



Workshops

Dr. Brinkley and American Country Music with **William S. Worley**

At both KFKB in Kansas and XERA near Del Rio, Texas, Dr. John Brinkley emphasized the use of live country music presentations. Roy Faulkner, originally of Topeka, almost made *The Strawberry Roan* into Dr. Brinkley's campaign theme song. Faulkner moved south with the Brinkleys when they established the Mexican station XERA across from Del Rio, Texas. In the late 1930s other live acts, including the now-famous Carter Family singers, joined Brinkley's radio show. This workshop will include some of these early country singers and discuss the roots of their songs in the lives they led. Because of the strength of the XERA signal, the later Brinkley programs attracted a wide audience who heard music that still enlivens country and folk music in the twenty-first century.

The Editor and His People: William Allen White and the Shaping of Public Opinion with **Frederick A. Krebs**

In his first editorial in *The Emporia Gazette*, William Allen White asked the "good [rich] people of Emporia" to share their private sentiments so that he could make them into public opinion. White believed that editors played a major role in guiding the conscience and expanding the consciousness of their readership. This workshop will examine the craft, concepts, and impact of several of White's editorials, including *What's the Matter with Kansas*, *Mary White*, and the 1923 Pulitzer Prize winning editorial *To an Anxious Friend*. The role of these editorials in shaping the values and culture of the American middle class will also be considered.

Famous Kansans and the Search for Community with **Richard Johnson & Frederick A. Krebs**

In the decades after the Civil War, America began to shift rapidly from a rural society to one that was predominately urban. Kansas, more rural than many states, perhaps felt the onslaught of this change more keenly and sought ways to adapt. The "Famous Kansans" offered different responses to a changing society. Their powerful voices set out agendas that grab attention even today. The questions they asked remain as important today as they were in their time: what is a viable community, and how can we best sustain it? This workshop will look at Carry Nation's crusade to protect small town society from the corrupting influence of alcohol; John R. Brinkley's mass marketing of the small-town, rural doctor over radio airwaves; William Allen White's attempt to convince the nation that rural values were the best and could be adopted for a national and international audience; and Langston Hughes's look at racial discrimination in small-town America versus the freedom and diversity of the urban metropolis.

The Hand that Rocks the Cradle Cradles the Rock: Radical Women in Kansas with **J. Karen Ray**

There is a long history of activist women in Kansas, and many of them, though largely forgotten, helped shape the Kansas of today – its laws, its communities, its attitudes toward education, public health, and public welfare. This workshop will discuss the activities of Carry Nation in the context of the activities of other early Kansas women pioneers. Carry Nation, in her work with women and children, in her work for female suffrage, in her understanding of the "race" question, in her understanding of the role of local government in creating viable communities, was one with many women who sought to make Kansas a better place for all – men, women, and children.

Tapping into the Creative Power of Place: On the Road with Langston Hughes with **Charles Everett Pace**

This workshop will examine the creative influence of place – including the historical role that Kansas played in the life, work and creative ideas of the Sunflower State's most renowned and celebrated writer, James Mercer Langston Hughes. The workshop will revolve around a central question: What does the life and letters of Langston Hughes tell us about how we, today, can culturally tap into the creative power of place in order to reap the greatest creative gain?

For more information for dates, times and locations of the *Famous Kansans Chautauqua* workshops, visit

www.kansashumanities.org

Medicine Lodge • June 14-17

Baldwin City • June 21-24