
Journal Notes

...published quarterly for the members and friends of the *Native Sons of Greater Kansas City*

Number 63



January 2006



Native Sons Find Thrills on Strawberry Hill

Join the Native Sons as they step back and relive 125 years of Kansas City, Kansas, history at the Strawberry Hill Museum.

At the corner of 4th and Ann Streets sits the former St. John the Baptist Children's Home. Built in 1887, the Queen Anne style home was originally the home of John & Margaret Scroggs.

The 1918 flu epidemic left many orphans among the Croatian community. The pastor, Martin Krmpotic, who himself had sponsored many of the original immigrating families, encouraged the parishioners to raise the funds to purchase the Scroggs' home in 1919 for an orphanage.

By 1931, the orphanage was caring for 68 children. In 1940, the orphanage

received its first license from the State Board of health and was authorized to care for 70 children.

The Orphanage operated through the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, and cared for 35 children by the 1960's.

The name was changed to St. John Children's home in 1973 and for the next 15 years the focus changed from a children's home to a long-term residential treatment facility.

The home was closed in 1988. Through it's lifetime the orphanage cared for more than 3,000 children who called it "Home".

The house, including the additions for the orphans, has many of the home's original pieces of furniture and stained glass windows.

While focusing on the Croatian culture, the Strawberry Hill Museum also hosts permanent exhibits representing other cultures in the community which include Lithuanian, Polish, Slovakian, Slovenian, Russian and The Netherlands. Traditional items are on display including colorful handmade clothing, original work of glass, wood craftsmanship and musical instruments.

Be a part of this memorable tour through one of Kansas City, Kansas', most interesting and historical sites...and stay for the povitica bread! **JN**

Native Sons of Greater Kansas City Tour of the Strawberry Hill Museum

When: Saturday,
January 28, 2006

Time: Guided tour begins at noon,
followed by ethnic pastries

Where:
Strawberry Hill Museum
720 N. 4th Street
Kansas City, KS

Cost: \$13.00 per person

Reservation Deadline:
January 18, 2006

Mail Reservations to:
Native Sons of Greater
Kansas City
P.O. Box 10046
Kansas City, Missouri
64171

**Your Check is Your Reservation.
There are no Refunds!**



The building that houses the Strawberry Hill Museum was originally built in 1887.
Photo by the Strawberry Hill Museum.



Letter from the President

During this time many of us decide to change our lives for the better by setting new year's resolutions. Perhaps we will exercise more or eat better. Usually we make many resolutions and quickly break them, sometimes within the first few days. Unfortunately, that's usually where our effort ends.

This year let's all make a new year's resolution together. This resolution is to make the most of our memberships as Native Sons. What does that mean? It means that we should take advantage of the wonderful opportunities we have as Native Sons to fully realize the history and uniqueness of our home: the Greater Kansas City area.

As you know, we will be visiting the Strawberry Hill Museum, one of Kansas City, Kansas', great historical assets. Let's put our new year's resolution into action by making sure we attend this great program and join other Native Sons in this shared historical fellowship.

But even if you can't make it, don't let this resolution slip away. 2006 will offer a number of opportunities to see our rich history come to life.

Even more satisfying is seeing our organization at work. In 2005 we finally saw the vision of the Boone-Hays Cemetery fulfilled. What will this year bring? Who can say, but if you don't become involved you will never know.

So let's all resolve this year to make the most of our memberships and truly be Native Sons of Greater Kansas City.

William C. Cross, President

HISTORY IN OUR AREA

February 3, 2006

7 p.m.

The Great War, The Great Movies: The Veterans' Experience. The National Archives and Liberty Memorial Film Series shows *The Big Parade*, a 1925 silent film about a disillusioned and disabled World War I veteran. Located at the Liberty Memorial Museum. Cost is free. Call 816-784-1918 for more information.

February 14, 2006

10 AM

African American Military History. The National Archives - Central Plains Region will broadcast live from Washington D.C. speaker Budge Weidman who will discuss African American Military History. Located at 2312 E. Bannister Rd, Kansas City, Missouri. For more information call 816-268-8072.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2005 NATIVE SON SCOUTS CLASS

The Native Sons of Greater Kansas City introduces the following as its Scouts Class of 2005:

Jon Copaken

Chairman of Copaken, White & Blitt and current Chair of the Downtown Council

Ellen Darling

Zimmer Real Estate

Carol Marinovich

Former Mayor, Kansas City, Kansas

Steve Metzler

President and CFO of Metzler Bros. Insurance

Cynthia Savage

General Manager, The Raphael

Chuck Vogt

Co-Owner and Vice President of Sales for All Star Awards & Ad Specialties



HOLIDAYS START ON GOOD NOTES AT HOLIDAY BRUNCH



Last month the Native Sons continued many holiday traditions at the Annual Holiday Brunch. Outgoing president Dan Creasy welcomed 2006 president Bill Cross (*left*) and the throngs of Native Sons present were entertained by the Johnson County Singers (*below*). As a special bonus, past president George Hicks was recognized for the successful conclusion of the Boone-Hays Cemetery project (*right*).



Photos by Joe Vaughan



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Welcome the Following New Members:

Reggie C. Giffin
Michael J. Kucenic
Ann Robertson

We look forward to your participation in upcoming Native Sons Events!

MEMORIALS

Our condolences go out to the friends and families of these Native Sons who have recently passed away:

Edward Bittner
James F. Watkins



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

Native Sons of Greater Kansas City
P.O. Box 10046
Kansas City MO 64171



Presidents Day Salute



The Arthur H. Bowen Past Presidents' Luncheon was held at the River Club on November 14, 2005. As the country celebrates Presidents Day next month, Journal Notes would like to recognize our Native Sons presidents including, from left to right: Howard K. Hendricks, Jr. (1988), Pat Hughes (1985), Ted Seligson (1989), Dr. Bill Cross current/'06), John F. Hess, Sr. (2002), Dan Creasy (2005), John A. Mura (1986), Bruce C. Pennington (2000), Steven H. Goodman (1992), Joe H. Vaughan, Jr. (1998), John A. Dillingham (2003), Arthur H. Bowen (1982), George E. Hicks (1978), William "Dick" Fickle (1999) and James H. Bernard, Jr. (2004). Not present: Charles E. Waldron (1964), A. J. Cameron (1990), Roy C. Ranck (1991), Robert A. Millard (1996), Thomas J. Skates (1997) and Ray S. James 2001.

Photo by Joe Vaughan

Officers

<i>President</i>	William C. Cross
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Eileen Sullivan
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Thomas E. Sims
<i>Secretary</i>	Dan Sturdevant
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cordell D. Meeks, Jr.
<i>Historian</i>	Norman O. Besheer

Directors

Dot Benner	Gary Hicks
Joanne M. Collins	Whitney E. Kerr
Charles A. Eddy	Bruce Pennington
James Flannagan, IV	Lee Pickering
John F. Hess, Sr.	Jud Shepherd
John F. Hess, Jr.	Ed Shutt

Community Service Committees

Alexander Majors	Dan Sturdevant
Archives	Gary Hicks
Boone Hays Cemetery	George E. Hicks
Corinthian Hall/KC Museum	Scott Wagner
Fort Osage	John F. Hess, Sr.
Historic St. Mary's	Bruce Prince-Joseph
Historic Markers	Roger K. Smith
Liberty Memorial	Bruce Pennington
Town Site Preservation	Thomas E. Sims
Truman Statue	Lori Hirons
Westport Historical Society	John F. Hess, Jr.
Wy. Co. Hist. Soc. & Museum	Joe Vaughan

Executive Secretary
Susan Hughes

Newsletter Editor
Scott Wagner