Joseph Fuourka/Joseph “Joe” Roguet Aillet
September 13, 1904 – December 28, 1971
Orphan Train Rider to Louisiana, 1905

Joe Aillet was born Joseph Fuourka in 1904. Shortly after he was born, he was given to the New York Foundling Hospital, which sent him on to Louisiana in 1905. When he arrived in Louisiana, the family who had requested him decided not to take him in, and he was instead taken and raised by a local priest and his widowed housekeeper. Joe played football through high school and college, and began coaching the sport in 1929. He is most well-known for his position as head football coach at Louisiana Tech University, beginning in 1940. While there, he led the team to three Louisiana Intercollegiate and nine Gulf State Championships. In 1952 he also took on the role of golf coach at Louisiana Tech, and led that team to ten Gulf State Conference titles.

Joe was a well-respected coach, and was named the Gulf States Coach of the Year four times. He is also a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Tech Athletic Hall of Fame, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame, and the Holy Cross School Sports Hall of Fame. After 30 years, Joe retired from his position as the Louisiana Tech Athletic Director in 1970. Joe and his wife, Ruby Marie Comeaux Aillet, had three children: two sons and a daughter.

Joe Aillet passed away on December 28, 1971. The following year, the Louisiana Tech University Stadium was renamed the Joe Aillet Stadium.

Sponsored by: Easy G Sports Grill

If you are interested in sponsoring a statue, contact curator Kaily Carson.
curator@orphantraindepot.org
(785) 243-4471

To view the plaques for John Lukes Jacobus, Irma Craig Schnieders, George Jacobs Ducrow, and Joseph Fuourka/Joe Aillet, scan the QR code below or visit https://orphantraindepot.org/statue-plaques/.
Downtown Area (cont.)

Elmer and Ethel Barney: 118 W 6th St., sponsored by Amanda and Brian Strait family


Anna Fuchs: 229 W 6th St., sponsored by the Marian D. Cook Foundation

Thelma Taylor: 225 W 6th St., sponsored by Lisa Brewer in memory of her parents

Fallen Soldier: 506 Washington St., sponsored by Senator Elaine Bowers

John Lukes Jacobus: 622 Washington St., sponsored by Judith Jacobus

Henry Lee Jost: 701 Washington St., sponsored by the City of Concordia

Jessie Feit/Theresa Binder Martin: 702 Broadway St., sponsored by the Charles H. & Isabell Blosser Foundation

Rudolph Jubelt: 635 Broadway St., west side of the building, sponsored by the Morgan family in honor of Lyle and Joan Morgan

Holly Stoll/Hallie Garwood: 635 Broadway St., south side of the building on 7th St., sponsored by the Charles H. & Isabell Blosser Foundation

Michael and Walter Nolan: in the park behind Central National Bank, 130 E. 7th St., sponsored by the Nolan family

West side of town

Paul Young Clithero: 811 Washington St., west side of the building, sponsored by the Cloud County Board of Commissioners made possible by the Meridian Way Wind Farm gift

Mary and Catherine Burns Cornell: 821 Broadway St., south side of the building, sponsored by Chuck and Amber Lambertz Family

William James Family: 620 2nd Ave., sponsored by the Johnston family

Alberta Cole/Roberta “Happy” Slifer: Concordia City Park, near the playground, park by the swimming pool, sponsored by the Concordia Rotary Club and Rotary Club International 5670

Gertrude Vale/Sister Eva Marie Vale: 1300 Washington St., sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph

Genevieve Hunt/Sister Roberta Dreiling: 1300 Washington St., sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph

Rev. Robert Panzer: 740 W 11th St., sponsored by the Friends of the First United Methodist Church

Kansas Riders: 1710 Republican St., sponsored by Irene Brown in memory of her mother

Walter White: 2122 Lincoln St., Sponsored by Leslie and Karen Freeman

East side of town

Father Paul Fangman: 307 E 5th St., sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1142, OLPH Altar Society, and an anonymous donor

Mamie Gunderson: T-ball field at Rasure Field, south east corner of E 7th St. and Cloud St., in loving memory of Bob and Darline Rasure

Alfred Ulshoefer: T-ball field at Rasure Field, south east corner of E 7th St. and Cloud St., in loving memory of Bob and Darline Rasure

Alfred and Helen Weinhold: 1500 E 9th St., sponsored by Parents in Education and the Lyle Ross family

Hayes R. DeVore: 1500 E 9th St., sponsored by Parents in Education and the Lyle Ross family

Out of town

Charles Ferdon/Ferdon Ekstrom: POW Camp, Concordia, 1543 Union Rd., sponsored by the family of Ferdon Ekstrom

Louis Meyer: 311 Walnut St. #D, Jamestown, KS, southeast corner of the community building, sponsored by the Louis Meyer Descendants