
Journal Notes

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Native Sons & Daughters of Greater Kansas City

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Native Sons & Daughters Start Year with Planes, Trains and Dead Sea Scrolls



February 24

In 1985, a couple of aviation enthusiasts were reminiscing about the “good old days” of large, propeller-driven transport aircraft. They wondered if one could be located, restored, and flown to Airshows. The dream is reality and now you can let your imagination take flight as the Native Sons & Daughters enjoy some airline history courtesy of the Airline History Museum of Kansas City.

On Saturday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. the Native Sons & Daughters of Greater Kansas City will take a tour of one of the last flying Constellation aircraft that took Trans World Airlines to the heights of the air travel industry, along with a number of other artifacts. Afterwards, lunch will be served at Chappell’s, a restaurant that’s a museum all its own.

\$18.50 per person includes the



tour and lunch. Guests are welcome. Reservations must be received by Wednesday, February 21, 2007. **JN**

April 28

The Dead Sea SCROLLS



Pieces of the Dead Sea Scrolls that will be on display at Union Station February 8 through May 13

Union Station will present the only Midwest stop for the monumental Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition, and some Native Sons and Daughters will have a chance to be a part of it.

Experience the most remarkable archeological discovery of the last century: the oldest surviving manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible, known to Christians as the Old Testament, the only known surviving Biblical documents written before AD 100.

You can explore the history and significance of the scrolls and discover

the mystery of how they were created more than 2000 years ago.

In addition to the scrolls, this exhibition will also feature a multitude of artifacts from Qumran, where the scrolls were discovered, as well as other artifacts from the region.

The Native Sons & Daughters has 25 reservations for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28th. Make your reservation now by calling 816-926-9397 if you’re interested in attending. The cost is \$16.00 per person. **JN**



Letter from the President

This is my first letter to you as President of the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas City. There are many organizations in our area devoted to the history of Kansas City. Our Native Sons is one of the oldest and has as its primary objective historic advocacy whether it be to preserve historical sites, to identify areas of social, economic or historical importance or to recognize those individuals who have fostered the greatness of our area.

In order for our organization to maintain its own individuality it is important for our members to be involved in our organization. In this issue of our newsletter we have described our committees. I strongly urge you to become involved in our organization, by serving on a Committee, by recommending landmarks that should be recognized or by suggesting new projects.

One of our newest projects is a Scholarship that the Board of Directors approved two years ago. A \$500 award will be granted to the college student that presents the best paper on an historical, social, political or economic aspect in Kansas City. Native Sons & Daughters should encourage our students to appreciate the history of the Kansas City by doing historical research.

This year we will have an open Board of Directors meeting in April so that our members can learn more about what our Board does and the commitment of our Committee chairs.

I look forward to a year full of activities and invite you to join us.

Eileen Sullivan, President

Don't forget to check www.native-sons.org for information about the Native Sons and local Kansas City area history.

HISTORY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Consider joining one or more of our Community Service Committees which are actively working throughout the community. They include:

Alexander Majors House – This committee works to promote the operations and plans of the Alexander Majors House. The Committee facilitates efforts to maintain site participation in cultural and historical agencies, develop and improve services to educate the community, and celebrate local and regional events of historic and geographic significance.

Archives – the Archives Committee works with Dave Boutros at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at UMKC to preserve and protect documents that add to the history of Greater Kansas City and to add documents to the collection.

Daniel Morgan Boone Park - Native Sons & Daughters member George Hicks labored over ten years to preserve the cemetery site of Daniel Morgan Boone, son of legendary frontiersman, Daniel Boone. The site has now been preserved as a park under the auspices of Kansas City's Parks and Recreation Department.



Several Native Sons attended the dedication of Daniel Morgan Boone Park

Corinthian Hall, Kansas City Museum – The Committee works with the directors of Corinthian Hall to provide support as needed.

Fort Osage – Fort Osage was one of the original projects of the Native Sons. 2007 represents the 150th anniversary of the founding of Fort Osage. The Committee researches the activities of the Fort and supports its ongoing projects.

Historic Markers – The Committee reviews requests for the establishment of Historic Markers and

IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND ROY C. RANCK, JR.

Over venerable past president and long time member, Roy C. Ranck, Jr. died on December 17, 2006. A memorial service was held on December 21 at the Mt. Moriah & Freeman Chapel. A private interment was later held in the Mt. Moriah Cemetery. Roy had also been a past president of the Westport Historical Society, past president of the Native Sons of Kansas City, and a member of the Military Officers Association of America local Heart of America Chapter.

Captain Roy Ranck, USAF, served in World War II as a pilot of a B-17 bomber stationed with the Eighth Bomber Air Group in England. On a raid over Germany, his aircraft was shot down off the Danish coast. The crew bailed out with the exception of two members who had been killed. They landed in an inhabited island near the Danish coastline. All crew members were captured except for Roy. He was put in hiding by the Danish underground. When the German military could not find him, a notice was posted that a Danish citizen

would be shot each day until Captain Ranck was captured. After Roy learned of this notice, he gave himself up.

Roy was a prisoner of war in Germany for 19 months. As units of the U.S. Army approached his prison camp, the German guards left and all the prisoners were able to walk out. Roy and a buddy discovered a Mercedes-Benz automobile up on blocks at a German farm. They took the car in what Roy called the "spoils of war." At an Army Quartermaster depot, they got a battery, air for the tires, and gasoline for the tank. They also got new uniforms, shoes, and food. For several

weeks they toured the area of Germany controlled by the U.S. Army. Various U.S. Army depots kept them supplied with food and gasoline. When they decided it was time to go home, they had to cross the Rhine River to get to an embarkation port where a ship could take them to the United States. Guards at a bridge refused to let them cross in the Mercedes-Benz. The car was then abandoned and they eventually arrived home.

In civilian life, Roy was an entrepreneur as the owner of Ranck Furniture. His business was first located on Prospect Avenue and later in Grandview. He and his wife, Bette, operated a successful business for years until retirement in the early 1980's.

Before retirement, Roy became active in the Westport Historical Society, Civil War Roundtable of KC, and the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City. More than any person, he was responsible for the restoration of the historic Harris-Kearney House in Old Westport. He was involved in the preservation of the Civil War Big Blue Battlefield at Byram's Ford and the still to be completed

interpretation of the Town of Kansas site on the Missouri River waterfront. In 1994, Roy was honored by the Native Sons of Greater Kansas City as the Outstanding Kansas Citian, an honor he richly deserved.

Roy C. Ranck, Jr. was a gentleman and a patriot who served his country in time of war, a man who was involved in saving local historic sites, a man of great personal integrity, and a loving and compassionate husband and father. **JN**

We gratefully thank Orvis Fitts and George Hicks for providing this story for our membership.



The many faces of Roy Ranck. Clockwise from left: Roy as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, Roy in 1983, enjoying retirement in January, 2006. Photos provided by Rita Ranck.

accepts an ongoing responsibility to insure the upkeep of the markers.

Liberty Memorial - Native Sons took the lead in raising funds to renovate the Liberty Memorial. This Committee serves as an ongoing liaison with the Liberty Memorial Association to assist in any community or fundraising activities.

Town Site Preservation – As Kansas City seeks to further develop the Missouri Riverfront; this Committee continually reviews the historical aspects of the Town Site and how it can be memorialized.

Outstanding Kansas Citian – This Committee selects the Outstanding Kansas Citian recipient.

Scholarship Committee - The Committee contacts local colleges and universities advising them of the \$500 scholarship offered by the Native Sons and Daughters, reviews the papers presented and decides on the winner of the scholarship.

Calling Committee - The committee keeps members advised as to the activities and events offered by historical organizations in our community.



2006 Outstanding Kansas Citian Jeanette Nichols, Tom Sims and Native Sons & Daughters president Eileen Sullivan

Please contact the office if you would like to join any of these committees.
JN

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