

With Enormous Gratitude

BY WONDA PHILLIPS,
NOTC Board of Directors Treasurer

The Board of Directors and staff at the National Orphan Train Complex (NOTC) have much to be thankful for in this month that precedes the holiday of Thanksgiving. The NOTC is operated by a private 501©3 corporation. Operations are entirely funded by admission fees, gift shop sales, and donations. It is always a struggle for us to make ends meet, and there is never any excess income for special projects. NOTC receives no federal, state, or local tax dollars but has been able to remain free of debt. We do depend heavily on grant funding to ensure special projects can be achieved.

We are so grateful for a grant from the Community Foundation for Cloud County. Through the Impact Fund for Cloud County, we recently were awarded \$4200 to help reprint Volume 3 of “Orphan Train Riders: Their Own Stories,” compiled by our founder Mary Ellen Johnson of Springdale, Arkansas, who passed away in August. Through a lifetime of devotion to preserving the history of the Orphan Train movement, six volumes of stories were collected from Orphan Train Riders and their descendants. Six volumes sound like many stories, but each volume records only 25 to 30 stories each, resulting in a total of under 200 stories. Considering that approximately 250,000 children were placed out during the 75-year period of history, you can see that these volumes have barely scratched the surface. Our museum and welcome center do house information about 8,000-plus Orphan Train Riders; still just a fraction of those 250,000. We add new files every week, which moves us one story closer.

The National Orphan Train Complex also appreciates the opportunity to apply for and receive funding for special projects from the Cloud County Wind Farm Fund. The county commissioners provided the means for NOTC to realize a twenty-year-old goal. This fall, an underground sprinkler system was installed in the main part of our courtyard near the Welcome Center and Jones Education Station. The three remaining areas to be landscaped around the original statues



Lush green grass has really spruced up the courtyard at NOTC, thanks to a grant from the Cloud County Wind Farm fund.

were completed, and new grass was planted in the courtyard area. What a difference this has made to the overall attractiveness of our grounds! Since the complex opened in 2007, staff have diligently watered the grass by moving hoses and sprinklers around all summer long. Usually by this time of the year, everyone was too worn out to care how the grass looked. Now all we need to water by hand are the beautiful flower pots provided by Cloud County Tourism!

Speaking of Cloud County Tourism, we can never thank that organization adequately for all the assistance provided to NOTC over the years. They are always the first to help us with funding for our Annual Celebration

of Orphan Train Riders to bring special speakers and events to Concordia. They are responsible for signage in several locations which helps to bring visitors to the museum. We always ask our visitors how they found out about our museum. “We saw the sign on I-70 (or Highway 24 or 36)” is the most common response. Tourism also promotes NOTC and other Cloud County attractions in advertising venues. They are tireless supporters!

Over the years, we have been able to rely on assistance from the Duclos Foundation. Most recently,

a new laptop computer for our head researcher was provided through Duclos funds. We also were able to install a metal ramp to the main door of the museum for handicap access a couple of years back. These are smaller, but very necessary, projects for which we are indebted.

Local grants like the ones mentioned above are important to the National Orphan Train Complex. They allow us to maintain a top notch attraction that nearly 5000 visitors from across the nation visit every year.

In early spring 2026, there will be some noticeable activity at the NOTC. Through grants from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation and the Kansas State Historical Society’s Heritage Trust Fund, work will begin to stabilize and repair the foundation of the more than 100-year-old Union Pacific Depot. This depot houses the main part of the Orphan Train Museum. Drainage issues will be addressed and new brick will provide a more level pedestrian surface. This has been a long time coming but would not be possible without grants and private donations.

On behalf of the National Orphan Train Complex Board of Directors and staff, we express enormous gratitude to all who work for these organizations!



NOTC volunteers Karen Freeman, left, and Sr. Linda Davis are thrilled to hear that Vol. 3 of “Orphan Train Riders: Their Own Stories” is being reprinted thanks to an impact grant for Cloud County.

SUDOKU

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

		2	5	6				
		9	8				3	1
								4
	4					5		9
				8				
					2		4	
					4	9	1	7
5			1	2			8	

Level: Intermediate

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12		13			14		
15						16			17		
	18				19		20		21		
				22	23			24			
25	26	27	28	29							
30							31				
32								33	34	35	36
				38	39	40		41	42		
					43			44			
				45	46						
47	48				49			50	51	52	53
55					56				57		58
59					60				61		
62					63				64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Comedic actor Rogen

5. Bits per inch

8. Tire pressure measurement

11. Angels great Mike

13. Own (Scottish)

14. Notable F1 racing team

15. Upper tract of grass

16. Tax collector

17. Electronic counter-countermeasures

18. Informal loan clubs

20. Skeletal muscle

21. Popular fish type

22. Salts of acetic acid

25. Arriving early

30. Worded

31. Single Lens Reflex

32. Amphibians

33. Warm greeting
38. Belonging to a thing

41. Segmented worm

43. Concerns

45. Audacious

47. Wings

49. Type of drug

50. Wind chill formula scientist Charles

55. Island close to the U.S.

56. “To the ___ degree”

57. Daniel __, French composer

59. A way to march

60. Where golfers begin

61. Spiritual leader

62. Of she

63. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)

64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

1. Engine additive

2. Amounts of time

3. Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume

4. Color properties

5. One who hands over

6. Thieves of the sea

7. Put in

8. Nocturnal rodents

9. Pouches

10. Systems, doctrines, theories

12. Greek alphabet letter

14. Greek goddess of youth

19. Satisfy

23. Partly digested food

24. Dictator

25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)

26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. A major division of geological time
28. Angry

29. St. Francis of ___

34. Roman monetary unit

35. Stale

36. Go quickly

37. Commercials

39. Canadian city

40. One who slices

41. Perform perfectly

42. Nest of pheasants

44. Tactile sensations

45. Sword

46. Climactic

47. Adrenocorticotrophin

48. Fisherman’s tool

51. Swiss river

52. Plant that makes gum

53. A French abbot

54. One point east of northeast

58. Get free of

Puzzle Answers on Page 7A

Jim’s Metal Roof Coatings
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BID NOTICE

The City of Concordia is accepting bids for the demolition of condemned structures and related cleanup of the lot at: **128 West 10th Street**. Legal description: Lot 7 and the East ½ of Lot 8, Block 89, Concordia Original Town Site, Cloud County, Kansas.

The scope of the work will require the demolition and removal of all structures including foundations, underground structures, compacted backfilling. The removal of concrete slabs, dead and dying vegetation, unsightly and unwanted uncontrolled growth, including nuisance limbs.

For detailed information on this project contact Bruno Rehbein at City Hall. (785) 243-2672.

All bidders must meet the City’s demolition requirements and have a demolition permit before work starts. **Over digging foundations will be required for topsoil.** Materials required to be disposed of at the Cloud County Transfer Station construction debris site, shall be separated as per their requirements and receipts provided to the City. Bids shall be submitted to the office of the City Clerk, 701 Washington St., Concordia, Kansas 66901. All bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“Demolition Bid-128 West 10th Street”**. Bids must be submitted no later than **3:00 P.M. Tuesday, October 28, 2025**. Proof of general liability insurance must be provided with bids. Bids received after the 3:00 P.M. deadline will be returned to the bidder unopened. Fax bids will not be accepted. Bids will be considered by the City Commission at their **November 5, 2025** meeting. EOE.

The Perfect Storm: Remembering the Dust Bowl and Why it Matters

The Perfect Storm: Remembering the Dust Bowl and Why it Matters

The museum is excited to host “The Perfect Storm: Remembering the Dust Bowl and Why it Matters,” a presentation and discussion by Jay Antle on Saturday, Oct. 18, at 2:30 p.m. at 635 Broadway Street, Concordia. Use the Seventh Street main entrance.

Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. Contact the Cloud County Museum at 785-243-2866 or email cloudcountymuseumks@yahoo.com for



Jay Antle

more information. The program is made possible by Humanities Kansas.

From the parched fields

of 1930s Kansas emerged stories that continue to shape the state’s identity. Through the voices of survivors, policymakers and historians, this presentation explores how Dust Bowl narratives have evolved and why they remain relevant today. This talk will examine how this pivotal moment is remembered and highlight how those memories continue to shape the future of the Plains.

Jay Antle is a history professor and executive director of the Center for Sustainability at Johnson County Community

College.

“The Perfect Storm: Remembering the Dust Bowl and Why it Matters” is part of Humanities Kansas’s Speakers Bureau, featuring humanities-based presentations designed to share stories that inspire, spark conversations that inform and generate insights that strengthen civic engagement.

To learn more about the Perfect Storm see the link below.

<https://bladeempire.com/stories/cloud-countys-dust-storm-history,137406>