

# KANSAS HISTORY

A Journal  
of the  
Central Plains

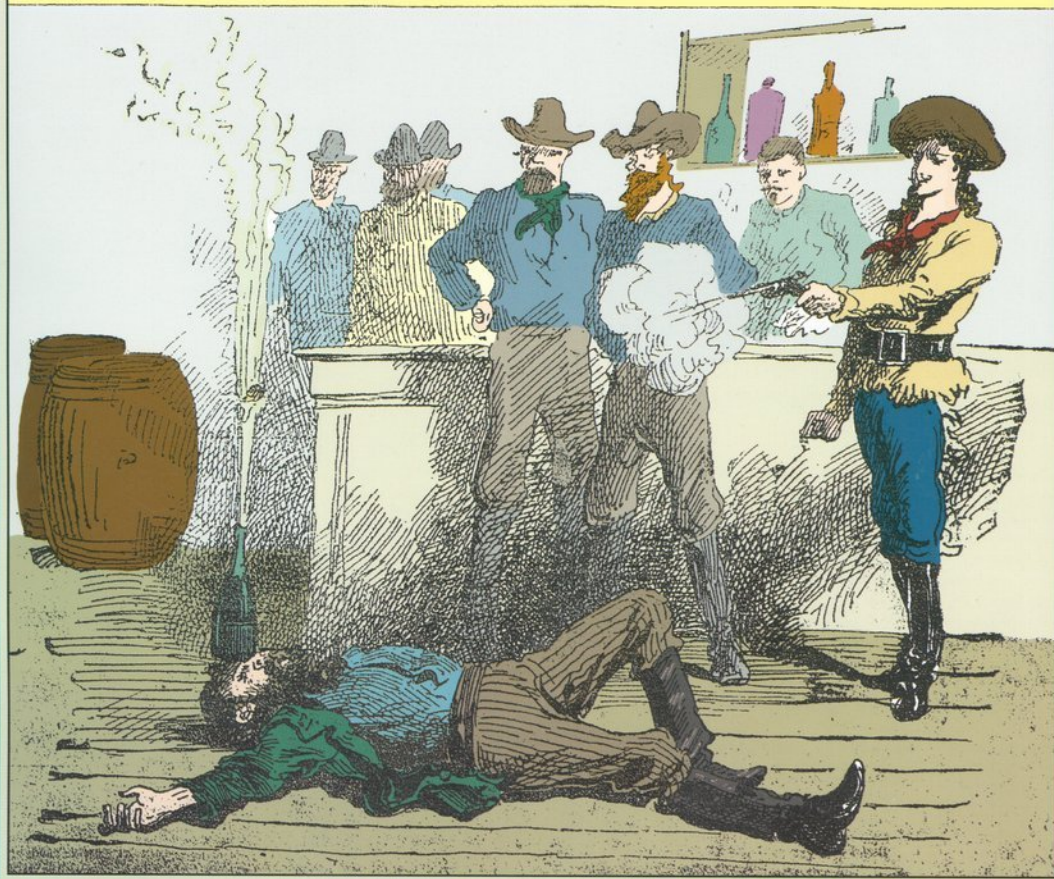
Volume 26, Number 1  
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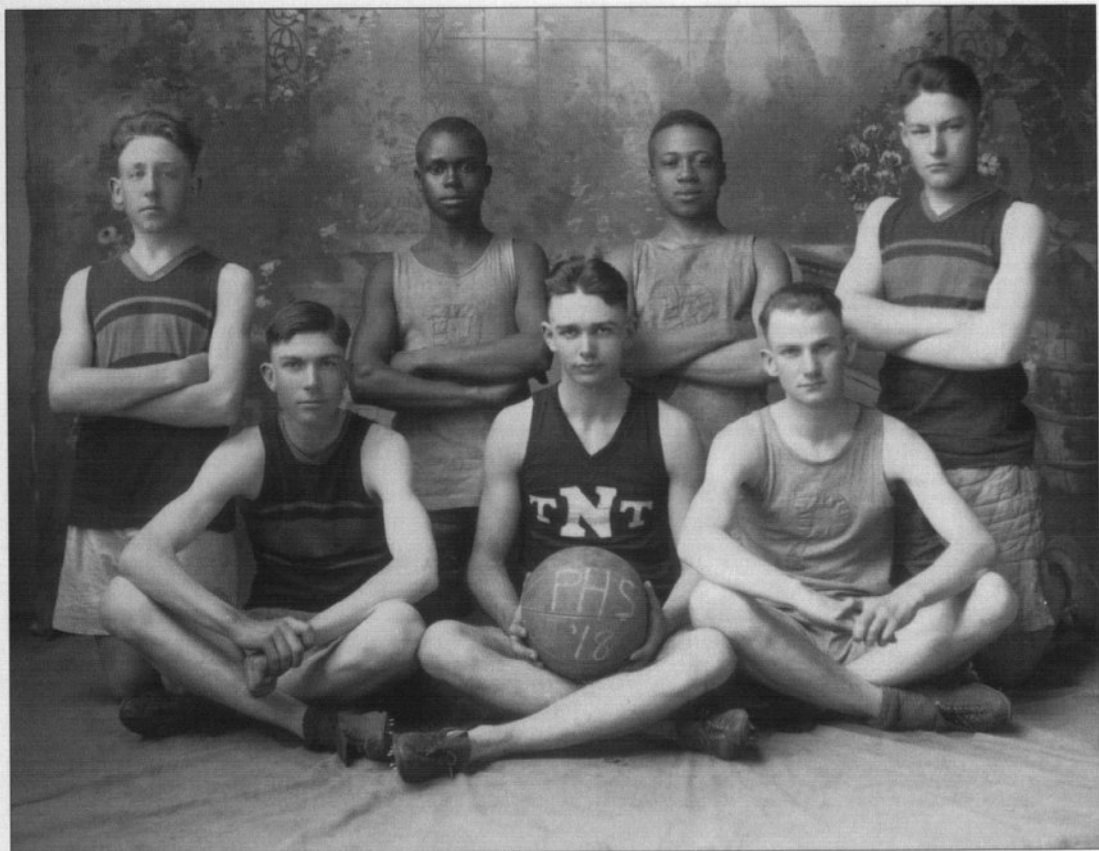
## DIAMOND DICK, The Dandy from Denver

A TRUE STORY OF THE MINES OF NEW MEXICO.

BY "BUCKSKIN SAM"—Major Sam S. Hall,

AUTHOR OF "GARK DASHWOOD," "WILD WILL, THE MAD RANCHERO," "KIT CARSON, JR.," ETC., ETC., ETC.





The boys' basketball team, 1918, Paxico Rural High School.

As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the twentieth century's most important United States Supreme Court case—*Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas*—it seems appropriate to reflect on a few questions of race and education in “free” Kansas before and after *Brown*. The landmark decision itself overturned the “separate but equal doctrine” that had been the law of the land since 1896 (*Plessy v Ferguson*), ended constitutionally sanctioned segregation in the nation's public schools, and launched the modern civil rights movement that would so change the face of Kansas and all of America. Chief Justice Earl Warren's opinion for the high court was rendered on May 17, 1954, but the origins of *Brown v Board* date back at least one hundred years.

For nearly all of those years Kansans lived with a paradox. African Americans migrated to the “promised land,” Kansas,

because it had become a symbol of hope and freedom. But the reception they received and the reality they found here was at best mixed. Most enjoyed political equality of sorts, but they were set apart socially and soon found Kansas all too like the “Jim Crow” South they had fled.

Kansas schools prior to *Brown* were a mixed bag as well. Legally, separate black and white schools were allowed only at the elementary level in the state's largest towns (cities of the “first class,” over fifteen thousand inhabitants), but in reality, segregation pervaded the educational system. African American students who were able to attend high school did so with white students, but in many cases they were excluded from extracurricular activities or encouraged to form “colored” clubs or athletic teams. At Paxico High School—at least in 1918—this clearly was not the case, but the above photograph raises more questions than it answers.

# KANSAS HISTORY

VIRGIL W. DEAN  
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Volume 26

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Number 1

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COVER: Cover of the first *Diamond Dick* novel, published August 26, 1882 (originally in black and white). An article on the flamboyant *Diamond Dick* begins on page 2. BACK COVER: Many reservoirs were built throughout Kansas to solve the flooding problem. The story of the dam that was never built begins on page 14.

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DAMMING THE KAW: THE  
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GREAT DEPRESSION  
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RIGHT NOW": HOMICIDE,  
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# KANOPOLIS DAM and MULTIPLE-PURPOSE RESERVOIR

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