

SOCIETY LOSES ANOTHER MEMBER

Ruth Rose of Halstead passed away in October, and the Society will miss another one of its devoted members.

LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL NOTES FROM TOWANYAK

The birds and other wildlife at Camp Towanyak have learned to adapt quite well to the changing seasons that bring not only changes in weather but also changes in human habitation. They remained unusually tame this year, going from winter season with no campers at all into the spring with gradually accelerated group camping on weekends, on into full-time resident camping throughout the summer.

This year we discovered that our program of full-time, year-round feeding was a boon to the campers as well as to the birds. Our yard, with its accumulation of various and assorted feeders, became an outdoor lab for our daily morning nature classes. In the absence of a nature counselor on the camp staff, we were asked to fill in and help out, and the program director tried to arrange it so that each girl was exposed to one hour of nature study during her six-day stay.

The main concentration of birds was near the feeders, with most of the residents either carrying food to their young or actually bringing the fledglings to the feeders. Five species of woodpeckers could be observed on the ash tree, which we refer to as the "hanging tree" because of its assortment of "hanging" feeders. Last winter when the brown creepers were here, I had begun smearing my special suet mix on the tree trunk because these birds would not go to a feeder. The woodpeckers seemed to prefer the mix on the bark and consequently this year, for the first time, I continued making the mix all through the summer because I could not bear to see the disappointed downys, hairys, red-bellies, red-heads and flickers inching their way up and down the trunk searching in vain for one overlooked morsel. The mix is really a cold-weather concoction and each time I made "just one more batch" until cold weather. But the birds won out and enjoyed their favorite mix all summer long. It gave us a wonderful opportunity to observe the young woodpeckers and to see first-hand that all five species were successful in nesting. Cardinals, titmice, chickadees, jays, cowbirds, tanagers, doves, Carolina wrens, thrashers, robins, bluebirds--all could be counted on to put in an appearance. Both Eastern Fox and Gray squirrels were there in abundance, and chipmunks almost ran over the campers as they sat on the walk watching the show. Even the cottontails came in to the yard and fed on mixed grain within a stone's throw of the fascinated audience. Not all children are interested in nature, of course; in fact, the greater percentage are NOT interested...but few could resist the delight and charm of young rabbits and squirrels and chipmunks at such close range. And seeing so many kinds of birds so well, and watching them feed their young, held the attention of even the most restless child.

Perhaps the star of the show was a young mourning dove, hand-raised by some kindly folks in Overland Park, who had been brought to Towanyak for release. This little dove became the camp mascot and she thoroughly enjoyed being right in the midst of large groups of children. She joined every morning nature class and walked in and out among the girls' legs as they sat along the walk, sometimes pausing to peck at a sock or a shoestring and sometimes hopping up on a lap or even a head. She was an independent, and would not tolerate being handled, but she walked and flew all over the camp, visiting various activities, coming back to the yard when she was hungry or thirsty. Some nights she slept inside the porch, but more often she stayed outside. Many evenings until dusk, she could be found in the midst of a group of 15 or 20 girls taking their turn at the crank of the ice-cream freezer. When camp ended the second week in August, she seemed to genuinely miss the activity and began staying away from our yard for longer periods of time. We last saw

her on August 25th.

On August 30th at 6:30 a.m., there were six great horned owls, all in sight and all talking to each other in the trees. We hear them each morning and evening along the hill. At 3 a.m. July 28th and again the evening of September 8th we heard a barred owl--an uncommon visitor. Our pair of bluebirds successfully raised four broods in a box set on a metal post in the back meadow. The fourth brood left the nest September 6th. Jim improvised on a design by Don Varner of the Inland Bird Banding Society, trying to find out if a bluebird box could be built to accommodate bluebirds, yet be uninviting to English sparrows or starlings. Mr. Varner's house called for smaller inside dimensions, and Jim added the innovation of a shallower box, only 2 1/2-3" deep. By theory this smaller box will not accommodate the bulky sparrow nest. The female bluebird has the added advantage of being able to look out as she is incubating. The box was set on a 1 1/2" metal pole, about 5 1/2 feet high. Let her nesting record speak for itself. (Box dimensions were 3 1/2x3 1/2 inside cavity, bottom 2 1/2" below entrance which was 1 1/2" in diameter.) Carolina wrens had extraordinary success: five different nesting pairs, each nesting an average of three times during the season, raised a total of approx. 85-90 young. ~~Even~~ with the high mortality rate of fledgling wrens, we should have quite a few wintering carolinas this coming season.

On September 1st-2nd, an olive-sided flycatcher was an early migrant. On the 8th there were 12 flickers in the meadow and 100 or more chimney swifts followed Jim on the mower, flying low and catching insects stirred up by the tractor. We got our first wave of warblers on Sept. 9th--one a Wilson's, the other half-dozen unidentified. A red-shafted flicker flew across the highway near Shawnee on Sept. 20th, and on the 23rd two redstarts visited our drip-birdbath. On the 29th, Magnolia, Blackpoll, Mourning and Nashville warblers were attracted to this same drip. On the 21st, 22 quail were feeding in the yard. On October 2nd, 20 or more night-hawks were apparently migrating...also about 30 waxwings (we had our first ones August 27th) and a warbler wave around 3:45 p.m...3 black-throated greens, 3 Nashville, 2 orange-crowned, 1 solitary vireo and 1 Empidonax flycatcher. Our first Junco date was an early Oct. 4th, with 3 or 4 more on the 6th. First ruby-crowned kinglet on the 7th. On the 9th and 10th we had heavy frosts, and a wave of warblers swept through our woods; by the time I came home for my binoculars they had gone. Also got the first wave of golden-crowned kinglets on this same day. On the 11th, a wave of 6 or 8 myrtle warblers, 2 orange-crowns, and the first white-throated sparrows appeared. On the 17th, an immature white-crowned sparrow, along with two brown creepers. The next day there were five brown creepers in the front yard--more than I have ever seen at one time. The 21st brought another white-crown, 5 myrtle warblers, a white-breasted nuthatch (uncommon at Towanyak) and 8 male bluebirds. These bluebirds were the first we had seen since the last nesting, when they all disappeared as they do every year for about six weeks. A large migration on the 29th brought many white-throats and Juncos.

Harbie, the grey squirrel that we hand-raised and released two years ago in August, still comes down several times a week for a special treat. We have a melanistic red squirrel who has joined our group; he is black-faced and jet black from the chin down the entire length of his belly. Chirkie, the crippled Baltimore oriole whom we had for an incredible 13 years, died in August. Considering his age, he was in surprisingly good plumage. --- Mary Louise and Jim Myers

Gleanings from Dodge City--The only really exciting notes for the summer was the unusual and surprising occurrence of two Albino purple martins in one nest. We saw them first on July 7. There were 4 young in the nest, 2 with normal coloration and 2 Albinos. They were in a colony of martins at the outskirts of town. Several families have built martin houses there so there were at least 50 pairs of nesting martins. The parent birds fed the Albino young the same as the normal young. We got some good pictures of the birds as they started coming out onto the platform. However, the Albinos were not accepted by the adult males of the colony; one was killed and the other was rescued by two boys. They put it in a cage and fed it

insects but it lived only a few weeks. Otherwise, things have been dull. We had several nesting Bewick's wrens in the cemetery, also 2 pairs of magpies nesting in juniper trees, which was unusual. There were several Mississippi kite nests over town and many western kingbirds and Baltimore orioles. Scissortails were scarce, and we saw only one Blue Grosbeak all summer. We had one rose-breasted grosbeak in June, a Traill's flycatcher Aug. 3 and a Say's phoebe Sept. 10. Dickcissels were unusually numerous. We saw large flocks of lark buntings in migration during September, all in winter plumage, and quite a few nested in our area. We had many migrating sparrows--clay-colored, Chipping, vesper and Savannah--but we had few nesting lark sparrows. Robins were unusually abundant this fall--as many as 100 at a time until about October 31, and we still have a few. We have observed two flocks of cedar waxwings during October and also several towhees (western race). Harris sparrows are back in quite large numbers, first seen on November 11; also large flocks of Lapland longspur. We saw 6 or 7 myrtle warblers Oct. 28, also one Solitaire and a few tree sparrows.---Mrs. Joan Challans

Notes from Lawrence--The following birds may be of interest: eight whistling swans, Dec. 27, near Zenith, Kansas; 12 wild turkeys, Dec. 27, 1970, near Zenith, Kans; 1 cattle egret, April 20-21, 1971, fish ponds northeast of Lawrence; 1 American egret, April 20-21, 1971, fish ponds northeast of Lawrence; 1 Florida gallinule, April 25-27, 1971, fish ponds NE of Lawrence; 1 adult and 13 immature little blue herons, Sept. 5-10, 1971, sighted first in a tree in the early evening near the fish ponds NE of Lawrence.---Helen and Bert Channing

Notes from Wichita--The warbler migration was nothing to write about. There was an unusual number of black-throated greens in the area on September 20, and Myrtles were in normal numbers, but everything else was low. Sparrows, though, seem to be doing well, and there were record numbers of flickers around in late September.

Saw only one sharp-shinned hawk this fall, on Sept. 29. An osprey was hanging around one of the local sandpits at the end of October--maybe it was the last osprey--the pesticides are still gaining! Sprague's pipit, rare locally, was observed southwest of Wichita on Sept. 29 and Oct. 12.

.....Wellington --On Sept. 15, with temperatures in the low 60's, I saw several dozen cliff swallows and at least 200 barn swallows alighting to feed on the ground at the golf course.

.....Cheney Reservoir--This big puddle 30 mi. west of Wichita deserves more attention than it gets. In half a day's expedition there Nov. 4, Jeff Cox and I picked up a hooded merganser, Harlan's hawk, sandhill crane, Bonaparte's gull and rusty blackbird. We also saw one Forster's tern and one spotted sandpiper, both of which were way behind the normal departure date for their species. We plan to hold a Christmas bird count at Cheney, but the exact date hasn't been established yet.

On the subject of Christmas counts, I'd like to request that this year's counters take a second look at any flickers they come across. The reports would be more realistic if these were listed under red-shafted, tellow-shafted, hybrid and unidentified flickers, instead of just letting them go as one species or another. Most identifications are based on wing-lining color alone, or on some other single mark, and it's easy to settle for that when one is holding icy binoculars in a snowstorm. In the past, our Wichita count has been just as guilty of this inaccuracy as anyone else; the hybrids at times make up a third of the local flicker population, and our lists have never reflected THAT. We are instituting the new policy this year, and for curiosity's sake we would like to see some carefully checked totals from around the state.---Kenn Kaufman

Notes from Emporia--More than the usual number of Cooper's hawks with sightings on 9/19, 10/12, 10/24, 11/4 and 11/6/71 and Sharp Shins on 9/16, 10/8 and 10/10. Rough Legs seen moving south on 10/11 and 10/13, none here yet. Ed observed 50+ sparrow hawks 10 miles south of Admire on 9/29. They were strung out for several miles sitting on telephone wires. Blue jays: moving flocks from 9/19

to a peak on 10/8. On 9/18 two blue jays, banded (left and right) last winter and presumed paired, arrived at the feeders. Not seen all summer, they took over the yard again and screamed alarm calls at all the migrant blue jays. The Red-shafted Flicker, also banded, who spent last winter with us, returned 10/11 and re-established residence. I saw a Gray-cheeked Thrush near Duck Creek on 10/24. I checked Dr. Johnston's book to see if it was early or late and found it not recorded in autumn. Warblers, several little wavelets of the kind we always have. Orange-crowned 9/15, Yellowthroat 9/23, Nashville 9/23 and 10/7--the best, a Black-throated Green on 10/7 and 10/8. A wave of 200+ birds on 10/8, mostly Orange-crowned and Nashville, with the first Myrtles and the first Ruby-crowned Kinglets; and again on 10/10 mostly Myrtles with Orange-Crowned and Kinglets. Various flocks of Myrtles continued through 10/29. Flocks of Western Meadowlarks on 10/9, 10/11, 10/28, 11/2, and 11/10. Sparrow migration good with greater than usual numbers stopping over, probably reflecting increased brushy, weedy habitat. The only out-of-the-way sparrow was a Fox on 10/29. It's the first I've had here. First Longspurs and Horned Barbs came through 11/4 and we had the first Pine Siskins on 11/9. Marais des Cygne WMA on 10/21, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swamp Sparrow, Solitary Vireo and Swainson's Thrushes---also lots of White Throats. Just east of Arkansas City 11/14 we saw LeConte's Sparrows.--Jean Schulenberg

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Membership payments are running a little better than this time last year. But up until November 1 only 113 had paid--about one third of the total membership.

Two new life members were added in October: Philip G. Kaul, M.D., of Shawnee Mission, and J. W. Butin, M.D., of Wichita. Three other members are making payments toward life memberships. Four members had previously become "lifers." The interest on life memberships is used for current expenses. The principal will be used for scholarships eventually.

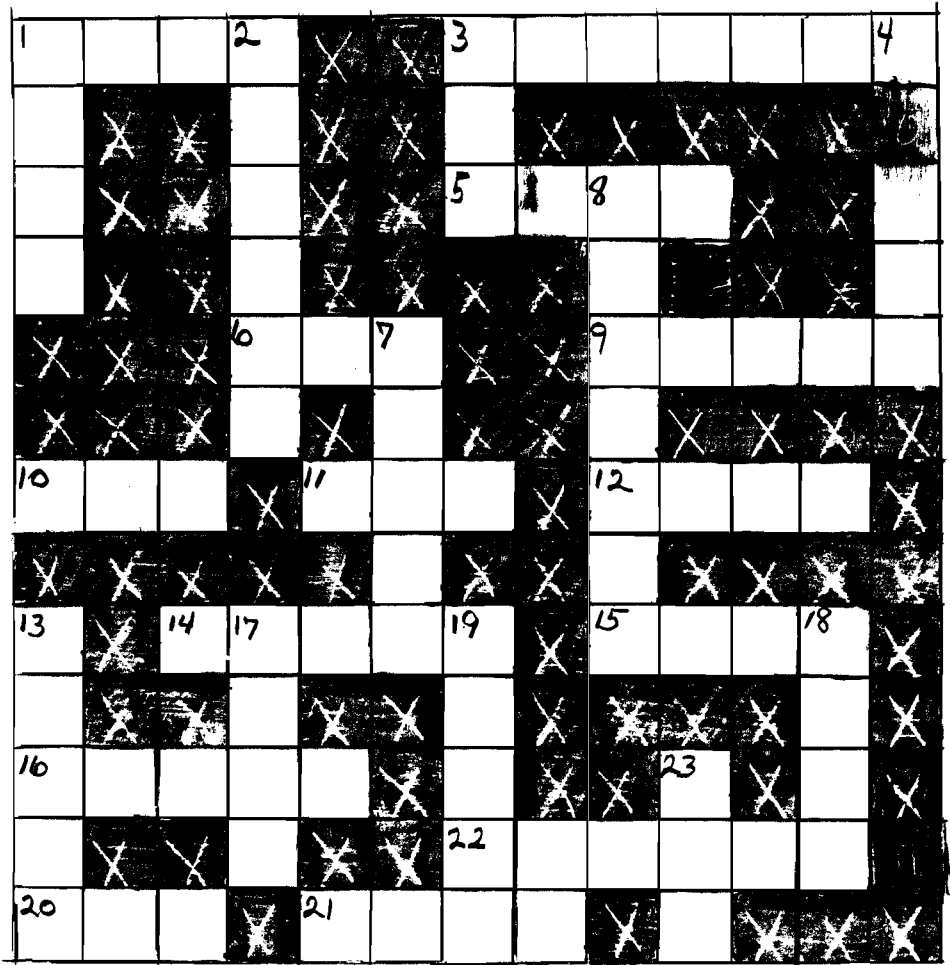
If you have not sent in your dues, please look for the envelope that was sent with the September Bulletin and send it in before you forget. Remember that the Society needs both sustaining and life memberships.

Amelia J. Betts
Membership Secretary

NEW DIRECTOR OF KANSAS FORESTRY, FISH AND GAME APPOINTED.--Mr. Richard Wettersten of Minnesota was appointed Director and took office on November 29. He was formerly associated with the Minnesota game department.

Wettersten steps into the office at a time when several controversies are raging. Rep. Pete McGill-R, has introduced a bill to abolish the commission and have the Director appointed by the Governor. Bill Billieu, Wichita Eagle sports writer says the two things to watch out for are "How will Wettersten get along with the technical staff and commissioners? And how will he fare with legislators to effect updating of some of Kansas' obsolete game laws?". Wettersten also faces a budget cut by the State Budget Director of over \$1,000,000. We wish him luck!!!!!!!!!!!!

A Kansas farmer was recently fined by Hodgeman County Judge Francis Sinclair. Leon Slattery shot a "white goose" off his farm pond and took it into Jim Kellenberger, state game protector for the area, for positive identification. Kellenberger gave him a citation for having killed a Whistling Swan (erroneously reported in the Wichita Eagle as a Snow Goose, corrected the next day). Slattery pleaded innocent since the creature is relatively unknown in Kansas and why should he be expected to know the difference. Sinclair said, "I take the stand that anybody shooting a game bird should know what he is shooting at or he should not shoot at all." He fined Slattery \$100. Slattery says he will appeal the fine. The swan was confiscated by the game protector.



ACROSS

1. Class Aves
3. Unique in above
5. Avian embryo
6. Nest's contents
9. Change of plumage
10. A Corvid
11. Appendages of foot
12. Calidris canutus
14. White-tailed _____ (S.B. area)
15. Contains eggs.
16. Eagle's home
20. Egg of bird parasite
21. Small shorebird
22. Wing and/or flight feather

DOWN

1. Mandibles
2. Walks under water.
3. How a bird travels
4. To rest at night
8. Snail-eating Gruiforme (S.B. -- U.S.A.)
13. To arrange feathers
17. Heron with decurved bill
18. A Caspian _____
19. Related to woodcock
23. To break through the shell
7. Gander's mate

CALL FOR PAPERS

KOS ANNUAL MEETING, 1972

The Kansas Ornithological Society will meet April 29-30, 1972 at Fort Hays State College in Hays. There will be contributed paper sessions on both Saturday morning and afternoon, April 29. The program is now being composed and members are urged to participate by presenting a paper. The form below should be used for submitting the title of a paper

KOS, CONTRIBUTED PAPER SESSION, 29 April 1972, FORT HAYS STATE COLLEGE, HAYS

Name: _____ Address: _____

Title of Paper: _____

Time Required: _____ minutes. Special Equipment Necessary: _____

(Send to Charles A. Ely, Fort Hays State College, Hays, Ks. 67601 by April 1, 1972)

BEST BIRDS OF THE YEAR 1971-72

Species: 1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

Observer: _____

Localities: 1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

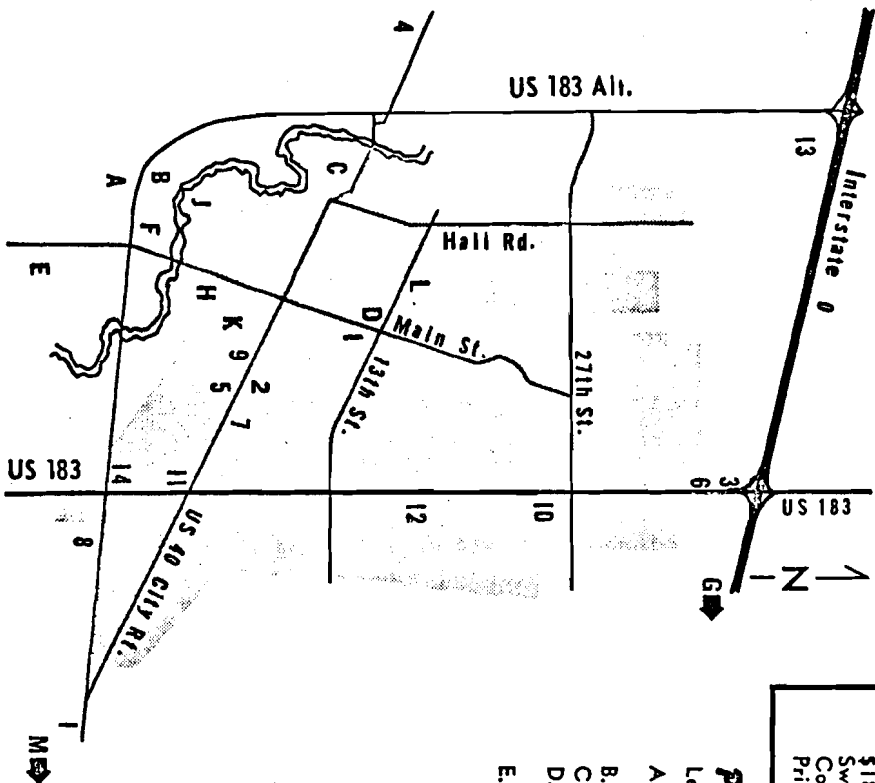
4) _____

The Kansas Checklist Committee will again be making awards for the 10 best birds of the year. The following space is available for listing details of your observations. Cut off date for the best birds is 21 April 1972. Any sightings after this date will be included in the 1972-73 year.

(Send to Max C. Thompson, Dept. of Biology, Southwestern College, Winfield, Ks. 67156 by April 22)

WELCOME TO HAYS . . .

The Hub of Northwest Kansas
We hope you enjoy your visit in Hays, the educational, cultural, medical and retail-wholesale trade center of Northwest Kansas. If the Hays Chamber of Commerce can be of any service, call 628-8201 or stop at our office in the Hays National Bank building in downtown Hays.



MOTELS

Numbers indicate motel location on map.

1. **EL CHARRO MOTEL**
East Highway 40, 625-3423. Sgl. \$6-\$7, Dbl. \$8. Heated Swimming Pool, Air Conditioned, Tub-Shower, TV, Ice, Carpeting, Cooking Privileges. 25 units.
2. **FORT HAYS MOTEL**
527 East 8th, 625-2581. Sgl. \$7, Dbl. \$9. TV, Phones, Radio, Tub-Shower, Air Conditioned, Carpeting. 20 units.
3. **HOLIDAY INN MOTEL**
3405 Vine, 625-7371. Sgl. \$11, Dbl. \$15-\$18. Winter rates lower, also group rates. Swimming Pool, Carpeting, Restaurant, Air Conditioned, TV, Phones, Meeting Rooms, Private Club. 116 units.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Letters indicate location on map.

- A. Old Fort Hays and Museum, Monarch of the Plains Statue
- B. Buffalo Herd
- C. Fort Hays State College (Museum)
- D. Courthouse Square (Courthouse, Library, Buffalo Bill Statue)
- E. Fort Hays Experiment Station
- F. State Frontier Park
- G. State Highway Roadside Park
- H. Municipal Swimming Pool
- I. Chamber of Commerce
- J. Lewis Field Stadium
- K. Hadley Regional Medical Center
- L. St. Anthony Hospital
- M. Municipal Airport

EMERGENCY

Ambulance
Brook's North Hill Chapel 625-3215
Mall's Morford Chapel 625-9102
Civil Air Patrol 625-3434
Fire 625-2525
Police 625-3434
Sheriff 625-3434
Day: 628-8229
Night: 625-3916

MOTELS

4. **PRAIRIE MOTEL**
West Highway 40 Bypass, 625-9803. Sgl. \$4.50, Dbl. \$6.50-\$10. Air Conditioned, TV. 12 units.
 5. **RAINBOW MOTEL**
722 East 8th, 625-6581. Sgl. \$5.50-\$6, Dbl. \$7-\$14. Air Conditioned, TV, Phones, Ice, Carpeting. 20 units.
 6. **RAMADA INN MOTEL**
3205 Vine, 628-8261. Sgl. \$10.50-\$14, Dbl. \$13-\$16. Suites \$20-\$40, Twin-Double \$15-\$20. 3rd & 4th persons \$2.50. Heated Swimming Pool, Restaurant, Air Conditioned, Carpeting, Phones, Cable & Color TV, Meeting Rooms, Private Club, Free Instant Reservation System. 106 units.
 7. **RILEY MOTEL**
609 East 8th, 625-2567. Sgl. \$6-\$8, Dbl. \$10-\$12. Air Conditioned, TV, Tub-Shower, Deodorized, Kitchenettes, Credit Cards Honored, Carpeting. 26 units.
 8. **SHAMROCK MOTEL**
East Highway 40 Bypass, 625-2257. Sgl. \$6-\$8, Dbl. \$10.50-\$12.50. Air Conditioned, TV, Tub-Shower, Adjoining Cafe and Service Station. 10 units.
 9. **SUNSET MOTEL**
500 East 8th, 625-2571. Sgl. \$6-\$8, Dbl. \$12. Air Conditioned, TV, Radio, Tub-Shower, Phones, Carpeting. 18 units.
 10. **VAGABOND BEST WESTERN MOTEL**
2524 Vine, 625-2511. Sgl. \$10-\$13, Dbl. \$14-\$18. Winter rates lower, also group rates. Adjoining Restaurant, Air Conditioned, Phones, Carpeting, Cable & Color TV, Bridal Suite, Swimming Pool, Meeting Rooms. 60 units.
 11. **VILLA MOTEL**
8th & Vine, 625-2563. Sgl. \$6.50-\$10, Dbl. \$8.50-\$12. Swimming Pool, Carpeting, Phones, TV, Near Restaurant. 44 units.
 12. **VINE PARK MOTEL**
1308 Vine, 625-6537. Sgl. \$6-\$7.50, Dbl. \$8-\$12. Swimming Pool, Near Restaurant, Air Conditioned, TV, Phones, Carpeting, Credit Cards Honored. 12 units.
 13. **WEST HAYS MOTEL**
1-70 & U.S. 183 Alt. at West Hays Exit, 628-1076. Sgl. \$6, Dbl. \$7. Air Conditioned, TV, Picnic Patio. 20 units.
- Overnight Parking**
14. **CIRCLE S TRAILER PARK**
501 Vine, 625-6119. Tents, Trailers, Campers. All Paved, Complete Hookups, Showers, Laundry Facilities, Landscaped, Picnic Area, Ice, Pets Welcome, Service and Repairs.