



# Heritage

The Wichita-Sedgwick County

Historical Museum Association



## THE SESQUICENTENNIAL LOOKING BACK A CENTURY AND A HALF

On the  
Kansas plains  
just after the  
United States'  
Civil War, as

Indian lands were taken by the government then opened for settlement, no one doubted that profound change was at hand. Strong hopes and sentiment compelled many to reflect upon not only what would be created, but also what was being lost. The excitement of pursuing a grand vision was underscored by melancholy and a sense that the unfolding story should be carefully recorded.

History informs our personal and collective identity. We discover our place through these stories of freedom and equality, injustice and struggle, loss and achievement, courage and triumph. History leads us to higher thinking; critical approaches to evidence and argument which puts life into perspective. History is also the foundation for a strong, vibrant community wrapped in human memory, told through stories, traditions, and commemorations spurring discussions about roles and responsibilities and the place we call home.

History helps us envision a better future. Democracy thrives when we express opinions, listen to those of others - inspiring us to act. Using history to think about contemporary issues clarifies perspective by revealing complexities. It grounds competing views

and introduces new ideas. History saved and preserved is the foundation for future generations and its knowledge is crucial to protecting democracy. By preserving authentic and meaningful documents, artifacts, images, stories and places, future generations have a foundation on which to build and know what it means to be a member of civil society. The Sesquicentennial gives us a special opportunity to look both backwards and forwards toward a brighter future.

## *Sesquicentennial Day at the Museum*

**Saturday, July 25th 1:00-5:00 pm**

Celebrate the 150th anniversary of the July 21, 1870 founding of Wichita and the establishment of Sedgwick County on April 27th of that year.

Free admission sponsored by Colby Sandlian, Sandlian Realty.

The Museum is the center of celebration for the sesquicentennial 1870 – 2020. Tour through our remarkable history, and explore dozens of exhibits on all four floors of the Museum. Enjoy refreshments in Heritage Square followed by a self-directed visit through the Museum. This event is free to Members and those individuals and small groups bringing a Birthday card.



**A SPECIAL FUNDRAISING EVENT** is planned for that evening featuring refreshment and music in Heritage Square and open touring and activity in the Museum from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Capacity is strictly limited to meet health requirements and reservations are required. Tickets are \$150 each and available through the Museum Office: 265-9314 or [office@wichitahistory.org](mailto:office@wichitahistory.org)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Sesquicentennial - we've waited 150 years for this but it's not what we planned for. Your museum of local history is still the place to celebrate as we are following all public health recommendations for your safety. If you've only attended the big events, you may not know that the Museum is a low traffic haven of reflection most days and a place where social distancing is no problem. We maintain new limitations for the number of visitors on the premises, even so, the Museum's capacity has not precluded anyone's admittance. So come on a lark or make a reservation to confirm your admission.

As a member you've joined others who, over the generations, have built on the enthusiasm for telling our unique local story. It's a story that is told through dozens of exhibits, programs and events annually. We need your support to carry on the mission – please use this year as an opportunity to introduce someone new to the Museum by way of a free admission pass. Ask them to visit and lend their support through Membership.

Eric Cale  
MUSEUM DIRECTOR



# Grand Publishing Initiative

Every so often, the Museum publishes in the form of the traditional bound book – an enduring, transportable and some would say timeless medium that captures information for the ages. The City-County 150th marks the challenge to update, if not replace “Wichita Century,” a pictorial history published by the Museum for the “Wichitennial” in 1970.

The Museum has undertaken the publication of this new book set for release later this year through the support of the Charles and Joanne McIlwaine Foundation, The Hal Ross Foundation and the Museum’s Memorial Fund. The new hard bound, large format book features nearly 400 images from the Museum’s collection of artifacts and photographs, written by Dr. Judith Ann Heberling, the Museum’s former Curator, telling stories from the past century and a half.

Pre-order information will be sent this fall to Museum Members. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be returned to the Museum’s Memorial Fund.

## Publications by the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum

*Who’s Who in Wichita*, 1963

*Wichita Century*, a pictorial history of Wichita,  
Kansas 1870 – 1970, R.M. “Dick” Long, 1969

*A Souvenir History of the City Building 1888-1980*, Craig Miner, 1978

*Wichita The Magic City*, Craig Miner, 1988

*Frank Lloyd Wright and Wichita, the first Usonian Design*, Pamela D. Kingsbury, 1992

*In The Whirlygig of Time, Pages from Wichita History*, Beverly Henline, 1996

*Indian Summer*, James R. Mead’s Early Days in Kansas, Dr. Schuyler Mead Jones, CBE, 2004

*The Origin of the Electric Guitar*, Eric Cale, 2019

*Toys of the Future, Rockets, Ray Guns & Flying Saucers*, Photographed by Larry Schwarm, Introduction by Albert Goldbarth, 2019

## Celebrating award winning YOUNG HISTORIANS

The Museum partnered with Friends University in sponsoring National History Day competition for an 11th year. This national competition engaged over 300 area students, challenging them to interpret history through various mediums including exhibits, video, website design, essay, and performance. Students choose historical topics related to the national theme of “Breaking Barriers in History.”

For students, nothing brings academics into focus like reflecting on one’s own history and heritage. The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum acts as their portal to the past. Supported by our mission, the Museum encourages student participants to use local history as a basis for their NHD projects. This begins early in the school year with an Essay Contest sponsored by the DeVore Family Foundation. The essay is a warm-up exercise for their projects and challenges students to approach the theme with a local perspective.



The winners of the 10th Annual DeVore Essay Contest were honored with cash prizes for “The Monrovia vs. Ku Klux Klan: White Nationalism Faced Head-On by Local All-Black Baseball Team,” Robinson Middle School student; “Wichita and Wichita Students’ Efforts to Support the Difficulties of Desegregation: The Dockum Drug Store Sit-In,” Derby North Middle School student. The essays to be soon published on the Museum’s Website. Winning exhibits are featured in the Museum’s Davis Gallery located on the first floor.

## SALUTE TO GREG GILMER

Greg Gilmer, the Museum's exhibits preparator retires after 30 years of service in that capacity. Mr. Gilmer has devoted an estimated 10,000 days to making certain the Museum has been operational on a daily basis. His commitment and skill as a craftsman have been invaluable and will long be appreciated. His connection with the Museum began as a member and employee of the Oakland Avenue Craftsmen in the late 1970s during renovation of the city building for Museum use. He returned in 1990 to take a full-time position preparing and maintaining the Museum's many exhibits. We suspect that throughout its history, no one individual has spent as much time in this historic building as Greg Gilmer.



Watch for the 12th  
Blue Moon at the Museum

WHiMS plans for memorable evening of dining, drink, and music you love is postponed. The beloved event transports you to the legendary Blue Moon Nightclub, once located near the old airport on South Oliver during the 1940s and 1950s. The club was a popular gathering spot for adults to dine and dance to America's most famous orchestras. Donna Tucker, internationally renowned jazz singer, and her quartet will eventually entertain with songs of the era as guests enjoy an evening like no other. This very popular event will celebrate its 12th year once it is rescheduled.

## THANK YOU SPONSORS

### DIAMOND SPONSORS:

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 150 WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Having just celebrated the Museum's 80th year, we transition to the City/County Sesquicentennial and an ideal opportunity to launch a membership drive. When the Museum was chartered with endorsements from over 350 enthusiastic supporters, Wichita and Sedgwick County were a mere 70 years old with a population equal to a quarter of what it is today. We are using this historic fact to set our goal for new membership support.

Who makes a good member? Those who recognize the value of our unique local history as a unifying force that brings identity to the community and shares our story with the world.

We ask members to acquaint friends with the Museum by giving them an admissions pass with the suggestion they join in support through membership. Membership in the association is an essential way to support the Museum and a great way to stay apprised of all that it has to offer. Our Goal is to double the current membership to 1,400.

## We are pleased to acknowledge recent Museum members!

Kendal Beattie	Glenda McNew
Kenton Beattie	Harry W & Peggy A McNew
Tracy Brown	Rita & Tom Montgomery
J.P. Carey	Charles Osburn
Sharon Congdon	Renee Pack
Karen & Richard Crowson	Paula Page
John & Joanie Firsching	Tracie Partridge
William Fischer	Sherri Patterson
Lashonda Garnes	TeOndra Phillips
Jerry and Nan Harper	Jerry Reeves
Tristan Holmberg	Don & Rilla Rogus
Steven Jacobs	Victoria Russell
Jamie Keil and Ann Jambor	Donald and Marcia Ryel
Kelly Kallenberger	Barbara Sawhill
Loretta Klamik	Mark Segobia
John Fishpaw & Kim Krohn	Stanley & Bonita Singlinger
Glenn & Sandra Loutsenhizer	Lynn and Don Stephan
Jonn & Sheila Maksimowicz	Brian J. Stone
Anthony Marshall	Mindy M. Tallent
Chuck & Jenny McBride	Christie Triplett
Tom & Billie McDavitt	Emily Williams

## The Museum Association is grateful for the special support of the following donors:

Thornton Anderson  
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## **The Museum thanks current Business Members for their support:**

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Hotel at Water Walk	Wichita Eagle
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IMA Financial Group	Wichita Independent Business Association
INTRUST Bank	
Juliana Daniel Antiques	

For additional information including levels of membership, contact Sally Buch, Development Director, 316-265-9314.

## **THANK YOU! SUPPORTING BUSINESSES**

These businesses support the Museum annually and are recognized as Business Members. In appreciation of their support they enjoy: Free admission to the Museum and Heritage Square for employees and their guests, invitations to special membership events, free admission passes for business clients, discounts in the WHiMS Museum's Gift Shop. These companies receive communications including the Heritage Newsletter and other mailings and email notices for upcoming events. Business members are recognized on the Museum website and at events.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

The Museum has a profound presence on-line.

Visit us and Like us on:



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



YouTube

Find us listed under:  
"wichitahistory"

## WHIMS SUPPORT THE MUSEUM, CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERS

WHiMS (The Wichita Historical Museum Society – established 1972) our "Friends" group, provides support to the Museum in ways that reflect our mission and vision, enhances visitor experience, and attracts the public. The committee provides a dynamic connection to many of the Museum's other volunteers. Connect with WHiMS on Facebook under "Wichita Historical Museum Society" to learn more. The Museum receives approximately 5,000 hours of volunteer support annually.

## WHiMS Wreath Festival

November 19th, 20th & 21st

The seasonal holiday festival that has become a beloved tradition is not cancelled but will surely undergo modifications to be all it should be to meet health requirements. Please stay tuned to see what is designed by the ever-creative Wreath Festival Committee.



## SUMMER BREAK PROGRAMS

### *An Adventure in Time!*

We've gone virtual and are conducting Summer Break activities on-line. Email us for the activity newsletter at [Summer@wichitahistory.org](mailto:Summer@wichitahistory.org)





## THE ARTISTIC LIFE and WORK of GENEVIEVE FRICKEL

FIRST FRIDAY  
OPENING  
AUGUST 7th 5-7PM

Genevieve Ingram Frickel (1900-1985) was an independent visual artist and remarkable figure in the local art and culture scene of mid-century Wichita. Frickel led the Art Department at the Wichita School of Fine Arts before moving to Tucson, Arizona in 1953, where she exhibited her work and taught portrait and landscape painting. She returned to Wichita in the late 1950s and opened the Genevieve Frickel Art Studio and directed the Index Gallery above the Fairland Café in downtown Wichita. An influential teacher, many of Frickel's students became professional artists.

A serious artist herself, Frickel studied at the Municipal University of Wichita and traveled widely in pursuit of inspiration and recognition. She corresponded with a range notable artists including Bruce McGrew, Adolf Dehm and Charles Schultz. Frickel was also an aspiring author, poet, and amateur musician who raised three sons with her husband Henry, a math instructor at Roosevelt Junior High School.

This exhibit is on view through August of 2021 and is supported by a generous gift from the Lois Kay Walls Foundation.

*The Museum's 1996 Tot Rods exhibition was a visitor favorite! The reprise of that memorable exhibit has opened and runs through June 2021.*

# Metal TO THE Pedal

Children's toys are found amongst the most ancient artifacts. Toys typically mirror the adult world children aspire to and teach children how to look forward to life as a grown-up.

The pedal car holds a unique position in the history of toys. A product of the industrial age, it took the idea of the "hobby horse", which itself saw a transition to pedal power in the late 19th century, to a new level. The earliest recorded pedal-powered vehicle was the "Quadracycle" exhibited in 1853 at the "Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations World's Fair" held in New York City at the time two-wheeled bicycles began to become popular.

Pedal cars mirror automotive design trends of the Machine Age and reflect advancements in mass production as applied to toy manufacturing. As art objects, they have become nearly as popular with collectors as the actual automobiles themselves.

The evolution of the pedal car mirrored the evolution

of the automobile. These toys range from the simplest, inexpensive cars without fenders to the most elaborate of luxury cars, with gears that can actually be shifted, wind up motor noises, rear view mirrors, windshield wipers, hand brakes that work and toolboxes with real tools. The Alemite Packard 6 included a can of Alemite lubricant and a grease gun. Most pedal car designs were produced multiple years, often adapted for a refreshed look in catalogs by changing paint schemes and other cosmetic appointments. The years 1941 to 1948 called a halt to most non-war related manufacturing. After WWII, pedal cars appeared in the form of new models, such as station wagons, and as the years progressed pedal cars decreased in size as did the automobiles of the era.

During the Summer of 1996, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum featured "Tot Rods", an exhibition of pedal cars from the collection of Bob Guenther. Nearly a quarter century later, the expanded Guenther Collection reappears. The collection, assembled over 30 years with the dispensation and assistance of his wife Sue, includes cars and other pedal vehicles from the mid-1920s to the mid-1960s and continues to grow in quality and quantity.

See exhibit videos on the Museum's YouTube channel "wichitahistory"



**Bob Guenther with his Pioneer Flyer**



## HERITAGE SQUARE CONCERT SERIES

The Heritage Square Concert Series celebrates the Sesquicentennial with a noontime concert in the Square each Wednesday in September.

The Heritage Square Concert Series is sponsored by the following:

### EVERGY

Fidelity Bank, Freddy's  
Frozen Custard and  
Steak Burgers

Insurance Management  
Associates – IMA

INTRUST Bank

The Spice Merchant  
McClelland Sound

The Trust Company  
of Kansas

Lusco Brick and Stone

## MEDIA PARTNERS FOR THE HERITAGE CONCERT SERIES

The Wichita Eagle  
Times-Sentinel News  
Papers

Radio Kansas

Admission is free and  
open to the public.

## *Senior Wednesdays*

### AT THE WICHITA-SEDGWICK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM – HOSTED BY WHIMS

Visit the Museum the 4th Wednesday of each month from January to October and enjoy special Historical Museum programs developed with active senior audiences in mind. A special \$2 admission for seniors and their guests is offered; admission is free for members. The Senior Wednesday programs at the Historical Museum begin at 10:00 am, and the doors open at 9:30 am. Senior Wednesdays in 2020 at the Historical Museum are sponsored by the Trust Company of Kansas and a generous grant from Mickey Armstrong. For more information about the Museum's Senior Wednesday programs, visit [www.wichitahistory.org](http://www.wichitahistory.org) or [www.seniorwednesday.org](http://www.seniorwednesday.org).



## GALLERY RENOVATIONS

The Museum has undergone gallery renovations on all four floors through the generosity of Bill and Donna Ard. These include additional artifacts and interpretation added to “Wichita the Magic City”, “Spirit of Wichita” and “A Child’s World” exhibits. Additional renovations are planned for 2021.





The Wichita-Sedgwick County  
**Historical Museum Association**  
204 South Main · Wichita, Kansas 67202 · 316-265-9314 · [www.WichitaHistory.org](http://www.WichitaHistory.org)

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Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum  
activities are made possible in part by the  
City of Wichita and Sedgwick County Board  
of Commissioners

## DRINKING FOUNTAINS NOW INTERPRETED AS EXHIBITS

For obvious reasons the Museum's staff was tasked with the deactivation of our two water fountains. We look forward to their eventual reactivation but for now, they have been made into special temporary exhibits. Bottled water will be permitted in the Museum lobby and is available there free of charge.

Public Drinking Water Cooler, Cordley model WTA-12,  
Temprite, Division of Elkway Manufacturing Company,  
Broadview, IL, circa 1975

Public drinking fountains were widely used throughout  
history prior to the world wide pandemic of 2020.

