



KANSAS Humanities

Spring 2003

Film Festivals Spotlight Kansas Communities

Films reflect their times, explore ideas and issues, and bring people together. Several Kansas communities and organizations have developed film festivals and celebrations that spotlight other cultures, commemorate Kansans, and attract cultural tourists.

Buster Keaton Celebration

After two years of planning, Iola's first **Buster Keaton Celebration** in 1992 only lasted a half day. With support from the Kansas Humanities Council, it has now grown to a two-day event and attracts aficionados of film comedian and director Buster Keaton, who was born in Piqua in 1895, from around the world.



"From the beginning we decided to make it a symposium with speakers explaining silent films and filmmakers and to show movies as an extra added attraction," said Mary Martin, co-chair of the celebration committee and director of the Bowlus Fine Arts Center.

The key to the growth of the festival (3,650 people attended last year) is the contacts that have been developed through college film and humanities societies and the Damfinos, the international Keaton appreciation society.

"The **Buster Keaton Celebration** brings people to town every year. It fills the motels and restaurants for 20-30 miles around and gives the local merchants an economic boost because people go shopping and buy gas and other things. One of the reasons we're doing this is because it's good for the community," Martin said.

"The Keaton celebration is a unique event for Iola and for all those who attend the annual celebration. It provides a rare opportunity to expose many people to the genius of Buster Keaton and to various humanities issues. It also provides an unusual opportunity for people from the east and west coasts and from abroad to learn about this part of the country and particularly about our culturally oriented small town," said Clyde Toland, an Iola attorney who has

been associated with the celebration since it began.

Local volunteers are key to a successful event. Community cooperation is essential, Martin said. For anyone interested in developing this kind of event, Martin advises them to "be aware of your goals, where you intend to go, know who your help and your target audience will be and where they will come from, and talk to someone doing something similar."

This year's **Buster Keaton Celebration, "Buster's Vaudeville: The Philosophy and Values of Buster Keaton,"** will be September 26-27 at the Bowlus Fine Arts Center in Iola. For more information, call (620) 365-4765 or go to www.iolaks.com/keaton/.

ZaSu Pitts Film Festival

The seed for the idea for the **ZaSu Pitts Film Festival** in Parsons came when a friend told Mike

Brotherton that the silent film actress was born in Parsons. A few years later

Brotherton, an English professor at Labette Community College, envisioned a celebration in 1998 marking the 100-year anniversary of her (published) birthday. The KHC-supported festival, supported by the Labette Community College and the Parsons Arts & Humanities Council, was such a success that they decided to continue it.



"The format of the festival has changed little over the years, but its purpose has changed. At first, the festival was designed to raise awareness of Pitts' work and its 'Kansas connection.' Later with that goal accomplished, we worked to spotlight other Kansas artists and to help people understand the importance of studying film and how film can be used to reflect other aspects of culture," Brotherton said.

When asked what the keys are to sustaining and growing a film festival, Brotherton cited the need for a group of dedicated volunteers and for the support of local, regional, and state arts and humanities organizations. Most important, he said, is designing a multi-faceted program that appeals to many different interests and

making participants feel at home. He suggests starting out small, doing a great job on a small project than an 'OK' job on a big project.

"I think festivals—film and otherwise—are an important part of what Kansas has to offer. Kansas has a rich film history, and we need to promote it, just as we promote other attractions," Brotherton said.

Volunteer burnout is a concern of organizers of this kind of event. The **ZaSu Pitts Film Festival** is taking 2003 off to give volunteers a rest.

"We are hoping that we will be missed, and that people who have enjoyed the festival as participants may join our ranks as promoters/committee members," Brotherton said.

Latin American Cinema Festival of Kansas City
Sociedad Hidalgo in Kansas City has sponsored the **Latin American Cinema Festival** for 11 years, with the support of the Kansas Humanities Council.

"Since its beginning, the concept of the festival was to show quality films that would encourage the audiences to think and voice their views. This is a vehicle that allows the audience to learn through film the way people in Latin American countries live, how they are different or similar to Americans, but more importantly, it is a way to share their culture within the community, creating a bridge for understanding," said Gloria Bessenbacher, cinema festival director.

The humanities play a key role in the **Latin American Cinema Festival** as a humanities scholar leads a group discussion after each film, which often is in Spanish. The different countries and values that the films represent are ripe fodder for thought-provoking discussions.

"The **Latin American Cinema Festival** is unique because the films are selected for their humanities content and interesting plots and not necessarily because they are new releases," Bessenbacher said.

For more information, call (913) 268-5525.



Micheaux Independent Film Festival
The **Oscar Micheaux Golden Anniversary Memorial Celebration** in 2001 in Great Bend was intended to be a one-time event to mark the 50th anniversary of the filmmaker's death. Micheaux, who is buried in Great Bend where his parents moved, was the first African-American to produce a feature-length film and the first African-American

to produce a "talkie" motion picture. The overwhelming response with visitors from 16 states and two countries inspired the organizers to develop a biennial event.

This year's festival has evolved into the **Micheaux Independent Film Festival: Celebrating Artistic Independence**. Oscar Micheaux's younger brother Swan, who also was an independent filmmaker, is being honored.

Martin Keenan, co-director of the Micheaux festival, stressed the importance of finding a unique topic with a "tag line" that grabs people's attention.

"The advice I would give someone interested in starting a film festival is to have a niche. 'Race movies' is a unique niche. However, at some point, you can't just do the same festival over and over again, so that is why we expanded ours to independent films in general. Cultural tourism, especially in regard to African-American history, is very important to Kansas," Keenan said.

In addition to the festival continuing the dialogue on "race movies," the event brings cultural tourism visitors to central Kansas.

"Out-of-state visitors bring money into Kansas. A visitor from South Dakota at the 2001 festival bought a \$300 bicycle from a store in Great Bend. While that might not seem like a big deal, the store owner was delighted, and of course, Kansas got about \$15 in sales tax money. So these events make money for the state," said Keenan.

The **Micheaux Independent Film Festival** will be June 14-15 at the Crest Theater in Great Bend. For more information, call (620) 785-3595 or visit www.micheaux.homestead.com.

Tom Prasch is a professor of history at Washburn University and editor of *Kansas in the Movies*, which examines a wide variety of classic and contemporary films, popular movies, and documentaries.

Which festivals have you participated in, and what was your role?

Tom Prasch: I have participated as KHC evaluator for three festivals: the Buster Keaton festival in Iola, the ZaSu Pitts festival in Parsons, and the golden anniversary celebration of Oscar Micheaux in Great Bend. I have also, over the last several years, regularly attended portions of the Silent Film Festival in Topeka.

In your experience, how have the variety and number of film festivals in the state grown and changed?

Tom Prasch: It seems to me that the success of the Keaton festival has provided a model for other communities to emulate, both in celebrating local figures who have had success in Hollywood and in promoting small towns in Kansas. As a result, there are more such celebrations occurring on both a regular basis (as in the case of the ZaSu Pitts festival) or more occasionally (as in the case of the Micheaux celebration). As the range of subjects that are the focus of such festivals expands, so does the range of linked interests. The Micheaux celebration, for example, provided an opportunity to explore the early history of African-Americans in Kansas; ZaSu Pitts, because of her long history in film and television, opens up fresh territories for examination as well.

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Great Plains Chautauqua Comes to Wyandotte County

In 1790 less than four million Americans lived in 13 states. By 1850 the U.S. population had grown to more than 23 million living in 31 states and territories that included the entire continental United States. The political, social, and cultural effects of westward expansion are the themes of **Great Plains Chautauqua** in 2003, "From Sea to Shining Sea: American Expansion & Cultural Change, 1790-1850." Wyandotte County hosts the chautauqua from June 20-24 at Kansas City Kansas Community College, 7250 State Avenue. The event is sponsored locally by the Wyandotte County Lewis & Clark Task Force.

Every evening under the large blue and white tent, the programs will be hosted by America's First Lady Dolley Madison, who from 1800-1816 served both widower Thomas Jefferson and her husband, James, as the hostess in what would become known as the White House. Kansans will hear from five other historical figures—William Clark, the co-commander of the Corps of Discovery; Tecumseh, the great Shawnee leader; Clark's slave York, who went to the Pacific and back with Lewis and Clark; John Jacob Astor, who became the richest man in America, in part because of the lucrative fur trade in the West opened up by Lewis and Clark; and Sacagawea, the Shoshone woman who traveled with the Corps with her infant son and husband, Toussaint Charbonneau.

During Chautauqua week, museums, libraries, and a YMCA in Wyandotte County will host workshops for adults and special activities for children with some being led by the historical figures themselves. A special event will take place on June 22 at 1:30 p.m. when the Grinter Place Quilters will unveil their one-of-a-kind commemorative Lewis and Clark quilt.

"With three of the presenters for the **Great Plains Chautauqua** being Lewis- and Clark-related, we felt that it was a natural fit with Wyandotte County. The **Great**



Sea to Shining Sea Troupe

Plains Chautauqua is a great way to kick off all of the events for the commemoration of Lewis and Clark and their stay at Kaw Point in 1804. We have worked hard to make this an event that truly belongs to all of the communities that make up the unique experience of Wyandotte County," said Patricia Schurkamp, director of the Wyandotte County Museum.

For more information, visit www.kansashumanities.org or call (785) 357-0359.

Great Plains Chautauqua 2003

June 13-17	Henryetta, Oklahoma
June 20-24	Wyandotte County, Kansas
June 27-July 1	Plattsmouth, Nebraska
July 4-8	Spearfish, South Dakota
July 11-15	Washburn, North Dakota

From Sea to Shining Sea Schedule

For locations, evening concessions, and local entertainment, visit www.kansashumanities.org/programs/GreatPlainsChautauqua.html

Thursday, June 19

6 PM Join us for the tent raising (everyone invited to help), followed by an old-fashioned community social

Friday, June 20

10 AM (Adult) Jerome Kills Small (Tecumseh) presents "Native American Patriotism in Stories and Songs"
1 PM Selene Phillips (Sacagawea) invites children five and older to design their own t-shirts during "Pictures, Petroglyphs, and Pompeys Pillar"
7 PM at the tent **William Clark**

Saturday, June 21

8 AM Breakfast (\$) with Kris Runberg Smith & D. Jerome Tweton
10 AM Kris Runberg Smith (Dolley Madison)

invites children eight and older to "No Dueling at Dolley's"
1 PM (Adult) Charles E. Pace (York) presents "The Corps of Discovery and the Roots of American Cultural Diplomacy"
2 PM D. Jerome Tweton (John Jacob Astor) tells children about "Washington Irving and Rip Van Winkle"
7 PM at the tent **Tecumseh**

Sunday, June 22

1:30 PM Unveiling of Lewis and Clark quilt by Grinter Place State Historic Site Quilters
2 PM Selene Phillips (Sacagawea) discusses with adults "Native American Communication: From Petroglyphs to the *Cherokee Phoenix* and *News from Indian Country Today*"
7 PM at the tent **York**

Monday, June 23

8 AM Breakfast (\$) with Charles E. Pace & Selene Phillips
10 AM (Children) Jeffrey E. Smith (William

Clark) presents "Lewis and Clark Grossology"
1 PM Charles E. Pace (York) shares with children "In Search for a Common Humanity: Folktales in Three Traditions"
3 PM Jeffrey E. Smith invites adults to "General Clark's Front Porch"
7 PM at the tent **John Jacob Astor**

Tuesday, June 24

8 AM Breakfast (\$) with Jerome Kills Small & Jeffrey E. Smith
10 AM Jerome Kills Small (Tecumseh) shares with children "What Do Animals Mean"
1 PM (Adult) Kris Runberg Smith shares "The Life and Times of Dolley Madison"
3 PM (Adult) D. Jerome Tweton (John Jacob Astor) discusses "John Jacob Astor versus the Historians"
7 PM at the tent **Sacagawea**
9 PM Community helps pack up tent and chairs

2004 To Highlight Kansas' Diverse History

Two hundred years ago near the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, the Lewis and Clark expedition celebrated July 4, 1804. This Journey of Discovery would forever change Americans' view of the west.

Nearly fifty years later in May 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act opened the Kansas Territory for settlement and gave settlers the right to vote on whether it would enter the Union as a free or slave state. The eyes of the nation turned to Kansas as the territory became the first battleground for the issues that would eventually engulf the nation.

One hundred years later, in May 1954, in the landmark case *Oliver Brown et al v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously decided against segregated public schools. Again the nation's focus turned to Kansas. These three monumental events will provide a year of reflection and discussion for all Kansans in 2004. The issues of cultural diversity, civil rights, and personal freedoms have served as a catalyst in shaping the history of our state and nation.

Lewis and Clark

When Lewis and Clark spent July 4, 1804, near present-day Atchison during their expedition through the West, this was the first celebration of the national holiday west of the Mississippi. As part of the national Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration, communities along the Kansas section of the Lewis and Clark trail are planning commemorative events from June 19 through July 11.

The "signature events" will take place July 3-4 in Leavenworth, Atchison, and Kansas City, Missouri. Planned activities include a parade in Atchison, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, a display of antique flags, a re-enactment of the "First Fourth" at Independence Creek, and special displays at the Frontier Army Museum at Fort Leavenworth. For a complete list of activities, visit www.journey4th.org. For more information, call (800) 858-1749, ext. 3846. To learn more about Lewis and Clark's 14 days in Kansas, visit www.lewisandclarkinkansas.com

Despite the fact that the expedition only traveled in northeast Kansas, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission wants to include the entire state in the commemoration.

"The Lewis and Clark trail was the first of many trails to go through Kansas. Also, through education and school curricula, this is a chance to learn about our Native American heritage and to learn about the scientific contributions of the expedition," said Karen Seaberg, chair of the Kansas Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission.



Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial

Fifty years after the Lewis and Clark expedition, Kansas became a territory with the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. With projects in the works, the Kansas Territorial Sesquicentennial Commission is finding ways for Kansans to learn about this turbulent and pivotal period of history before Kansas became a state in 1861.

The commission has a long list of projects that it would like to see in place for 2004. The list includes school curriculum materials, a teacher's workshop, an art contest, a statewide reading program, a special issue of *Kansas History*, a special exhibit at the Kansas State Historical Society, a tree planting project, and town meetings.

"The commission wants to help Kansans understand who we are today by looking back at the territorial period. By learning about all of the people who settled our state, their experiences can help us understand the future better. We are all tied to Kansas so understanding the past gives us a greater sense of place," said Jennie Chinn, director of Education and Outreach at the Kansas State Historical Society who provides staff support to the territorial commission.

For more information, visit www.kshs.org/sesquicentennial.



Kansas Chautauqua

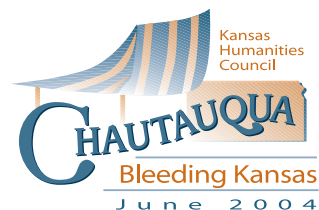
The Kansas Humanities Council will bring John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, Clarina Nichols, and other important historical figures from the territorial period

to four communities as a part of Kansas Chautauqua: Bleeding Kansas: Where the Civil War Began. Visitors to and residents in Junction City (June 4-8), Colby (June 11-15), Fort Scott (June 18-22), and Lawrence (June 25-29) will experience re-enactments, workshops, historic tours, demonstrations, period music, youth activities, and other programs related to the territorial period. For more information, visit www.kansashumanities.org.

The original Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 will be at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka from April-October 2004.

Brown v. Topeka Board of Education

The eyes of the nation were on Kansas during the Bleeding Kansas period and then again in 1954 with the Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* that desegregated public schools.



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Three New Traveling Exhibits Offer Programming Opportunities

Three traveling exhibits funded by the Kansas Humanities Council offer new insights into Kansas and American history and give Kansas libraries and museums the opportunity to create special programs for their communities.

First Blood: Kansas Prelude to Civil War focusing on 25 people is a traveling exhibit that examines the Bleeding Kansas period. It focuses on well-known politicians such as Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln to unsung heroes including Silas Soule, who tried to rescue John Brown from prison, and Susan Lowe Wattles, who sheltered many radical abolitionists. The Lawrence Preservation Alliance received a grant from KHC to develop this exhibit, written and researched by historian Barbara Brackman. **First Blood** also will introduce people who might be considered villains such as George Washington Clark, who murdered free-state advocate Thomas Barber, and John Calhoun, a state surveyor who tried to steal an election.

"I read a lot of Kansas history, and I've realized that many dynamic people came to Kansas during this period. These people, some brave and some not, led incredibly interesting lives before they came to Kansas and continued to act in dramatic ways," Brackman said.

The exhibit will travel throughout in Kansas in 2004. It will spend the first part of the year in Lawrence's Hobbs Park Memorial, then in June 2004 it will travel with Kansas Chautauqua to Junction City, Colby, Fort Scott, and Lawrence. After July 2004 the exhibit will be available for booking through the Kansas State Historical Society's Kansas Interpretive Traveling Exhibition Service (KITES) program.

For those on the homefront during World War II, life was intense and full of daily challenges. Life in Kansas during World War II is the focus of the exhibit **Kansas Goes to War: Life on the Home Front during World War II**. Developed by the William Allen White Library at Emporia State University, **Kansas Goes to War** focuses on topics including life for children, rationing, agriculture, German POWs in Kansas, and women in the workforce.

This exhibit was developed to travel in conjunction with the traveling Smithsonian exhibit, **Produce for Victory**, which is comprised of 25 vintage replica posters from World War II. The exhibit will debut at the Lyon County Historical Society on October 30, 2003, and will go to Elkhart (December 19, 2003-January 30, 2004), Lincoln (February 6-March 20), Goodland (March 26-May 7), El Dorado (May 14-June 25), and Paola (July 2-August 13).

"Exhibits can help people visualize historical information and provide contextual clues to what life was like during World War II. Most people will absorb more information with less text and pictures to supplement the text. In this case people know that the war affected those who fought, but it may not be apparent that the war affected those on the homefront also. We want this exhibit to help people learn what life was like," said Terri Summey, project director.

In 1999-2000, **Barn Again! Celebrating an**



A Western barn in Sedgwick County

American Icon, a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibition toured eight Kansas communities. The national exhibition examined the variety of barn styles that developed as the barn moved west with the American pioneers. The house-barns of New England, the round dairy barns of the midwest, and the massive hay barns of the plains illustrated the traditions and ingenuity of American farmers.

With record-breaking attendance at all sites—Lindsborg, Colby, Fredonia, Arkansas City, Winfield, Highland, Hiawatha, and Elkhart—it was clear that Kansans love their barns. Just ask James Shortridge, a geography professor at the University of Kansas, consultant on the **Barn Again** project, and a barn researcher. "Barns are icons for rural life and for everything positive that we have come to associate with that existence: community spirit, hard work, closeness to nature," he wrote in "Time and Place," an article for *Kansas History*.

In response to the successful exhibit, the Kansas Humanities Council held a virtual barn-raising online to help raise funds to develop an exhibit exclusively of Kansas barns. Kansans responded generously to this 21st century take on an age-old tradition. As a result, a new exhibit was developed. **Barn Yesterday: Remembering Kansas Barns** examines Kansas' rural heritage through historic and contemporary photographs, illustrations, and quotes. The ten-panel, freestanding exhibition becomes available in Summer 2003 as part of KITES and is intended for use in museums, public libraries, courthouse lobbies, or senior centers.

KITES is an ongoing partnership between the Kansas State Historical Society and the Kansas Humanities Council that brings high quality, low-cost exhibits to all Kansans. Says Janet Birk, of the Gridley Public Library, "KITES is a way to get exhibits into our community that we couldn't get any other way." For more information about booking **Barn Yesterday**, **First Blood**, or the more than 30 other KITES exhibits, contact the Education and Outreach Division at the Kansas State Historical Society, (785) 272-8681, ext. 414, email education@ksks.org, or go to www.ksks.org/exhibits/traveling.

News & Notes

Former KHC board member **Robert D. Linder**, professor of history at Kansas State since 1965, has been selected as a distinguished professor in recognition of his outstanding contribution to teaching research and service in the humanities. Linder is an expert in the history of topics including Christianity, the Reformation, baseball, religion and politics in America and in Australia. He served on the KHC board from July 1989-June 1995.

Sandra Wiechert retired April 30 from the Lawrence Public Library after more than 16 years on the library's reference desk and nearly a decade of planning programs, writing the library's newsletter, and publicizing events. During her tenure, Wiechert organized 288 programs, 26 book discussion groups (with 120 books read), 50 Sunday musical concerts, 180 art exhibits, 60 community/agency exhibits, and 18 film series. She helped develop several TALK series that are still used statewide.

Former KHC board member **Rita Napier** has edited *Kansas and the West: New Perspectives*, from the University Press of Kansas. Napier is associate professor of American history at the University of Kansas.

KHC Executive Director **Marion Cott** and KHC Board via Chair **Judy Billings** will attend a meeting in Washington, D.C., in June with National Endowment for the Humanities Chair Bruce Cole. The group will discuss future projects for public outreach for the humanities, including the NEH's "We the People" initiative.

Grants Awarded to Nine Cultural Organizations

The Kansas Humanities Council awarded \$73,593 in program grants to nine organizations during the spring grant review session. Three organizations received Heritage Program grants to support preservation and study of local cultural resources, including historical documents, photographs, artifacts, oral traditions, and languages. Six organizations received humanities grants in support of public programming.

HERITAGE GRANTS:

Marshall County Historical Society, Marysville (\$3,360) to inventory and accession portions of the museum collection, including mining tools and equipment from the gypsum mine near Blue Rapids and objects from the local CCC camp. Elizabeth Skinner, project director.

Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum,

Baxter Springs (\$3,274) to preserve a collection of photographs, maps, and blueprints from the lead and zinc mining industry in southeastern Kansas. Phyllis Abbott, project director.

Lucas Arts and Humanities Council, Lucas (\$3,500)

for an oral history project to interview and document grassroots artists in Kansas and their art environments. Rosslyn Schultz, project director.

HUMANITIES GRANTS:

Barton County Arts Council, Great Bend (\$11,024) for the Micheaux Independent Film Festival, "Celebrating Artistic Independence." This two-day event June 14-15 celebrates the life and work of Oscar Micheaux, America's first black filmmaker, as well as other independent filmmakers. In addition to films, discussions on Oscar Micheaux and the Story of Race Movies and The Black Crime Genre will also occur. Karen Neuforth, project director.

Bowlus Fine Arts Center, Iola (\$7,581) in support of the eleventh annual Buster Keaton Festival, "The Philosophy and Values of Buster Keaton." This two-day event September 26-27 features film clips and discussions on Buster Keaton in the Age of McCarthyism and Keaton Family Values. Mary Martin, project director.

Kauffman Museum, North Newton (\$10,000) in support of "Mennonite Furniture: A Migrant Tradition," a permanent museum exhibition. Interpretive themes examine this tradition through its historical roots in Poland's Vistula Delta and south Russia's Mennonite colonies and its migration into the Plains states. Rachel Pannabecker, project director.

KTWU, Topeka (\$16,925) in support of "Sunflower Journeys 2004." This thirteen-part television series will explore the theme of Territorial Heritage, including the Sesquicentennial Commission, Bleeding Kansas, and Native cultures. Dave Kendall, project director.

Lawrence Preservation Alliance, Lawrence (\$8,886) in support of "First Blood: Kansas Prelude to Civil War," a traveling museum exhibit examining the politicians, abolitionists, and other key players during the Kansas Territorial period. Barbara Brackman, project director.

W.A. White Library, Emporia (\$9,043) in support of "Kansas Goes to War: Life on the Home Front," a traveling museum exhibit examining the impact of World War II on Kansans. Terri Summey, project director.

FILM FESTIVALS *continued from page 2*

What can film tell us about life and humanities-based issues?

Tom Prasch: Film is always a reflection of its times, and thus illuminating about the history and culture of the American past. We can gain insights ranging from the material culture of the past and its modes of technology to the social conditions of previous eras.

What can films do that other “texts” can’t?

Tom Prasch: Films are both visual and temporal; like photographs, they provide images of the past that can be richer (when properly contextualized) than verbal accounts, and, because they incorporate time, they can provide narratives that still images cannot. Film is also a mass medium, and as such designed to appeal to a broad constituency.

Please recount one or two experiences with an audience that were particularly powerful or meaningful.

Tom Prasch: In Great Bend, the organizers used the opportunity to invite surviving descendants of Micheaux. It was a richly rewarding experience to watch these African-Americans rediscover their Kansas roots, and to watch Kansans coming to a full appreciation of African-American roles in their own history.

I visited the ZaSu Pitts festival the year that Parsons was struck by a tornado. It was hugely uplifting to see how the community used the celebration of one of its own as a means to unify and respond to disaster.

KANSAS HUMANITIES COUNCIL

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Produce for Victory



From left to right:
Rebecca Matticks,
director of the
Butler County
Historical Museum;
Vernice Haines,
WWII home front
hero; Julie
Mulvihill, director
of programs, KHC;
Margaret Dornbos,
WWII home front
hero.

On March 13, the six Kansas hosts for the traveling Smithsonian exhibition, **Produce for Victory: Posters on the American Home Front, 1941-1945** joined community members and legislators at the Capitol to honor local World War II home front heroes. Stories of bankers, mayors, newspaper families, farmers, schoolteachers, and factory workers who were called to serve at home during WWII were shared. Joining the event were two home front heroes from Butler County. Vernice Haines quit teaching in a one-room school outside of El Dorado in order to accept a job at Boeing in Wichita. Margaret Dornbos's family farmed and used four German prisoners of war to help with planting and harvest. The **Produce for Victory** tour opens at the Lyon County Museum in Emporia on October 30, 2003. From there it will travel to Elkhart, Lincoln, Goodland, El Dorado, and Paola.

2004 TO HIGHLIGHT *continued from page 4*



The centerpiece of the 50th anniversary commemoration will be the grand opening of the Brown v. Board of Education

National Historic Site at Monroe Elementary School, a unit of the National Park Service, scheduled to coincide with the date of the Supreme Court decision, May 17. That evening the play "Brown v. Board of Ed." will have its world premiere at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

Legacies of Brown, a public conference at the University of Kansas, March 15-17, 2004, will explore historical and contemporary issues of race, law, public policy, and education. For more information, visit www.brownvboard.org.

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