

Van Gogh, painted silo in book of Kansas murals

Authors encourage touring state to see art in public places

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News
 Goodland's giant replica of a Vincent van Gogh sunflower painting is among the murals featured in a new book printed by the University Press of Kansas.

One of the authors directed a mural at Goodland High School listed in the book. "Kansas Murals: A Traveler's Guide," by Lora Jost and Dave Loewenstein includes pictures of 90 murals across the state, including the van Gogh replica here by Canadian artist Cameron Cross.

Jost and Loewenstein, artists themselves, took the photos and researched and wrote the guidebook, which lists murals in more than 160 Kansas towns. The book includes brief biographical sketches of the mural artists as well as locator maps for travelers and a full list of the state's 600 murals by town.

Among the murals listed in northwest Kansas are "Chance, Choice and Change," which Loewenstein directed with high school students in 1996. The depiction of what to do after high school is on the second

floor of Goodland High School. Also listed in Goodland are "Rural Free Delivery," by Kenneth M. Adams, painted in 1937 in the post office, and a historical plaque by Randal Julian at the Goodland Tourist Center. The small bas-relief was completed in 2000.

Four murals in Atwood are listed, including "History of Rawlins County," by Rudolph Wendelin, which is pictured in the book. Five in Colby are listed, including "Education in Thomas County," by Kenneth Mitchell and others, which is pictured.

The 9-inch-by-6-inch, 296-page book is available from bookstores in cloth or paper.

Saralyn Reece Hardy, director of the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas, who wrote the foreword, describes murals as "true public art, out there for anyone to embrace or ignore."

Hardy recalled as a child viewing

a 1930s mural by Birger Sandzen in the Belleville post office. The mural, which includes a line of gold and blue horses approaching a Kansas stream, "continues to enliven this ordinary social space," she said.

Post offices in Lindsborg and Halstead also have murals by Sandzen, the Swedish immigrant who settled in Lindsborg and whose art is known throughout the state.

The authors found that many Kansas murals depict the past, such as scenes of early Plains Indians in the Haskell Indian Nations University auditorium by the late Cherokee artist Franklin Gritts; the arrival of Coronado seen in the expansive "Entrada," by Stan Herd in Liberal; and Civil War history, such as "A Look Back" in the Shawnee City Hall building.

Agriculture, industry and labor are frequent themes, and many murals splash across exteriors of a downtown building such as "The

Saga of the Santa Fe" in Offerle northeast of Dodge City. Others drape farm silos, such as a 9-11-inspired work by Karen Lewis of Abilene.

Wichita has the greatest number of murals, with at least 77, said Jost. Lawrence may be second with about 57, including 10 murals found on Haskell's campus and five at the University of Kansas. Other cities with several murals include Hutchinson and South Hutchinson, with a total of 21 between them; Coffeyville with 19, Salina and Great Bend 17 each and Atchison 15.

"Ninety murals just scratch the surface of the great wealth of murals in the state," Loewenstein said.

Anticipating that readers may know of murals the authors missed in their search, they invite Kansans to contact them by e-mail at lora.jost@hotmail.com or dloewenstein@hotmail.com.



Artist Karen Lewis' tribute on her farm's silo to the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks is one of the murals included in the book "Kansas Murals: A Traveler's Guide" by Lora Jost and David Loewenstein. The silo, at the corner of 2200 Avenue and Jeep Road east of Abilene, has drawn visitors from across the country, with military jets and helicopters flying close by to look and even salute.

Goodland graduate gets award

A Goodland High graduate was among the 2005-06 officers of the Associated General Contractors student chapter at Kansas State University which won a first-place award in the national Outstanding Student Chapter Competition.



Linin

Bill Linin, a K-State senior, was treasurer of the chapter. All the students are construction science or management majors.

"The chapter has received first-, second- or third-place awards each year for the past 17 years, more than any other school in the nation," said Tom Logan, assistant professor of architectural engineering and construction science.

"Not only are the students of Kansas State committed to helping others through their construction abilities, but also through continuing to learn and keep up with current trends. Perhaps most important is their willingness to pass on their knowledge and enthusiasm to the next generation."

The Associated General Contractors of America praised the chapter for its commitment to building, adding to and repairing structures that house service organizations.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:
Jan. 12, 2004 — Steve F. Segreto, \$199 reinstated for speeding.
Aug. 19 — Ryan M. Lechner, \$195 reinstated for speeding.

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HealthGrades™, the nation's leading independent reviewer of healthcare quality, has announced results of its 2007 analysis of cardiac services from the country's leading hospitals. HealthGrades recognized The DeBakey Heart Institute at Hays Medical Center for outstanding cardiac outcomes, both in-hospital and after the patient was discharged:

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