

Businessman becomes leader among leaders

By **MEAGAN PATTON-PAULSON**
Herald Connections Editor

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

If John Coen had to pick one sentence to describe Russell Crites, that quote, by Nelson Henderson, would be it.

"We all have that obligation to provide shade for the next generation," Coen, director of the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce, said.

Coen was one of the first people in Ottawa to receive the Russell Crites award — named for a man who truly put service and lifelong efforts to promote Ottawa above all else.

"That award specifically identifies somebody in the community who has gone above and beyond what normal service might be," Coen said.

Coen said he was extremely honored but caught completely off-guard by the award, which has also been given to such community leaders as state legislator Blaine Finch and Wynndee Lee, Ottawa's planning and codes director.

"I think anybody who receives the award doesn't have their eye on the award when it's given to them," Coen said. "They are truly doing it because they want to leave their community better than they found it and leave the community more appealing and be able to prosper in future generations."

And that's certainly what Russell Crites did, he said.

'Loved Ottawa'

During his lifetime, Crites was best known for his downtown service station, his efforts for flood control and helping start what is now the Leadership Franklin County program.

Coen, who knew Crites and served on several committees with him, said he was passionate and dedicated to the community.



Courtesy photo

Russell Crites is shown in an undated historical photo. Crites set the standard for community service, colleagues and fellow community members said.

"He loved Ottawa and was a downtown businessman known for great service," Coen said.

At his service station, which he opened at 418 N. Main St., and then moved to 419 S. Main St., in 1955, he did towing and body work. The building now houses Weigand's Brand Source.

"He was just a small businessman and an enthusiastic supporter of anything that built up Ottawa," Deb Barker, director of the Franklin County Historical Society, said.

Crites also lived during a time when floods frequently devastated Ottawa completely, Coen said. Every decade or so, the town suffered a major flood and would have to rebuild, Coen said.

"A lot of communities would have withered at that point, but a lot of in-

dividuals stayed with (flood control efforts)," Coen said. "Those flood dikes allowed us to go forward."

Crites, as well as other Ottawa residents Lamar Phillips and George Lister, spearheaded efforts to get flood control measures in place in Ottawa.

'Viable community'

Another notable accomplishment was helping form what now is the Leadership Franklin County program, of which Coen was a class member the first year.

"He was on the original group that worked to form that and hammered out the original agenda," Coen said.

Crites had the vision to form the class, Coen said, because he wanted to identify and educate the next generation of leaders on what it takes to provide great service in the community.

"That kind of encapsulated his philosophy on how we needed to prepare," Coen said.

The program — in its 28th year — continues on today, churning out the community's prospective leaders of the future.

The work Crites did on the program, as well as the other contributions he made to the community, attests to Crites' character, Coen said. He said he hopes those contributions inspire others to be equally active.

"We're taking advantage of what others before us have done, and we need to make sure the next generation that comes behind us has a strong and viable community as well," Coen said.

A little-known fact about Crites, Barker said, is that one of the recreation areas at Hillsdale Lake is named for him. The site includes a memorial sign, boat dock, swimming beach and picnic area.

"I don't think many people from Franklin County are aware of that," she said.



Services, Inc.
has provided services and supports to persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities who live in Coffey, Osage and Franklin Counties.

Day, Residential and Support services provide opportunities to persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities for achieving optimal physical and mental health, for enjoying family and friends, and for participating in community-integrated activities. Those persons who receive supports from COF Training Services might be found working at one of two workshops on contractual/subcontract work, working in the community, having staff accompaniment to medical appointments, learning how to prepare a healthy dinner, enjoying a meal or shopping in local restaurants and stores, or volunteering to help with a community project. Each person has a person-centered plan based upon assessed needs and wishes. Each individual is treated with respect and dignity, and each person enjoys the same rights and responsibilities as does any citizen.

With day services sites located in Burlington and Ottawa, residential sites located throughout of Ottawa, Burlington and Osage City, and through the provision of Case Management services, COF serves approximately 300 persons with a wide range of intellectual/developmental disabilities.



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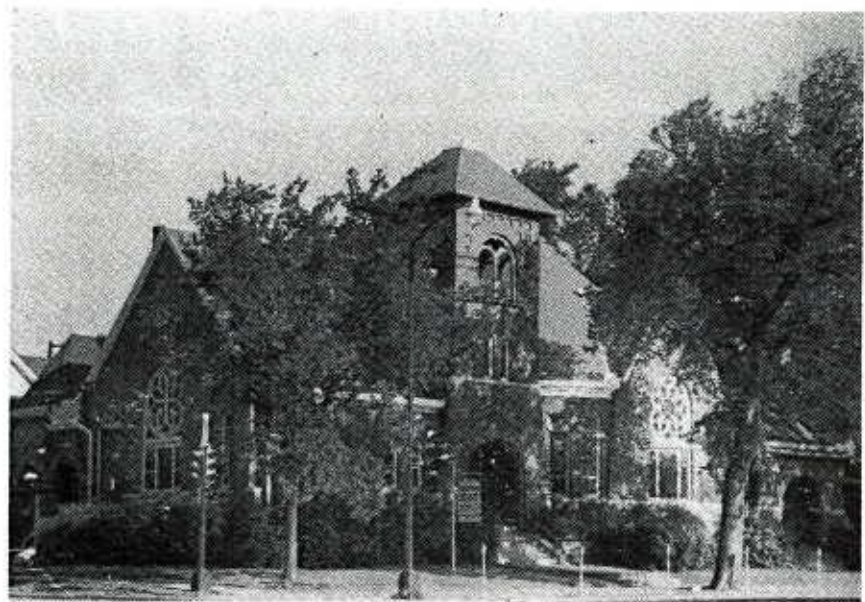
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Russell Crites

OTTAWA, KANSAS PERSONAL RECIPES



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RODUCTS
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OTTAWA, KANSAS

R. S. HANES, CASHIER
C. D. CAYOT, ASS'T. CASHIER

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OF
RAL CHAPEL
PHONE 780
525 NORTH MAIN
OTTAWA, KANSAS

BAR
SERVICE"
LAHOMA DENNIS
219 S. MAIN

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 lb. chicken | 1/4 c. chopped pimienta |
| 3 c. soft bread crumbs | 6 eggs |
| 1 1/2 c. cooked rice | 3 c. chicken broth |
| 1 1/2 tsp. paprika | |

Mix well and bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Let stand 15 minutes before serving. Make medium white sauce and add can of mushroom soup, thinned slightly. Serves 16.
Mrs. Cora Sheldon

MEAT LOAF

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/2 c. Minute tapioca | 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce |
| 1 lb. ground ham | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| 1 lb. lean pork (ground) | 1/4 tsp. paprika |
| 1 Tbsp. scraped onion | 2 c. milk |

Bake in moderate oven 45 minutes.
Mrs. E. S. Bennett

MEAT LOAF

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 tsp. salt |
| 1 Tbsp. chopped onion | pepper |
| 1/8 tsp. sage | 1 egg beaten |
| 1/8 tsp. thyme | 1/8 c. catsup |
| 1/8 tsp. garlic salt | 1/2 c. milk |
| 1/4 tsp. celery seed | 1/2 c. bread crumbs |

Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. While cooking, pour over following sauce:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1/2 c. water | 1 tsp. dry mustard |
| 1/2 c. vinegar | 1 1/2 c. brown sugar |

Mrs. Ted W. Strain

BARBECUED HICKORY SMOKED HAMBURGERS

For best results, use ground lean Pike's Peak roast; however, good grade hamburger may be used.

Mix finely chopped onion, about 1 generous slice for each hamburger, with the ground meat. Make into large thick patties, about 1/4 lb. meat to each hamburger. Place on open grill over an outdoor charcoal broiler which should be started 30 minutes before ready to use.

For the hickory flavor, put a small green hickory log on
-23- Ottawa, Ks.

BARBECUED HICKORY SMOKED HAMBURGERS (Continued)

top of burning charcoal just as you start cooking the hamburgers. Cook on one side for 15 minutes, turn them over, salt, pepper and cover cooked side with barbecue sauce, made from Ott's barbecue sauce and ketchup to which has been added small amounts of lemon juice, sugar and Worcestershire sauce.

Cook patties on second side for 15 minutes. About 5 minutes before they are done, place large sliced hamburger bun on top of each patty to warm.

Russell L. Crites

Write Extra Recipes Here:



Citizen of the Week

Russell Crites was born in Holton, Kansas. His father was a minister so the Crites family moved wherever his father was called as pastor. During his childhood Crites lived in Kansas City, Kansas, Toledo, Ohio, Richland Center, Wisconsin, and then to Ottawa. Crites attended Ottawa High School. He worked for the Carpenter Super Service during his high school years then became a full time employee of the company. He became manager of the Body and Paint Department and in 1941 bought the shop from Carpenter and moved to another location and again moved to 418 North Main. Within the next ten years the business and the Crites endured thirteen floods. In 1955 the business was moved to its present location at 419 South Main. The automotive facilities were expanded and a showroom for appliances and televisions was added.

During the years of building the business Crites worked as a sign painter. Most of this work was done for Purina Foods painting the checkerboard signs on dealer buildings. While he traveled at this work Mrs. Crites managed the business and the children.

The continued losses Crites and other Ottawans incurred from flood damage led Crites to become very active in the flood control project. He and others have spent fifteen years in promoting and arranging to have the present flood control program put into effect. He is president of the Marais des Cygnes Valley Flood Control Association.

Crites is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, and Lions Club. He is a past state president and a past district governor of Lions.

The Crites have two children, Mrs. Allen Herrington, San Antonio, and Richard Crites of Los Angeles. Richard is an Industrial Waste Engineer for the County of Los Angeles. The Crites have two grandsons.

Crites is a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. He has been an instructor of the Dale Carnegie Institute on a part time basis for the past seven years.

When asked about hobbies Crites stated that fishing and trying to convince Ottawans that a positive attitude is needed if the town is to grow and progress are his prime interests. He discussed the importance of friendliness towards visitors to Ottawa. He also feels that the local merchants can build better business by making everyone feel welcome. Crites indicated that he plans to spend time and talk trying to waken Ottawans out of their sleepy



RUSSELL CRITES

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Antone Out Of Business; Building Sold

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Crites, of Crites Body Shop, Conoco Service and Appliance Center, 419 S. Main, have purchased the building at 413 S. Main, location of the Keelin Company and the Antone Produce firm.

Antone Produce has discontinued the poultry business which has occupied the rear of the building.

The Keelin Company will continue in its present location in the front portion of the building in the feed and egg business.

Mr. and Mrs. Crites said today that the rear portion of the building is now undergoing remodeling and will be used as an appliance repair center.

Space in the rear of the building will be combined with space back of the Crites business property and will be utilized as an area for storage of damaged vehicles brought in for repair in the body shop portion of the Crites firm.

Heretofore it has been necessary to store damaged cars in the service area in front of the Crites establishment. This area is to be marked off in parking stalls for use as parking space for customers.

Citizen of the Week

8/11/64

Russell Crites was born in Holton, Kansas. His father was a minister so the Crites family moved wherever his father was called as pastor. During his childhood Crites lived in Kansas City, Kansas, Toledo, Ohio, Richland Center, Wisconsin, and then to Ottawa. Crites attended Ottawa High School. He worked for the Carpenter Super Service during his high school years then became a full time employee of the company. He became manager of the Body and Paint Department and in 1941 bought the shop from Carpenter and moved to another location and again moved to 418 North Main. Within the next ten years the business and the Crites endured thirteen floods. In 1955 the business was moved to its present location at 419 South Main. The automotive facilities were expanded and a showroom for appliances and televisions was added.

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RUSSELL CRITES

CRITES, RUSSELL AND LUCY (RULE)

F67



Lucy (Rule) and Russell Crites.

Russell Crites (1913-1990), an Ottawa resident for nearly 70 years, was born in Holton, Kansas, the son of Rev. Thomas D. and Cynthia Bell (Carpenter) Crites. The family moved to Ottawa when Russell was 10 years old. Following his graduation from Ottawa High School, he began work for the Carpenter Super Service, 419 South Main, that would develop into a related field of his business career.

In 1933, Russell married Lucy Rule, daughter of Hiram H. and Pansy (Hunt) Rule. The Rules moved to Kansas from Oklahoma when Lucy was seven, to a farm south of LeLoup. Lucy was the third of six children and the only girl. After grade school Lucy moved to Ottawa to work for her room and board in order to attend high school. Following graduation, she worked as an assistant to the Franklin County Superintendent of Schools, Fern Streebin and the Fred Settles.

Together, Russell and Lucy established Crites Body Shop and Appliance Center, 419 South Main, which they operated for nearly 50 years. During the years of building their business, Russell worked first as a sign painter, then as manager of the body and painting department at Carpenter, before establishing the Crites firm. Lucy assisted her husband in these ventures. They retired in 1982.



Crites Body Shop and Appliance Center, 419 South Main, Ottawa, Kansas.

Lucy was in charge of the appliances at the firm, and served on the National Whirlpool Advisory Board and was the only woman elected to the Whirlpool Retail Committee.

Along with the business enterprises, Russell dedicated a major portion of his life to Kansas water issues of water conservation and flood control. And it was his efforts in the flood control project for Ottawa and Franklin County and other areas in the state, that are his greatest legacy.

The Crites' early business establishments, along with many other Ottawa businesses, suffered extensive flood damage year after year. As a witness to Ottawa's worst floods and yearly flooding, Russell became involved in state water agencies and was instrumental in developing a state water plan resulting in a Kansas system of area reservoirs including Pomona Reservoir (1964), Melvern Reservoir (1974), and Hillsdale Reservoir (1982) on the Marias des Cygnes River.

Russell's major appointments included: executive president of the Marias des Cygnes Flood Control Association (30 years); 1975, a four-year term on the Water Resource Board, appointed by Governor Robert Bennett, chairman in 1978; charter member, past president and executive board of the Missouri-Arkansas River Basin Flood Control and Conservation; work with the Corps of U.S. Army Engineers to plan flood control reservoirs and obtain fundings from state and federal agencies; 1989, reappointed a member of the Kansas Water Authority, by Governor Mike Hayden.

His civic participation included: chairman of

the Kansas Chamber of Commerce; 35-year member of the Kansas Association for Commerce and Industry; charter member of the Ottawa Junior Chamber of Commerce and Greater Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, president 1954; board member of the Ottawa/Franklin County Economic Development; 45-year member of the Ottawa Lions Club; District Governor and Executive Director of the Ottawa Miss America Pageant.

Honors: Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service from the Army Corps of Engineers for his support of federal flood control and river development.

Lucy was not only a business partner with her husband, but was a vital part of the flood control projects, particularly in Ottawa and in the county. She organized letter writing projects that brought attention to government officials and accompanied Russell to many meetings. She was a long-time member of the Ottawa Business and Professional Women's Club and was the club's first recipient of the Woman of Achievement Award.

Following his death August 16, 1990, the Russell L. Crites Recreation Area was dedicated in his honor at Hillsdale Lake State Park.

In 1991, the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce established the Russell Crites Community Service Award in his honor. The first recipient was his wife Lucy.

Lucy Crites died June 30, 1992 following a short illness.

The Crites have two children, Richard Crites, San Diego, California, and a daughter, Cay Crites Herrington, Pueblo, Colorado; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

10/1/90

Crites bud

To Rename Hillsdale Park For Russell Crites

A special honor will be made to the late Russell Crites next week in the renaming of a recreation area at Hillsdale State Park in his memory.

A formal dedication recognizing the renaming of the former Tecumseh South Recreation Park, will be held Thursday, October 18, at 3:00 p.m. at the Hillsdale State Park nine miles north of Paola.

In recognition of Crites' outstanding achievements to the state's water resources, the Tecumseh area will be renamed the Russell Crites Recreation Area.

The dedication ceremony will take place at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Visiting Center located at the north end of the dam.

Gov. Mike Hayden will host the ceremony honoring Crites who served as president of the Marais des Cygnes Valley Flood Control Association and the Missouri River Basin Association. Crites had been reappointed to the Kansas Water Authority by Hayden and

served until the time of his death last August.

Members of the Crites family will be present to assist in the unveiling of a new recreation area sign bearing Crites' name.

Secretary Robert L. Meinen of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, will preside over the ceremony and introduce dedication speakers and guests.

A representative of the Kansas Water Office and family members will describe Crites' contribution to water resource development and his love of the outdoors.

The Russell Crites Recreation Area is located on the south shore of the Hillsdale Reservoir, a mile and a half west and a mile north of the south end of the dam.

Initial development will include a parking area, water supply and improved access roads. When completed, the area will contain a swimming beach, developed camp sites, picnic area, shelter house, boat ramps, and hiking trails.

Official Paper For Franklin
and the City of
A WEEKLY NEWS
Ottawa, Franklin County
(USPS 413-60)



United Way To \$20,083

The Franklin County United Way Fund Drive continued to climb toward its goal, but drive secretary Dorothy Anderson hopes response picks up in the next week.

Total to date \$20,083.50.

Contributions breakdown includes: Advance, \$14,500; Fair Share, \$1,574; Small Business, \$982; Resident, \$2,695; and Rural \$272.

Water, Community Booster Russ Crites Dies

Russell Crites, one of Ottawa's strongest promoters and known state-wide for his work in water resources, died Thursday, August 16, at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. He was 77.

Funeral services were held Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church here.

Crites was a part of Ottawa for close to 70 years - a very active and positive part not only as a local businessman but as a promoter of what was best for Ottawa. Crites and his wife Lucy established Crites Body Shop and Appliance Center which they owned and operated from 1935 to 1982. Russell graduated from Ottawa High

School in 1931. He was born at Holton, Kansas in 1913. It was in his efforts in flood control in the Ottawa area and throughout the state that Crites left his greatest legacy.

His work with the Marais des Cygnes Valley Flood Control Association which continued for over 30 years, stemmed from the floods that have affected Ottawa since its founding. Crites was part of a trio that included the late George Lister and the late Lamar Phillips, who worked to bring about flood control for Ottawa and the Pomona Reservoir.

Russell and Lucy could entertain the listener as they related stories of the

community effort after the 'big' flood of 1951 when Ottawa citizens united in a letter-writing campaign demanding help from Washington.

A group of women including Lucy, went door-to-door requesting a letter for flood control from Ottawa homemakers. We baby sat, took over the ironing or did the dishes while wives composed their letters, Lucy would tell. The men organized the efforts working through top government channels.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Ottawa flood protection project were held in September 1958, with Crites as president of the

Marais des Cygnes Flood Control Assoc., emceeding the event.

Both the Ottawa dikes and gates and the Pomona Reservoir were under construction at the same time and both completed in 1962.

Crites' interest in water resources continued throughout his life. He was a charter member, past president and board member of the MO-ARK (Missouri River Basin Association), a member of the Kansas Water Authority for many years and was re-appointed to the KWA last year by Gov. Hayden. He also was serving on the Marais des Cygnes Basin

(Continued To Page 16)

THE OTTAWA TIMES August 23, 1990 Page 16



HIS PLACE IN OTTAWA FLOOD CONTROL... Russell Crites, front row center, was there to receive recognition for his work in the Ottawa flood control when a special plaque was added to the Main Street gates several years ago. His wife Lucy is on his right. Others honored that day, from the left are Mary Lister Arnett, Mrs. George Lister, Lucy and Russell, and a niece of Lamar Phillips and her husband. City officials in the back row include Marvin Caitthan, Lyle Dresher, Jerry Thompson and Jack Davis.

Russ Crites Was State Water Expert

(Continued From Page 1)
Advisory Committee.

During the past year and a half he assisted in the establishment of several watershed districts and provided input and support for the new Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 12 that is being organized. He approved of the PWWSO meetings in Williamsburg, because he could have a rib supper there before the meetings!

His civic service was just as outstanding and always aimed at future development or for the good of Ottawa. He was a charter member of the Ottawa Junior Chamber of Commerce and served as president of the Greater Ottawa Chamber of Commerce in 1951 and as a member for over 40 years. He also held office and chairmanship in the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce. He currently served on the Board of Directors and was an organizing participant of the Ottawa Industrial Development Commission for the past 15 years. He was a member of the Kansas Association for Commerce and Industry for

over 35 years, serving as vice-president for District #8 in 1981. He was chairman of the newly re-organized KACI (Kansas Association of Commerce and Industry) Committee.

From 1952 to 1954 he was an instructor of the Dale Carnegie Leadership Sales Training courses offered throughout the state. He had some great stories to tell about this work.

One of Russell's loves was the Ottawa Lions Club where he had been a member for 46 years, serving as president, district governor and state council chairman. Russell set his last big record with the Lions Club this year when he almost singlehandedly

increased the club's dwindling membership by 114 percent. The increase set a state record and probably a national record of some kind. Who could resist that Crites touch?

And Russell still had time for his favorite sport of fishing. He would steal a fish whenever the weather was just right (sometimes not) to fish with his pals at Melvern Lake, one of his favorite spots.

People and action for a cause were his trademarks - along with gravy which he dearly loved. As Lucy would say over a good meal, Russell likes gravy on ice cream!

Russell Crites always added that extra zest to life.



all the time "Hanson" says
1912 FLOOD CONTROL

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HARRIS PUBLISHING CO.

It is doubtful that most Ottawans ever will know exactly how much they owed to Russell Crites.

Crites died Thursday morning in his 78th year.

The first time I met him, which was a mere 3½ years ago, I noticed two things about him immediately. First, he was of below average height. Second, he didn't seem to be aware of it.

At the time, of course, I had no idea that Russell Crites was the Wilt Chamberlain of Water.

When it came to water, Russell was 7 feet 2.

I didn't come to realize this, fully, until a year ago when I was doing research into local floods for *The Herald's* special edition commemorating the 125th anniversary of the founding of Ottawa.

The Marais des Cygnes River had disgorged itself so many times on the city, causing so much devastation, that it was almost unbelievable.

There were the floods of 1898, 1904, 1909, 1928 and others. Each put much of the city under water.

But the flood of the century, the one still fresh in the memories of many Ottawans, was the one that occurred here July 11, 1951.

"Aunt Mary" crested at 42.5 feet, nearly five feet higher than any previous flood. Downtown Ottawa was knee-deep in the murky overflow and many other parts of the city were inundated.

Nearly 30 years later, June 11, 1981, rainfall in Ottawa ranged from 7.57 inches to 10.59 inches. The city did not flood.

By Jim
Hitch



The Ottawa Herald

The city had Russell Crites and two of his colleagues, George Lister and Lamar Phillips, to thank for that. They led the prolonged effort to bring about the construction of Pomona Reservoir and the levy system that protect the city now from the river.

What many Ottawans today don't realize is that the work Crites did on water was far more comprehensive than simply bringing flood control to Ottawa.

He was instrumental in the development of the state water plan and Kansas' system of reservoirs. He did his time as president of the Missouri-Arkansas Basin Flood Control and Conservation Association and served on the board of the Marais des Cygnes Basin Advisory Committee.

Even at 77, Crites had the tenacity of a bulldog. He belonged to the local Lions Club. Its membership roles had declined drastically in recent years and the average age of its members had increased dramatically.

He dropped in for a visit one day last year and declared that he intended to do something about it. He had organized a membership drive, he said, and he wanted to publicize it. I agreed to help.

He outlined his plan, which, as I recall, was to double the membership. It didn't seem possible to me, that he could do it, but I didn't say so.

Crites went to work. He sold friends and acquaintances on the merits of Lions membership and the rolls begin to expand. He inducted the first female members. I don't think he doubled the membership, but he came so close as to make the notion of failure ridiculous.

It wasn't truly a community gathering unless Russell and his lady, Lucy, were there, and they usually were.

The last time I saw them together was at a gathering at the multi-purpose room at Ottawa Middle School. I can't remember why we had gathered. But I do remember that they paused to visit and treated me, as always, as though they had known me all their lives.

Crites, as everybody knows, was an avid fisherman. I found that out one spring day when I met Russell on the street and complimented him on the pretty flowers growing all around his home at 717 W. 7th.

"I don't get any credit at all," he said, chuckling. "That's Lucy's touch. She takes care of the flowers. I learned long ago that a fishing pole fits into my hands a lot better than a hoe."

Russell Crites was as common as an old shoe, but as precious as a gemstone. He was an institution.

If Ottawa had a Russell Crites at his peak today, Ottawa would be in rather good shape.

He is missed already.

Local flood control supporter dies

OTTAWA HERALD 8/16/90

Russell Crites, who was instrumental in getting the federal government to establish the reservoir system in Kansas and in getting flood control dikes in Ottawa, died early today at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

He was 77.

A funeral will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 13th and Maple streets. Lamb-Roberts Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Crites' jovial mood and disposition are what his fellow workers in Kansas water resources will remember, according to Clark Duffy, assistant director

Crites



Ottawa Library

Fifth & Main St.

Ottawa, KS 66067

Tireless efforts to be remembered by co-workers.

of the Kansas Water Office.

Another will be Crites' untiring work in Kansas water management.

Crites often told jokes, and one was a favorite on himself: "People call me a big dam fool."

"He had a tremendous impact on the state's water resources,"

Duffy said this morning. "He worked on it all his life, he had total dedication."

Crites' interest went well beyond that of water quantity and quality, but into fish and wildlife dependent on water and the habitat of the state's waterways. He was an avid fisherman and

Flood control supporter- - -

Continued From Page 1

flooding that Ottawa continually suffered during the town's first 90 years.

He, the late George Lister and the late Lamar Phillips were a trio who led a community effort for Ottawa flood control dikes and the Pomona reservoir. Both were under construction the same time from 1958 until July 4, 1963, when Pomona dam was completed. The flood gates were first operated in 1962, though news reports noted that excavation for the dikes, done as early as 1960, helped control minor flooding.

Charlene Lister, widow of George, said this morning that though the 1951 flood was the major disaster that activated forces, Ottawa had suffered many minor floods. Frequent floods alternated with droughts in the same year made the area's water supply a problem.

"It was a different Ottawa than it is now," Lister said.

Lister said Crites was a dynamic person, because once an issue got his attention, he followed through. He looked at

water interests beyond a local level, which is why Lister attributes Kansas' reservoir system to Crites' tireless efforts.

Crites had been involved in a long list of water-oriented groups, even serving in the 1960s as president of the Missouri-Arkansas Basin Flood Control and Conservation Association.

He was on the Kansas Water Authority for many years, helping to oversee the state's water resources. He was active in the establishment of the current Kansas Water Plan and had served on the Marais des Cygnes Basin Advisory Committee.

He also had helped with the establishment of several watershed districts and the new Wholesale Water Supply District No. 12, which will supply quality water to a large area located southwest of Ottawa and covering parts of four counties.

was seen just last week tinkering with his boat in his garage.

Duffy said he strongly remembered Crites' involvement with the development of the current state water plan. Crites attended all 12 public meetings across the state the first year the plan was proposed. Crites' information and insight became important to KWO officials. They frequently bounced ideas off him, knowing he had listened to the people and the issues and that his reactions were motivated only by what he thought was right for Kansas.

Crites began his involvement in water issues because of the

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Obituaries



RUSSELL L.
CRITES

A funeral for Russell L. Crites, 77, 717 W. 7th, who died Thursday, Aug. 16, 1990, at St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Mo., will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Westminster Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Henry A. Roberts Jr. officiating.

Burial will be at Highland Cemetery.

Born June 13, 1913, at Holton, Mr. Crites was the son of the Rev. Thomas Daniel and Cynthia Bell (Carpenter) Crites.

He married Lucy Rule Sept. 9, 1933, at Edgerton. She survives.

The Crites family moved to Ottawa when Russell was 10. He was graduated from Ottawa High School in 1931 and Dale Carnegie Leadership, Sales Training and Instructors courses from 1952-1954.

He and his wife established Crites Body Shop and Appliance Center, which they owned and operated in the 400 block of South Main from 1935 until 1982.

He was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church

and was active in church affairs. He was a charter member of the Ottawa Junior Chamber of Commerce. He served as president of the Greater Ottawa Chamber of Commerce in 1951 and was a member for more than 40 years. The organization chose him Man of the Year in 1965.

At his death he was serving on the board of directors of Ottawa-Franklin County Industrial Development and had helped organize the original Ottawa Industrial Development Corp. He had been active in industrial development the past 15 years.

He was chairman and served as officer in the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce. He also was a member of the Kansas Association for Commerce and Industry for more than 35 years. He was elected to the board of directors of KACI in 1980 and served as vice president for District No. 8 in 1981. He was chairman of the newly re-organized KACI committee.

He also had served as president of the Marais des Cygnes Valley Flood Control Association for more than 30 years. He was a charter member, past president and member of the Executive Board of the Missouri-Arkansas Basin Flood Control and Conservation Association. He was the last living charter member of that organization.

He also was serving as a member of the Kansas Water Authority, having been re-appointed by Gov. Mike Hayden.

He had received several citations from the Army Corps of Engineers, including the Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service for his support of the federal flood control and river development program.

He also had been a member of the Ottawa Lions Club since 1946, serving as president, district governor and state council chairman.

Besides his wife, of the home, survivors include a son, Richard Crites, San Diego, Calif.; a daughter, Cay Herrington, Pueblo, Colo.; a brother, Albert C. Crites, Belleville, Ill.; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A grandson, Terry Fox, died in 1983.

Friends may call until 10 a.m. Saturday at the Lamb-Roberts Funeral Home and after 10:30 a.m. Saturday and until the service hour at the church. The family will meet with friends from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. The family suggests that Westminster Presbyterian be beneficiary of memorial contributions, which may be left at the church or in care of the funeral home.

A fitting namesake for Crites



OCT. 1990

By JAY BEMIS
Herald City Editor

A recreational area at Hillsdale Reservoir will be named in memory of the late Russell Crites of Ottawa at 3 p.m. next Thursday at the lake's visitors center.

Crites, who died this past August at the age of 77, was a longtime flood control supporter and was instrumental in getting the federal government to establish a reservoir system in Kansas.

The area at Hillsdale to be named after him on the southwest corner of the lake is now known as the South Tecumseh area. Tours of progress on work to that area will be offered before and after next Thursday's dedication ceremonies.

Gov. Mike Hayden plans to attend the event.

According to Joe Harkins, director of the State Water Office, dedication of the area not only is an honor to Crites, but his family, which includes his widow, Lucy.

"That's because of the many, many hours she worked with Russell," Harkins, an Ottawa native himself, said. "She

traveled to the meetings he attended. She was as much of a partner in his business life as his personal life."

The Criteses operated Crites Body Shop and Appliance Center in Ottawa from 1935 to 1982.

Crites was a longtime worker for Hillsdale through MO-ARK, which is the Missouri-Arkansas River Basin Association. He was president of the Marais des Cygnes Valley Flood Control Association for more than 30 years.

He also was chairman of the newly re-organized Kansas Association of Commerce and Industry Committee and a member of the Kansas Water Authority.

He earned several citations from the Army Corps of Engineers, including a certificate of appreciation for patriotic civilian service for his support of water programs.

Crites also was active in the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and the Ottawa Lions Club.

Bob Meinen, secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, will preside over next Thursday's ceremonies and make introductions.

October 19, 1990

Ottawa Herald

10/90



—Photo By Steve Zuk

Lucy Crites was at the podium Thursday to express her family's appreciation. With her on the stage were (from left) Col. William H. Boutin Jr.; Gov. Mike Hayden; Robert L. Meinen, Kansas Wildlife and Parks secretary; John H. Baldwin, chairman of the Kansas Water Authority; Al Crites; Cay Herrington, and the Rev. Henry Roberts of Ottawa.

The

Crites Connection

By JAY BEMIS

Herald City Editor

HILLSDALE — For now, the one-time Jayhawker recreational area here has a long and winding, freshly-graveled road with a series of new culverts and recently-bladed ditches in its panoramic view.

But in the future, it's to be a major recreational site at Hillsdale Reservoir, including a boat ramp, an RV campground, tent camping, a hiking trail and a shelterhouse.

Those components were envisioned by the late Russell L. Crites, an Ottawan who dedicated most of his life to water preservation. Yesterday, the Jayhawker area was renamed the Russell L. Crites Recreation Area in honor of the longtime water proponent.

"Russ shared his love of fishing and out-of-doors with his grandchildren, who shared time fishing with their grandfather," Gov. Mike Hayden, an avid outdoorsman himself, said yesterday during a dedication ceremony at the lake here.

"It wasn't far from here that Russ used to take his grandchildren crappie fishing. Lou Constantino (of the state Wildlife and Parks Department) promised me there would be some biting today, if I had time to go."

Hayden capsulized Crites' service to flood control and water preservation, which included 30-plus years in the presidency of the Marais des Cygnes Valley Flood Control Association.

Crites also was a charter member, past president and executive board member of MO-ARK and received several citations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including one for appreciation of patriotic civilian service.

"The Ogallala Sioux Indians, our predecessors here in Kansas, had a chief named Flying Hawk, who said Indians and wild things knew how to live better than the white man," Hayden said.

"That's because they knew the importance of three things: Fresh air, sunshine and good water.

"Russell knew the importance of good water, and he dedicated his life for that cause. So now, we dedicate this area in his memory."

Over 100 people joined Hayden in dedicating the area, including Crites' widow, Lucy; his daughter, Cay Herrington, Pueblo, Colo., and a brother, Al Crites, Belleville, Ill.

Though Crites "loved every minute" of his service to water, "his greatest joy was the people he worked with," Lucy said.

"All of you here today had a special place in his heart," she said. "Russ was convinced this particular reservoir could bring more recreational pleasure to more Kansans than any reservoir in the state."

John Baldwin, chairman of the Water Authority, presented Lucy a plaque bearing Russell's picture and expressing the state's "grateful appreciation for public service." Also during the ceremony, a large sign to be placed at the Crites Recreational Area was unveiled.

"It's only fitting today that this dedication ceremony recognizes the achievement of a great citizen from Kansas who has left his mark," Col. Wilbur H. Boutin Jr., of the Corps of Engineers, said.

"If you look back at the history of the Kansas City district, the work of Russell and the endeavors he was involved in, not only has he touched the lives of many people in Kansas, but people in this Osage River basin, which is a very wide area."

State Park Named For Russell

A freshly graveled road leads through the Russell Crites Recreation Area at Hillsdale State Park where bulldozers are at work on the future development of a boat ramp, campground, hiking trails, picnic area, shelter-house and swimming beaches.

Thursday afternoon Governor Mike Hayden lauded the late Russell Crites for his service to flood control and water preservation during the 30 minute dedication ceremony renaming the former Jayhawker recreational area in his honor.

"Russell knew the importance of good water, and he dedicated his life for that cause. So now, we dedicate this area in his memory," said Hayden. His love of the outdoors was well known and he was particularly fond of fishing. It is fitting that we should honor his memory by naming a park for him near his home of Ottawa.

Crites, who died August 16, served more than 30 years with the Marais des Cygnes Valley Flood Control Association. His interest in water resources continued throughout his life. He was a charter member, past president and board member of the MO-ARK (Missouri River Basin Association), a member of the Kansas Water Authority for many years and was reappointed to the KWA last year by Gov. Hayden. He also was serving on the Marais des Cygnes Basin Advisory Committee.

John Baldwin, chairman of the Kansas Water Authority, presented a plaque with Russell's picture and an expression of grateful appreciation for public service to his widow, Lucy Crites.

"Though Russell loved every minute of his service to water," Mrs. Crites said in



A PLAQUE EXPRESSING appreciation for the public service of Russell Crites in the field of water resources and conservation was presented to his wife, Lucy, by John Baldwin, Chairman of the Kansas Water Authority, during the dedication of Russell Crites Recreation Area at Hillsdale Reservoir.

State Park Named For Russell

(Continued From Page 1)

accepting the plaque, "his greatest joy was the people he worked with. All of you here today had a special place in his heart," she continued. "Russ was convinced this particular

reservoir could bring more recreation pleasure to Kansas than any reservoir in the state."

The sign which will be at the entrance to the area was unveiled by Crites' daughter,

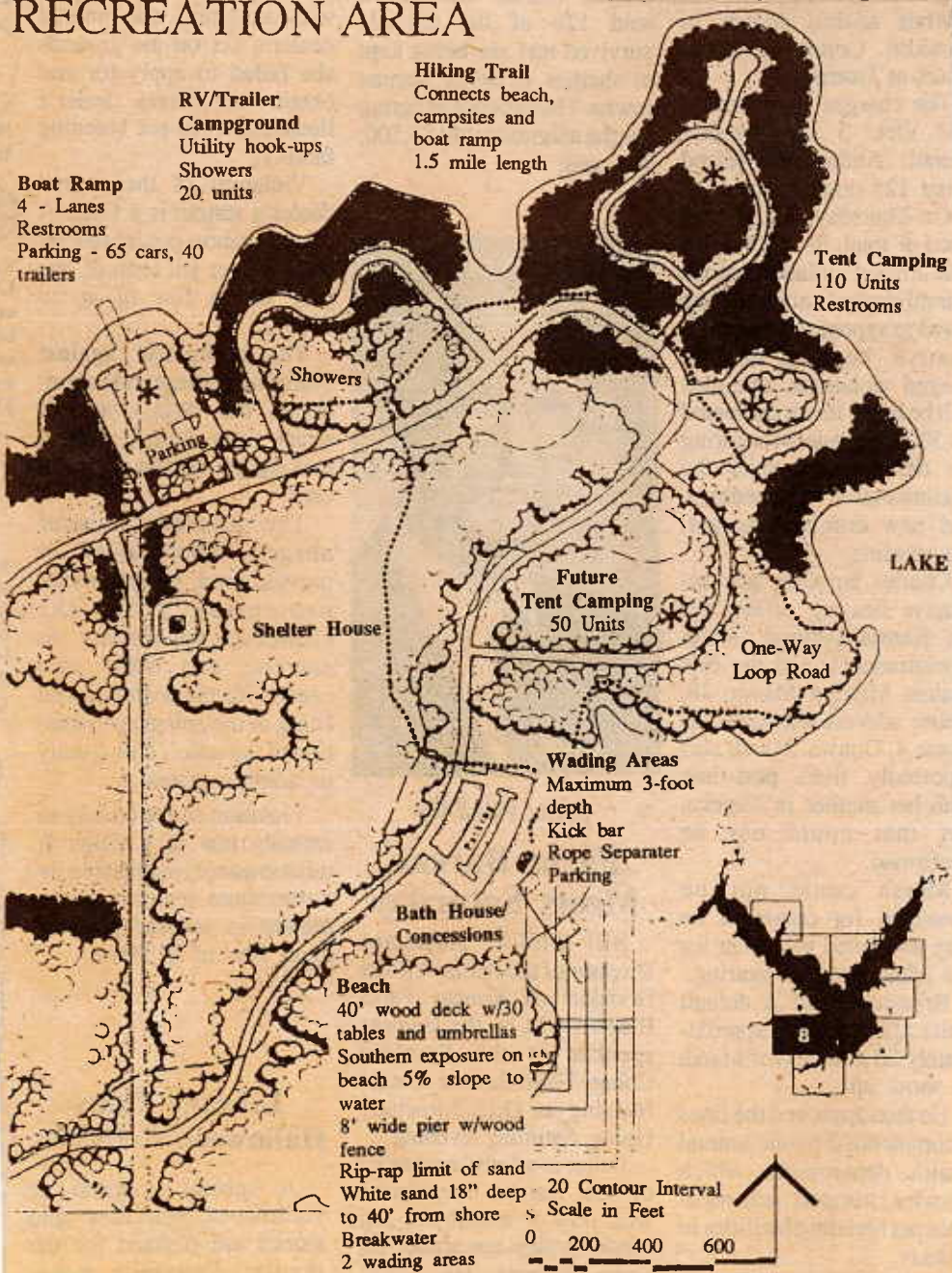
Cay Herrington of Pueblo, Colo., and his brother, Al Crites of Belleville, Ill.

The Russell Crites Recreation Area will endure as a tribute to his contributions to water resources in Kansas.



UNVEILING--members of the Crites family unveiled the sign which will be placed at the entrance to the Russell Crites Recreation Area at Hillsdale State Park. The area will endure as a tribute to his contributions to water resources in Kansas. Shown are, l. to r., John Baldwin, Kansas Water Authority chairman, Al Crites, Belleville, Ill., Lucy Crites and Cay Herrington, Pueblo, Colo.

RUSSELL L. CRITES RECREATION AREA



"Lucy Virginia Crites, 79, Ottawa, will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, with the Rev. Henry A. Roberts Jr. officiating. Burial will be in Highland Cemetery, Ottawa.

Mrs. Crites died Tuesday, June 30, 1992, in St. Luke's Hospital, Kansas City, Mo.

She was born Dec. 9, 1912, in Holden, Mo., the daughter of William H. and Pansy V. Hunt Rule. At age 6, she moved to a farm seven miles northeast of Ottawa. After graduating from Ottawa High School, she worked in the Franklin County Courthouse as an assistant county superintendent. She also worked as a substitute teacher. Later, she and her husband owned and operated the Crites Body Shop and Appliance Center until their retirement in 1982. She married Russell Crites on Sept. 9, 1933, in Edgerton. He died Aug. 16, 1990.

Mrs. Crites was a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ottawa, where she provided flowers for many years. She served as co-chairman of the Committee of Service and Rehabilitation for the Franklin County Chapter of the American Cancer Society and volunteered for Phone Friends. She also was a member of the advisory board for Kansas Blue Cross for many years, and was the first recipient of the Russell Crites Community Service Award sponsored by the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce.

Survivors include a son, Richard, San Diego; a daughter, Cay Herrington, Pueblo, Colo.; three brothers, John Rule, Herington, William Rule, Wichita, and Homer Rule, Lawrence; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren." Thursday, July 2, 1992 ljworld

