

# FYI

## For Your Information



Volume 12, No. 1  
February, 2010

### Riley County Genealogical Society and Library

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Fred and Shirley DeLano

#### Library Hours

Tues & Thurs 10 am to 4 pm  
Wed & Sat 1 to 4 pm  
Sundays May through Nov.  
2 to 5 pm  
Sundays Dec. through April  
by appointment

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## Upcoming Events

**February 21** Charlotte Shawver- 'Genealogical Research Tidbits at the Courthouse'

**March 21** Mary Shirk - 'Genealogical Resources at the Manhattan Public Library'

**April 18** Pat O'Brien - 'Tracing the Jewish Community in Manhattan'

The above are to be

held at the Manhattan Public Library at 2:00.

**June 27** Jim Morrison - 'Legal terms in Wills and Estates'

**July 25** Linda Glasgow and Cheryl Collins - 'Using the Riley County Historical Library and Museum for Local Genealogical Resources' - held at the Riley County Museum

and Library

**September 19** William Keel - 'German Heritage of Kansas' - Meadowlark Meeting Room

**November 8** Zeandale Church - Annual Meeting and Dinner- Program - 'Witness to the Nuremberg Trials' - Jim Sharp (who was there as a soldier)

## A Letter from President Dorothy Dickerhoof

You will see a few new names in the **list of officers on the back page** and a few who are wearing different hats this year. Wann Towers has moved from PR to Library Coordinator, Jan Wichman has moved from Vice-President to Acquisitions, Fred DeLano has moved from Past President to Buildings & Grounds, Rebecca Rose has moved from Acquisitions to

Vice-President. New jobs lead to new enthusiasm. We would also like to welcome Ann Murphy as the Periodical chairman and Marcia Schuley to the Acquisitions committee. We are still looking for a Public Relations person. Is this something you would like to do? It is not a difficult job but one which is very important to us.

Rebecca has a nice array of speakers lined up for 2010. Check out the list elsewhere in this issue. Be sure to put these dates on your calendar right now!

Within the next month or two you will see a new and improved web site for RCGS. It will no longer be hosted by RCGS volunteers but by a professional who (Continued next page).

### Volunteer for Oral History Project

Wanted! A volunteer with audio editing experience to work with Wann Towers on oral history project.

We plan to interview local residents whose relatives came to Manhattan from Mexico in the 1920's.

This is a learning experience and anyone with a history of oral interviewing will be appreciated.

Please call Wann Towers, 776-3128.

### President's Letter, continued

will help us present a top-notch portal to our Society. There will be many new features which I am sure you will like. Watch for it soon!

I'm looking forward to all the activities in the coming year and also the opportunity to renew my interest in my own genealogical searches.

## Meet Your RCGS Library Volunteers

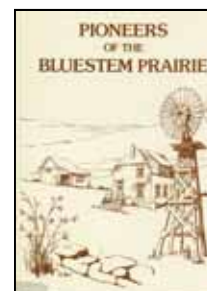
Wann Towers is the new Library Coordinator for RCGS. Her appointees are the following:

- Acquisitions Coordinator - Jan Wichman
- Ancestral Chart Recorder - Darlene Hagen
- Cataloger - Helen Long
- Genealogists - Sherry Butler and Jane Brown
- Librarian Scheduler - Millie Combs
- Computer Assistant Scheduler - Judy Lookhart
- Supplies Purchaser - Darlene Hagen

## Do You Have Ancestors in Riley County? Buy both books for \$70! (\$95 value)

### *Pioneers of the Bluestem Prairie*

046 Biographies of original settlers in Clay, Riley, Geary, Wabaunsee, Washington, Marshall, and Pottawatomie Counties. Five hundred pages of authentic history and family records as told by pioneers themselves and their descendents. Surname index, hardback. 1976



### *Pioneers of Riley County Kansas 1853 to 1860*

Includes Full Name Index

141 Includes 130 biographies researched by RCGS members. Includes pictures and colored maps; Territorial Censuses from 1855, 1856, 1857; township descriptions and a bibliography.

Soft-bound, 162 pages

**Sale Ends May 31, 2010.**

**Good only at the Riley County Genealogical Society Library**

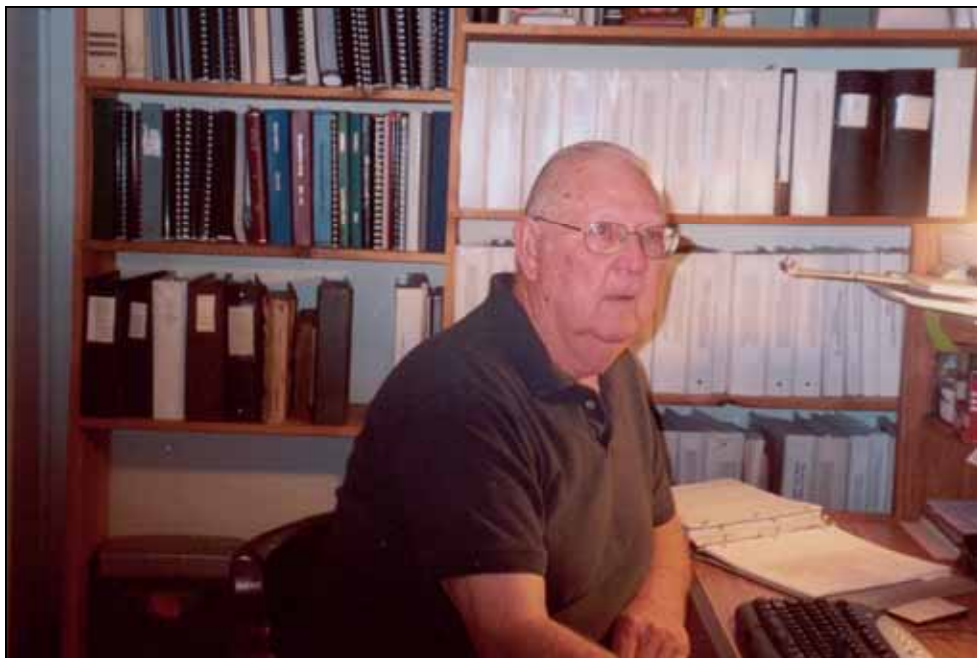
### Did you get this issue of FYI by email?

We are sending *FYI* by email. If you got a paper copy, please send us your email address:

[rileycgs@gmail.com](mailto:rileycgs@gmail.com)

RCGS saves about 75 cents for each copy of *FYI* sent by email!

## Meet Sylvester C. “Sy” Ekart, Author of Genealogy Books and Indexes



Sy Ekart is a major contributor to the Publications section of Riley County Genealogical Society. His indexes to local newspapers are much sought after by libraries all over the country as well as individuals.

Sy's newest book, "Saint Patrick's on the Elbo, Pottawatomie County, Kansas, Volume II" gives the history of the community where Sy was raised. Sy graciously makes all of his work available for sale through the Riley County Genealogical Society, whose Publications Department prints and distributes

them.

Sy was born in Flush, Kansas, in 1931 and grew up on the family farm near there. The Ekart family is of German descent and came from the area known at the time of their immigration as Bohemia, Austria. It is today part of the Czech Republic.

In 1943, Sy's family moved to Manhattan, Kansas, where he entered Seven Dolors Grade School as a seventh grader. He graduated from Sacred Heart Academy, a Catholic School. Sy was drafted for the military in

1951. He served in the Korean War and was released from active duty in 1953.

In 1954, Sy enrolled at Kansas State University College of Agriculture. After finishing his degree in Technical Agronomy, Soil Science Option, he went to work for the Soil Conservation Service in El Dorado. In 1974, Sy was reassigned to Bismarck, North Dakota, as State Soil Scientist. He eventually supervised 53 soil scientists and clerks and edited the National Soils Handbook. He retired in 1991.

Sy has prepared a history of his family including the names of Eckert (former spelling of his name), Hoferer, Repp, Riat, and Umscheid. This history contains much information about these families.

Sy and his wife Marna have three children, Tanya, Sharon, and Brian.

The Riley County Genealogical Society is grateful to Sy for his publications, which make searching for histories of families in this area so much easier.

### Join Us!

Family Membership is \$30.00 a year. Let us help you research your roots. Find a membership form on our website:

[http://rileycgs.com/reg\\_form.html](http://rileycgs.com/reg_form.html)

Our sign says it all:



**Newly Elected Officers:**

**President** Dorothy Dickerhoof 537-0224  
**Vice President** Rebecca Rose 785-537-8495  
**Treasurer** Richard Phillips 785-537-7735  
Fred Delano 785-776-4845  
**Recording Sec.** Nancy Williams 785-537-4390  
**Corresp. Sec.** Candace Pannbacker 776-8769  
**Past President** James Bradley 785-457-3579

**Library:**

**Lib. Coordinator** Wann Towers 785-776-3128  
**Computers** Patty Wadick 785-539-6009

**Riley County Genealogical Society**

Phone: (785) 565-6495



*FYI* is published periodically and available to RCGS membership. RCGS members are invited to submit articles for publication.

RCGS strives for correctness and regrets any errors, but assumes no responsibility for errors of fact or opinions expressed by contributors.

Contributors to articles in this issue of *FYI* include Dorothy Dickerhoof, Sy Ekart, Judy Regehr, Rebecca Rose, Le Juan Shrimplin, and Wann Towers.

February 21, 2 p.m. Manhattan Public Library

Charlotte Shawver- "Genealogical Research Tidbits at the Courthouse"

We hope to see you there!

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