



NEWS RELEASE

William Allen White House State Historic Site
927 Exchange • Emporia KS 66801-3040

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contact: Nicholas Gronseth • 620-342-2800 • wawwhitehouse@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2007

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER AT WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE HOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

EMPORIA, KS— From U.S. presidents to the family down the street, editor, publisher, and Pulitzer Prize winner William Allen White hosted a wide variety of people on the ample porch of his home in turn-of-the-century Emporia. Mr. and Mrs. White were famous for their hospitality. In the days before air conditioning, the Whites spent hundreds of hours on the porch, and anyone who happened by was welcome to join them. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Edna Ferber, a frequent guest on the White porch, wrote about the “reviving quality” of spending time in the sitting room or on the porch with the Whites. In the spirit of Ferber’s observation and Mr. and Mrs. White’s hospitality, the William Allen White Community Partnership and the Kansas Historical Society presents “Sundays in September” on the porch of the William Allen White House State Historic Site, 927 Exchange Street. All programs will be at 2 p.m. Sundays throughout the month of September.

The first program, entitled “Singing on the Porch,” will be September 9. The Twin Rivers Chapter of the Sweet Adelines will perform music from the 1860s to 1940s. The September 16 program, called “History on the Porch,” will feature a presentation by Lacey Whetstone, an Emporia State University graduate student in history. Whetstone will talk about White’s campaign to drive the KKK out of Kansas. The September 23 program, “Poetry on the Porch,” will include poetry readings by Kevin Rabas, Emporia State University English Department faculty, and readings by contemporary local poets. The series concludes on September 30 with “Politics on the Porch,” featuring Karen Manners Smith of the ESU Social Science Department and a guest panel discussing aspects of politics from White’s lifetime.

Tours of the White home will be available at the regular admission price (\$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students), which includes the program. A contribution is suggested in support of the site from those who want to enjoy the program but do not wish to tour the home. The William Allen White House State Historic Site is one of 16 state-owned sites operated by the Kansas Historical Society. For more information, visit www.kshs.org.

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.

###