

*Mission Statement*

*“The Brown Grand Theatre is a community-based historical Theatre dedicated to enhancing cultural life in North Central Kansas.”*

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The Brown Grand Gazette is a publication of The Brown Grand Theatre, Concordia, Kansas, for distribution to a private mailing list.

Editor:  
 Wonda Phillips  
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*Editor reserves the right to edit information for content and fit.*

## Tomlinson Memorial Provides A Grand Day For Kids

Each year, the Brown Grand Theatre presents “A Grand Day,” a free children’s performance made possible through the generosity of the A.J. “Tommy” Tomlinson family. Tomlinson was a life-long educator and principal at Jamestown. To honor his memory, his wife, Kay, of Concordia and his children, Kent and Carol, created the fund in 1999 to enable area children to see an event at the Brown Grand free of charge.

From the days before the Brown Grand’s restoration, Kay Tomlinson was a loyal supporter of the historic theatre. “When Tommy passed away, Kay wanted to create a fitting tribute combining her love for the Brown Grand and her husband’s life-long devotion to children,” says board member Sue Sutton. “A Grand Day was the result of those dear folks’ devotion to Concordia, the Brown Grand, and our next generation of live theatre attendees.”

The Brown Grand has a long history of supporting children’s programming. During the very first performance at the theatre on September 17, 1907, Earl Van Dorn Brown, Napoleon and Katherine’s son, allowed children into the upper balcony at no charge. During the four years that Earl managed the Brown Grand, there was a free Christmas program held for area children. Attendees were given a small American flag to wave as they entered. They sang “America, the Beautiful” and then a large Christmas tree was revealed on stage. Each child in the audience received a present as they left the theatre. Although Earl and his wife, Gertrude, never had any children, their love for children was well known. In the spirit of sponsorships like the Tomlinsons, a free children’s event has been re-established at the Brown Grand.

Previous Grand Day events include performances by the Wichita Children’s Theatre, the Magic and Illusion of Eric Vaughn, Flying Debris (a juggler), The Girl Who Wanted to Be a Horse (original play by Susan Sutton), Dummy Day featuring puppets and ventriloquism, Bat Day (learning about those creatures), Around the World and Back Again, about diversity, and the First Grand Day featuring hands-on involvement in the arts.



Kay Tomlinson, far left, enjoys the 1999 Grand Day For Kids

**We've lost our cool--literally!!**

**After 80 summers of keeping the patrons of the Brown Grand Theatre cool and comfortable, our antiquated air conditioning system has given up the ghost. Because the Brown Grand is owned by the City of Concordia, the City Commission will fund one-half of the \$50,000++ replacement cost. We are two-thirds of the way toward our goal of raising \$30,000 by 2010! We just need a few more donations before work can begin.**

•

**YES!** I want to be a Brown Grand Fan!  
Here's my donation toward replacing the Air Conditioner!

Return this form with your payment selection to:

**Brown Grand Theatre  
310 West Sixth Street, PO Box 347  
Concordia, Kansas 66901-0347**

\_\_\_\_\_ My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ This is a memorial for:

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS!**

**(receive updates by email--browngrand@nckcn.com--request event email list)**

- |        |   |        |   |
|--------|---|--------|---|
| Jan 16 | 7:00 p.m. Teens for Christ  | Apr 10 | 7:00 p.m. Robert Robinson-Vocalist<br>Community Concert Members only      |
| Jan 31 | 2:00 p.m. *Youth for Music  | Apr 11 | 2:00 p.m. NCK Dance Recital   |
| Feb 12 | 7:00 p.m. *"Who Murdered My Sweetheart?"<br>A Valentines Day WhoDunit of Love and<br>Murder | Apr 17 | 7:00 p.m. Teens for Christ  |
| Feb 20 | 7:00 p.m. Teens for Christ  | Apr 18 | 2:00 p.m. *Stranger Creek Band<br>with guest artists                      |
| Feb 25 | 7:30 p.m. *Mont Alto Silent Film Orchestra  | Apr 25 | 2:00 p.m. *Spring Recital-Jolie Kasper<br>The Dance Company               |
| Mar 20 | 7:00 p.m. Teens for Christ  | Apr 28 | 2:00 & 7:00 p.m. *The Church Basement<br>Ladies, Troupe America           |
| Mar 21 | 2:00 p.m. Tropical Shores-Steel Drum Band<br>Community Concert Members only                 | Apr 30 | 7:00 p.m. *NCK Jazz Band; soloists:<br>Marsha Doyenne & Patrick Sieben    |
|        |   | May 1  | 7:00 p.m. *Great Society Spring Concert<br>Cloud County Community College |
|        |   | May 4  | 7:00 p.m. Riders in the Sky<br>Community Concert Members only             |

\*Admission charged. *Schedule is subject to change.*  
Please call the theatre at **(785) 243-2553** for ticket information and  
to confirm time and dates.  
Email: browngrand@nckcn.com



## Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra Returns

**The Mont Alto Orchestra** is a chamber ensemble that recreates the small local orchestras that were popular in America from 1890 through 1930. These orchestras provided music for dancing, for listening, and for accompanying movies in the days before talkies. The “Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra” accompanies silent films with tight ensemble playing and appropriate music selection to bring the films to life. The large sound of Mont Alto belies its small, portable size. The Motion Picture Orchestra is a quintet of piano, violin, cello, clarinet, and cornet. The members of Mont Alto are all accomplished professional musicians. Mont Alto collects original compositions and orchestrations from the turn of the century through 1930 for its tea dance series, silent film presentations, and concerts. They also present concert-lectures on photoplay music history and practice. Formed in Colorado in 1989, Mont Alto has toured around Colorado as well as to Kansas, New York, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, and California to perform music at venues ranging from elementary schools to Grauman’s Egyptian Theater on Hollywood Boulevard.

Mont Alto has performed film scores at venues ranging from elementary schools to the Denver International Film Festival, and has appeared as “guest artist” with the Longmont Symphony Orchestra. Mont Alto has presented film scores at the Lincoln Center in New York, the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, the Rafael Theater in San Rafael California, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Topeka Kansas Silent Film Festival, the Chautauqua Silent Film Festival in Boulder Colorado, and at the Buster Keaton Festival in Iola, Kansas. In September 2000, Mont Alto was featured at the Cinecon Convention, in the renovated Egyptian Theater in Hollywood, to present their scores to *Beau Geste* and *Johanna Enlists*. In 2002 Mont Alto presented a premiere score for *The Wonderful Lie of Nina Petrovna* at the Telluride Film Festival. Mont Alto’s repertoire includes several thousand orchestrations photocopied from the surviving collections of four silent film theater music directors.



**About the “Mont Alto” Name:** The Colorado and Northwestern, a narrow-gauge railroad that led from Boulder to the mountain communities of Ward and Eldora, was running into difficulty as the gold mines began to play out. Retooling itself as a tourist route, and calling itself “The Switzerland Trail of America,” the small railroad built a dance pavilion at Mont Alto Park in 1898. On the day it opened, the city of Boulder closed for business so that all of the citizens could picnic, gather flowers, and dance the night away. In the spirit of adapting life to suit dancing, the Mont Alto Ragtime and Tango Orchestra was named in 1990. The Mont Alto pavilion is no longer standing, but the park site is still accessible on the railway grade, and the foundations and chimney of the pavilion remain.

**On February 25, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.,** the Mont Alto Theatre Orchestra will perform at the Brown Grand Theatre during the showing of *OUR HOSPITALITY*, a 1924 feature film starring Buster Keaton and Natalie Talmadge (his wife at the time). Also appearing in the film are the Keaton’s baby son, Jimmy (playing Buster as an infant) and Joe Keaton Sr. (Buster’s father) as the engineer of an early steam train called Stephenson’s Rocket. This odd contraption was constructed for the movie and is much funnier than its real counterpart.

Another prop used for the movie (a gentleman’s hobby horse - early bicycle) was later donated to the Smithsonian after the movie was completed. The film is a period piece set in the Old South and centers around a comedic retelling of the feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys. A short subject feature will also be shown. Tickets are available at the door. This program is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



**NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS**

**KANSAS**  
ARTS COMMISSION



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Friend of the Brown Grand



*Take another look--  
 we're positively grand!*



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!**

The Brown Grand Theatre will be host two performances of the renowned play, **"The Church Basement Ladies"** on Wednesday, April 28, 2010. The national touring company Troupe America will present an afternoon matinee at 2:00 and an evening performance at 7:00. All seats are reserved. Only the main floor of the theatre is handicap accessible. Groups of 10 or more will receive a discount on ticket prices. Call for more information at 785 243 2553.

**Yes!! You can shop at the Brown Grand:**

- A Brown Grand Gift Certificate  
 (any denomination you wish)
- Brown Grand Centennial Book-only \$5
- Brown Grand T-shirt (\$15) Sweatshirt (\$20)
- Apron(\$15) Cross stitch (\$5) Coffee mug (\$6)
- Randy Lagasse Christmas  
 CD(\$15) or cassette (\$10)
- Postcards (3 for \$1) Notecards (\$9)
- All are available for immediate purchase  
 at the Brown Grand.
- Sales tax is included in all merchandise prices.

**Brown Grand Wish List:**



- Toilet tissue-the soft kind
- Facial tissue-the soft kind
  - Paper towels
- Bathroom cleaning supplies
- More audience members
- Volunteers
- Brown Grand memorabilia
- *Sponsors/Underwriters for programming*
  - Copier paper--white and colors
  - Postage stamps

## Hattan Memorial Aids the Brown Grand in Refurbishing the Mason-Hamlin Grand Piano

Dr. Hubert C. "Hugh" Hattan, 81, died on February 25, 2009. Born on November 28, 1927 to Paul and Carrie Peters Hattan of Angus, Nebraska, he grew up in Nuckolls County, Nebraska. After graduating from Nelson, NE, High School in 1944, Dr. Hattan enlisted in the Navy and served 19 months as a radio radar operator during World War II. He graduated from the University of Nebraska dental school in May 1952, then moved to Concordia to practice with Dr. J. C. Whitney. He retired in 1996 after practicing dentistry for 44 years.

Dr. Hattan married Margaret Mazour on June 7, 1949 in Deweese, NE. Margaret, their five children, eight grandchildren, and one great grandchild survive. They are Susan (Steve) Kittrell of Washington, DC; Linda (Ron) Logan, Olathe; Dr. Greg (Janice) Hattan of Concordia; Richard (Patti) Hattan, Scottsdale, AZ; Dr. Mike (Carla) Hattan of Hays.

Dr. Hattan was active in many professional and civic organizations. The Academy of General Dentistry honored his service by naming its annual outstanding service award the Hugh Hattan Award. He was also a member of the Northwest/Golden Belt District Dental Society, Kansas Dental Association, and the American Dental Association, holding offices in several of these associations.

In the community, Dr. Hattan was active in scouting, the Jaycees, and Kiwanis Club. He also was a member of the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, and Loyal Order of the Moose. He served eight years on the USD 333 school board where he was president, and also served on the Catholic school board, and church board. He was a member of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia.

The Brown Grand Board of Directors is very appreciative of the donations received in the memory of Dr. Hattan.

### Jack Roney Memorial Donors

Linda Houser  
 Marlesa Roney  
 Everett and Marlene Miller  
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 Roger and Jane Demanette  
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 Kristin Trendel  
 Jo L. Koehn  
 Jean and James Buoy  
 Jo Hardesty

Remember the Brown Grand

Theatre when planning  
 your estate!

If you are planning to make a charitable contribution, the staff and Board of Directors at the Brown Grand Theatre would be happy to assist you. Any donations received by December 31, 2009, are tax deductible this year. The Brown Grand Theatre is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Additional donors in memory of  
 Thelma Workman:

Robert Sommers

Jo L. Koehn

**A HUGE thank you to Margaret Thornton who designated the Brown Grand as the recipient of her birthday presents! And HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**RECOGNIZING  
 ADOPT-A-DAY DONORS:  
 November 22 Anniversary  
 David & Ruth Ray**

## Kay Tomlinson: Excerpted from the 30 December 2008 Eulogy by Susan Sutton

When I came to teach at Cloud County Community College, Kay and I were among a very small minority group of democrats. The recent election reminded me of a snapshot moment of Kay from 1977, when Jimmy Carter defeated Gerald Ford and became our 39th president. On the Wednesday morning after election day, I came down the hall, and Kay was already in her office. I stood in her doorway, and she looked over the top of her glasses and said, "Well, it looks like we got ourselves a Peanut Farmer." Of course, Carter is often dismissed today, but I'm sure Kay would like me to remind you that Carter created two important entities, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Education, as well as establishing a National Energy Policy. And, Carter, being a farmer and a teacher were two careers with which Kay could relate.

Kay Tomlinson was one of the first fulltime teachers employed by the brand new Cloud County Community College. Kay founded the English department and became its first chair. Those first teachers invented the college as they went. One of the first orders of business was organizing a faculty association and writing a Master Contract. A Master Contract helps protect faculty against undue administrative tyranny. Kay knew all about this potential since her husband was an administrator.

Another snapshot is of Kay and Peggy Doyen performing a skit for a hometown talent show called "Night at the Grand." Kay created this variety show as a fundraising effort for the restoration of the Brown Grand Theatre. It continued for a number of years, and Kay directed all the first shows. One year, I found a little Vaudeville skit for Peggy Doyen and Kay to do, but a problem arose when neither could remember her lines. For the performance, the two of them came up with the idea of hiding cues written on recipe cards pinned inside their hats – which they held in their hand and rotated like a teleprompter. I don't think they fooled anyone.

In the fall of 1995, Everett Miller and I received a grant to create an original project on inter-generational music wellness. We called our project, "I Can't Live Without Music," and Kay was one of those who agreed to contribute music memories from her childhood growing up in rural Oklahoma. Kay told of listening to her father's African American workers singing in the evening, stamping their feet and dancing on the porches and in the rooms of their tiny homes. Of course, Kay was drawn into participating in these impromptu entertainments and she said her own cross-cultural musical tastes were forged in those early days on her father's farm.

Another snapshot I love is the one in which Kay is surrounded by children participating in "A Grand Day," a one day theatre workshop held each year at the Brown Grand Theatre, as a tribute to her beloved Tommy who devoted his life to educating children. Memorial donations in Kay's name now help perpetuate "A Grand Day," and help insure that live theatre for children in Concordia will never go out of style.

I would be less than honest with you today if I didn't admit that my first snapshot of Kay boded ill for my success in my first college English class. She appeared strict, proved exacting, and really piled on the homework. However, I soon realized that a certain trajectory of fate had given her to me at the right time in my life. Kay gave students few answers but, instead, encouraged them to search for meaning and make discoveries of their own. Find the answers in yourself. And Kay always seemed genuinely excited about student ideas and their different ways of viewing a single piece of literature. Kay discouraged conformity by allowing her students to take risks, exposing themselves in the process, but without fear of feeling foolish or being criticized. The ability for a teacher to be patient and persist uncritically was a lesson I learned from Kay that I never forgot.

So many times over the years, I have gone to Kay asking her opinion of one thing or another. What should be done about this or that? See, her opinion mattered. And if Kay didn't think something was a good idea, she would say so. Even today, and into the future, there's that question: "What Would Kay Do?" That means a lot.

Kay was proud of her profession and served as local chapter and State President of Delta Kappa Gamma. The mission of this international organization is to "promote professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education."

Kay was a mother, wife, Mimi, and Grand Mimi, but the over-arching role she played was as a teacher, and she taught us all so much, and still will.

**Happy Holidays  
from the  
Board of Directors  
of the  
Brown Grand Theatre!**

