

DEDICATION of the UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE AND POST OFFICE

Kansas City, Missouri October 5, 1939

The Dedication Is Under Auspices Of Greater Kansas City Federal Business Association

DEDICATION OF THE UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE AND POST OFFICE

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

OCTOBER FIFTH, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE AT TWO O'CLOCK, P.M.

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

Honorable Merrill E. Otis, Judge, U. S. District Court, Presiding

Invocation Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara Bishop of the Catholic Diocese

Song: "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (D. R. Alexander, Leader) By Audience

Presentation of the Following Distinguished Guests By Presiding Officer

Honorable Bennett Champ Clark United States Senator, Mo.

Honorable Joseph B. Shannon United States Representative, Mo.

Honorable Harry S. Truman United States Senator, Mo.

Honorable Lloyd C. Stark Governor of Missouri

Ralph De Motte, President Chamber of Commerce, Kansas City

Orville S. McPherson President and Publisher, Kansas City Journal

Roy A. Roberts Managing Editor, Kansas City Star

Presentation of Building To the City Honorable C. Jasper Bell United States Representative, Mo.

Acceptance Honorable Bryce B. Smith Mayor of Kansas City, Mo.

Song: "Star Spangled Banner" Grace Nelson McTernan

Benediction Rt. Rev. Robert Nelson Spencer Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese

Music will be furnished by the Letter Carriers Band under the direction of Paul Hartge.

Program will be broadcast by Radio Station WDAF

The Impressive Main Entrance To the New Building. (Photograph Courtesy Kansas City Star)

In the United States a Federal Building may properly be called the "Crossroad of a Nation."

Here people of every color, race, creed and station in life meet on an equal footing to transact business with their Federal Government.

First Federal Building—"B. S. Custom House and Post Office," Ninth and Walnut. Begun 1879.

Occupied 1885. Site cost \$8,500. Building cost \$316,500. The "Old Town Clock" now in the towers of the Fidelity Building was purchased by popular subscription. Note the gas lights and ornamental iron fence around the building. The property was sold to the Fidelity Bank and Trust Company for \$260,000.

Second Federal Building—"B. S. Post Office and Custom House," 811 Grand. Occupied 1900.

Site cost \$451,578.33 in 1891. Building cost \$900,- 500.47. An addition later was built on the east side. Located on historic Grand Avenue which in earlier days was known as the "Peter Roy Road" which connected the "Town of Kansas" and the Santa Fe Trail at Westport. When this building was occupied there were only six other Federal Buildings in Missouri.

BRIEF HISTORY OF FEDERAL BUILDINGS IN KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

The history of the Federal Government in Kansas City begins in 1845 with Col. Wm. M. Chick as Postmaster for the "Town of Kansas." The Post Office was a drawer in a desk of his "general store" on the Southwest corner of Main and Levee Streets. The town had a population of 600.

This was two years before Postage Stamps were used and three years before gold was discovered in California. The "Town of Kansas" was an important link in the great migration westward and was soon to become the point of a huge trade funnel which spread out to the new Empire to the West and the Southwest.

The Post Office occupied several places in the North End until 1885. In 1879 the Ninth and Walnut Street location was accepted. The town now had a population of 60,372; postal receipts were \$77,421 and bank clearings made a new all-time high for the month of December with \$5,236,201. The new three-story gray sandstone structure was occupied by Postmaster Case in 1885 along with the Internal Revenue, the Federal Court and the Customs Office. The first term of the Federal Court was held in May, 1879, with Judge Arnold U. Krekel presiding. The Customs Office was opened as early as August 3, 1882, and the Internal Revenue office on April 27, 1865. On July 1, 1888, Sgt. Patrick Conner and the Signal Corps Weather Station was moved into the building from Ft. Leavenworth to become the present Weather Bureau. By 1900 the population had grown to 263,752 and the small three-story building gave way to the second Federal Building between Eighth and Ninth on Grand Avenue. This new building was a magnificent one of capital design. It had a great gilded dome, spacious corridors, and high ceilings. It was believed that the building would serve as a center of Federal activity for many years.

The years following 1900 were years of great history making and years of phenomenal growth in our country. The "age of steam" was soon replaced by the "age of gasoline and electricity." "Machinery" created by American ingenuity began to exert its powerful influence upon our social and economic life. The activities of the Federal Government were expanded to meet the 'needs of the changing times. By the time of the World War the building had become inadequate to hold all agencies. The newer ones went into rented quarters throughout the downtown district. In 1932 the large general Post Office was constructed at 315 West Pershing Road at a cost of \$4,000,000.

With the so-called "New Deal" came a further expansion in Federal activities, and our city soon became a major Federal Center with more than 100 Federal offices located in and near Kansas City. It was important that the Government construct a larger and a more efficient building. By July 1, 1938, the population of Kansas City had grown to 428,358. This date saw the old building completely demolished. The corner-stone for the new building was laid October 20, 1938, and the first Federal Agency moved in on September 21, 1939. The new building is simple, modern and efficient, with no frills or waste space. The outside is finished with smooth Indiana lime-stone and the lobby with beautiful golden-vein Genevieve marble. The new building will make for greater convenience and increased efficiency in serving the public and is a fitting addition to Kansas City's large number of attractive buildings.

Symbol of United States Government (Photograph Courtesy Kansas City Star)

Fierce American Eagles in bronze adorn the main entrance.

Agencies Which Will Be Housed In New Building

Agriculture, Dept. of Federal Grain Insp. Fruit & Veg. Div.

Hay, Feed & Seed Div. Food and Drug Adm. Weather Bureau Fed. Communication Com. Fed. Housing Adm.

Fed. Works Agency Bureau Public Roads Interstate Commerce Com. Justice, Dept. of Fed. Bu. Investigation

Referee in Bankruptcy U. S. Circuit Court U. S. District Courts U. S. Marshal U. S. Commissioner
Labor, Dept, of Immigration & Natrl. Serv.

Natl. Labor Relations Bd.

Navy Dept.

Recruiting Sta.

Marine Corps Rectg. Sta.

Architecture

Post Office, Dept, of Post Office P. O. Inspectors Treasury Dept.

Customs Serv. Disbursements, Div. of Internal Rev. Agents Internal Rev. Collector Internal
Rev. Intelligence Technical Staff Veterans Administration War Dept.

Army Rectg. Dist. Hdq. Army Rectg. K. C. Sta.

Wight & Wight, Kansas City, Mo., Architects Hornbostel & Wood, Pittsburgh, Pa., Consultants
Construction

Swenson Construction Co., Kansas City, Mo., General Contractors

Supervision

The building was constructed under the direction of the Public Buildings Branch, formerly of
the Treasury Department, now a branch of the new Federal Works Agency.

Hon. John M. Carmody, Administrator of Federal Works, Washington, D. C. W. E. Reynolds,

Com. of Public Buildings Administration, Washington, D. C. Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer,
Washington. D. C.

Wm. N. Collier, District Engineer, Kansas City, Mo.

Chas. E. Darnall, Construction Engineer.

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Dist. Mgr., Bu. Foreign & Domestic Com. General Chairman

ALEXANDER W. GRAHAM Postmaster and President of Greater K. C. Federal Business Ass'n.

O. W. PRICE

Ass't. Mgr., Veterans Administration

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Hon. Edward H. Rees, U. S. Representative, Kansas
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Thornton Cooke, Kansas City, Mo.
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Geo. W. Catts, Kansas City, Mo.
W. C. Crawford, Kansas City, Mo.
Chas. E. Darnall, Kansas City, Mo.
Arch Davies, Kansas City, Mo.
Donald D. Davies, Kansas City, Mo.
Frank J. Dean, Kansas City, Mo.
Ralph J. DeMotte, Kansas City, Mo.
W. M. Deramus, Kansas City, Mo.
H. L. Dillingham, Kansas City, Mo.

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Ed Eisenman, Kansas City, Mo.
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Hal R. Lebrecht, Kansas City, Mo.
A. Linxwiler, Jefferson City, Mo.
Lieut. Col. F. M. Logan, Kansas City, Mo.
P. D. McElroy, Kansas City, Mo.
Genl. L. J. McNair, Ft. Leavenworth, Kans.
Ed McDonald, Kansas City, Mo.
Orville S. McPherson, Kansas City, Mo.
John Madden, Kansas City, Mo.

Genl. Chas. I. Martin, Wadsworth, Kans.
E. E. Matchette, Kansas City, Mo.
Neal A. Melick, Washington, D. C.
Russell Merchant, Kansas City, Mo.
Clyde Miller, St. Louis, Mo.
Gov. J. Z. Miller, Jr. Kansas City, Mo.
Maurice M. Milligan, Kansas City, Mo.
E. E. Morris, Kansas City, Mo.
E. P. Mullaley, Sedalia, Mo.
Dan M. Nee, Kansas City, Mo.
J. C. Nichols, Kansas City, Mo.
W. L. Noah, St. Louis, Mo.
Vincent J. O'Flaherty, Jr., Kansas City, Mo.
Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara, Kansas City, Mo.
Judge Merrill E. Otis, Kansas City, Mo.
N. Emerson Paton, Kansas City, Mo.
Chas. E. Phillips, Kansas City, Mo.
T. J. Quinn, St. Joseph, Mo.
Kenneth Rearwin, Kansas City, Kans.
L. B. Reed, Kansas City, Mo.
Judge Albert L. Reeves, Kansas City, Mo.
G. P. Reichel, Kansas City, Mo.
Jack Reiger, Kansas City, Mo.
W. E. Reynolds, Washington, B. C.
Joseph B. Riddle, Wichita, Kans.
I. J. Ringolsky, Kansas City, Mo.
Roy Roberts, Kansas City, Mo.
Font Roth well, St. Louis, Mo.
Hamp Rothwell, St. Louis, Mo.
Thos. F. Ryan, North Kansas City, Mo.
Robert K. Ryland, St. Louis, Mo.
Roger Sermon, independence, Mo.
Clifford Shoemaker, Kansas City, Mo.
Edgar Shook, Kansas City, Mo.
Clifford B. Smith, Kansas City, Mo.
Mark Smith, Kansas City, Mo.
H. J. Steed, Kansas City, Mo.
J. F. Stevenson, Lees Summit, Mo
Judge Kimbrough Stone, Kansas City, Mo.
Maj. T. J. Strickler, Kansas City, Mo.
Col. C. L. Sturdevant, Kansas City, Mo.
Wallace Sutherland, Kansas City, Mo.
Capt. J. P. Schwerin, Kansas City, Mo.
Godfrey Swenson, Kansas City, Mo.

H. L. Traber, Kansas City Mo.
Gen. Ralph Truman, Kansas City, Mo.
Frank Tyler, Kansas City, Mo.
B. W. Unge, Topeka, Kans.
Judge Arba S. Van Valkenburgh, Kansas City. Mo.
Ed. S. Villmoare, Kansas City, Mo.
Jerome Walsh, Kansas City, Mo.
John D. Wendorff, Kansas City Mo.
Thomas Wight, Kansas City. Mo.
Maj. H. C. Wisehart, Kansas City. Mo.
W. D. Wight, Kansas City, Mo.
Ray Wilson, Kansas City. Mo.
Maurice H. Winger, Kansas City. Mo.
Charles P. Woodbury, Kansas City, Mo.

General Post Office, 315 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri

From a drawer in a desk of Col. Chick's store to this huge building in eighty-eight years. Such has been the growth of the Post Office facilities serving the people of Kansas City. During the life span of a man, mail has been carried to and from Kansas City by river-boat, stage coach, steam railroad, busses and trucks, stream-lined diesel trains and fast Air-Liners. Neither snow nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays the swift carriers of the U. S. Mail.

In Postal receipts last year Kansas City was twelfth with a total of \$8,117,359 32. The cuts and data used in this program are from the book ' The Federal Government In Greater Kansas City,' to be released soon by the Greater Kansas City Federal Business Association.
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