

October 8, 1951

University Daily Kansan
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Gentlemen:

I have before me the daily issue of October 3, which has a nice story in regard to the Jennie B. Simons' panorama. I regret that it contains some errors, and see no way to correct them, excepting to prevent their being published at some future date.

Mama, Jennie B. Simons, weighed about 100 pounds, never more than 110. She was a graduate of the college at Hills Dale, Michigan. My mother came to Kansas in a passenger coach, together with her five children, her father and mother and other relatives. The box car referred to simply carried some blooded horses and household affects. A brother of Mrs. Simons accompanied the car to care for the animals. While mama deserves a world of credit for educating her children and for having a splendid influence on the community in which she lived, we did not live in a hut, but in a good house. The first house, built of sod, was unusual in that it had a shingled roof and a board floor. A wall of this house fell out, so a stone house, built of stone and lime mortar, was built next to it and the roof and floor were moved to the stone house.

When the county was organized, both the Democrats and Republicans (mama was a Republican) asked her to become the County Superintendent of Schools, but a veteran of the Civil War, who had lost a leg in the service, wanted the job, and mama very unselfishly stood aside for him. She was the first holder of a First Grade teacher's certificate to be issued in Hodgeman County.

There were no public schools in the county in 1878, as the county had not yet been organized, so the early education