

The Kansas Oral History Project interviewed **Pat Hubbell**, lobbyist for the railroad industry to gain information about the industry, particularly the reason for the passage of the 4-R act which changed the way the industry was regulated and taxed.



This interview is pertinent for teachers of Kansas History or Geography for middle school children. The study guide is based on the attached transcript.

The full interview is available at <https://ksoralhistory.org/interview/interview-of-patrick-hubbell-by-mike-lennen-april-9-2025/>

Sample Compelling Questions include:

- What role did railroads play in the westward expansion of the country in the 19th Century?
- How did the bankruptcy of the Rock Island Line impact Kansas and Kansans?
- What problem did the 4-R Act try to resolve? How effective was the solution?
- Why would the bankruptcy of an Eastern railroad have an impact on the railroads in the West?

Use this STUDY GUIDE to Learn more about Railroads:

- Discuss the impact of railroads on Western settlement patterns.**
 - Railroads fundamentally changed American society as they facilitated the movement of goods and people, opening up the West. For discussion of these concepts, see [USAHistoryTimeline.com](https://www.usahistorytimeline.com)
 - Cattle companies moved to Kansas to locate along the railroads. Dodge City was established in 1872 before the railroad arrived in 1873. Land values increased 300% after the arrival of the railroad to move cattle to markets.
 - "[Railroads] served as instruments of migration and cultural exchange while ...disrupting indigenous communities and altering land use."¹



¹ USAHistoryTimeline.com

² <https://www.sutori.com/en/story/westward-expansion--K8BxRmJdsjMj5FgF3ns2Dq5g>

- II. Describe how a monopoly and a competitive business are the same? How are they different?**
- a. Give an example of a monopoly.
 - b. Give an example of how businesses compete?
- III. Can you think of opportunities for cooperation in the transportation industry?**
- a. List them here.
- IV. How have short line railroads made the industry more competitive?**
- a. See also [Ed McKechnie's interview](#) about short line railroads.
- V. What role did the courts play in resolving disputes concerning railroads?**