

SUMMER FUN

Lenexa Museum

Old stone barn serves as



Photo courtesy of the Legler Barn Museum

The Legler Barn serves as the historical museum for the City of Lenexa, KS

By Patrick McCurry

Today people at the intersection of 95th Street and Lackman Road in Lenexa, Kan., make their way to Oak Park Mall and other area businesses. But some 140 years ago, this intersection met the Santa Fe Trail and people made their way to the Legler Barn.

The barn now sits at the corner of 87th Street and Lackman Road; the Lenexa Historical Society moved it there in 1972.

Adam Legler built the stone barn on his ranch for horses and cattle. Legler was originally from Switzerland. He came to the United States and walked from Jefferson City, Mo., to the area now considered Lenexa after serving in the Union Army.

Horses and cattle occupied the barn in those early days; it now serves as a museum for the City of Lenexa. The artifacts, antiques and pictures show what the Santa Fe Trail was like after the Civil War. Items include early day mailboxes and one of the first telephone switchboards in Lenexa.

A hands-on corner in the museum features old toys children can enjoy. According to legend, Jesse James, one of the best-known criminals in the Midwest, may have stopped here.

"Stories handed down say that Jesse James stopped by the barn in those days because he was a man who liked horses," Beryl Legler Hennigh said. She is an assistant at the museum and a direct descendant of Adam Legler. "He might have even

stayed at the barn, but unfortunately there is no historical proof of it."

People would stop at the Legler Barn on their journey west on the Santa Fe Trail to sleep for the night under a roof; it was the only place for several miles where there was any kind of shelter. There was a silo and another big barn nearby. A train depot, a caboose and an herb garden are other features of the complex.

"This is the first museum that I have taken my son to," Megan Fehrenbacher said. She is a Kansas City, Mo., resident and a Legler Museum visitor. "I came here when I was young and this is my hometown's birthplace. My son really enjoyed playing on the train caboose and seeing the toys from the early 1900s."

■ **Where it is:** The Legler Barn Museum is at 14907 W. 87th Street Pkwy., at the corner of 87th Street and Lackman Road in Sar-Ko-Par Park, Lenexa.

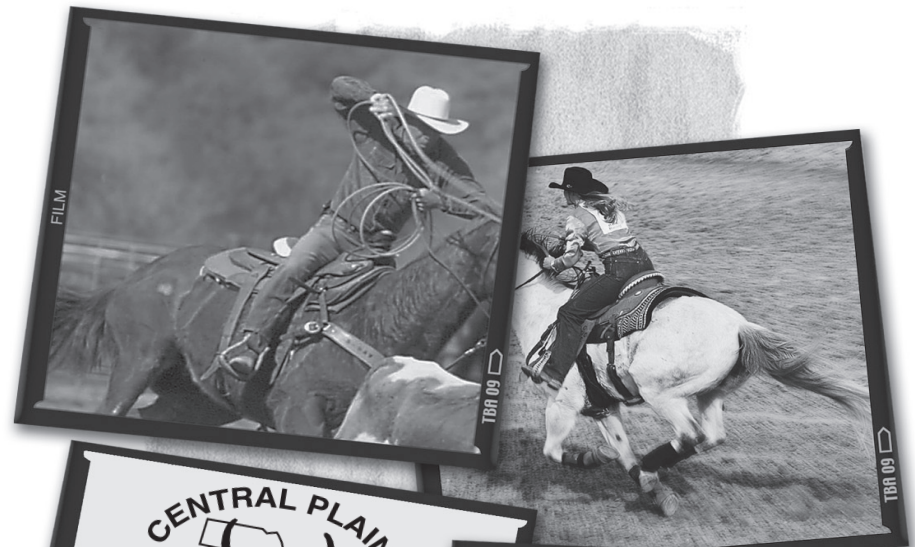
■ **Hours:** The barn is open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. from Tuesday through Friday; from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday; and closed Monday.

■ **Admission:** free.

■ **Telephone:** 913-492-0038

■ **Website:** grapevine.net~lhskc

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