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GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH

A JOURNAL OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2 FALL 2012



CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES

Director: Richard Edwards
Professor, Economics
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

THE CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES was established in 1976 by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to promote a greater understanding of the people, culture, history, and environment of the Great Plains through a variety of teaching, research, and outreach programs. Under the administration of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the Center encompasses nine divisions: the Great Plains Art Museum, three academic journals (*Great Plains Quarterly*, *Great Plains Research*, and *Plains Song Review*), Plains Humanities Alliance, undergraduate and graduate programs, editing projects, research support, outreach programs, interdisciplinary symposia, and Fellows and Associate Fellows.

GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH

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Front cover image: Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Photograph by Robert F. Diffendal, Jr.
Back cover image: Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Photograph by Ian C. Ratcliffe. See the article by Robert Pahre on page 99 in this issue for research on reconsidering national park interpretation.

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GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH is a peer-reviewed, biannual, multidisciplinary science journal, which publishes original research and scholarly reviews of important advances in the natural and social sciences with relevance to the Great Plains region and with special emphases on environmental, economic, and social issues. It includes reviews of books.

Articles include:

- **original research findings**, such as have been published in *GPR* since 1991;
- **synopses** of the “state of the science” on topics relevant to the Great Plains;
- **overviews** of critical environmental, economic, and social issues for the plains;
- **reviews** of knowledge on important questions and their regional application; and
- **syntheses and cross-disciplinary analyses** relevant to the Great Plains.

Great Plains Research is indexed or abstracted in *America: History and Life*, *Biosis Previews*, *Biological Abstracts*, *Environment Abstracts*, *Historical Abstracts*, *Geographical Abstracts* and *GEOBASE*, *Meteorological and Geostrophysical Abstracts*, and *CSA Sociological Abstracts, Inc.*

The editor encourages those submissions in particular that report general findings in the sciences relevant to this vast region. Articles should include thoughtful reviews of critical scientific findings and issues relevant to the Great Plains, whether the research was done in the Great Plains or not. The key to acceptance will be how well the findings are related to the region, and how well the science is communicated to other scientists outside the specific discipline, in the style of *Scientific American*, for example. The Board of Governors’ Publication Committee will select annually the best paper in natural sciences and the best paper in social sciences. The author/s of the winning papers will be presented cash prizes for the **Charles E. Bessey Award** (natural sciences) or the **Leslie Hewes Award** (social sciences).

Scientists doing interesting work with important implications for this region are invited to synthesize their significant research results and present them to our readers. The overall goals are to develop *Great Plains Research* as a centralized outlet for science of regional importance, to communicate important scientific findings to as wide an educated audience as possible, and to help keep scientists, interested citizens, and leaders of this region up-to-date on scientific progress relevant to the Great Plains.

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NEWS AND NOTES

NEW MAP: THE TOP 50 ECOTOURISM SITES IN THE GREAT PLAINS

The Center for Great Plains Studies has announced the publication of an ecotourism map. During spring and summer of 2012, the Center conducted a two-phase survey of 51 naturalists from nine states. The sites receiving the most nominations in the second phase were named as the top 50 sites. The map will be distributed at visitors centers throughout the Great Plains. For more information, see the ad on page 180 or the web site: www.unl.edu/plains.

CONFERENCES

November 4–7, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America will be in Charlotte, NC. The theme is “Geosciences: Investing in the Future.” Web site: www.geosociety.org/meetings/.

November 11–14, 2012

The 60th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America will be held in Knoxville, TN. This year’s theme is “A Global Society for a Global Science.” Covering all aspects of the science, the section and member symposia will provide insight into many of the world’s most vexing problems that affect you and the global community, and will help you with your research. Web site: www.entsoc.org/entomology2012.

November 14–18, 2012

The 111th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association will be held in San Francisco, CA. The theme is “Borders and Crossings.” San Francisco offers the perfect venue for thinking about border crossings across time, space, embodied differences, language and culture. If we have learned anything in the last decade with the increasing globalization of social movements, the election of the first black US president, and the legalization of gay marriage in five states, it is that borders—taboos, injunctions, stigmas and resource flows—are not fixed, but open to renegotiation. It is in that spirit that we dedicate this meeting to recognizing our discipline’s borders and those borders’ permeability to relevant transgressions. Web site: www.aaanet.org/meetings/.

December 28, 2012 through January 20, 2013

The Geological Society of America (GSA) kicks off the celebration of its 125th anniversary with an expedition to Antarctica, “Travels in Geology — Antarctica and the Scotia Arc: Tectonics, Climate and Life.” Web site: <http://www.geosociety.org/125/>.

February 3–7, 2013

The 66th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management will be held in Oklahoma City, OK. The theme is “Native America – Native Rangelands.” Web site: www.rangelands.org/events/.

March 7–9, 2013

The 56th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference will be at Embassy Suites Downtown/Old Market, Omaha, NE. The theme is “Life Must Be Lived as Play: Competition, Sport & Leisure in Human History.” Contact Dr. Jeanne Reames, MVHC Program Chair by e-mail: mvhc.coordinator@gmail.com; web site is www.unomaha.edu/mvhc/index.php.

April 3–4, 2013

The 2013 National Conference on Rural Education Research will be in Omaha, NE, at the Embassy Suites Omaha/Downtown/Old Market. The theme is “Promoting Academic Success of Rural Students.” The National Center for Research on Rural Education (R²Ed) will assemble researchers, educational practitioners and policymakers from across the country to discuss the factors influencing rural K-12 students’ academic achievement.

The conference will foster dialogue about the inter-related impacts of teaching, parental involvement and school environment on rural students’ performance. Participating practitioners and administrators will explore methods for incorporating researchers’ recent findings into schools and educational policy.

Nebraska Commissioner of Education Roger Breed will provide the conference’s keynote address. The conference will feature several moderated panel presentations, each of which will include representatives from the research, practitioner and policy communities. Small-group roundtable discussions will follow the presentations, giving attendees the opportunity to engage in dialogue while providing and receiving real-time reaction through a conference-specific Twitter feed.

For more information, see this web site: <http://r2ed.unl.edu/2013/eblast/savethedate.html>.

April 5–6, 2013

The Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, presents its 39th Interdisciplinary Symposium in collaboration with the University of Nebraska at Kearney. “School Consolidation in the Great Plains: Efficiencies, Change, and Community Identity” will be held at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska.

Most rural communities throughout the Great Plains have been losing population for nearly a century. One especially difficult, unhappy, and contentious consequence of this decline is loss of local schools through school consolidation.

Starting in the middle of the twentieth century, consolidation of school districts drastically reshaped American schools. In urban and suburban areas, consolidation was largely completed by 1980, but it continues to be a critical and controversial issue in the Great Plains today. The symposium will address such questions as: What are the causes and consequences of consolidation? What are its effects on students? What are its wider effects on rural communities and the rural quality of life? Is it possible to respond to population shifts in ways that better recognize the value of local schools in the life of a rural community? Are there alternatives?

The conference is open to the public. There is a registration fee. Contact the Center by e-mail: cgps@unl.edu; web site: www.unl.edu/plains.

April 5–6, 2013

The 145th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science will be held at Johnson County Community College. Web site: www.kansasacademyscience.org/.

April 9–13, 2013

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers will be held in Los Angeles. Web site: www.aag.org/cs/annual_conference. For emerging themes, see this web site: www.aag.org/cs/news_detail?pressrelease.id=1270.

April 19, 2013

The Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences and the Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences State Science Meeting will be held at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. Web site: www.neacadsci.org.

IN MEMORIUM: CLARE (BUD) MCKANNA, JR.

In March 2012, Clare (Bud) McKanna, Jr. passed away in his home in San Diego, CA. A preeminent scholar of the American West, Bud taught classes in U.S., California, Native American, and Latin American history at San Diego State University and local community colleges in a career that spanned 40 years.

Bud came to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 1990, where he started his PhD program in history under Professor John Wunder. As a graduate student, Bud served as editorial assistant under Editor Paul Kay as they worked to inaugurate the *Great Plains Research* journal. In 1992, Paul Kay left for a position at the University of Waterloo, and Bud stepped in as editor. In 1994, Bud left for his home and a teaching job at San Diego State University.

In 1997, Bud published his first book, *Homicide, Race, and Justice in the American West, 1880-1920* (University of Arizona Press). Four more books followed, including *Race and Homicide in Nineteenth-Century California* (University of Nevada Press, 2002), *The Trial of “Indian Joe”: Race and Justice in the Nineteenth-Century West* (University of Nebraska Press, 2003), *White Justice in Arizona: Apache Murder Trials in the Nineteenth Century* (Texas Tech University Press, 2005), and *Court-Martial of Apache Kid: The Renegade of Renegades* (Texas Tech University Press, 2009).

At the time of his death, Bud McKanna and Richard W. Crawford were completing a book on San Diego’s historic Stingaree district. A recent tour of that district that Bud organized for friends drew upon his expertise in homicide and his passion for local history. He called his tour “A Walk on the Wild Side: Booze, Bawds, and Murder in the Stingaree.”

For more information on Bud’s life, see the story written by his colleague, Clare Colquitt, on the San Diego State University web site: http://newscenter.sdsu.edu/sdsu_newscenter/news.aspx?s=73541.

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