



William Allen White Family LIFE & TIMES

October 2005



Senator Baker Reflects at Red Rocks Gala

Mother Nature smiled on the William Allen White Community Partnership's fundraising gala with a perfect autumn evening, Saturday, October 8, 2005. Red Rocks Restored hosted 134 guests who turned out for a delightful evening social, tour of the historic home and dinner under tents on the lawn.

A gathering from across the state joined the Walker family in hosting Stephanie Tolan, 2005 William Allen White Children's Book Award winning author. Jack Wright of the Kansas University Theater and Film Department faculty greeted guests at the door in the persona of William Allen White. Wright served as master of ceremonies and performed a cut from the one-man play "The Sage of Emporia".

The program was highlighted by an address by Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker reflecting on her youth knowing the W. A. White family as the daughter of former Kansas Governor and presidential candidate, Alf Landon.

The program rounded out with a 10 minute documentary narrated by Walter Cronkite and produced by native Emporian, Bill Hoch. Carolyn Kuhn, President of the Community Partnership concluded the program acknowledging the work of the planning committee and local entities that made the successful and fun evening in financial support of the William Allen White House State Historic Site.



William Allen White House State Historic Site

Hours: 2:00-5:00 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, last tour starts at 4:30 p.m.

Group Tours: For groups of 10 or more, call for arrangements

Admission: \$3.00 adults; \$2.00 seniors (65 and above) and \$2.00 for students (K-12, college), annual passes are available, KSHS members admitted free

ADA Accessible

Ask about "William Allen White's Emporia" thematic tours

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for the Friends of the William Allen White House State Historic Site*



The William Allen White B-29 Superfortress in all her glory. The first crew took command of the B-29 from Topeka, Kansas. These images are courtesy of Jim Meeks, member of the first crew, who visited Emporia 60 years ago this year. Learn more about this plane and crew by visiting Meeks' Marauders web page: <http://home.att.net/~sallyann4/meeks2.html>.

William Allen White B-29 Superfortress

As we approach Veterans Day, it is timely to look back to the last year and a half of WWII, the time following the 1944 death of William Allen White. Prior to the war, White chaired the Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies which lobbied for Lend Lease and Bundles for Britain in an effort to avoid America's entry into the European conflict. After December 7, 1941, White, like most Americans, favored our entry into the war.

White's death on Kansas Day, January 29, 1944 moved most Kansans and many Americans to think of ways to honor his contribution to American discourse. The war effort became one avenue. A Liberty Ship and a B-29 Flying Superfortress were named William Allen White.



The first crew of the William Allen White B-29 Superfortress trained in Clovis, New Mexico, was dispatched to Topeka to take command of their new plane destined for Tinian Island in the Pacific Theater. Emporians hosted the crew with a parade and banquet before they departed on their mission.

SITE ADMINISTRATOR'S

CORNER

By Terri Adams

The falling of the leaves brought many visitors to the WAW house. We ended September with 2,546 visitors since our opening. Twelve group tours are planned for October.

With Christmas just around the corner, keep in mind our Gift Shop located in the Visitors Center. The W. A. White House holiday ornament will be arriving soon.

As always, I want to personally thank our wonderful group of docents for all their hard work and dedication to our site. If you are interested in becoming a docent, please give me a call at (620) 342-2800. We'd love to have you join our team.

IN THE GIFT SHOP

On Sale Now

"Red Rocks" Blank Note Cards, a four-pack of different images of the William Allen White House State Historic Site by local photographer and volunteer, George Downing. The four-pack is \$8.00.

Coming Soon

The 2005 Emporia Main Street Christmas Ornament features the William Allen White House State Historic Site. This gold tone metal filigree ornament is \$10.

Proceeds support annual operations of the site.