

Museum Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

July 18, 1973

[inserted in journal under date Dec 23, 1955]

Recorded some information and recollections of Samuel Trig. Dickenson, the background painter for the museum of natural history and a former student at University of Kansas, ^{Fine} Art department (1904-06) Mr. Dickenson was born September 24, 1884 in Russell County, Virginia. He was a rather lean in stature and over six feet tall. In Lawrence he worked as a lamp lighter for the fire department, the town newspaper which preceded the Lawrence Journal World, as a house painter, and as a staff artist for the Myhre museum of natural history. He also worked in theaters in Chicago, St. Louis to as far as Fort Worth Texas, including Kansas City painting scenery for theaters. In those days, scenes were painted on curtains which were changed from one act to the next. Backdrops for stage plays and a mural in a museum in North Kansas City were also painted by Mr. Dickenson. He received blue ribbons at both the Topeka and Sedalia State Fairs.

Mr. Dickenson never married and lived his later years with his sister Ina (seamstress at Weaver's Department Store) at 1027 Connecticut Street, Lawrence, Kansas. They were in and out of Samaritan Lodge several times before he died on July 18, 1973 at the age of 88.

Mr. Dickenson was indeed a man of culture. He read constantly, accumulated an immense library, belonged to several literary clubs and took advantage of the cultural programs at the University of Kansas. Conversation and discussion were his outstanding attributes. He was not an impulsive talker, although I have worked with him and on occasions he has talked continuously from eight o'clock in the morning until four or five o'clock in the afternoon, breaking the continuity of his well organized thoughts to discuss a thought or question from his listener. It is incredible that stories, thoughts or experiences were never repeated to the same audience. If he should ever repeat a certain statement, the facts were always the same whether it was the depth of snow in a particular year or the time of day. One whole day we discussed the fall of