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by John Carras

Residents celebrate Quindaro history



Quindaro Quilt
Courtesy Kansas City Kansan

Photograph Caption: **Jubilation**...Helen Marie Fotovich (left); Carol Robinson, co-chairperson of the Quindaro Jubilee; and Georgia Patton (sitting) study a quilt made by Patton's daughter, NedRa Bonds. The third annual celebration was held Saturday near the old town ruins.

Transcriptions are presented without changes except to improve readability.

The third Annual Quindaro Jubilee held Saturday at 27th and Sewell drew many people interested in the history of the former frontier town of Quindaro in northeast Kansas City, Kan.

The Jubilee was held near the ruins of the old town of Quindaro that thrived from its founding in 1856 to about 1861 when many of the men left town to fight for the Union Army in the Civil War. By the war's end Quindaro was a ghost town and never recovered.

Many people attending the Jubilee had their pictures taken in front of the John Brown Statue at 27th and Sewell. Just a few feet away from the statue was a busy barbecue stand where many folks devoured hamburgers and barbecued beef and ham. Because of the hot temperatures, a lot of people were eating while standing or sitting in the shade.

A project is about to begin to stabilize the ruins consisting of several building foundations from Quindaro. The ultimate goal of KCK officials is to create a historical park about the earliest days of Wyandotte County and the fight against slavery. The ruins are covered by brush and behind a locked gate and thus are not accessible.

Creal is president of the Western University Club. Western University was a college for African-Americans until it closed in the early 1940s. The buildings were then razed. The Jubilee was held on grounds where the university once stood.

LaVerne Robinson, who was president of the former KCK Convention & Visitors Bureau, worked the arts and crafts table at the Jubilee. She was helping children do arts and crafts projects.

"I think if they can get the Quindaro site fixed up it can be a good tourist site," Robinson said. "I go on a lot of travel tours. That's my business. Senior citizens

especially like history. Anything about history, they like to tour. I can imagine some day having tour buses going to the Quindaro site. People with cameras and money in hand.

One of the busiest booths was where Georgia Patton was selling jellies and jams. Judy Hancock, the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives from this area in the Nov. 8 election, stopped by to taste some jams. She ended up buying a can. Patton told her to go home, bake some biscuits and put the jam on. To that Hancock replied: "That's a good idea but I am not a good cook, not at all."

In addition to clowns who performed, other entertainment was provided by Elements of Faith, Rose Marias Fiesta Mexicana, Strangers Rest Drill Team, Music students from Brady & Sons music Co., Turner House Drill Team, Holy House of Prayer Choir and the Sheffield Family Life Choir.