

Go to Kansas City for barbecue, interesting museums

BY NORMA AND WENDY SCHONWETTER
CORRESPONDENTS

The heart of America beats in Kansas City, and the heart of Kansas City beats in two states. Equidistant from both coasts, the city straddles the Missouri-Kansas state line. When riding on the highway you pass back and forth between the two states.

Still famous for sizzling steaks and fabulous barbecue, the city is the nation's barbecue headquarters. Kansas City barbecue is always smoked over wood and each restaurant has its own sauce.

Kansas City played a major role in the nation's history as a gateway for pioneers heading West. This past is highlighted in an interesting mix of museums. Pioneers disembarked from riverboats traversing the Missouri River to begin their overland journey, passing through a lively market area, known today as City Market, which is still a farmer's market. This is the site of the Arabia Steamboat Museum. The Arabia sunk with a hoard of treasure. Buried for 132 years, its excavation uncovered a time capsule of remarkably preserved 1866 frontier supplies of every description.

The Jesse James Home, Patee House and Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, about one hour from Kansas City, are worth seeing. The Patee House was a pioneer hotel and headquarters for the Pony Express in 1860. Housed within the two large floors of the old hotel are collections of Western art, antique toys, trains, cars, refurbished 1800s hotel rooms, Streets of Old St. Jo, and a large carousel.

Kansas City Museum has artifacts and displays relating to the develop-

IF YOU GO

For information: Go to www.visitkc.com or call (800) 767-7700

ment of life on the plains and Kansas City's role in the Westward expansion. Of note is a 1910 drugstore with a working soda fountain, a natural history hall and planetarium.

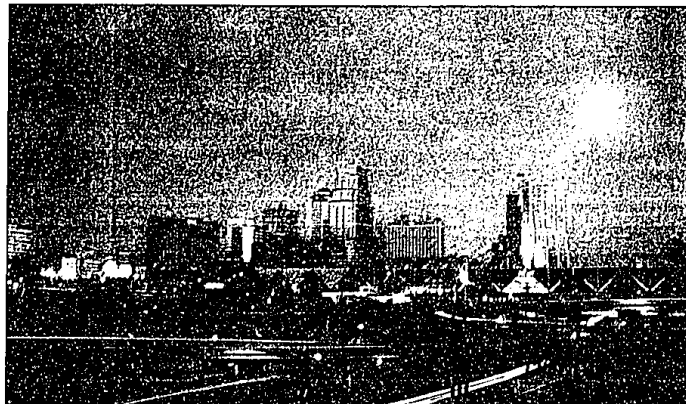
JAZZ AND BASEBALL

In the area where baseball and jazz reigned during the 1920s, you'll find the Museums at 18th & Vine. This building houses two museums, The American Jazz Museum and the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. The Visitors Center has a brief video depicting the African-American community that thrived at 18th & Vine for 40 years. Kansas City's role in nurturing the development of jazz is legendary.

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, the world's only museum dedicated to preserving this incredible history, depicts the history of African American baseball prior to 1947 when color barriers were broken with the signing of Jackie Robinson to the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The only memorial to World War I veterans in the world, is the 217-foot Liberty Memorial, on a hill overlooking Union Station and Kansas City. Go to the top for a fabulous view of the Kansas City area.

Crown Center, an office, retail and entertainment complex surrounds Hallmark's international headquar-



Downtown Kansas City at Night is a beautiful sight. The city straddles the Missouri-Kansas state line.

ters. The Center offers more than 80 shops and restaurants, live theater, cinemas and two hotels. Hallmark Visitors Center is a fascinating place, especially for children who can step through a keyhole into a room filled with giant pencils, brushes, paint tubes and jars or make their own colorful gift box.

The Westin Crown Center Hotel, part of the Crown Center, utilized the natural stone bluff upon which it was built to create an indoor waterfall sev-

eral stories high. The walkway that connects the Crown Center to Union Station passes over the lobby of the Westin Hotel. Union Station, the country's second largest train station, was restored to its 1914 elegance. It houses Science City with 50 interactive exhibits, theaters and restaurants.

There are numerous places to visit that will please children and adults. The impressive 200-acre Kansas City Zoological Park and IMAX theater requires a full day and comfortable

shoes. Another favorite is the Toy & Miniature Museum with its extensive collection of antique toys and 80 furnished dollhouses.

No longer a prairie cowtown, the saying from the musical *Oklahoma!*, "Everything is up-to-date in Kansas City," is definitely true...see for yourself.

Norma and Wendy Schonwetter are a mother-daughter travel writing team. Norma lives in Farmington Hills and Wendy in Seattle.

TOP 5

(From Exhibitor Relations Co.)

TV SHOWS

1. Friends, NBC.
2. American Idol-Wednesday, Fox.
3. CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, CBS.
4. American Idol-Tuesday, Fox.
5. ER, NBC. (From Nielsen Media Research)

FILMS

1. The Matrix Reloaded, Warner Bros.
2. Daddy Day Care, Sony.
3. X2: X-Men United, Fox.
4. Down With Love, Fox.
5. The Little Mermaid Movie, Disney.

ALBUMS

1. Body Kiss, The Isley Brothers (feat. Ronald Isley), DreamWorks.
2. Come Away With Me, Norah Jones, Blue Note. (Platinum - certified sales of 1 million units)
3. On and On, Jack Johnson, Moonshine Conspiracy.
4. The Very Best of Cher, Cher, Geffen.
5. Get Rich or Die Tryin', 50 Cent, Shady. (Platinum) (from Billboard magazine)

-By The Associated Press

Open a new personal checking account
and receive a

.25% Interest Rate BONUS
on a new Certificate of Deposit*

Plus, receive a FREE gift



Flagstar Bank
Giant
Handyman
Tool Kit

Receive a Giant Handyman Tool Kit when
direct deposit and auto-payment are established!**

FLAGSTAR®
BANK

Ann Arbor (734) 663-9699 (734) 994-7800 (734) 214-2265 (734) 528-2685	Clinton Twp. (586) 263-1971	Madison Heights (248) 588-6777 (248) 543-1817	Taylor (313) 299-0186
Belleville (734) 699-6639	Detroit (313) 832-7971	Novi (248) 624-7364	Troy (248) 312-5400 (248) 288-6559 (248) 435-0059
Beverly Hills (248) 646-6588	Farmington Hills (248) 324-0013 (248) 476-9160	Pontiac (248) 475-0696	Warren (586) 294-6276
Bloomfield Hills (248) 988-8613	Fenton (810) 714-2734	Rochester (248) 632-9792	Waukegan (248) 674-1300
Carleton (734) 981-1942 (734) 981-6491	Grosse Pointe (248) 650-6184	Roseville (586) 778-8043	West Bloomfield (248) 539-3587
Chesterfield Twp. (586) 421-0188 (586) 716-5074	Howell (517) 552-9655	Shelby Twp. (586) 997-3496	Westland (734) 524-0798
	Livonia (734) 953-6890	Sterling Heights (586) 803-1180 (586) 268-3230	

We'll meet you anywhere, anytime for a home loan.
1-888-FLAG-1-888

MEMBER
FDIC

www.flagstar.com



* 25% bonus offer is valid only after opening a new personal checking account. 25% interest rate bonus is added to current market rate. New retail accounts only. Offer not available on business accounts or account conversions. Offer not valid with any other CD offer. Minimum opening balance requirement for a CD is \$500 and maximum deposit of \$100,000. Minimum 6-month term. Penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Certain restrictions may apply.
**PREREQ: Limited time offer while supplies last. Direct deposit and auto-payment must be established to receive gift. Receive the Flagstar Bank Giant Handyman Tool Kit when the first direct deposit has been made, and the first auto-payment has been withdrawn. Flagstar checking accounts. A \$50 minimum deposit is required to open a new checking account. Restrictions may apply.

POP100001001

THE Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

Walter
PURE ENTERTAINMENT!

Coming Thursday, June 5

DINING
CULTURE
ARTS
MUSIC
THEATRE
TRAVEL
FAMILY FUN

PURE ENTERTAINMENT EVERY THURSDAY!

To advertise, call 734-953-2162