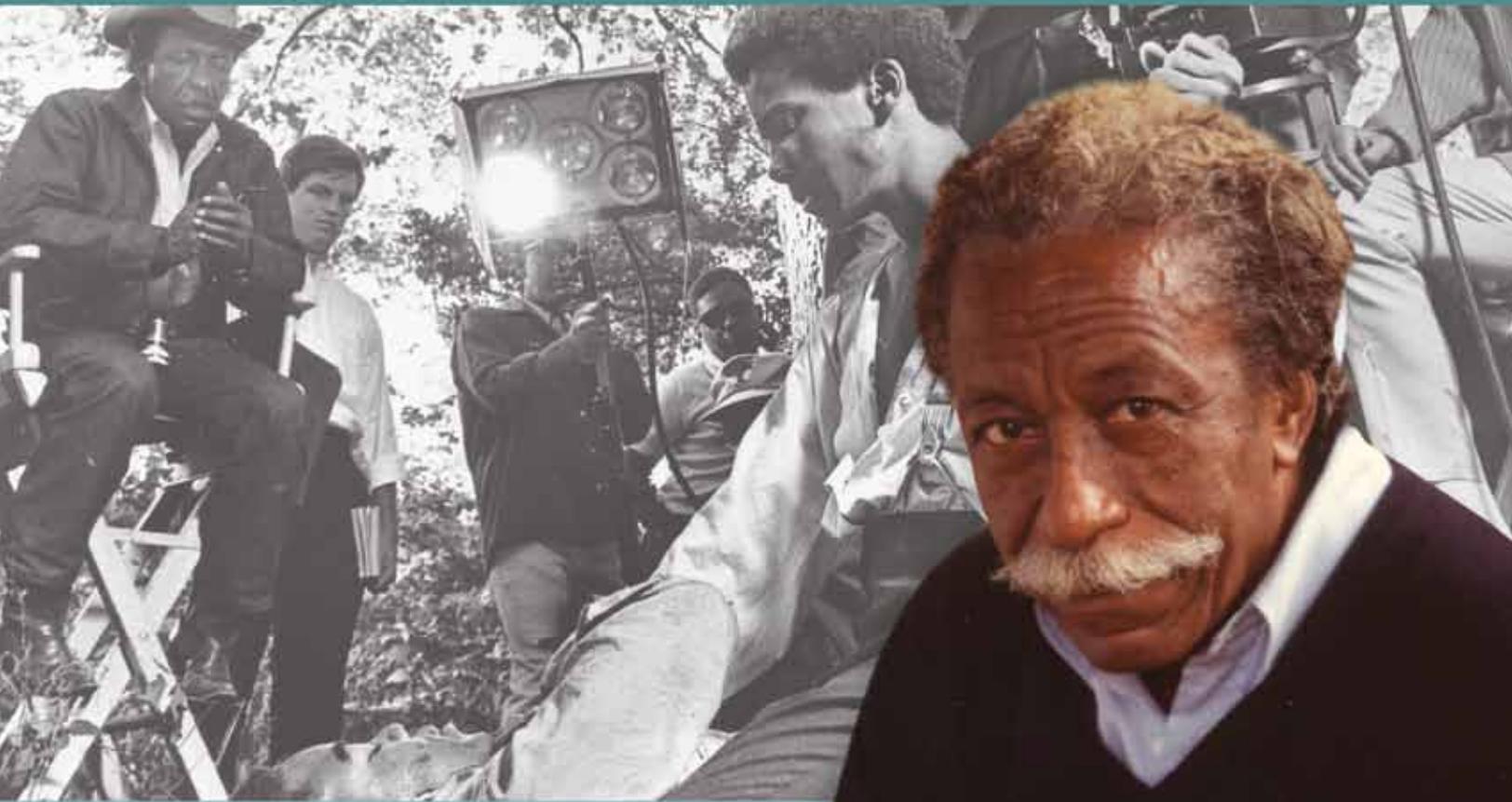


Winter 2013

Reflections

A publication of the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Historical Foundation



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Winter 2013

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

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On the cover: Photographer, director, composer Gordon Parks was selected among the 25 notable people in Kansas history. Photo by Michael Henry, courtesy of the Gordon Parks Museum, Fort Scott. See story page 8.

Reflections

The Kansas Historical Society comprises five divisions and many different programs that serve the people of Kansas. This issue highlights a program in the Education Division.

Traveling Resource Trunks

Traveling resource trunks are self-contained materials for students using hands-on learning, activities, and lesson plans focused on a specific topic in Kansas and U.S. history. Schools, youth group leaders, museums, libraries, and others can select from 12 topics and reserve trunks for a four month time period for a nominal fee.

The trunks program has been updated to reflect the most current teaching methods. "History is actually a process just as science is a process," said Lois Herr, trunks coordinator. "You 'do' science when you weigh, measure, and work with test tubes. You 'do' history when you are doing research to answer questions about the past so that you are able to interpret the past."

The newest trunks include tips for using history to teach the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy. *Uses of the Buffalo*, new in November 2012, focuses on the importance of the buffalo to American Indians living on the Great Plains. *Civil War in Kansas*, new in January 2013, gives specific attention to the war in Kansas and the western frontier.

The trunks series offers a unique and educational way to share the rich heritage of Kansas with future generations. For more information, visit kshs.org/14969.



Uses of the Buffalo is one of the 12 traveling resource trunks offered by the Historical Society.

Notable Events in Kansas History

To commemorate the Kansas 150, Governor Sam Brownback appointed a Blue Ribbon Panel on Kansas History. The panel selected 12 notable events in the state's history. This date was selected because the founding of Travel Air established an aviation legacy in Kansas that continues today.

Aviation Industry

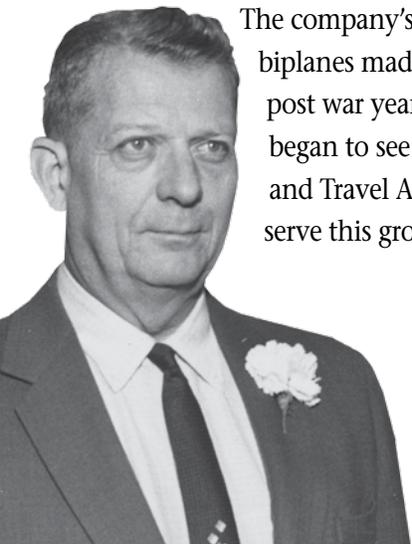
Clyde Cessna was a self-taught mechanic from Rago. While working as an automobile salesman in Oklahoma in 1910 he saw a "flying circus." Cessna was inspired by these early airplanes and he decided to apply his knowledge to building aircraft. He found work in New York and returned soon after to build his own plane of spruce and linen. After 12 attempts Cessna flew his "silver wing" monoplane in June 1911.

Walter Beech used items he found around his home to build a glider at the age of 14. Although that experiment failed, his interest in airplanes endured. He made his first solo flight 10 years later in a biplane he and a friend had rebuilt. Beech went on to serve as a pilot, flight instructor, and engineer during World War I. After the war he moved from Tennessee to Wichita to work for the Swallow Airplane Corporation.

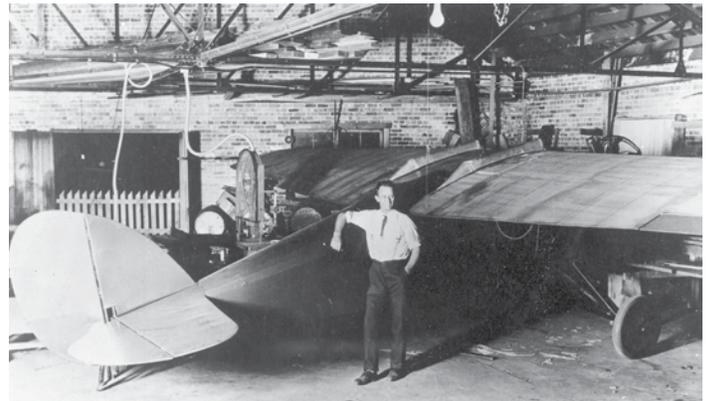
Lloyd Stearman was an engineering and architecture student at Kansas State University when World War I began. He joined the U. S. Navy, was sent to Seattle for ground school, and then trained in San Diego where he learned to fly a seaplane just as the war ended. He went to Wichita to work as an architect, but soon joined the E. M. Laird Airplane Company, which became the Swallow Airplane Corporation.

Cessna, Beech, and Stearman joined their talents to form Travel Air Manufacturing in Wichita on January 26, 1925.

The company's first planes were open cockpit biplanes made for racing and training. In the post war years, individuals and businesses began to see the need for air transportation, and Travel Air worked to develop aircraft to serve this growing market.



Lloyd Stearman.



Above, Walter Beech, pictured left, with his navigator, Brice H. Goldsborough, 1926; below, Clyde Cessna.

When the Great Depression in 1929 impacted Travel Air's sales, the partners sold the company to Curtiss-Wright Corporation, which eventually became the largest air manufacturer in the U.S. Cessna, Beech, and Stearman each went on to form other aircraft companies in Wichita. These aviation pioneers, along with many others, had created the "air capital of the world" in Kansas.

JANUARY 26, 1925

Travel Air Manufacturing Company established

The Legislative War of 1893

When the Kansas House of Representatives convened on January 10, 1893, two different parties claimed the majority and elected full sets of officers. The 58 Populists elected John M. Dunsmore as Speaker of the House, the 65 Republicans elected George L. Douglass as Speaker of the House. The Populist Governor Lorenzo D. Lewelling and the Populist controlled Kansas Senate recognized the Populist House as the official body.

For the next few weeks the two legislatures attempted to carry on their work while voters gathered in communities across Kansas to protest the dual bodies. On February 14 the Republicans requested that Ben Rich, the Populist clerk, be arrested for contempt. The Populists responded by locking the Republicans out of Representative Hall. Enraged, the Republicans used sledgehammers to break down the massive hall doors, ejecting the Populists. They hired a large force of guards to keep the Populists out. Governor Lewelling called in militia from Wichita, but most sympathized with the Republicans. The Populists reluctantly agreed to conduct their business in a separate room while awaiting a ruling by the Kansas Supreme Court. On February 25 the Supreme Court found in favor of the Republicans, 2 to 1 along party lines. The Populists returned to the legislature a few days later and the session was completed on March 13. In the election of 1894 Republicans won all state offices.



KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MISC. 8901
447
The Legislative War
Kansas - January 1893.
1892-1893 - I was teaching the Chelsea school, about ten miles northeast of El Dorado. Some time before, perhaps during the preceding summer, I had become a member of the El Dorado company of the Kansas National Guard. One day in January 1893 my El Dorado friend Rich Stinson drove up to the school house during the noon hour, and handed me an order from the company commander to report at El Dorado at once for duty. Of course I had no choice in the matter - I at once rang the school bell, and then explained the situation to the pupils, sent word to the school board, and dismissed school until further notice. I then went to the farm, hitched the pony to the cart
to El Dorado
reported to
company
trained
wailing
Liana had

Top to bottom, Populist Governor Lorenzo Dow Lewelling, elected in 1892 and served one two-year term; Floyd Bull, a member of the Kansas National Guard, wrote a reminiscence of his experience during the Legislative War; guards defend the Republican House outside the Kansas State Capitol.



Populists

Farmers experienced a series of difficult years from the late 1880s to the early 1890s. Droughts caused crop failures and many farmers faced debt and the loss of their farms to foreclosure. They wanted higher prices for their produce and fairer treatment from the government. During the 1890s a reform movement spread across the country and was particularly strong in Kansas. The People's Party, or Populists, wanted currency to be more available; a sliding scale income tax; utilities to be under government control; no foreign ownership of land; and more public control of the election process.



Officers from Batteries A and B stand guard with a Gatling gun during the Legislative War.



Members of the Populist Dunsmore House joined by women and children during the Legislative War.

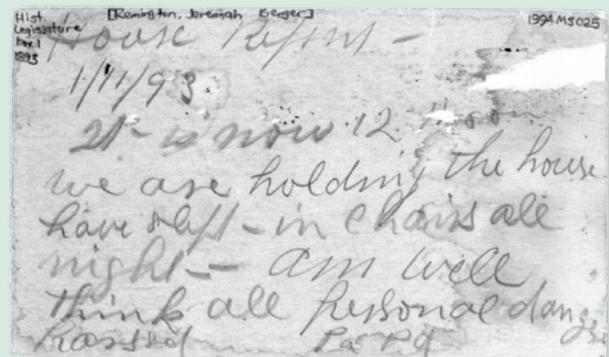
VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

The chamber doors, the club carried by a citizen, and a picture frame made from scraps of the shattered doors containing a photo of Republicans peering through the holes are all on display in the museum's main gallery. kshs.org/museum



BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Our online digital archives contains 160 items related to the Populist Party, many of which document the Legislative War of 1893. kansasmemory.org/category/843



Republican Jeremiah Remington said that his party was "holding the house, have slept in chairs all night."

The Gift of Membership



Kansas Historical Foundation board member John Mallon from Emporia sets an example in his support of the organization. He buys numerous memberships as holiday gifts each year for his company's

Kansas-based clients. "A gift like this sets us apart, and is unique," Mallon said. "The publications are excellent and I like exposing our customers to an important cultural and educational institution. We received so many

positive comments last year that we purchased gift memberships again this year."

Gift memberships to the Foundation are a great way to introduce clients, family, friends, and history buffs of all ages to the important work of the Kansas Historical Society while supporting the organization. Membership benefits are listed below. Individual memberships start at just \$40 per year and family memberships are \$50.

Share the gift of membership. For more information contact us at membership@kshs.org; 785-272-8681, ext. 221. Join or renew online at kshs.org.

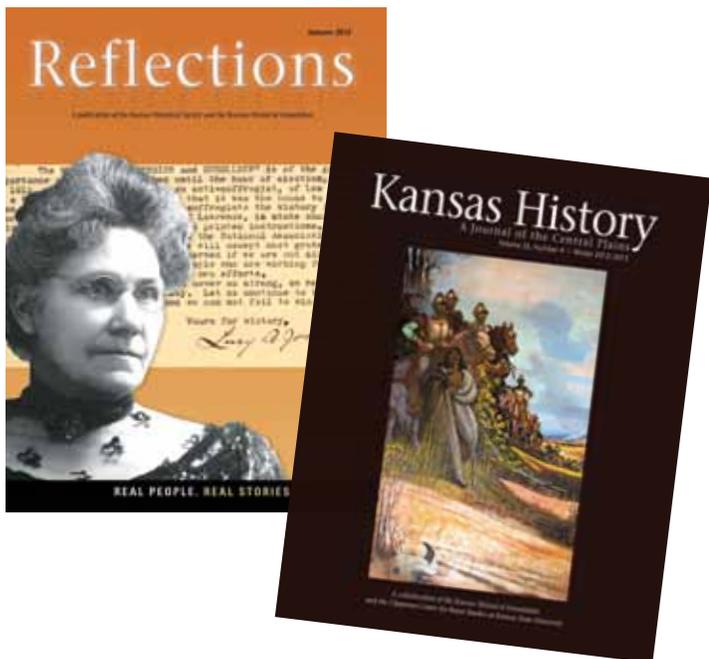
Increased Membership

Recruiting new members and retaining current ones is always an important focus for us. We are working hard to re-energize the program and increase our awareness locally, statewide, and regionally. Our goal is to increase membership significantly in the next two years. Our new software for membership and retail sales will help us in

this endeavor as will more outreach events both onsite and at community events. We need your help to encourage more individuals and groups to join in this commitment to Kansas history.

Member benefits include:

- Support of an important educational and cultural institution, the Kansas Historical Society
- Free admission to the Kansas Museum of History and 16 state-owned historic sites
- Four issues annually of the award-winning *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, and *Reflections*, featuring our collections and programs
- Discount on purchases online and at our Museum Store
- Discounts at more than 200 Time Travelers institutions



Share the gift of membership.

785-272-8681, ext. 221
membership@kshs.org

Featured Books on Kansas History

Soul of Kansas, recently published by the Kansas Historical Foundation, is a collection of essays by distinguished Kansans including Governor Sam Brownback, Senator Bob Dole, Senator Pat Roberts, General Richard Myers, and University of Kansas basketball coach Bill Self. Filled with photographs, the book features images from the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

The essays epitomize the soul of Kansans. Governor Brownback wrote, "Regardless of where you meet a Kansan, we are known for our friendliness and honesty; for our loyalty and commitment; and for our strong faith and love for our family and friends." *Soul of Kansas* sells for \$12.95.

Notable Events in Kansas History features the top 12 events from the state's past. The book sells for \$4.50.

Kid's Kansas is 44 pages, full color, and filled with photos, puzzles, games, and Kansas stories. Written for fourth grade, *Kid's Kansas* makes a great gift for any Kansas child. The activity book sells for \$8.95.

The Kansas Journey is written for seventh grade by Jennie Chinn, Kansas Historical Society executive director. Tied to Kansas social studies standards, the richly illustrated book is also popular for those with an interest in the state's history. *The Kansas Journey*, published by Gibbs-Smith Publishers, sells for \$39.95.

These books are available in Topeka at the Museum Store, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, and the Capitol Store; or online at store.kshs.org.



1863: Legislature Establishes Educational Institutions

Members of the Kansas Legislature have long been dedicated to higher education. **M**During the 1863 session they established three institutions: an agricultural college in Manhattan, a state university in Lawrence, and a state normal school in Emporia. The state legislature followed federal efforts that created the Morrill Land-Grant Acts to help states establish agricultural and mechanical arts colleges.

Bluement Central College in Manhattan, created by freestaters, offered in 1861 to donate its land and three-story building for use as a state university. The legislature approved the offer, which Governor Charles Robinson vetoed for he wanted the state university in Lawrence. After the Morrill Act became law in 1862 and the legislature adopted its provisions, Bluement trustees again offered their school for use. On February 16, 1863, Kansas State Agricultural College became the first land grant college under the Morrill Act. When classes began in September 1863, the 108 students found a traditional liberal arts curriculum plus the practical education of agricultural and mechanical arts (engineering) courses. The name was changed to Kansas State University in 1959.

After Kansas' admission to the Union, the federal government donated 72 sections of land to be sold to fund a state university. In competition for the honor, Emporia offered the state 80 acres; Lawrence offered 40 acres plus \$15,000. Former governor Charles Robinson offered 40 acres on Mount Oread in exchange for other property in town. Amos A. Lawrence, treasurer of the New England Emigrant Aid Company, donated \$10,000 in notes owed to him by another college, and the citizens of Lawrence signed notes for a total of \$5,000. The legislature passed the bill in favor of Lawrence. In September 1866 the University of Kansas, with a focus on liberal arts, opened its doors to 55 students in the North College building.

The federal government also donated 60 sections of salt lands to fund a normal school, designed to prepare

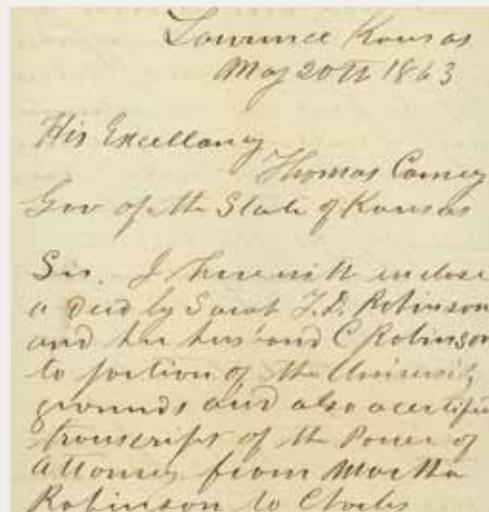
students for careers in teaching. In March 1863 the legislature voted to locate the school in Emporia providing that 20 acres of land was donated for a campus within 12 months. The land was donated, and the Kansas State Normal School was established. Although the school had land for a campus, it had no funds to construct a building.



Top, a building at the state university, Lawrence, 1867. The Kansas River and Lawrence are visible in the background. Photo is from Alexander Gardner's series Across the Continent on the Union Pacific Railway, Eastern Division; bottom, the administration building at the Kansas State Normal School, Emporia, 1890.

BROWSE | MANUSCRIPTS

The correspondence of Governor Thomas Carney includes the letter that accompanied the deed to a portion of the land Charles Robinson donated to the state university. kansasmemory.org/item/220561/page/7 and [page/8](http://kansasmemory.org/item/220561/page/8)



BROWSE | COLLECTIONS



Kansas State Normal School pennant, circa 1918.



Horse blanket worn during athletic events at Kansas State Agricultural College to promote school spirit in 1912. kansasmemory.org/item/220871



Students study agricultural implements in a farm machinery class at Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, circa 1910.

When the institution opened in February 1865, its 18 students attended classes in the upper level of a public school building. In 1977 the school became Emporia State University.

Today the nine-member Kansas Board of Regents serves as the governing board for the state's six universities. In addition it is the statewide coordinating board for the state's 32 public higher education institutions (seven public universities, 19 community colleges, and six technical colleges).

Morrill Act

The Morrill Act of 1862 permitted compliant states to set aside public land for the establishment of a college with emphasis on agriculture, mechanical arts (engineering), and military tactics. As communities were surveyed into six-mile square townships, a one-square-mile section in each township was set aside. The designated land was then sold and the revenue used to finance the college. The federal government granted every state 30,000 acres of public land for each of its congressional representatives. With one representative and two senators, Kansas qualified for 90,000 acres.

Salt Lands

Salt lands were a collection of land tracts surrounding salt springs. In the 19th century salt was a valuable commodity, utilized in preserving meat. The federal government would not sell these lands to the public for fear a few people would purchase the land and develop a monopoly on such an important natural resource. The salt lands donated as endowment for the Kansas State Normal School were located around 12 salt springs in the counties of Cloud, Lincoln, Mitchell, Republic, and Saline.

Gordon Parks

While working as a railroad porter in Minnesota in 1937, Gordon Parks saw a magazine spread of photography that sparked his interest. Parks purchased a twin lens reflex camera from a pawn shop and within a month presented his first exhibit at an Eastman Kodak store. He soon became a successful fashion and portrait photographer. His brilliance spread to writing, directing, and composing. The childhood spent in Kansas would continue to influence his work.

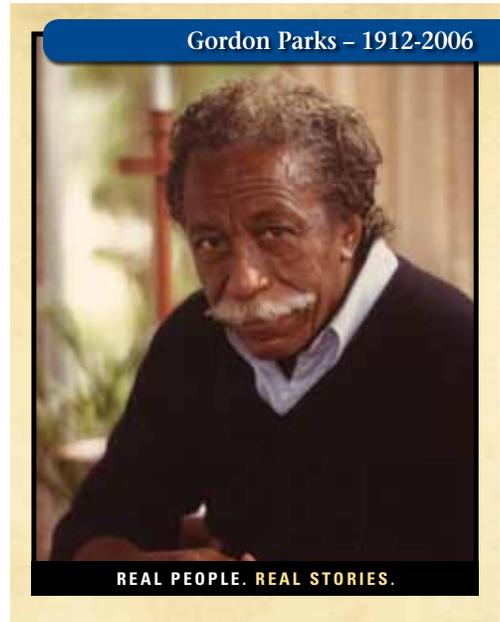
Gordon Roger Alexander Buchanan Parks was born November 30, 1912, in Fort Scott, Kansas. The youngest of 15 children, his father was a tenant farmer and his mother died when he was 15. Parks left Kansas and moved north to St. Paul, Minnesota, to live with an older sister. There Parks attended high school but was forced to quit before graduation. He supported himself through a variety of jobs, first relying on his musical abilities to play piano and sing. He composed his first song, *No Love*, in 1930, which was performed by an orchestra and played on the radio.

Parks' emergence as a photographer led to his photo essay of Chicago's South Side ghetto for which he received a fellowship from the Farm Security Administration (FSA). One of his best known photographs, *American Gothic, Washington, D.C.*, depicts Ella Watson, on the cleaning crew at FSA, standing in front of an American flag with brooms in hand.

In Harlem Parks worked as a freelance photographer for *Vogue*. He received a contract for the Standard Oil Photography Project in New Jersey. A photo essay of a Harlem gang leader earned Parks a staff position as writer and photographer with *Life*. For the next two decades he recorded images of post-war America, depicting African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1963 Parks published an autobiographical novel of his youth in Kansas, *The Learning Tree*, which he adapted to the movie screen in 1969. He continued making movies

with the highly successful *Shaft*, its sequel *Shaft's Big Score*, and *Super Cops*. His ballet, *Martin*, based on the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., premiered in 1969 and was screened on national television the following year. Parks died March 7, 2006, in New York. He is buried in the Fort Scott cemetery. He was selected as one of the top 25 Notable Kansans in 2011.



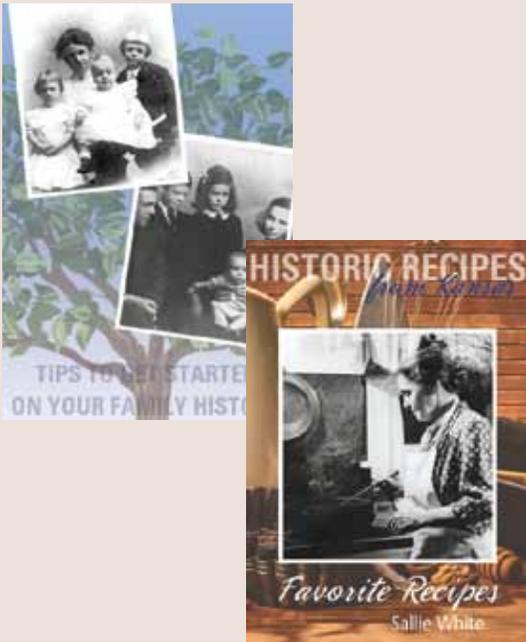
Gordon Parks, left, directs *The Learning Tree*, shot in Kansas.

Check Out Our “Recently Added” Items



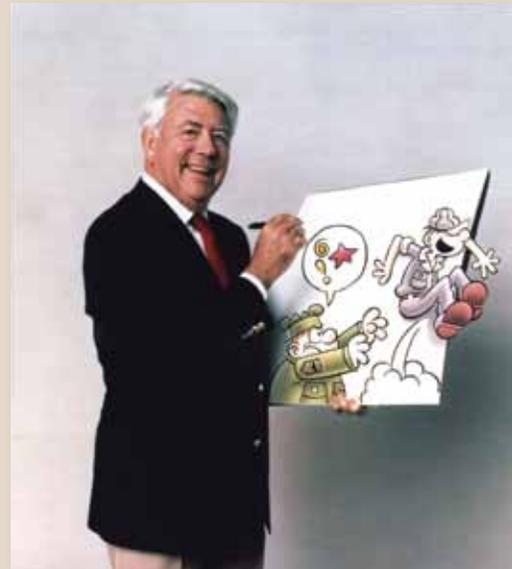
Social Media: Pinterest

Follow us on Pinterest! Boards include historic recipes, clothing from yesteryear, and Civil War items. pinterest.com/kansashistory/



Kansapedia: Addison Morton (Mort) Walker

Addison Morton (Mort) Walker is an artist and cartoonist. Born in El Dorado in 1923, Mort sold his first cartoon at age 12 and was a designer at Hallmark Cards at 19. He is the creator of the *Beetle Bailey* and *Hi and Lois* comic strips. kshs.org/kansapedia/18148



Kansas Memory: Panoramic Photographs

More than 70 panoramic photographs were recently uploaded. A variety of subjects are represented, including city blocks, military regiments, and school groups. This

image of Osborne High School students and faculty is dated April 15, 1920. kansasmemory.org/item/220618



Santa Fe Courier Nurses

In 1937 the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway (AT&SF) placed registered nurses aboard *The Scout*, a passenger train that operated between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Known as courier nurses, they assisted mothers with infants and small children, youngsters traveling alone, ill passengers, elderly travelers, and the physically disabled. The service was later added to *El Capitan*, which also traveled between Chicago and Los Angeles. The nurses made the round trip every 10 days. They were required to be on duty from 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on-call overnight.

The railroad required that all courier nurses were female and registered nurses graduated from an accredited nursing school. At least two years of work experience was required, with previous employment in hospitals, homes, camps, offices, industrial plants, or as public health and visiting nurses. The women's personal characteristics were also clearly defined. According to the February 1942 issue of *Santa Fe Magazine*, a courier nurse must have "a direct and courteous manner, a pleasing personality, good appearance, and the ability to meet and talk with people



Top, courier nurses gather around *The Scout* emblem, 1930s or 1940s; above, a courier nurse talks to passengers in the Hi-Level dome lounge on *El Capitan*, between 1960 and 1969.



A courier nurse attends to a young passenger aboard a sleeping car, between 1940 and 1949.

gracefully and easily." Other requirements included "age, between 24 and 29; unmarried; about 5 feet 6 inches tall; between 125 and 135 pounds in weight."

On-board duties included entertaining children with games and stories, preparing formula and feeding babies, administering medications, selecting meals to meet specific dietary needs, and providing assistance to anyone who had difficulty moving about the train. They were on-hand for all medical emergencies, and in January 1938 a courier nurse aboard *The Scout* delivered a baby.

Courier nurses also acted as tour guides. Before starting their nursing duties, they visited tourist attractions along the AT&SF route, including old Santa Fe, southern California, the Grand Canyon, and Carlsbad Caverns. When passengers asked about activities in the area, the nurses were well-informed promoters of the sites.

The program was halted in 1942 when most of the nurses joined the army or navy nurse corps to serve in World War II. When the popular service was resumed in 1947, the original professional qualifications were reinstated. Requirements for physical characteristics were altered slightly, and according to the March 1947 issue of *Santa Fe Magazine*, once hired, courier nurses were required to attend “a course of instruction at a Chicago charm school.”

Although the courier nurses were well-received by travelers, the program ended about the same time Santa Fe discontinued passenger train service in the early 1970s.

BROWSE | ARCHIVES

Santa Fe Magazine was published for AT&SF Railway employees from 1906 to 1983. The complete run is available in the Kansas Historical Society archives. Visiting information at kshs.org/state_archives



BROWSE | COLLECTIONS



A porter and a courier nurse assist a passenger in 1957.

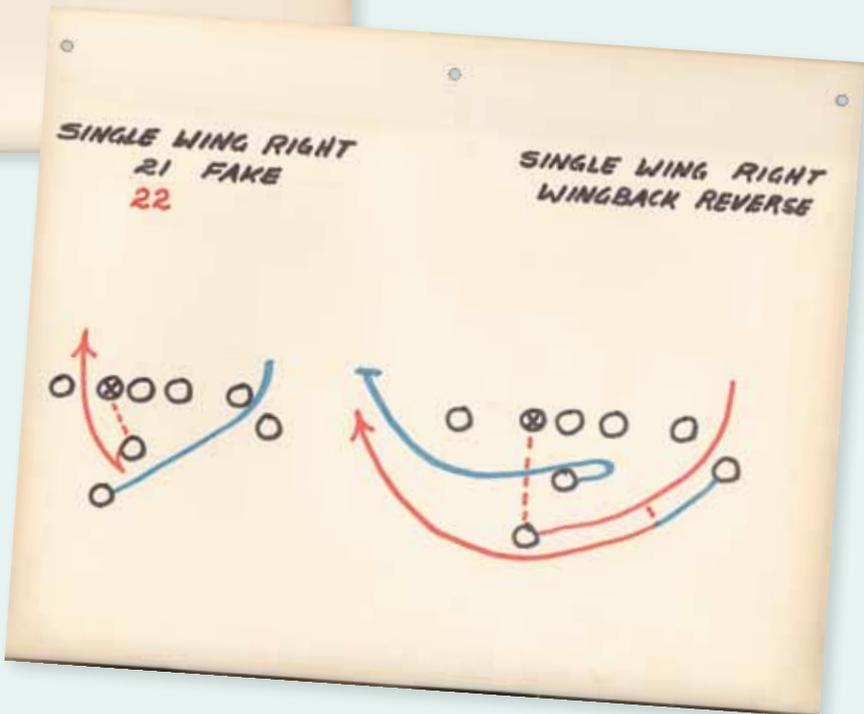
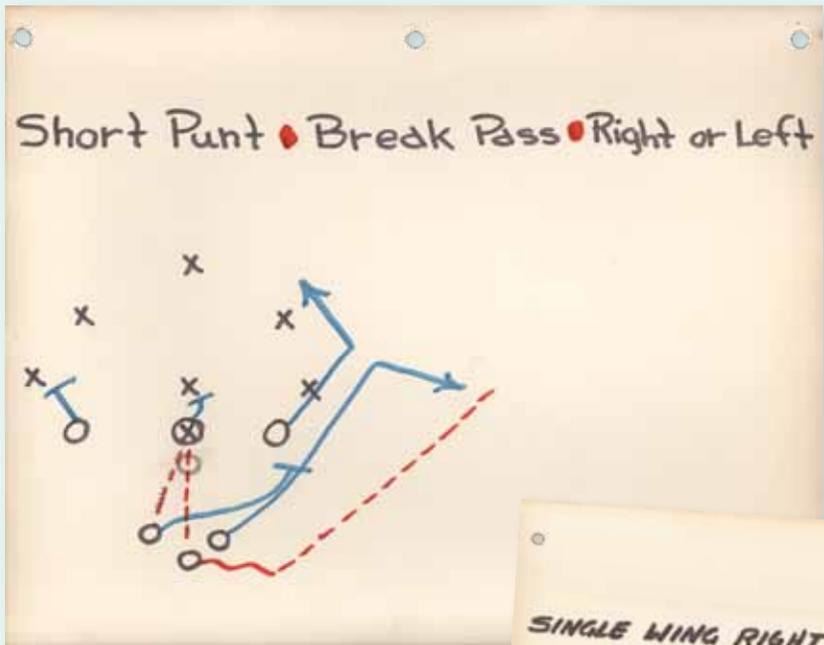


Top to bottom, conductor's hat from the 1950s or 1960s; meal ticket for the El Capitan Dining Club, 1959. kansasmemory.org



MOST POPULAR

Windom Rural High School's football play books are among the most frequently viewed images on *Kansas Memory*. The six-man play book from the late 1930s contains information and diagrams for the short punt and T formations. The late 1950s eight-man play book details the single wing and T formations. kansasmemory.org/item/210579; kansasmemory.org/item/210578



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through February 24

Hail to the Chief exhibit • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 26

Kansas Day Celebration • Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

January 26

Kansas Day Celebration • Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, Fairway

January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24

Bleeding Kansas Series (Kansas Day Celebration) • Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

January 29

Kansas Day Celebration • Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 29

Indian Homes of Kansas (Kansas Day Celebration) • Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic

February 2

A Piece of History: The Lincoln Conspirators Gallows • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

February 9

Historic Sites Board of Review meeting • Kansas Historical Society, Topeka

February 9, March 9

Second Saturdays by the Grinter Stove • Grinter Place State Historic Site, Kansas City

February 10

Investigating the Blue Earth Village Site • Kaw Mission State Historic Site, Council Grove

February 10, 17, 24

Sundays at the Site • Red Rocks State Historic Site, Emporia

March 3, April 7

Kansas Territorial Characters • Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

Winter 2013

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

Sam Brownback, Governor of Kansas

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Reflections is published quarterly by the Kansas Historical Foundation, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka KS 66615-1099. It is distributed to members and at many KSHS historic sites. Membership information is available by calling Terry Marmet, Kansas Historical Foundation, 785-272-8681, ext. 209. Individuals wishing to provide donations or bequests to the Historical Society should contact Vicky Henley, Kansas Historical Foundation, 785-272-8681, ext. 201.

*Paid for with private funds by the
Kansas Historical Foundation*

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6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099

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Kansas Memory

African American children receive music instruction at a Lawrence recreation center in the late 1930s or early 1940s. The music program was part of the Works Progress Administration. kansasmemory.org/item/209079

