



EVAN BARNUM / Colby Free Press

Touching and playing is encouraged for one table of nativities at the Presbyterian Church's annual Nati-Tea this Saturday and Sunday. Come share some tea and see manger scenes from around the world.

## Nati-Tea to show off collections of manger scenes from around town

The Colby Presbyterian Church, 515 W. Fourth St., invites everyone to stop in from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday for the annual Nati-Tea. On display will be hundreds of nativity sets – creches, or manger scenes – that church members, as well as others from the area, have collected through the years. Many are crafted by hand and come from around the world, including Mexico, Bangladesh, Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Peru, Israel, Macao, the West Bank of Palestine, as well as Appalachia, Kan-

sas and the Amana Colonies in the United States. One feature for families is a “kid friendly” area where youngsters will be able to touch and play with the pieces. There is no charge for admission, and light refreshments will be served. This is a chance to stop by, even if only for a moment, and reflect on the true meaning of the Christmas season at this one-of-a-kind event, said Evan Barnum, a member of the organizing committee.

# Goodland doctor flew on house calls in 1930s

When Dr. Marion J. Renner of Goodland made house calls, he took his doctor's bag and his pilot's license.

From the 1930s through the 1960s, “The Flying Doctor” served remote areas of northwest Kansas, sometimes flying 50 miles each day to check on a heart patient or up to 300 miles for an emergency at an isolated ranch. For rural northwest Kansans in the mid-20th century, Dr. Renner's flying house calls were often the difference between life and death.

Dr. Renner's work story, and the stories of other northwest Kansas workers, will be on display Saturday, Dec. 15, through Sunday, Jan. 27, when the exhibition “The Way We Worked” is at the High Plains Museum, 1717 Cherry Ave. in Goodland. The museum is one of six hosts of the Kansas Tour of “The Way We Worked,” sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution.

“An airplane is a pair of seven-league boots to a country doctor,” observed “Doc” Renner. His air-

plane aided him in difficult calls, including flying over 15 miles of flooded roads to deliver several babies or landing between snow drifts to fly a desperately ill patient to the hospital.

“Goodland has had many visionaries who served as leaders for the development of our community,” said Karen Anderson, director of the museum.

“A fine example is Dr. Renner. A man invested in his community, he sought to increase the capacity and growth of Goodland through his particular skill set: his flying capabilities and his medical knowledge. He provided health care and made key connections outside the community...”

Renner's story is featured in “125 Years of Work,” the museum's companion exhibition to “The Way We Worked.”

“Goodland is commemorating our 125th anniversary this year,” Anderson said. “Our companion exhibition will showcase the cornerstone of our community – agriculture – and how we built a community upon that cornerstone

through boom and bust.”

Additional stories of work and working can be found at two of the 16 “The Way We Worked in Kansas” partner exhibits in Colby and WaKeeney.

The Thomas County Historical Society is presenting “High and Dry: Farming in Western Kansas!” at the Prairie Museum of Art and History, 1905 S. Franklin in Colby, Thursday, April 18, through June 30. The exhibition looks at the agriculture and agribusiness that supported farming on the high plains.

The Trego County Hospital Endowment and the Trego County Historical Society present “The Way We Worked in Trego County” exhibition at the historical society, 128 N. 13th St. in WaKeeney through Sunday, June 30. The exhibition explores the work of the medical field in Trego County.

For information about exhibits and events in Goodland, contact the High Plains Museum at (785) 890-4595 or www.highplainsmuseum.org.

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