

Employees

Deborah Kennamore,
Director

Shirley Gorge, Curator and
Education Curator

Pat Price, Genealogy

Jean Beaty, Front Office

Courtney Meeker, student
worker

Glenn Young, Experience
Works

Board

Bill Freeman

Jo Ann Phillips

Opal Kunkel

Kent Hoyt

Mona Veteto

Kelly Hull

Duane Fitch

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Traveling Straw Art Exhibit

On May 1st Gini Sharp, President and Exhibit Chair of the Kansas Association of Straw Artists, delivered Golden Weaves of Grain,

a traveling straw art display, to the museum. After it arrived, Shirley Gorge started packing up dolls in the Cochran

Gallery to make room for the display, which consists of over 200 art pieces including the State Seal of Kansas, a covered wagon, a wheat paper nativity, jewelry, and many more pieces of art.

The objective of the Kansas Association of Straw Artists (KASA) is to preserve and promote the ancient art of the plaiting and decorative use of wheat straw.

Wheat weaving is an ancient art used over 8,000 years ago in Egypt. It almost died out because of the mechanization of



This angel was made by Gini Sharp.

harvesting, but in 1958 Alec Coker, a retired BBC engineer, revived the ancient art in England.

Wheat weaving became popular in the United States in the 1970's

by Doris Johnson, who was from Luray, Kansas. She learned how to weave wheat from English books, and she taught wheat weaving in Kansas.

For years, only a few pieces of straw art were entered into competition at the Kansas State Fair, but in the past six years, after KASA was founded in 1997, as many

as 50 pieces have been entered into competition. Some of these pieces are made by splitting straws and spinning straw together to make thread, jewelry, flowers, and hair pieces. Some artists even dye the straw to add color instead of using the golden straw.

We have been fortunate to have the exhibit extended through August 31st for your viewing benefit. Please take the opportunity to come view it as you will truly enjoy it.



This is called "Surrey with Fringe on Top" and was made by Lois Scheufler.

Update on Deborah by Courtney Meeker



As most of you probably already know, towards the beginning of April Deborah Kennamore, our Director, developed blood clots in her lungs following knee surgery. After she suffered from chest pains and had a weird feeling in her knee she went to the Coffey County Hospital where she was told it could

be something serious. Deborah was then flown by Life Flight to St. Francis Hospital in Topeka where they discovered she had blood clots in her lungs. After a couple weeks of rest and being under the constant surveillance of her physicians, she's back at

work and does physical therapy so she will hopefully soon be completely recovered. Even though it was hard without her, we managed to take good care of the museum and we're glad to have her back. Deborah told us all that she is proof of the power of prayers!

New Arrivals by Shirley Gorge

We have received some very interesting and exciting new artifacts at the museum. Two of them have already found a home in a display!

The first one is a seeder, which was donated by Lonnie Lendo. A seeder such as this one would be set into the tailgate section of a box wagon. A chain from the wheel of the wagon runs up the sprocket on the seeder and spins a pair of trays to spray seed out in an arc of about twelve feet.

A person would drive the horses and pull the wagon across the field while another would stay inside the wagon and shovel seed into the hopper.

The second artifact is a wooden water pipe donated by Gene Merry. Can you imagine your life without running water? I know I can't! All people depend on water to cook, clean, wash, etc. Up until the 1800's in big cities and early 1900's in small towns, wooden water pipes were used to distribute water to the community.

There were several things wrong with using wooden water pipes, the most common being that the pipes were infested with insects. As more people settled into towns and cities, the supply for water grew. The increased pressure required to pump water into rapidly expanding streets began to split the pipes. As iron became more available, cities and towns across America began to replace their wooden water pipes with iron.

Genealogy Library by Pat Price

The Genealogy Library has been very busy the past few months. We have had local visitors from Waverly, Lebo, and Westphalia. We have also had out of state visitors from Wyoming, West

Virginia, Montana, New Mexico, and Mississippi. We have helped find history for the families of Mason, Jones, Russell, Bundy, Pieratt, Pekar, Chatman, Glasscock, and Davis. We have also added Micro-film to our

library for the years of 1882-1906, which had been missing.

Come into the museum to visit with us and enjoy the rest of the museum while you are here. You could easily spend an entire day here!

"One of the best ways to understand your future is to learn about your past!"

Museum Information Available on the World Wide Web!

Check us out at <http://www.coffeycountymuseum.org>

Did you know that your museum now has a website on the Internet? As a service to our patrons and the community we serve, the Coffey County Historical Society and Museum has established an informational website on the World Wide Web. Currently, the site contains features on special exhibits hosted at the museum. This includes both current and past exhibits. *Timelines*, the quarterly newsletter

published by the museum, can also be found at the site.

A new feature we just implemented is called "Artifact of the Month". Here, we provide pictures and detailed history for a unique and interesting article from one of the museum collections. The June 2003 Artifact of the Month is the Prairie Schooner.

Making information about your museum and the history of Coffey County available on the Internet is a

new and exciting challenge! We welcome any comments and suggestions you have about the site. The site offers a variety of ways for you to communicate with us. There's direct e-mail links to the Director and to the Website Administrator as well as an automated feedback form that can be accessed from any page on the site. Please provide your input and help us to improve this exciting educational tool.



This Prairie Schooner is June's Artifact of the Month.

Front Office by Jean Beaty

We have been busy keeping track of each other and the individual tasks each is performing not usually in their routine while without a leader.

We are so happy to have Deborah back working

her way into the swing of things keeping us on our toes while we are able to watch her slowly work her way back to health, but she is a determined lady!

Meanwhile, we are busy inside and out with the advent

of nice weather and getting the bug to plant the flowerbeds and boxes. We are also busy welcoming the many guests coming to see the straw exhibit at this time. Oh, darn, there is more filing in my drawer!

Courtney Meeker's "swan song" by Deborah Kennamore

No, Courtney is NOT passing on . . . But her swan song is much more complicated than most! Courtney is the editor for this issue of *Timelines*. We wanted her to have fond memories of us when she heads out for the University in Emporia!

So we gave her the challenge of writing the newsletter and we all think she did a marvelous job, how about you?

We are going to miss Courtney for many things around here. Her great sense of humor, her willingness to try any task, her computer abilities, her patience,

her hard work and mostly her smile! We have been blessed this year with Courtney and while we will miss her so very much. . . We also wish her much success and happiness. Please, Courtney stop in occasionally and give us a SMILE!

Volunteer Week



We would be remiss if we didn't acknowledge National Volunteer Week, which was the week of April 27th to May 3rd, but we employees recognized our limitations in getting together a volunteer recognition without the guidance of our fearless leader who was busy holding onto her own strengths to fight off her personal battles, which she is winning.

You volunteers are so important to this establishment and we are so grateful for each and every one of you. We would like to thank all the volunteers because without you we wouldn't be able to stay open on the weekends or have special events like Pioneer Days and bake sales. Please forgive us for not recognizing National Volunteer Week until now.

We would like to thank: Karen Allen,

Ed Alvis, Greg and Shirley Arnold, Andrea Badgley, Helen Bahr, Carolyn Busboon, Mary Buster, Ellen Byall, Red Caudell, Joanna Clark, Juanita Cox, Catherine Crotts, Bob and Darlene Crouch, Glenn and Phyllis Dorcas, Roger Douglass, Ruth Vering Durow, Neil Ferman, Duane Fitch, Bill and Joan Freeman, Elva Freeman, Millie Garrett, Bobbie Geery, Irma Griffin, Lena Griffin, Lucille Hair, Helene Hall, Lavena Hammond, Jody Hendrickson, Jody and Herbert Hood, Lisa Hoover, Kent and Lori Hoyt, Wilma Huffman, Nadine Huggard, Kelly Hull, Paul and Carol Jones, Stephanie Jones, Gayle and Blanca Kantack, Helen Kaufman, Pete Kennamore, Brenda Klubek, Bill Knapp, Opal Kunkel, Sue Lawrence, Elysa Lovelady, Lola Mae Luke, Mac and Mary

Ann McAlister, John McConnell, Frances McReynolds, Sid and Bruce Meeker, Della Meyer, Florence Miller, Gladys Naylor, Martha Newkirk, Roberta Norman, Cloyce and JoAnn Phillips, Julia Plank, Kelcey Ponder, JoAnn Raaf, Bud and Carol Redding, Linda Salava, Mary Salava, Windy Samuelson, Virginia Shephard, Darlene and Carl Smith, Joan Snyder, Bob and Caroline Spatz, Cindy Stohs, Darlene and Marvin Tower, Jennifer Trimble, Renee Trimble, Retha Tweedy, Joel and Rebecca Vannocker, Mona Veteto, Ina Merle Williams, LaVerne Williamson, Marjory Wilson, Bill and Leona Winters, Carolyn Wortman, and Louise Wortman. Please forgive us if we missed a name.

Thank you so much! We really appreciate everything you do.

**Our
volunteers
are like GOLD**

News from the Director by Deborah Kennamore

It isn't often that you get to talk to a great number of visitors about the quality of our museum. Thanks to the Straw Art, however, we have had a great opportunity to talk to people who have seen our signs on Highway 75 and stopped to see the museum. They are more than willing to tell us about their own museums in their hometowns. We have been able to enjoy these conversations and ideas that are shared. Our visitors have been from almost everywhere and it has really been a great experience for the entire staff. We have been able to extend the Straw Art Exhibit to the end of August, so come in and see the wonderful pieces of art!

This time of the year is a bit bittersweet for us. Our student worker graduates and then a new student worker starts. Courtney Meeker has been with us for the entire year and we will truly hate to see her go. She is a true delight! And then we have Jessi Cherry who will be our student worker starting in the fall. Our student workers are a wonderful source for us. They offer us as much as we hope that we are teaching them! Good luck Courtney!

The staff is trying to squeeze in vacations amid the many tours and visitors and genealogy seekers. It is sometimes difficult trying to do all

we want to do during this time of the year. We like the challenge!

The annual Kansas Museum Association meeting this upcoming October will be in Ulysses, Kansas. It will be exciting to see what type of museums are in that area and the meeting is always a great source of information for us. We are looking forward to the event. This year, as a member of the KMA board, I have several responsibilities for the conference. It will be hard work but I am looking forward to spreading the word about our great museum here and the meeting always affords that opportunity to us.

We are still selling bricks for our Gazebo. We had hoped to start construction in 2003 but it is starting to look like it might be 2004 instead. We are in the process of preparing the 2004 budget right now. As usual money will be "tight". It always amazes me what we can accomplish here on such a small budget. The quality is incomparable to any other museum I have seen. We have a lot to be proud of here and I sure hope it "shows". Please plan a trip to the museum this summer, we would love to see you! And don't forget to visit our website: coffeycountymuseum.org! It is a great way to keep in touch!

Have a GREAT summer!

123rd Coffey County Fair

We are happy to offer an exhibit honoring the 123rd year of the Coffey County Fair.

We would appreciate any help

from the people of Coffey County who have history or an artifact from past fairs they would share with us for this exhibit.

Coffey County Historical Society & Museum

*1101 Neosho Street
Burlington, KS 66839*

*Phone: 620-364-2653
Fax: 620-364-8933*

We're on the Web

<http://www.coffeycountymuseum.org>

We Need More Volunteers

We need more people to volunteer to work from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the weekends. Someone from the sheriff's office opens and closes the museum, so all the volunteer has to do is answer the phone and greet visitors who come into the museum. We have trouble finding people to volunteer



during the summer because everyone's going on vacation, and we would love to stay open so that everyone can come in and see our wonderful museum. So if you're interested in volunteering please call us at the museum: (620) 364-2653.