

# ALBUM

## JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM

Volume XVIII Number 1

Winter 2005



Handcuffs used by Edwin Walmer, who served as a Johnson County sheriff's deputy in the early 1900s. *JCM Collection.*

## In the Name of the Law: A History of Law Enforcement in Johnson County

Public disturbance? Home burglary? Pick up the phone, call 911, and the next thing you know, a patrolman is on the scene. Modern suburbanites expect quick response from law enforcement, and they get it. But help was not always just a phone call away. Since Johnson County's founding 150 years ago, law enforcement has changed dramatically. The sparse policing provided by part-time lawmen on foot or horseback has given way to countywide coverage by professional law enforcement officers equipped with high-tech gear, ready to respond to trouble in minutes.

### THE EARLY YEARS

Johnson County presently is home to seventeen law enforcement agencies including the county Sheriff's Office, the Johnson County Park Police (see sidebar) and fifteen municipal police departments. During the county's first century, most policing duties were covered by the county sheriff and constables in each of the county's nine townships. Much of their crime-fighting effort in the early years focused on theft, particularly horse-thievery. Constables tended to deal with the most minor

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## DONORS TO THE COLLECTION

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

Lee Pentecost  
 Mike Selves  
 Dorothy Van Booven  
 Bernie Young

We thank also the donors of items added to our interpretive collections. These "working" artifacts are put to active use in hands-on activities such as education programs and research.

Jo Ann Barnhart

### Johnson County Museum

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# FEATURED IN THE GALLERY

## A SAMPLING FROM *TO PROTECT AND SERVE*

The following items are among the many artifacts, photographs and documents to be featured in *To Protect and Serve*, the temporary exhibit at the Johnson County Museum of History. This exhibit, on view from January 29 through August 7, 2005, highlights the history of law enforcement in the county.

### TABLE TOP RADIO

This 1960s model General Electric radio was used by the dispatcher in the Shawnee Police Department well into the 1970s. It is exhibited with other dispatch equipment that dates from before the "computer era" in communications technology. Loaned by the Lenexa Police Department.



### CAMPAIGN HANDBILL

Emmet Pitt was elected three times to the office of Johnson County Sheriff. He served from 1937 to 1941 and from 1945 to 1947. Pitt began his career in law enforcement as a deputy under Sheriff Albert Flanner in the mid-1920s. JCM Collection.



### SPEED DETECTOR

In this photo taken about 1972, Mission Police Patrolman Robert Sturm uses the "Speedalyzer," manufactured by the Stephenson Radar Company, to check for speeders near Highland School. Sturm joined the department in 1966 and served as Chief from 1980 until his retirement in 2002. Loaned by Robert Sturm.

### PATROLMAN'S HAT

This uniform hat is the type worn by Johnson County Sheriff's patrolmen until 1971. Loaned by Ivan Wicke, who joined the Sheriff's Office in the 1960s, retiring in 1997.



## WISH LIST

The Museum 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.

# MUSEUM NOTES

## JOHNSON COUNTY TO CELEBRATE ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

2005 marks a significant milestone in the history of Johnson County – its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Johnson County was formally created at a meeting of the Territorial Legislature on August 25, 1855, and named for Reverend Thomas Johnson, the founder of the Shawnee Methodist Mission. A series of community events are being planned to celebrate the heritage, culture and accomplishments of the people who have called Johnson County home. To lead the effort, an 11-member Leadership Committee has been appointed by the Johnson County Board of Commissioners. The committee is anxious to involve community members in the planning process. If you are interested in contrib-

uting your talents to this momentous effort, please call Mindi Love at 913-631-6709.

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Do you enjoy working with children? Do you enjoy interacting with the public? Do you love your county history museum and want to find a way to get more involved? If so, we have just the opportunity for you. We're in need of volunteer docents to lead tours and programs related to the upcoming exhibit, *To Protect & Serve*. We are also looking for volunteer docents to lead tours of the 1950s All-Electric House. Museum staff will provide you with all the necessary training, and for either opportunity, we would like to have at least a six month commitment. If you would like to share your talents in these ways, please give us a call at 913-631-6709. ☒

## FINDING THE HISTORY WITHIN: THE GRAHAM ROGERS HOME

The Graham Rogers home, located at 6741 Mackey Road in Overland Park, KS is an example of how some of the earliest homes of our area, those built by the Shawnee Indians, can still be found today.

Graham Rogers, a member of the Shawnee Indian Tribe, first came to this area around 1828. He trained at the Shawnee Methodist Mission in Wyandotte County as a carpenter. In 1838, the mission relocated to what is now Fairway, and Rogers worked as an independent contractor on the construction of both the main brick buildings and log outbuildings. It is likely that Graham Rogers chose the site for his own home shortly after this time. For himself and his family, Rogers built a two-story structure, consisting of two log buildings with a roofed "dog trot" between them. The impressive house measured approximately 42 feet in length, with a stone chimney at each end.



The Graham Rogers home, 2004. JCM Collection.

Eventually, Coppock built a new home for himself on the property, but the old home remained, housing various tenants.

Memory of the old Rogers house faded over the years. By 1952, the building was dilapidated and in need of rehabilitation. A front section of the home was removed, revealing the two-story hand hewn log walls of the main structure. Some area residents remembered the old house's link to the Coppocks, but evidence linking it to Graham Rogers did not resurface until the 1980s when an 1859 sketch of the Rogers home was found. With the striking similarities of physical features, the house's location and its ties to the Coppock family, many became convinced that old house on Mackey Road was the original home of Graham Rogers. The structure was officially recognized as the Graham Rogers House on August 27, 1988 when it was placed on the State Register of Historic Kansas Places. ☒



The Rogers home was a landmark that caught the eye of Lewis Henry Morgan, an ethnologist studying Indian customs. In 1859, he sketched a rough drawing of Rogers' log home noting its length. Courtesy Rush Rees Library, University of Rochester.

## ANNUAL CAMPAIGN PARTNERS

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

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(\$5,000 and above)

V & H Charitable Foundation

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(\$1,000 and above)

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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## POLICING THE PARKS

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Johnson County Park Police.

This police force is similar to others in the county—their equipment and law enforcement duties are the same, and park officers go



through training at the Regional Police Academy. The Park Police are different in two major areas, however. First, other law enforcement agencies serve a fixed population, in a city or the county as a whole. The Park Police provide for the safety and protection of the fluctuating population of park users. Secondly, Park Police have college degrees in natural sciences and a major part of their job is to create and implement environmental education programs.

When the Shawnee Mission Park District (later the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District) was created in 1955, its board was empowered to employ police officers. In the early years, several part-time officers patrolled on foot or in their own cars in Antioch and Shawnee Mission Parks. In the 1970s, the department hired its first full-time officers and purchased its first patrol cars and a state-of-the-art radio system.

By the late 70s, drug and alcohol use in the parks had become a major problem. One response of the park district was to expand the police force to nine full-time officers. A second and more important response was to reorganize the force into a Park Safety and Interpretation Division, adding educational programming to the duties. This utilization of the police force has proven very successful in educating the public, particularly young people, to value the park properties and to help preserve them.

Park programs have continued to increase in popularity, attracting 40,000 participants in 2003. Over the last 20 years, youth participation in programs has increased 21%, while for that same period the juvenile offender rate in the parks is down 69%. A survey of park visitors in 2000 testified to the success of the Johnson County Park Police, as 97% of visitors stated that they felt safe or very safe in District parks.

*Our thanks to Ralph Hays, Chief Ranger, Johnson County Park and Recreation District, for information about the history of the Park Police.*

*continued from page 1*

crimes, while the sheriff looked after greater infractions of the law. In addition, the sheriff was charged with running the county jail.

By 1890, Johnson County citizens were willing to support their government by paying to replace early makeshift buildings. A fine new courthouse was completed in Olathe as well as a sturdy jail structure. The new brick jail, located half a block north of Santa Fe on Cherry Street, housed six jail



The new county jail, built in 1890. Jail cells were in the rear wing and the sheriff's living quarters in the front. The building was razed in the 1950s. JCM

cells, an office for the sheriff and living quarters for him and his family.

Both the sheriff and township constables were elected officials and had countywide jurisdiction, but town governments often hired part-time marshals to act as night watchmen and enforce town ordinances. Some marshals also performed secondary duties related to the public welfare. Gardner's marshal lit the town's gaslights each evening and the marshal in Spring Hill graded the town's dirt streets with a horse-drawn scraper.

## CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, law enforcement in the county remained fairly routine, occasionally punctuated by a particularly spectacular robbery or attempted

jailbreak. By far the most dramatic event to befall the Sheriff's Office happened in the fall of 1916, when a mob overpowered Sheriff E.G. Carroll one dark night, removing a prisoner from the county jail and lynching him in the countryside near Olathe. The prisoner, Bert Dudley, had been convicted

of brutally murdering a well-liked couple on their farm near Stilwell. Dudley was awaiting transfer to the state penitentiary where he was to serve a life term, there being no death penalty in Kansas at the time. Some citizens apparently felt that the punishment did not fit the crime and carried out their own version of justice. No one was ever arrested for the deed.

By the 1920s, bank robberies had become all too frequent a crime in Johnson County, as well as

across the nation. Existing law enforcement was spread thin. Citizens sometimes tried to provide their own protection, although not to the same degree as in the Dudley case. In 1928, the Spring Hill Banking Company was robbed in broad daylight twice within four months. Residents organized to defend their town, forming an impromptu posse to chase such brazen criminals. The "Minute Men" welcomed any citizen who could get dressed and out the door in one minute flat.

Another major challenge for law enforcement was Prohibition, the law that made the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages illegal. This law was in effect nationally from 1920 to 1933, but the state of Kansas continued to outlaw liquor until 1948. The Johnson County sheriff conducted many a raid on those who made and sold alcohol. Targets included "joints" like the Brown Derby lunch room in Olathe, which was destroyed by the sheriff in 1935 for selling beer. Another case, reported by the *Olathe Mirror* in December 1933, involved a raid at a gas station owned by a man who for many years had served as night marshal in Shawnee. The sheriff and his men seized 70 gallons of wine,

three gallons of whiskey and eleven bottles of homebrew that had been hidden on the property. Apparently customers could buy more than just gas.

## POLICING THE SUBURBS

Until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, law enforcement agencies were very limited in size and coverage they could give. During the 1930s, they had patrolmen on the roads, but usually one officer covered the northern half of the county and one the southern part. For those living far from Olathe, response to a police call could be agonizingly slow or, all too often, non-existent. Ballooning populations in the northeast part of the county after World War II brought increasing pressure for government services including law enforcement.



Leawood police department, 1950. JCM Collection.

Around 1950, several new northeast suburbs incorporated as third-class cities in order to provide their citizens with local services such as fire and police departments. Soon northeast Johnson County was bristling with police forces of various sizes and levels of experience.

Most city police forces began with volunteers who drove their own cars on patrol and were reimbursed only for mileage. These officers received their training on the job, in some cases reporting to

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part-time city marshals. Some cities were wealthy enough to afford an actual police chief and, in some cases, their own cars and equipment. Local lore has it that the City of Shawnee, although able to afford only one police car in 1953, tried their best to outwit criminals with it. On the door of the car was painted "Police No. 2" in the hope that no one would suspect there was no car No. 1.

Prairie Village got a faster start on modern policing. In 1951, a three-man volunteer police force operated out of a grocery store basement in the Prairie Village Shopping Center. Within a year, the force had grown to nine, and the police department soon had one patrol car and a budget of \$6,600. By 1953, the *Prairie Scout* newspaper reported that the city law enforcement budget had grown to a staggering sum of \$15,000.

Budgets and salaries for law enforcement personnel continued to be rather low for some years. In 1957, monthly pay for an experienced police patrolman ranged from \$310.00 with the Sheriff's Office to \$475.00 with the Westwood Police Department. Police officers at that time were required to buy much of their own personal gear, including a firearm.

## AN ERA OF CHANGE

Due to a combination of factors, law enforcement in the county began to change greatly around 1970.

In 1967 a new sheriff, Fred Allenbrand, was elected. Allenbrand was able to benefit from a change in the law in 1964 that removed the two-term limit on any individual sheriff's service. He was re-elected repeatedly and remained in office until

1999. Allenbrand oversaw many modernizing trends in the Sheriff's Office, including a civil service system that removed much of the political pressure from a law enforcement career.

Other factors also began to change the face of county law enforcement. In 1968 the state of Kansas passed a law requiring all law enforcement officers in the state to receive 120 hours of professional training. Local police chiefs, including Charles Stump of Shawnee and Myron Scafe of Overland Park, banded together to provide officer

training and their efforts eventually led to a cooperative effort with Johnson County Community College to establish a regional police academy. The first class completed their 12-week training course in August, 1972. In contrast, the 2005 training course



Fred Allenbrand, mid-1960s. Courtesy Johnson County Sheriff's


at the Johnson County Regional Police Academy will be extended from 14 weeks to 15, involving 600 hours of training in everything from report writing to crisis management. A typical new law enforcement

officer in Johnson County now receives several weeks' worth of training in his or her own department before going to the academy, and 16 to 18 weeks of field training afterward.

Civil rights legislation and social change led to big changes in the make-up of policing agencies within the county. Before about 1970, very few members of minorities joined police forces, and women were not placed in active "field" positions such as patrol officers. Over the past thirty years, agencies have come to include many more minority staff members, including African-American and Hispanic officers. Two police departments—Lenexa and Olathe—are currently headed by female police chiefs.

Law enforcement agencies within Johnson County have, in general, been well-funded and have been

able to take advantage of vastly improved technology and equipment. Many patrol officers now report in via laptop computers and the sheriff's dispatch office keeps track of patrol car locations through state-of-the-art GPS (global positioning systems) technology. Various agencies support highly specialized staff such as bomb squads, K-9 units, computer-crime investigators and SWAT teams. One division of the Sheriff's Office is the Crime Lab, which

had its beginnings in the early 1970s and is one of two county crime labs in the state of Kansas. The Johnson County Crime Lab aids in investigations by processing evidence for the Sheriff's Office and police departments throughout the county. Law enforcement agencies within the county join in many cooperative efforts to share specialized expertise and equipment. 



Monthly shooting range training for Overland Park Police Officers, about 1969. The range was located to the east of 99<sup>th</sup> and Metcalf. Courtesy Jerry Wolfskill, Regional Police Academy.

## TO LEARN MORE...

Robert C. Wadman. *To Protect and Serve: a History of Police in America*. Prentice-Hall, 2004.

City and organizational websites are good sources of information about the history and present operations of law enforcement agencies. Some examples are:

<http://www.jocosherriff.org>

<http://www.ci.lenexa.ks.us/police>

<http://www.olatheks.org/Residents/Police/>

[http://www.opkansas.org/\\_Res/Police\\_&\\_Fire/Police\\_Department/](http://www.opkansas.org/_Res/Police_&_Fire/Police_Department/)

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

*To Protect and Serve: Law Enforcement in Johnson County* is made possible by the generous support of the Johnson County Heritage Trust Fund and NEXTEL, Inc. The exhibit will be on view at the Museum of History from January 29 – August 7, 2005. We invite you to visit and bring your family to what will certainly be a very fascinating look into how Johnson County has become one of the safest communities in the Kansas City area. Related programming includes a film festival and a safety fair which will feature modern-day and historic police, fire and ambulance vehicles and the rock tunes of Probable Cause, the city of Shawnee's D.A.R.E. band. Be sure to check our website, [www.jocomuseum.org](http://www.jocomuseum.org), for dates and additional information. And thank you again to our exhibit sponsors!

# FUN FACTS ABOUT JOHNSON COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Leawood, 1962:

G.B. Jarvis directs the police department, which consists of the chief and six patrolmen.

*Johnson County Herald*  
October 29, 1962

The Lenexa Police Department was a totally volunteer organization until it was officially organized over 20 years ago. Warren Moline, 26-year-veteran of the force, worked three nights per week in those days. "There was an official car at the beginning, an old Ford. It burned about as much oil as it did gas," said Moline. "The car would run from 5 p.m. until midnight, and after that time, all calls would go to the county."

*The Squire*  
July 14, 1994

Wild Bill Hickok

Before he was old enough to vote, he was elected constable of Monticello Township and the Territorial governor James W. Denver issued him a commission. It is recorded in the Executive Minutes of Kansas territory. He publicly announced that peace would rein in his bailiwick. It did, as his ability as a sharp shooter became know[n] as he spent much of his time practicing his dexterity in hitting his target. No doubt it was during this two year period in Johnson County that he honed his skills that were to become his trademark for the rest of his life.

*Kansas as Eye See It*  
by Jim French  
*Johnson County Gazette*  
July 18, 1989

At a special meeting last week, the Prairie Village City Council decided to reject a proposal to join with four other cities and form a unified police force. The council decided after investigating the plan for several weeks that it would be to the advantage of the city to proceed with its own police facilities and to expand them as the need grows. The city budget for the police department calls for an allocation of \$15,000.

*Prairie Scout*  
September 23, 1952

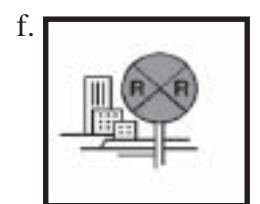
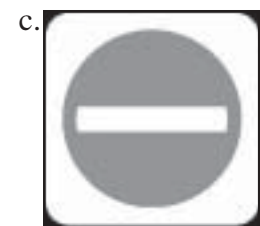
## PEEK INTO THE PAST...

### Traffic Sign Matching Game

We obey traffic laws and traffic signs for a reason: they keep us safe! It is important to know and follow traffic signs no matter how old you are. If you ride a bike, walk around your neighborhood, ride in-line skates or even ride in the car with your parents, knowing the traffic signs is very important!

How many traffic signs do you know? Match the sign with the correct name. Check the answers on page 7 to see how you did.

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Bicycle Crossing_____ |                           |
| 2. No Parking_____       | 6. Deer Crossing_____     |
| 3. No Pedestrians_____   | 7. Do Not Enter_____      |
| 4. No Right Turn_____    | 8. Railroad Crossing_____ |
| 5. School Crossing_____  | 9. Stop_____              |



## TO LEARN MORE...

Visit these websites to learn more about being safe and healthy:

**Official D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) website:** [www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com)  
Click on the KIDS tab for games and activities.

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Safety City:** [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/kids/](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/kids/)

Bike safety tips, safety quiz and more!

**Mark your calendars for the Safety Fair at the Johnson County Museum of History on Saturday, April 16, 2005 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Visitors will see emergency vehicles up close, enjoy live music and meet McGruff the Crime Dog ®. Kids can also get their photographs and fingerprints taken.

# HISTORY MYSTERY

This group may be part of the Hickory Grove School student body, about 1945. Music notes on the stage curtain are an interesting decorative feature behind the group. Only Lois Sanders, in the front row, second from the left, is identified. If you are able to provide identifications of the other students or the event, please contact us at 913-631-6709. Thank you!



## ENDOWMENT GIFTS

We thank those who have invested in the Museums' future with donations to the Endowment Fund.

- Mr. and Mrs. William Baker
- Eliot & Marcia Berkley
- Joan and Bert Berkley
- Maurica S. Campbell
- Charles A. Courtney
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- Wesley and Mabel Fry
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- Mindi Love in memory of Corinthian Nutter
- Mindi Love
- Freelyn and Betty McGee in honor of Tim and Tracy Quillin's marriage
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- Janet Vaughan in memory of Corinthian Nutter
- Joan Barkley Wells in memory of Marguerite Wells
- Joan Barkley Wells
- Donna Williams

## THE KENNETH SMITH GOLF COMPANY

Few in the area recognize the importance of a small local company in Shawnee, Kansas that gained world wide recognition: The Kenneth Smith Golf Company. This legendary company was started by an ambitious and talented local man named Kenneth Smith.

Kenneth Smith started in the world of golf in 1916, quitting his job delivering newspapers to become a caddy at Mission Hills Country Club. While still in high school, he apprenticed to the club maker at the County Club pro shop. Smith received a degree in Business Administration in 1924 from the University of Michigan. In 1928, he started his business making custom golf clubs in Kansas City. In June that year, a pro by the name of Horton Smith stopped in to the shop for a custom-fitted set of clubs. Horton Smith soon became the leading money winner on the tour and from that point on, the demand for Kenneth Smith golf clubs flourished.

In 1935, the company moved to Shawnee with seven employees. It became known for quality craftsmanship and innovative design. Kenneth Smith, with over 25 patents and innovations to his name, is credited with successfully


integrating science into the art of making golf clubs. Many of his innovations, including the perforated non-slip grip, are still widely used today. Smith also developed a personalized fitting chart that streamlined the ordering process, allowing him to conduct 85 percent of his business by mail.

Over the years Smith's clientele included not only golf pros but also celebrities, presidents and royalty from around the world. Bob Hope, Errol Flynn, Billy Graham, Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, King Leopold of Belgium and King Hassan of Morocco all used clubs from this Shawnee-based company. Despite his world-wide reputation, Smith remained a modest man, committed to quality workmanship until his death in 1977. The Kenneth Smith Golf Company continued until early 2004, when it officially closed.

Today the legacy of the Kenneth Smith Company lives on in the Smith house and factory building located on 71<sup>st</sup> Street between Quivira and Pflumm. Nestled amongst picturesque green hills, the facility looks more like a clubhouse than a manufacturing building. Smith dreamed that the property around his business would become a golf course. The land however, was recently sold to a developer. Although the



The Kenneth Smith Golf Company, 2000. JCM Collection.

Kenneth Smith home and factory have been identified as potential state and national register properties, they are scheduled for demolition at this time. 

## JOIN US!

We invite you to be part of the Museum's future by joining the Friends of the Johnson County Museum. 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 The 1950s All-Electric House**
- **Quarterly newsletter, ALBUM**
- **Membership in nationwide Time Travelers program**
- **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 the Johnson County Museum.**

Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card.  
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Acct. Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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- \$50-99 **Good Friend**
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- 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.**

Answers to Traffic Sign Matching Game:  
 1. g  
 2. e  
 3. b  
 4. a  
 5. i  
 6. h  
 7. c  
 8. f  
 9. d

**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

# PATIO DADDY-O: '50S RECIPES WITH A MODERN TWIST



*Patio Daddy-O: '50s Recipes with a Modern Twist*, by Gideon Bosker, Karen Brooks, and Leland and Crystal Payton. Chronicle Books, 1996.

It's winter and it's time to start thinking about that first backyard BBQ of 2005. Why not do it 1950s-style with tips from *Patio Daddy-O*? Inspired by 1950s-style food preparation, techniques and comestibles, the recipes in this hipsters handbook bring fifties classics into the 21st century. The authors take the backyard chef from sandwiches to side dishes and from drinks to deserts. Along the way are nostalgic photos and advertisements showing the backyard parties in their entire splendor as well fifties-era plates, trays and BBQ aprons.

The book is organized so you can pull off a four-course meal fit to serve every neighborhood taste bud. Chapters within *Patio Daddy-O* are organized by course. You have your "Backyard Classics" such as Pink's Grill Chili and She-Devil Dogs or Dagwood Redux sandwiches like Uncle Bob's Peanut Butter Sandwich with Texas Sweets for easy-going lite fare. Take it up a notch and serve Cracklin' Sugar-Charred Cowboy Steak or the Mondo Bongo BBQ Chicken from "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes." Wash down your meal with some "Splish Splash" like the Atomic Cocktail or the Butterfinger Express-O Malt. And

don't forget to "Gimme Some Sides" like Spo-Dee-O-Dee Chips or Back Shack Blueberry Corn Bread. Finish it all off with Big Daddy's Back Porch Chocolate Shake.

Don't know if you can pull off the big backyard Bar-B-Que for the neighbors? A page of grilling tips tells you the best type of charcoal and fuel to use and when to start it off. Also included is a little bit of history in the art of 1950s backyard grilling. Back then it was less an act of cooking a meal and more an act of ritualistic culinary art. Typically, the griller could be seen chanting to their grill for fire and when achieved, the griller would become a fire dancer in his apron. Each step was so painstakingly performed that the meal became a patio gastro-bash.

Try out these recipes and you will be hard-pressed not to be brought into a ritualistic dance when you taste your meal. I recommend Garden Grinders-A-Go-Go for lunch and That Smokin' Lemon Chicken or Grilled Tuna with Jamarama Pineapple Relish for dinner. Toss some Cheesy-Drippin', Garlic-Fumin' St. Louis Salad on the side, with The Best Backyard Brownies You Ever Ate for desert and then wash it all down with some Moon Glow Apricot Iced Tea. Yum. ☒

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



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