

Discover High Plains history

Prairie Museum offers a look at historical life on the plains

The Prairie Museum of Art and History serves the High Plains area of Kansas as its cultural center. This unique Smithsonian quality museum provides opportunity for the public to learn about art and history through its collections and programs.

As a private, non-profit museum, it is governed by the Thomas County Historical Society. The society was founded in 1959 to preserve the history of Thomas County, Kansas.

The museum site sits on 24 acres just north of Interstate 70, between exits 53 and 54 in Northwest Kansas. A sole house, one-room school, country church and 1930's farmstead are also located within the 24 acre complex.

The Kuska Collection gives the museum the distinction as one of the finest in the Midwest. Of it's over 40,000 artifacts, 28,000 are from the Kuska Collection.

A Little This, A Lotta That, is an introduction to the famous Kuska Collection, and includes glass furniture, ceramics, toys, dolls, stamps, clocks, coins, silver,

jewelry and other antiques.

The Glorious Glass display is an exhibit of over 1,000 pieces of European and American Traditional and decorative glass, and is accentuated by beautiful Bohemian and Venetian art and glass and pieces by Steuben, Galle and Tiffany.

Opera Stars of Northwest Kansas is an exhibit of special interest, because native son Sam Ramey grew up in Colby. He is world renowned for his opera performances in the United States and Europe.

Marion Talley, an opera star of the 1920's was a long time land owner in Thomas County, and a regular visitor to this area.

The Meissen collection is in the ceramics exhibit called Fired Up. It showcases 18th century Meissen, plus over 1,200 pieces of outstanding ceramics from Europe, Asia and the United States.

Prairie Life is an introductory exhibit which explores the settlement period of the high plains of Kansas from the 1880s to the 1930s.



The Prairie Museum of Art and History houses many artifacts and art collections dealing with the western plains. It is operated by the Thomas County Historical Society as a non-profit museum.

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