

# ALBUM

## JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM

Volume XVII Number 1

Winter 2004



This photo of the Gardner Grange members quilting was once featured as an *Album* History Mystery. The mystery of those photographed was solved by a reader. From top left (clockwise): Madeline Wiswell from Olathe, Unknown, Ruth EsterShorthill from Topeka, Unknown, Grace Moody. JCM Collection.

## QUILTED LEGACY: PATTERNS FROM *THE KANSAS CITY STAR*

A strong quilting heritage started simply as a feature in *The Kansas City Star* and its sister publications *The Weekly Star* and *The Star Farmer*. Over 1,000 quilt patterns were printed in a ready-to-use format from 1928-1961. These patterns were routinely published in the weekly or daily *Star* newspapers and distributed throughout Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Iowa and Colorado. In later years, they reached as far as North Carolina, Kentucky and Texas. Over time, the publication included not only patterns designed by staff, but also patterns submitted by loyal readers.

The widespread distribution of the newspaper allowed quilters in both urban and rural areas a way to communicate and share their patterns with many others throughout the region. This ordinary feature in *The Kansas City Star* newspaper was undeniably the start of an unparalleled quilting tradition.

### “CLIP AND SAVE”

“Clip and Save” was often printed beneath the title of *The Kansas City Star* patterns, and these simple words marked the beginning of a unique quilting era. Several distinctive characteristics contributed to *The Star* patterns’ popularity. Unlike other quilt patterns of the time, *The Kansas City Star* patterns were published in full, without the need to purchase the complete pattern by mail. Quilters could simply clip and save a multitude of patterns for future use. One reader saved 10 years worth of patterns from *The Weekly Star* that even “money couldn’t buy.”

Many of the early patterns were not only readily available, but also professionally designed. The high quality and design of *The Star* patterns is easily attributed to the efforts of *The Kansas City Star* staff. From the 1920s to the 1960s, Nell Snead was the woman’s and fashion editor for *The Star*. She was responsible for finding patterns from local quilters and designers. The first *Star*

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## DONORS TO THE COLLECTION

The Johnson County Museums thanks the many generous people and organizations whose donations have been added to the permanent collection since the last newsletter:

Barbara Baker  
 Kurt Clark  
 Shari Heitmeyer  
 Freelyn & Betty McGee  
 Verne McNatt  
 Lorraine Starr

Finney County Historical Society  
 Johnson County Department of  
 Human Services and Aging

## NEW ACQUISITIONS

The Johnson County Museums collects artifacts from all periods of the county's history, from early settlement through the present day. The following items are among the many recent donations to the permanent collection.

### YAY, TEAM!

Sharon (MacPherson) Heitmeyer wore this sweater when cheerleading at Hickory Grove School in 1955, the last year that the school in Mission included the 7th and 8th grades. The mustard-colored sweater sports purple decorations—a bee on the front and a megaphone and the school name on the back.



### GO AHEAD, MAKE MY DAY

In this donated photograph, the 1959 Chevrolet Biscayne was apparently an official police vehicle, as indicated by the lettering on the passenger door—"Leawood Police 641." The car was equipped with hazard lights on top and a siren on the front, and sports a 1961 Kansas statehood centennial license plate. The men in the photograph are not identified. If you recognize any of them, please give us a call.

### HOT WHEELS

This photographic postcard came to us from the Finney County Historical Society in southwest Kansas, having originally been mailed in 1912 to "Miss Maggibel Course" in "San Juan, Porto Rico." Although the identities of the men and the dog in the photo remain a mystery, the building is clearly labeled as A. G. Williams' "Garage and Auto Livery" in Spring Hill. The automobile on the left is a Model T Ford, and that on the right is an Overland.



### WHERE'S THE FIRE?

Verne McNatt joined the Shawnee Volunteer Fire Department in 1948. He retired in the spring of 2001 and recently donated a number of items reflecting his years of service. Among these are his fire marshal helmet, dating from around 1976, and a coverall patch reflecting his service on an arson task force involving personnel from Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth Counties.



## WISH LIST

The Johnson County Museum of History maintains a research file of newspaper clippings related to the history of Johnson County. In order to keep this file as complete as possible, we would like to subscribe to all local newspapers in the county. Three papers that we do not currently receive are *The De Soto Explorer*, the *Johnson County Gazette*, and the *Spring Hill New Era*. If you would be willing to donate the cost of a subscription to any of these (cost for each is approximately \$30.00) please contact Kathy Daniels, Assistant Curator, at 631-6709.

The Museum also is still seeking items related to business history in the county. These might include promotional give-aways, business histories, photographs of business events or functions, business ledgers and so on. If you have any business history items that you wish to donate to the museum's permanent collection, please call Anne Marvin, Curator of Collections, at 631-6709.

### Johnson County Museums

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## MUSEUM NOTES

### KANSAS MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION HONORS MUSEUMS

The Johnson County Museums received an Award of Excellence from the Kansas Museums Association (KMA) for its videotape project featuring The 1950s All-Electric House. The video was designed with dual purposes: to place The 1950s All-Electric House into a historical perspective for visitors and to provide an alternative way for individuals with physical disabilities to experience the house since the property is not accessible to wheelchairs. The project was funded by a grant from the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund.

The award was presented at KMA's annual meeting on October 24, 2003 in Ulysses, KS. This is the third time the Johnson County Museums has received an Award of Excellence from the Kansas Museum Association. The Museums received honors in 1989 for overall achievement in the museum field and in 1998 for the exhibit *Seeking the Good Life*. Said director Mindi Love, "We are extremely honored to be the recipient of this award. The videotape represented a great deal of original scholarship on the part of the museum staff and it is always gratifying to be acknowledged by your peers for the quality of your work."

## ENSOR FARMSITE AND MUSEUM

The Ensor Farmsite and Museum, located at 18995 W. 183<sup>rd</sup> Street, Olathe (about one mile east of 169 Highway) was recently added to the Register of Historic Kansas Places. The farmstead, situated on forty acres left from the original 120-acre farm, includes a two-story Italianate house completed around 1900, barns, a chicken house and other outbuildings built from 1875 to the 1930s. The buildings and their contents illustrate the evolution of the Ensor family farm over a period of some eighty years. However, two tall towers near the house indicate the site's truly unique history as the home of two radio pioneers. The towers, erected in the 1920s, supported antennas for the Ensors' ham radio stations.

Marshall Ensor (1899 – 1970) and his sister Loretta (1904 – 1991) lived on the farm from the time their parents purchased it in 1909. Marshall soon became interested in the new technology of radio communication, building his own crystal set in 1913. In 1917 he received a radio operator license and the call sign 9BSP. Loretta passed the amateur radio test several years later and began to operate under the call sign 9UA. While teaching Industrial Arts at Olathe High School, a career that spanned from 1918 to 1965, Marshall continued to build and operate ham radio sets. The siblings operated



The Ensor house about 1970. JCM Collection.

their radios from batteries charged by a gasoline generator, until commercial electric lines reached the farm in 1935.

In 1929, Marshall responded to the American Radio Relay League's request for volunteers to teach Morse Code to aspiring amateur radio operators. Over the next ten years Ensor, with the assistance of his sister, spent winter evenings teaching radio operations and code over 9BSP. It is estimated that several thousand students learned ham radio basics by listening to his 60-lesson course.

For his efforts, Marshall Ensor was selected in 1941 as the third recipient of the Paley Award. This national honor was given annually to one ham radio operator by William S. Paley, president of CBS Radio. Mr. Ensor and his sister traveled to New York to receive the award, bringing home a trophy designed by American artist Alexander Calder.

Loretta Ensor also received national recognition as a radio pioneer. After her brother's death in 1970, Miss Ensor continued to operate her ham station for several years. In 1974, the Young Ladies Radio League, a national organization, honored her for her fifty years as a ham radio operator.

Loretta Ensor died in 1991. The Ensor Farmsite is now owned by the Loretta Ensor Trust and is open as a museum during the summer months. ■



Marshall and Loretta Ensor and their radio set, 1941. JCM Collection.

### WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

The Johnson County Museums would like to welcome three new members to its staff. Tristan Smith joined the staff in July as the Office Manager. He joins us from the Arabia Steamboat Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, where he worked for six years. He is completing his B.A. degree in U.S. History at Park University.

Russ Czaplewski joined the staff in September as Collections Manager. Russ graduated in 1988 with a M.A. in Historical Administration and Museum Studies from the University of Kansas. His past experiences include positions with the Sturh Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, Nebraska, the Kern County Museum in Bakersfield, California, and the Dawson County Historical Museum in Lexington, Nebraska.

Georgia Deming began working part-time as a Historical Interpreter in September. She also teaches English as a Second Language classes for Johnson County Community College. She formerly worked for the Johnson County Library and has a Master's of Library Science degree from Emporia State University.

Welcome Tristan, Russ and Georgia! ■

### ANNUAL CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

Many thanks to the following corporations and foundations who have contributed to the success of the Museums through the Annual Campaign.

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## RISING STARS: THE NEXT CHAPTER BEGINS

Interest in *The Kansas City Star* patterns never faltered after the feature ended. *The Star's* quilting community kept the legacy alive by indexing and reprinting the patterns kept in various private collections.

In 1990, The Central Oklahoma Quilters Guild created an index, acknowledging *The Kansas City Star* patterns as the “premium patterns to collect” worldwide. Over the years, *The Star* received many inquiries for these classic patterns and as a result, published several books of redrafted patterns starting with *Star Quilts* (1999) and *Star Quilts II* (2000). Working with several talented local designers, *The Star* began to publish books that contained not only the redrafted patterns, but also new designs. In 2001, *The Star* resumed publishing quilt patterns in *The Star Magazine* for the enjoyment of a whole new generation of quilt enthusiasts.

Quilt patterns in *The Star Magazine* are published monthly in a themed series format. Each of the twelve patterns in the series is designed around a central theme so they may be pieced together to make a complete quilt. These quilt projects are republished by *The Star* in a book at the end of the year. The quilt feature continues in the spirit of the classic *Star* patterns with the full pattern published in a ready-to-use arrangement.

These patterns are often accompanied by a related article, tying the inspiration for the pattern to a personal story or historical event. This year the series titled *Women of Grace and Charm*, designed by Barb Adams and Alma Allen, features patterns honoring women's efforts during World War II. *Cleared for Takeoff*, *Breaking the Code* and *Until War's End* are among several patterns designed to pay tribute to women who served and supported their country and families during wartime.

Deeply intertwined with the artistry and beauty of the new designs are the meaningful connections with various communities and historical events. These new designs published by *The Star* will undoubtedly add to the enduring tradition of *The Kansas City Star* quilts for future generations.

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designer was Ruby Short McKim, an art needlework editor for *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine. She drew the patterns for three years before starting her own mail-order sewing materials business in her hometown of Independence, MO. A graphic designer by the name of Eveline Foland continued the high design standards adding an Art Deco influence. When Eveline Foland mysteriously left, *The Star's* fashion illustrator Edna Marie Dunn became the pattern editor for *The Star*. She had a discerning eye for publishing the most timeless designs from the scores of patterns submitted to the newspaper.



The first *Kansas City Star* quilt pattern designer, Ruby Short McKim, circa 1928. Photo courtesy *Kansas City Star Books*.

The large number of both designed and submitted patterns included projects for quilters of all ages and skill levels. *Puss in the Corner* (1933), a variation of the basic nine-patch design, was pulled from the files and republished in response to a written request for a pattern that a little girl on vacation might piece together. The creator of the pattern *Arkansas Cross Roads* (1941) described her pattern as “easily adaptable to the limited skills of beginners in needlework.” On the other hand, *The Star* staff noted that *Swallows in the Window* (1930) “...works up into the daintiest of quilt blocks imaginable, but the unskilled, impatient worker must leave it alone for it is not an easy pattern to piece.” Another pattern titled *Baby Bunting* (1931) was designed specifically to give the experienced quilter a new thrill. The accompanying caption stated, “The quilter who makes this quilt and keeps it accurate commands our real respect.”

In addition to traditional piecework patterns, *The Star* published special patterns involving embroidery and appliqué designs. The *Posy Quilt* (1929) was a unique design described as a “delicate” combination of appliqué and patchwork. *The Kansas City Star* also published four “series” of quilt projects, each with a set of designs to be embroidered or appliquéd and sewn together to make a complete quilt. The first, *Santa's Parade Quilt*, featured twelve patterns that were published one per day from Tuesday, December 10 to Sunday, December 22, 1929. Inspired by floats commonly seen in the annual Kansas City Christmas parade, each pattern was to be embroidered using an outline stitch. The designs featured a nursery rhyme theme and, of course, Santa himself. The next series, *Memory Bouquet Quilt*, ran in November 1930. It featured 20 appliqué blocks, each highlighting a flower, as well as a border design for quilting. In 1932, the series *Horn of Plenty Quilt* featuring 18 appliqué fruit patterns and the final series titled *Happy Childhood Quilt* featuring 13 designs of toys and childhood themes were both published. Although the patterns were specifically intended for use together to make a complete quilt, readers were encouraged to use the indi-



*Santa's Parade of Nursery Rhymes* quilt by Jeanne Poore. This quilt features redwork embroidery and a nine-patch corner set. Photo courtesy *Kansas City Star Books*.

vidual patterns for decorating pillows, lampshades, curtains and even wastebaskets.

## “CASTING BREAD UPON THE WATERS”

Patterns often suggested color schemes and block arrangement, but *The Kansas City Star* staff also encouraged creativity. *Bouquet in a Fan* (1933) and many other *Kansas City Star* designs were described as producing quilts that could be as “artistic as the maker.” The paper served not only as a source of inspiration to many quilters, but also as a creative outlet for new designs. The pattern *Signal Lights* (1942) was submitted by an Ottumwa, Iowa quilt maker described as so “enthused” by quilting, she had designed her own quilt patterns to share.

Color schemes and motifs from published patterns were often modified to create new designs. Some of the designs submitted to the paper were inspired by the creative use of scraps left over from making other quilts from *Star* patterns. *Cog Wheels* (1935) was a pattern specifically designed to use up scraps from *Squirrel in a Cage* (1935). A Kansas City area architect was inspired by the interesting scraps and unique colors left over from working with the pattern *French Bouquet* (1931). She submitted her own pattern titled *Boutonniere* later that year remarking, “It seems a shame not to pass this on, if you cared to use it, as it makes such a lacy, pretty design...” While practical in nature, patterns designed to use up scraps could still vary greatly in design and difficulty. The *Old Spanish Tile* pattern, published in 1933, “...will use up many an odd scrap for the quiltmaker. It is difficult and should be undertaken only by the experienced woman who understands the value of different designs.”

## REMEMBERING THE TIMES...

Patterns submitted to *The Star* not only included new designs, but also those patterns that have been around for generations. The *Winding Blade* (1941) pattern was taken from an heirloom quilt made by the submitter's grandmother in 1858. *The Star* published patterns found in heirloom quilts to revive and document them for the “pleasure and inspiration” of new quilters to come.

By publishing older patterns, *The Star* provided the basic framework to standardize titles and to record their unique histories. As patterns were passed on through generations of quilters, they often acquired different names. When the same pattern was submitted under multiple titles, *The Star* staff often listed all of them and chose the most appropriate title for their heading based on their research. In 1929, one pattern was submitted from three separate sources with three different names: *Springtime Blossoms*, *The Petal Quilt*, and *Wheel of Fortune*. *The Star* published this pattern and titled it *Springtime Blossoms*. Sometimes, the staff was actually able to tie pattern titles to historical events.

A pattern by the name of *Clay's Choice* was one such case. Published in 1930, the pattern was tracked as far back as the early 1800s. The staff writer noted:

*Clay's Choice* is a very lovely block in its own right, but when it is traced back to the bitter Calhoun or Clay days one finds it as *Harry's Star* or *Clay's Choice* in the soft brown tone prints of pre-war days. Then it becomes *Henry of the West*

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as the tide of empire surges westward and another generation forgets Clay entirely and calls it Star of the West.

*The Weekly Star*- July 30, 1930

The *Album* pattern was described as an ‘old-timer’ when published by *The Star* in 1928. This particular article traced the history of the *Album* quilt as a present for brides-to-be. Family and friends would each piece a quilt block and embroider their name on it. They would later come together to quilt the autographed blocks for a lovingly-made gift. Throughout the years, many different *Friendship* or *Album* quilt designs were published. *Beggar Block* (1929) and *Friendship Quilt* (1930) incorporated scraps of fabric from favorite dresses and shirts of friends and family, using these “badges of friendship” to commemorate and remember close ties.

## HISTORY IN THE MAKING...

Quilts made from *The Star* patterns also serve as unusual and distinctive historical records. Many *Kansas City Star* patterns commemorate specific historical events of the time. The *Kansas Dust Storm* was printed in 1935 with the title *A Quilt that Marks History in Kansas*. During the 1920s and 1930s when aviation was such a major influence, related patterns emerged including *Aircraft* (1929), *Air-Ship Propeller* (1933) and *Airplane* (1934). The early years of quilt pattern publishing fell during the Great Depression and included such titles as *Economy* (1933) and *Thrifty* (1939). The war years inspired quilts titled *Red Cross* (1939), *Victory Quilt* (1942) and *Salute to Loyalty* (1943) as well as *Soldier Boy* and *Roads to Berlin* (1944). Two soldiers in army training camp submitted the *Army Star* pattern in 1943.

Other designs highlighted local events. *Ararat* (1931) commemorated an elephant that lived in the Swope Park Zoo in Kansas City. The ladies aid group of the Sedalia, Missouri Congregational church later used this design to make a G.O.P



**Thrifty Quilt of Smiths Antiques, Laclede, MO. Photo courtesy Kansas City Star Books.**

elephant. To complete their quilt for display during political conventions and the presidential campaign of 1932, they requested the design of a donkey for a “running mate.” Published a mere three weeks later, the design *Giddap* (1931) was described by *The Star* as a “very democratic donkey.” On a more serious note, the pattern known traditionally as *Hickory Leaf* was given the title *Order No. 11*, to commemorate an episode in the Missouri-Kansas border wars of the 1850s and 1860s. To prevent Missouri “guerillas” from hiding among the citizens, *Order No. 11* required non-combatants in the Missouri border counties to be removed and all their property seized. As a child, the submitter of this pattern saw her mother’s new quilt snatched by “marauders.” She later reproduced this quilt from



**Friendship Block made by Edie McGinnis. Photo courtesy Kansas City Star Books.**

memory and renamed the quilt pattern *Order No. 11* after this chapter of local history.

## THE LEGACY

In May of 1961, *The Kansas City Star* printed *Fan of Many Colors*, the final pattern in the long publishing run that started in 1928. The long-lasting feature was discontinued due to declining interest in quilting. Although the patterns were no longer published, the paper trail left by over 30 years of quilt columns created a lasting legacy of newspaper clippings and beautiful quilts. Today, these patterns are referred to as *The Kansas City Star* patterns. Over time, this *Kansas City Star* feature evolved into an unprecedented forum for inspiration and innovative new designs, building a sense of community within the readership, both urban and rural. Quilts made from these patterns embody personal stories, historical events, community ties and creativity, all stitched together to form masterpieces viewed as both functional and artistic. The classic *Kansas City Star* patterns, preserved throughout time in numerous newspaper collections as well as treasured quilts, were undeniably the start of an enduring quilting tradition that continues to thrive today. ■

*Author’s Note: You are invited! View the new quilt exhibit titled Quilted Legacy: Patterns from the Kansas City Star opening on January 24, 2003 at the Johnson County Museum of History. This unique quilt exhibit will highlight the artistry of the classic Kansas City Star patterns with a special emphasis on the most recent work of quilters in our area. The exhibit will showcase historic and contemporary quilts focusing on how the original patterns, given a unique and contemporary flair, are still used today.*

Answers for pg. 6  
 1. Iris  
 2. Double Rose  
 3. Zinnia  
 4. Black-Eyed Susan

## TO LEARN MORE...

Visit [www.pickledish.com](http://www.pickledish.com) for more information on *The Kansas City Star* quilts.

Adams, Barb and Alma Allen. *Women of Grace & Charm: A Quilting Tribute to the Women who Served in WWII*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2003.

Adams, Barb and Alma Allen. *Celebration of American Life: Appliqué Patterns Honoring a Nation and Its People*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2002.

Brackman, Barbara. *Prairie Flower: A Year on the Plains*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2001.

Groves, Harold and Dorothy Mae, eds. *The Kansas City Star Classic Quilt Patterns: Motifs & Designs*. Kansas City, MO: Groves Publishing Co., 1988.

Groves, Harold and Dorothy Mae, eds. *Kansas City Star Quilt Patterns*. Kansas City, MO: Groves Publishing Co., 1988.

McGinnis, Edie. *Baskets of Treasures: Designs Inspired by Life Along the River*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2003.

McGinnis, Edie. *O’Glory: Americana Quilt Blocks from the Kansas City Star*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2002.

McGinnis, Edie. *Roads and Curves Ahead: A Trip Through Time with Classic Kansas City Star Quilt Blocks*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2002.

McGinnis, Edie. *The Sister Blocks: 17 Sisterly Sets from The Kansas City Star*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2001.

McGinnis, Edie. *Star Quilts Outside the Box: Hexagon Patterns from The Kansas City Star*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2001.

Poore, Jeanne. *Santa’s Parade of Nursery Rhymes: A Historic Redwork Quilt from The Kansas City Star*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2000.

Staff of The Kansas City Star. *One Piece at a Time: A Selection of the Legendary Kansas City Star Quilt Patterns*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 1999.

Staff of The Kansas City Star. *Star Quilts II: More of the Legendary Kansas City Star Quilt Patterns*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2000.

Staff of The Kansas City Star. *Quiltmaking Patterns*. Kansas City, MO: Kansas City Star Books, 2000.

# FUN FACTS ABOUT QUILTS IN JOHNSON COUNTY

I belong to the Cheer 'Em Up Club [part of the Morning Grange]...We did a lot of quilting and sold the quilts. Made lap robes for the nursing homes and hospitals. We did a lot of work.

*Oral History with Loretta Ensor, June 9, 1988*  
Johnson County Museums collection

The Morning Grange annual turkey supper and bazaar will be Oct. 26 with serving from 5 to 7 p.m. Craft and food items will be for sale. One quilt will be auctioned and one will be given away for a \$1 donation.

*Tri-County Newspapers*  
October 16, 1991

The summer of 1883 had been a mite dull for Olathe's female population. Mrs. John P. St. John, wife of then former Governor St. John, suggested the usual quiltings and afternoon teas be supplemented with a women's study club. "Oh for heaven's sake," was the collective cry of the town citizenry.

*The Olathe Daily News*  
March 31, 1999

...sewing quilts for babies born with the AIDS virus pulled 4-H members from across the county Friday to the extension office in Olathe. Nicole Cromer, 13, of Overland Park, organized the event after reading of similar efforts nationwide.

*The Kansas City Star*  
January 2, 1991

## PEEK INTO THE PAST...

### MEMORY BOUQUET PATTERNS

In 1930, *The Kansas City Star* published a series of 20 different quilt designs for a single quilt. Each design featured a different flower. Below are four of those quilt designs. Color them in and see if you can guess what flowers are pictured in each design.



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_

From *Star Quilts II* from Kansas City Star Books. Answers on the bottom of page 5.

### TO LEARN MORE...

**Read** stories about quilts. Here are some suggestions:

*The Patchwork Quilts* by Valerie Flournoy, New York: E.P. Dutton, 1985. Recommended for ages 9 to 13.

*The Boy and the Quilt* by Shirley Kurtz, Intercourse, Pennsylvania: Good Books, 1991. Recommended for ages 6-11.

*Patchwork Tales* by Susan L. Roth and Ruth Phang, New York: Antheneum, 1984. Recommended for ages 3-7.

**Visit** the Johnson County Museums for storytime on Thursday, March 18, 2004 and Thursday, April 15, 2004. This program for preschoolers features stories read by Kathy McLellan of the Johnson County Library. You can also make a special quilt craft to take home!

# HISTORY MYSTERY

This image records the work of a group of seamstresses sewing clothing worn at the Sunflower Ordnance Works in July of 1952. The image did not appear in the plant's newspaper, the "Sunflower Planet," but does record one of the numerous departments whose efforts behind the scenes helped keep the plant in operation. Unfortunately these workers have not been identified. If you have information about these workers, please contact us at 913-631-6709.



Thank you.

# WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A recent exhibit at the Johnson County Museum of History has led to a change of name for a local park. On November 10, 2003, the Overland Park City Council unanimously endorsed renaming Comanche Park, located at 82<sup>nd</sup> Terrace and Grant, to Sapling Grove Park. Thirteen-year-old Christopher Lamb and his mother Kathy, who live near the city park, had initiated the name change.



Sapling Grove, 2003. Johnson County Museums collection. Photography by Black & White Specialities.

The Lambs had visited the Museum of History in June and had toured *Focus on Johnson County*, an exhibit highlighting ten sites along the routes of the Santa Fe and Oregon-California Trails in the county. The exhibit, on view from June 14, 2003 to August 10, 2003, accompanied a traveling display of contemporary photographs taken along the trail route from the Kansas City area to the west coast. One of the local sites highlighted in the exhibit was Sapling Grove. Located at what is now the city park, Sapling Grove was a well-known campsite on the Santa Fe Trail beginning in the 1820s. Later, emigrants heading west on the Oregon-California Trail also rested there. Sapling Grove was, in fact, the rendezvous point for the Bidwell-Bartleson group, the first caravan of families setting out on the trail in 1841.

gathered 111 signatures from neighbors in support of changing the name of Cherokee Park to Sapling Grove Park. The idea was also endorsed by the Overland Park Historical Society, the Downtown Overland Park Partnership and the Grantioch Homes Association, which represents 450 residences near the park. During three appearances before the Citizens Advisory Council on Parks and Recreation, the Lambs presented their proposal. After some discussion, the name change won the support of both the Advisory Council and the Overland Park City Council. ■

*Editor's note: The staff of the Johnson County Museums is proud to have played a role in the official recognition of this historically significant site in Overland Park.*

Enthused by what he and his mother had learned at the museum, Christopher Lamb

# JOIN US!

We invite you to be part of the Museums' future by joining the Friends of Johnson County Museums. The Friends support exhibit development, educational programs and special events. Your membership and other contributions are tax deductible.

Your membership brings you the following annual benefits:

- Free admission to 1950s All-Electric House
- Quarterly newsletter, ALBUM
- 10% off museum store purchases
- 50% discount on programs
- Invitations to Members' Only events

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to **Friends of Johnson County Museums.**

Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card.  
 Mastercard  Visa

Acct. Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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\$100-249 **Really Good Friend**

\$250 and up **Best Friend**

I am making an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in honor/memory of \_\_\_\_\_

My company matches charitable donations. The matching form is enclosed.

Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

Return to 6305 Lackman Road, Shawnee, KS 66217.

# ENDOWMENT GIFTS

We thank those who have invested in the Museums' future with donations to the Endowment Fund in 2003. New donations this quarter are:

- Bill Anthony
- Mr. & Mrs. Ben Craig
- Calvin & Anneliese Engelmann
- Norm Ledgin in memory of John Fifield
- Mindi Love in memory of Carolyn Love
- Margie Lundy
- Martha Katz
- John Kimpel
- Rich and Fran Nelson
- Bill and Barbara Nicks
- Charlyne Rothman
- Leroy and Mary Wisner
- Ben Zarda

# WITH SINCERE THANKS!

The Johnson County Museums has been so successful over the past year due in large part to the donations of individuals and businesses to support the mission of the Museums. From January 1 – December 31, 2003, \$36,403.85 worth of goods and services were received. So many generous people came forward to fill a needed hole over the past year and we're very grateful. Thank you!!

- Black and White Specialties (Lenexa)
- Cathy Corey (Leawood)
- Cosentino's Price Chopper (Gardner)
- Golden Goose Floral (Gardner)
- Carla Hanson (Shawnee)
- Don and Gloria Inbody (Overland Park)
- Larry and Dixie Kurtz – Jani-King (Overland Park)
- McAnany Construction Company (Shawnee)
- Marks, Nelson, Vohland & Campbell, LLC (Overland Park)
- The Ritz Charles (Overland Park)
- Terracon (Lenexa)

# THE CITY OF MISSION, KANSAS: 50 YEARS OF PROGRESS

**MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

6305 Lackman Road  
Shawnee, KS 66217  
(913) 631-6709  
Fax: (913) 631-6359  
Email: [jcmuseum@jocogov.org](mailto:jcmuseum@jocogov.org)  
[www.jocomuseum.org](http://www.jocomuseum.org)  
Tues-Sat 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
**ADMISSION IS FREE**

**THE 1950s ALL-ELECTRIC HOUSE**

6305 Lackman Road  
Shawnee, KS 66217  
(913) 631-6709  
[www.jocomuseum.org](http://www.jocomuseum.org)  
Tues - Sun 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.,  
guided tours every half hour  
**ADMISSION: \$2 for adults; \$1 for children 12 and under**

**LANESFIELD SCHOOL  
HISTORIC SITE**

18745 S. Dillie Road  
Edgerton, KS 66021  
(913) 893-6645  
[www.jocomuseum.org](http://www.jocomuseum.org)  
Tues - Sun 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
**ADMISSION IS FREE**

*The City of Mission, Kansas: 50 Years of Progress*, by City of Mission, KS. Joe Vaughan Associates Publishing, 2003.

The city of Mission is rife with history from Shawnee tribe emigration and two watering holes on the famed Santa Fe Trail to the headquarters of a major motion picture theater chain. From dusty trails to modern thoroughfares, *The City of Mission, Kansas: 50 Years of Progress*, celebrates the history of the city. Those who have always wondered what happened in the places that are now their neighborhoods, streets and favorite establishments, need only sit down with this book. The book is well organized and dotted with an occasional fact and figure page to show just how much the city has grown over the years.

The City of Mission, Kansas, got its start as a place of settlement in 1859 when John Prophet, a Shawnee Indian, and his family received 1,400 acres from the United States. Washington Cross purchased 420 acres from Prophet and Cross in turn sold 160 of those acres to Louis Breyfogle. In 1926 the Breyfogle heirs subdivided their acreage into 245 building sites and named the settlement Mission Hills Acres. The settlement developed in the 1920s and 1930s. By 1938 the name was shortened to Mission. The community incorporated as a city on July 16, 1951.

The early beginnings of Mission are followed with photos of an early Johnson Drive with no streetlights

and a curbless two-lane road. The growth of the city is told through the pictures and stories of some of the prominent families of Mission and is accompanied by photographs of the homes and businesses of Mission throughout the years.

The City of Mission saved their best for the last portion of this book. Capping off the book are sections about the 2001 celebration of Mission's fiftieth birthday and Mission's longtime mayor, Sylvester Powell, Jr. Powell, known affectionately as "The Mayor" was involved in Mission's growth from 1953 until his death in 2002.

Read this book and you will discover that the Deputy City Marshall of Mission used to walk up and down Johnson Drive in his cowboy hat and guns, that early ordinances once prohibited offensive smelling vegetables as well as allowing hard labor on city streets to work out traffic fines, and that today's The Broadmoor Square development sits on the old Barkley homestead. Grab a copy of *50 Years of Progress* and realize what an important cog Mission is in the machinery of Johnson County. 📖

*Editor's note: This book is for sale at the Museum of History gift shop. Members get a 10% discount.*

6305 Lackman Road  
Shawnee, KS 66217



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