

Pioneer Park Committee Records (SC12)

Introduction

This collection consists of records pertaining to the development of Pioneer Park, a memorial park located in and commemorating the early history of the Westport area of Kansas City, Missouri.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Fred Lee
Title: Pioneer Park Committee Records
Dates: 1981-1987
Size: 0.42 linear feet, 1 box
Collection Number: SC12

Donor Information

Gift, December 1991, Fred Lee.

Citation Note

Pioneer Park Committee Records (SC12), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

More information on the park and its statuary subjects may be found in Vertical File: Parks-- Kansas City-- Pioneer; Vertical File: Bridger, James; Vertical File: Majors, Alexander; and Oversize Vertical File: McCoy, John.

Historical Sketch

Pioneer Park is located on an island in the intersection of Broadway and Westport Road in the Westport area of Kansas City, Missouri. The land was previously used as a trolley stop. The park commemorates the early history of Westport, a forerunner to the city of Kansas City that was annexed in 1897. There are three historical figures important to the growth of the area depicted in the park's statuary created by local sculptor Tom Beard: Alexander Majors, John C. McCoy, and Jim Bridger.

Initial efforts toward the formation of the park began in 1983 as a memorial to a victim of the Hyatt Regency Skywalk collapse before moving to a commemoration of Westport's founders. Both the Native Sons of Kansas City and the Westport Historical Society were particularly involved in the Pioneer Park Committee. The park was dedicated on October 19, 1987.

Scope and Content Note

This collection was assembled by Fred Lee and gifted to Missouri Valley Special Collections in December 1991. The collection includes photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, unofficial meeting minutes and reports, brochures, agreements, a typed chronology of events, and other miscellaneous material. Content includes information on selection of statuary and markers, interaction with the City Council and Parks Department, fundraising efforts, and vendor selection.

Collection Inventory

- f. 1 Pioneer Park chronology, 1981-1985
- f. 2 Durham Memorial Committee: meeting announcement & minutes, 1982
- f. 3 Early endorsements & city council actions: correspondence, transcripts, 1983
- f. 4 Pioneer Mother statue removal: clippings, correspondence, 1983
- f. 5 Grant proposals: 11/1984 draft, ca. 1/1985 draft
- f. 6 Thomas Hart Benton proposal: correspondence, 1983-1984, clippings
- f. 7 Financial Committee & Fundraising, n.d.
- f. 8 Fundraising events: clippings, correspondence, 1984
- f. 9 Meetings: Unofficial minutes, correspondence, clippings, 1985
- f. 10 Tom Beard background: pamphlets, clippings, n.d.
- f. 11 Tom Beard correspondence: photocopies, photograph, 1984-1985
- f. 12 Sis Cooke background: correspondence, pamphlets, ca. 1984
- f. 13 Sculpture: Timeline, agreements, pamphlets, ca. 1984
- f. 14 Cold Spring Granite: catalogs, n.d.
- f. 15 Pioneer Park Marker: brochures, correspondence, marker inscriptions, ca. 1985
- f. 16 Promotion: brochures, dedication invitation, notes, ca. 1987
- f. 17 Photographs: Fred Lee, sculpture, Tom Beard, markers, n.d.
- f. 18 Newspaper clippings (photocopies): 1985-1988
- f. 19 Slide presentation: commentary, image descriptions, n.d.
- f. 20 Miscellaneous: correspondence, endorsements, meeting notes, ca. 1985

Index

Art Castings of Colorado, Inc.	11, 13
Beard, Betty	8, 9, 11
Beard, Thomas L. (Tom)	1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 18
The Benton Foundation	5
Benton, Thomas Hart	1, 3, 5, 18
Berkley, Richard L.	8, 16, 18
Bernet, Jack	9, 16, 20
Bettis, Lucille B. (Lucile)	1, 9, 16, 18, 20
Bettis, Russell	1, 18
Bridger, Jim	1, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
Broadway Area Association	1, 3
Brosnahan, John J.	1, 9, 16
Cold Spring Granite	14
Cooke, Sis	1, 9, 12

Cookingham, L. P.	1, 4, 8, 9, 18
Corbett, Robert P.	9, 11, 16, 20
Davin, Lydia	9, 16
Davin, Susann	9, 16
Doerschuck, Albert	5, 6
Durham, Jeff	1, 4
Durham Memorial Committee	2
Egan, John T.	16, 18
Fitts, Orvis	1, 2, 9, 16, 20
Fowler, Dale	9, 16
Franzwa, Gregory M.	3, 5, 6, 9, 16, 20
Gates, Ollie	8, 9, 16, 18
Gorman, Mrs. Gerald (Anita)	8, 9, 16
Hedges, Joan	8, 18
Hedges, Ralph	8, 9, 16, 18, 20
Hendricks, Howard K., Jr.	16
Hicks, George	1, 9, 16, 18
Homestead Country Club	1, 4
Hughes, Pat	9, 20
Hyatt Regency Hotel	1
Kalen, Robert L.	16
LaHaye Bronze, Inc.	15
Lee, Fred	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20
Lucas, John	5, 6
Majors, Alexander	1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
McCoy, John Calvin	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20
McElvain, Dudley	1, 3, 5, 6, 18
Native Sons	1, 8, 9, 16, 18, 20
Old Westport Improvement Assoc.	6, 18
O'Malley, George T. (O'Maley)	1, 5, 6
Oregon-California Trails Assoc.	3, 5, 18, 20
Parks and Recreation Dept.	1, 8, 9, 18, 20
Patterson, Greg	1, 2
Perry, Janet	9, 20
Phister, Lawrence C.	1, 9, 16, 18, 20
Pioneer Mother	1, 4
Platt, Beverly H.	1, 9, 16, 20
Posse of Westerners	1, 3
Ranck, Roy, Jr.	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 20
Sewah Studios	15
Smith-Cornell, Inc.	15
Tupper, Tom	1, 4, 5, 6, 18
Westport Bank	5, 6
Westport Historical Society	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16, 18, 20
Westport Tomorrow Association	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,

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