

## **BUFFALO PRESERVE**

Garden City, Finney County, Kansas

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*\*Additional information added about the Buffalo Preserve*



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*Photograph provided by Laurie Oshel, Assistant Director at the Finney County Historical Society Library in Garden City, Kansas*

In the year 1916, the government wanted to set aside some land to preserve the country's forest areas. Two State Senators heard this, and they used their influence to turn a location close to Garden City into a game preserve. (*Historical facts reveal that President Woodrow Wilson did grant the land.*) There were five sections set aside for this purpose, but of course, there was the question of how to acquire buffalo game for the refuge area.

Mr. Raymond Stotts, who was at that time secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote to the president of Yellowstone Park, requesting buffaloes. In a few days, Mr. Stotts received a reply stating that he could have all the buffalo he wanted, but he would have to pay the freight on them from Yellowstone Park.

At the start, the Buffalo Preserve had three or four buffalo, but today (1936), you will find fourteen buffalo grazing on the refuge land.

The Buffalo Preserve is located one mile south and a quarter-mile west of Garden City. It is next to the ranch of Herman Reeves, the caretaker of the buffalo.

**Additional Information  
BUFFALO PRESERVE**

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**

*The Garden City (Kansas) News – Thursday, 19 Sep 1929*

**BABY BUFFALO CALF IS A NEW ADDITION TO THE HERD IN THE GAME PRESERVE**

Out in the state game preserve, just southeast of this city (Garden City), is a tiny buffalo calf, born on Wednesday of last week. The calf makes a total of 4 buffalo in the preserve, the other three being grown. The little buffalo is very spry, as well as somewhat shy when visitors show up. However, visitors are very few in the preserve, as it is fenced and the gates are locked. The buffalo calf is the color yellow, which is natural for baby buffalo. The hair will turn darker as it grows older.

The people of this area will have the opportunity to see a buffalo calf soon. Herman Reeves, the 'keeper of the preserve,' has consented to drive the buffalo along the east side of the pasture some Sunday afternoon in the not-far-distant future. Mr. Reeves will announce the date and time. Once the buffalo presentation happens, it will be necessary for all visitors to park their cars along the fence and stay in them, as the buffalo are more or less nervous when they see people afoot.

All the kids will want to see the baby buffalo, and they will be given a chance through the generosity of Mr. Reeves.