

Correspondence with Steve Ellis

Steve,

Your message finally found its way to the Archives. What an interesting journal that must be! A person was so adventurous in those days to start off on a trip across the country. There were no road maps in the 20's just thick books which described the routes of some of the main highways. To come through Kearney she must have been following the Lincoln Highway.

Our city directory does not list the Central Cafe in the 1922 issue but it is in the next issue in 1924 and every year after that through 1965. The 1924 entry reads "Central Cafe Geo. Peterson, Prop. A Good Place to Eat. Open All Night. 2021 Central Ave." It was about a block and a half from the Union Pacific depot so it was also convenient for train passengers. Peterson owned the cafe until 1960.

It looks like your estimate of the trip being taken about 1924 fits. At least this shows it was not more than a year before that.

Mardi Anderson
Buffalo County Historical Society Archives
P O Box 523
Kearney NE 68848

3/22/2006

Mardi,

Thanks very much for your reply, and that interesting information about the central cafe. I have, in fact, transcribed the journal of the trip which lasted almost three weeks, 19 days, I think. If you like, I could send you a copy of the journal transcript by e-mail. I also learned that the building where the Central Cafe was located is still standing. I would like to see that building sometime.

Sincerely,
Steve Ellis

3/22/2006

Steve,

Yes, we would like a copy of the journal. I can see the section relating to her journey through Kearney and Buffalo County being incorporated into a Buffalo Tales article some day. It is a source of information that adds to our history and knowledge of both the Central Cafe and the Lincoln Highway which was and still is a major transportation route through our area. Thank you so much for your generous offer. The building where the cafe was located has passed through a variety of businesses since the cafe closed, but yes, it is still standing. This part of Central Avenue

is the main business street of Kearney. I hope you will be able to visit and see the building.

Mardi Anderson

3/22/2006

Mardi,

Here is the trip journal. Somehow the second day, August 12, was left out. I will see if I can find it. Otherwise, the whole trip from Bathurst, New Brunswick Canada to Tacoma Washington is in there including even the gas bill.

Steve