

Family

Club News

High Plains Art Club learns about 'Smokey the Bear' artist

High Plains Art Club program chairman for the March 14 meeting was Irma Lee Fleckenstein, who happens to be related to individuals in Atwood who are personal friends of Rudolph Wendelin, a former resident of Ludell, Kan., and who also happens to be the creator of Smokey the Bear, the mascot and symbol for the U.S. Forestry Service. Therefore, when Irma Lee had to choose a program for the meeting, she chose to tell the art club members about Wendelin.

Irma Lee said that Wendelin was born in Herndon, a small town just northeast of Atwood, Feb. 27, 1910, to Ralph and Lanette Wendelin of Ludell, Kan. They also had two other sons and a daughter.

After graduation, Rudolph attended the University of Kansas and studied architecture there for three years. He was hired by the Soil Conservation Department to design a building for them and that gave him the means to go to art school at the Milwaukee Art Institute in Wisconsin. Later, he also studied at the Layton Art School in Corcoran in Washington, D.C. and studied watercolor — his favorite media — under Eliot O'Hara.

In 1933, Wendelin was employed by the Forest Service in Milwaukee as their principal engineer and draftsman, and in 1937 he was transferred to Washington, D.C.

He took a three-year leave from the Forest Service in 1942 to serve in the U.S. Naval Reserves where he drew ships, uniforms and insignia to help identify the home countries of soldiers and equipment. That is when he met Carol Bergman, who he married on March 11, 1944. In April of 1945 the couple moved to Arlington, Va., where they made a permanent home and raised three children: Michael, David, and Elizabeth.

Rudolph returned to his job at the Forest Service in January of 1946 as an illustrator and principal caretaker of Smokey Bear's image and was responsible for maintaining the Co-operative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign's standards in all products, packaging and advertising. At that time the Forest Service had an image of a small bear carrying a bucket of water as their icon, but they weren't satisfied with it, so they asked Rudolph to see if he couldn't come up with something else. He dressed the bear in a Forest Service uniform and humanized Smokey Bear by softening the bear's face and giving him hands, so that he could gesture and point. This gave Smokey character and personality.

Throughout the years Wendelin received many awards including: both the silver and the gold Smokey Award, which he had designed and sculpted. In 1984, he created the Smokey Bear commemorative stamp. Wendelin also won the Horace Hart National Award for Graphic Art in 1969 and illustrated a children's book and various magazines, animated films, designed national system and recreation symbols and signing for National Forests. He also painted watercolors of wilderness and historical scenes in western National Forests while on special assignment, that are now in government collections.

A group of Wendelin's National Forest watercolor scenes, done in 1971, hangs in the office of the Forest Service-Yates Building, and he also painted personal portraits of many chiefs of the Forest Service.

As a child growing up in Rawlins and Decatur counties of Kansas, he was fascinated by stories of the Cheyenne Indians and their trek through Kansas. His painting, "Flight of the Cheyenne," was presented to, and still hangs in the Oberlin Museum. He also gave his painting, "Decision on Cheyenne Hale Vengeance," to the Rawlins County Historical Society and it hangs in the Rawlins County Museum in Atwood. However, his most impressive work is the 28' X 9' historical mural that was unveiled in 1976 and is permanently displayed in the Rawlins County Historical Museum. It is a pictorial history of Rawlins County from the time before it was first settled to the present.

In the business portion of the art club meeting conducted by club

Celebrate April Fool's at senior center

Senior Center

Monday will be belated April Fool's Day at the Senior Progress Center, 165 Fike Park. Dress up as the opposite gender to celebrate. Join in and have a fun day.

There are plenty of activities scheduled at the center for the week of April 3-7, including 10 a.m. exercise with Diann Gerstner Monday. It's also belated April Fool's Day. Income tax help will be available from 1-3 p.m. Tuesday exercise is at 9:30 a.m. and at 11:45 a.m. a nurse from the Thomas County Health Department will talk on cancer awareness. There will also be a board meeting at 1 p.m. Exercise

with Diann Gerstner will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday. Thursday exercise is at 9:30 a.m., and bingo at 11 a.m. Exercise is at 9:30 a.m. Friday, followed by exercise with Diann Gerstner at 10 a.m. It's also Denim Day.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center in Colby wishes to invite those 60 and older and their guests to attend daily luncheons in Colby Monday through Friday. Reservations may be made by calling (785) 460-2901 the day before. Home

delivery is also available for those unable to attend due to social or physical disabilities. Those who work are also invited to come to pick up a meal. Those meals are available at noon to be picked up. For individuals 60 and over a contribution of \$2.50 per meal is requested. Anyone under 60 years of age is invited to attend or pick up a meal at a cost of \$4.50 per meal.

The menu for the next week includes: Monday - tater tot casserole, stewed tomatoes, pears, bread, pudding. Tuesday - meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, peas, bread, ambrosia fruit salad. Wednesday - barbecue

chicken pieces, Spanish green beans, macaroni salad, bread, apricots. Thursday - ham, yamboree, cauliflower with cheese, dinner roll, cherry crisp. Friday - tuna noodle casserole, Italian blend veggies, Mandarin oranges, bread, cookie.

The building is also available for rental for events. For information on lunch reservations, call 460-2901.

The Thomas County Public Van is owned by the county but is scheduled and dispatched by the Senior Progress Center. The van is not a taxi service. It will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

It must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance of its use and be ready at least 30 minutes in advance of appointment. Sometimes there are four to six calls per time frame.

Calls for the van need to be made between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday.

Kids, computers a concern for parents

A computer has become a standard for almost every household these days. And for many parents, that can make them a little nervous.

"It is important for parents to monitor the amount of time their child spends playing video games, or on the Internet," says David Bennett, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics. "Parents need to shield what their kids may find on the Internet that may not be appropriate material."

Following are some suggestions Dr. Bennett recommends for parents to watch for as their child ventures into the world of computers.

Monitor the time a child spends

on the computer. Make sure the child has other interests and gets involved in other activities that do not involve the computer.

Monitor the content of the games the child is playing, as well as the Web sites and chat rooms he is visiting.

Keep the computer in an open part of the house, such as the family room — not the child's room.

Make sure the games and educa-

tional programs your child plays are developmentally appropriate. If a child does not understand the material displayed, he will not be able to learn what the program is teaching.

We want your local news e-mail to pdecker@nwkansas.com



Public Forums

Meet the CCC Presidential Candidates

April 5 & 6, 2006

Cultural Arts Center located on the CCC campus

Dr. Lynn Kreider

Wednesday, April 5 ~ 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Clayton Tatro

Thursday, April 6 ~ 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Thank You

We cannot begin to express our appreciation to our family and friends from coast to coast during the loss of our son and brother. We have been graciously embraced by numerous acts of kindness that will never be forgotten.

Jack, Kathy & Deke Elliott

Faced with a Drinking Problem?
Perhaps
Alcoholics Anonymous Can Help
Meetings are Open to the Public
City Hall Basement
Mondays & Thursdays - 8:30 p.m.

Does Your Tax Guy Guarantee It?

The H&R Block Guarantee:
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