

Donald R Johnson  
1604 Road 190  
Emporia, KS 66801

I am a lifetime resident of Lyon County Kansas. I have lived here for 75 years.

Before retiring I ran a cow and calf operation of 25 to 50 mother cows. I raised row crops and hay. I worked in Emporia and Lyon County to supplement my farm. Like many in farming, my farm did not make enough income to survive without working in industry as well. I did this because I was born and raised on a farm and that is what I love to do.

I love this life so much that at the age of 75, I still own 7 acres and lease land for hay production. I have my horse named Buster. He rides and drives. We do parades and special events where we give people a ride.

My dad bought our original homestead in 1942. He purchased it, I think, for less than 20 dollars an acre. All of his income went into the farm. I recall my mom talking about their main diet in those early years. It was rabbit that they hunted on the property. Fried, boiled, any way rabbit could be fixed. Eventually, my folks started a pheasant preserve in the early 1960s. They sowed grass for cover with strips of milo for feed for the pheasants. The grass and milo made the perfect pheasant habitat. My parents ran the pheasant preserve successfully for about 20 years. We raised about 20,000 pheasants per year for sale to other preserves and hunting operations. I do not recall any business or conflicts with local, state, or federal municipalities.

We had many customers. I remember some of those who did business with our pheasant preserve were the Governor of Kansas, the Secretary of the USDA and other officials. They were grateful. They enjoyed the

coffee and cake that my mother always made for our customers. Those recipes were always from scratch.

The government involvement in our farm, that I recall, started in the 1950s. The government aiding in flood control and ran soil banks. However, my dad was reluctant to participate a lot of the programs. As much as I enjoy working on a farm I always dreaded having to evaluate new regulations. They were not always in the best interest of my land.

The public use trails that were designed in our county Comprehensive Plan with the accompanying zoning regulations are very intrusive and concerning. The reason I find the new planning and zoning ideas so conserving is because Lyon County is my home. These plans would steal my freedom to farm.

Please, create laws that will protect my property rights.

Sincerely,



Don Johnson



STATE OF KANSAS

*Office of the Governor*

STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
TOPEKA, KANSAS



ROBERT B. DOCKING  
GOVERNOR

January 18, 1968

Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Johnson  
Bushong  
Kansas 66841

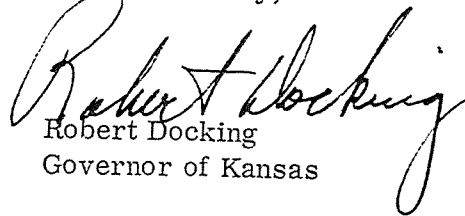
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Johnson:

Thank you so much for the courtesy and hospitality extended me during my visit to the J & F Shooting Preserve yesterday. The refreshments were delicious and I appreciated the opportunity to rest a bit in your home.

Should you have occasion to be in Topeka, I would be pleased to have you stop by the office.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

  
Robert Docking  
Governor of Kansas

RD:mh

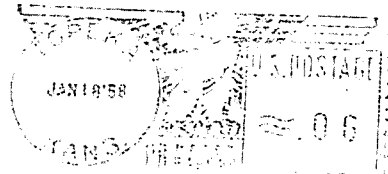
STATE OF KANSAS

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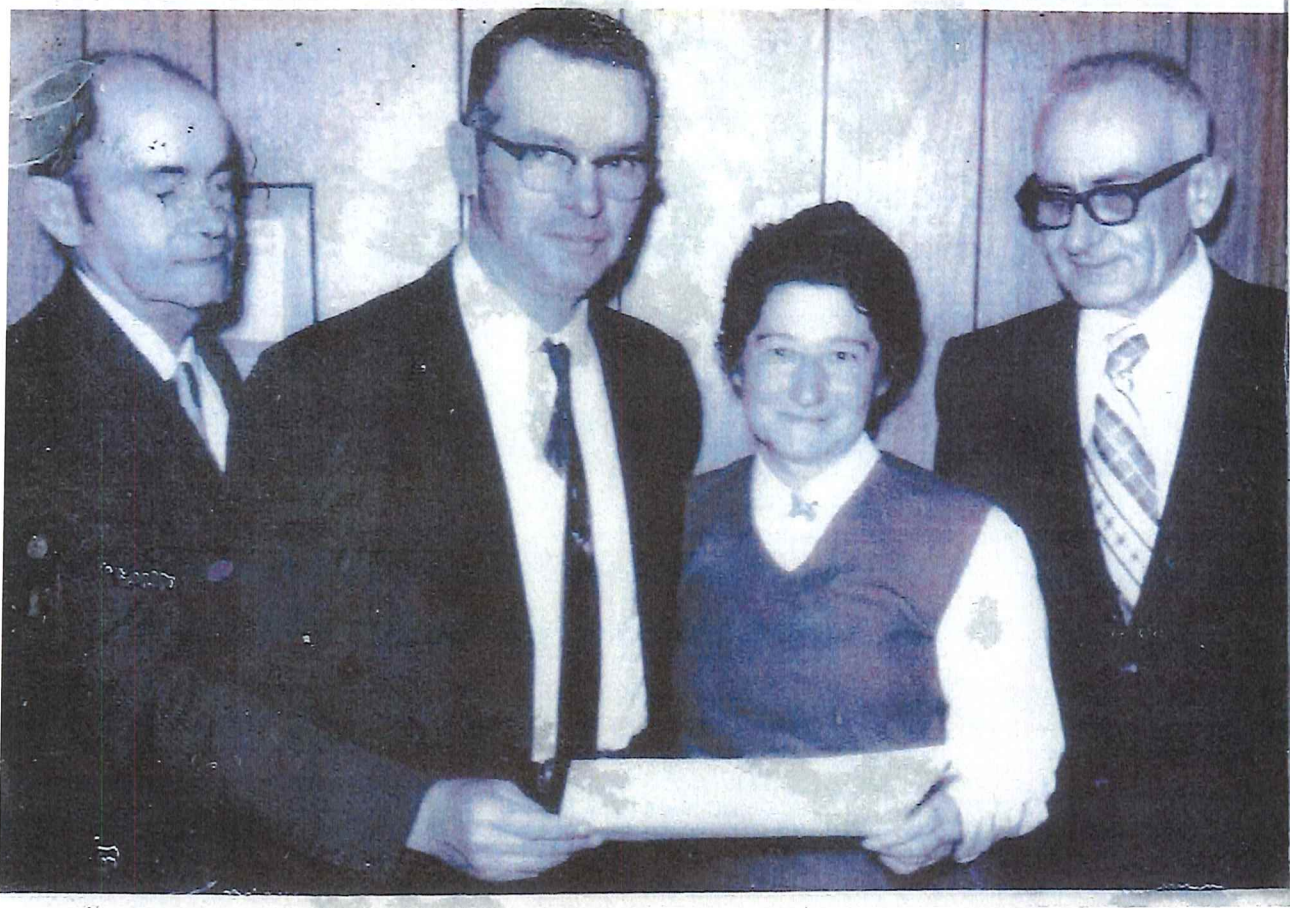
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