

Letter of Nomination for Ed Carlson for a 2011 Kansas Friends Award

Ed Carlson grew up in Kinsley. His father was the sheriff, and he enjoyed riding with him and hearing the stories of the town folk. That probably inspired his love of local history and genealogy at an early age. He received his degree in architecture from Kansas State University and left the community to pursue his profession in Wichita and now in the Kansas City area.

What makes this “remote” patron a great Friend of the Kinsley Library? He has never stopped supporting the library despite leaving western Kansas. Over the years, Ed has generated and donated 40 indexed books of historical facts gleaned from the early newspapers, donated his expertise to completely remodel the library, and performed countless other little “acts of kindness.”

In April, 2010, Ed came back and did an *Architectural Tour of Kinsley* hosted by the FRIENDS group. Fifty adults rode around Kinsley on a school bus while Ed explained the various buildings and homes. The talk was enhanced with fascinating bits of history about the families and events involved with the structures. After the tour, he made all of his research available to the library staff, and it was published and available on the library website as an e-book complete with pictures of each structure and a transcript of his commentary from the tour (www.kinsleylibrary.info/ArchTour.pdf). Donations gathered on the tour generated \$145 for library projects.

Last year Ed also researched in *Find-A-Grave* to locate where the early residents of Kinsley ended up when they left town. This research produced a 275 book for the library.

Last fall when the library director could not find “poster display holders” to fit the ends of the stacks, Ed promptly drew up the perfect, custom design which can now be manufactured locally for a fraction of the cost.

Ed also supports the library’s *Downtown Kinsley Digital Map* by monitoring EBay and purchasing and donating vintage postcards. The images are scanned, catalogued, and become part of the library’s on-line collection of over 550 images (www.kinsleylibrary.info/downtown/index.html).

Ed Carlson refers to the Kinsley Library as the “Best Little Library in Kansas.” He has been instrumental in making it such. He is one of our best advocates and supporters using both his vocation and avocation to enhance the resources and facilities of the library.