome your contributions, suggestions, and subscriptions. *Heritage of Kansas* looks forward to a useful and productive future. Let us hear from you.

R.K.