

THE ROOSTER

Bleeding Kansas



Actors demonstrate what a town meeting in the 1850s would look like, splitting the crowd pro-slavery and anti-slavery. The reenactment included prominent historical figures such as border ruffian Felix Caster (left), radical Jim Lane (middle), abolitionist John Brown (right), governor Charles Robinson and his wife Sara, Pottawatomie Creek Massacre widow Mahala Doyle and sheriff Samuel Jones. Photos by Laurel Barber.

Reenactment brings history to life

Hannah Mumpower
Scholastic Press Corps

The Lecompton Reenactors have brought “Bleeding Kansas,” an exciting and interactive historical reenactment full of emotion and educational content, to the 2019 Kansas State Fair.

The historical play by J. Howard Duncan depicts a 1850s town hall meeting in the Kansas Territory. This reenactment reflects the sentiments of the time regarding slavery in Kansas and the opinions of the pro-slavery and free state governments.

CELEBRATING ALL THINGS KANSAS

The reenactors put on an average of 50 shows a year revealing a wide spectrum of personalities and opinions from 1854-61 in the Kansas Territory. The goal of the reenactors is to educate and entertain the youth in Kansas.

“It’s a way of promoting the importance of Kansas to the national history,” reenactor Paul Bahnmaier said. “Because Kansas, Eastern Kansas, was where a civil war started and our tagline in Lecompton is ‘Birthplace of the Civil War Where Slavery Began to Die.’”

Bahnmaier, previously a social studies teacher, has participated in historical reenactments for more than 20 years. He has been involved in the retelling of Kansas history and has performed all across

the state. Bahnmaier portrayed pro-slavery advocate sheriff Samuel Jones.

“I thought they were knowledgeable and portrayed their characters well,” Ann Schlereth, a State Fairgoer from Jetmore said. “They displayed emotion in their speech and I really enjoyed it.”

The reenactment was written specifically to show middle school youth the rich history of Kansas and how important it was to the nation.

“We’re just teaching in a different way,” reenactor Suzanne Germes said. “Each of us has done a lot of research on our characters. We’ve taken the spirit of the play from the research we’ve done. Some of it is quotes from exactly what they’ve said.”

Germes, a resident of Topeka, participates with her husband Steve. The couple portrayed Dr. Charles Robinson, a free state governor, and his wife Sara, an anti-slavery propagandist.

“My husband and I and Paul, we’ve all been educators,” Suzanne said. “I was a principal and a superintendent of schools. My husband was a history professor, Paul was a social studies teacher.”

“The Reenactment gives an opportunity to educate anyone who sees it to the rich history of Kansas,” Bahnmaier said. “It shows you how important Kansas Civil War history is to the United States. I hope the state will promote its rich territorial Kansas history because that’s economic development.”

To learn more about the Reenactment, visit lecomptonkansas.com.

Farming for the Future

Moo U educates fairgoers about farms, livestock

Emma Frey
Scholastic Press Corps

Did you know that only female ducks quack? Or that rabbit's shouldn't actually consume carrots? Through the Moo U Guided Livestock Tours, farmers hope to educate both children and adults about many different kinds of livestock.

Tour guide Lynda Stewart said the primary purpose of the tours is to teach people who live in urban settings about farming. Stewart grew up on a dairy farm in Kentucky operated by her father. She has lived on a farm for 77 years. Stewart learned from a young age that farming is a hands-on job. "The farming industry has changed with computers, but farmers still have to milk the cows and be present for births and things like that," Stewart said. "Farming really is a profession. Sundays are never free."

Also with a background in farming was tour guide Jana Wagstaff. Wagstaff says her children, primarily her daughter, are involved in farming. She currently works and lives on a farm with 30 head of Charolais cattle outside of Henderson, Texas. Wagstaff said while Stewart knows the more technical side of things, she likes to keep it simple and easy to understand for the kids, while still using proper terminology. "Some kids don't even know that a baby pig is called a piglet, to them, it's just a pig," Wagstaff said.

Recently, Wagstaff was a tour guide in Dallas for the Texas State Fair. She spent time teaching kids who grew up in the inner city about the importance of agriculture. "I enjoy going around and teaching children about farming," Wagstaff says, "I love educating



Laughing about getting a rabbit bite Lynda Stewart jokes with tour guests. First time tour guide at the State Fair Stewart showed on a rotation with Jana Wagstaff. "I like to teach kids about the hard work farming entails," Stewart said.



Lynda Stewart explains why sheep have blankets over them to fairgoers. Tours took place every hour on the hour from 9 a.m. to noon and then 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Photos by Laurel Barber

our future."

Along with spreading information, Moo U also shows communities that farming isn't all a product of large corporations. They hope to relate that farming comes from families and regular people. Even being tour guides, Stewart and Wagstaff still learn new things

every day about livestock. They want to take this knowledge and share the importance of farming across the country.

"They always tell you to thank the farmers, and you really should," Wagstaff said, "without them, we wouldn't even have the shirts on our backs."

FARMING FACTS

1. Cows have 4 compartments in their stomachs.
2. The turkey was almost the national bird.
3. Goats have rectangular pupils.
4. A male rabbit is called a buck.
5. A rooster is not needed in order for a hen to lay eggs.
6. Dairy cows don't have teeth on the top of their mouth.
7. The only country without chickens is the Vatican City.
8. Newborn piglets can learn their mother's voice.

THE ROOSTER STAFF:

Eleanor Badeker
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Hannah Mumpower
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Whittling the hours away

Artisans share their hobbies, creations

Kaytlyn Meseke
Scholastic Press Corps

Visitors to the Oz Gallery found the opportunity to learn about several creative hobbies.

Darryl Neighbor, James Cruveling and Ron Sonergard demonstrated the art of woodcarving.

"I'm just happy carving," Neighbor said, "Once you get started on it you kind of get hooked."

Neighbor has been woodcarving as a hobby ever since he retired from teaching in 2004. He prefers to use basswood, just like Cruveling and Sonergard do, because of the fine, straight grain. Neighbor said you can carve with anything that will cut wood, but he chooses to use knives, gouges and bow sanders.

"I hope to see woodcarving in younger generations. I'd hate to see it die," Cruveling said.

Along with the woodcarving, Luella Bishop demonstrated the skill of match making, where she creates models of houses out of matches and tacky glue. Bishop has been doing projects like this for three years off and on, some days spending eight to ten hours on them.

Bishop has been coming to the fair since she was a kid, but this is her second year of bringing her match making projects. Last year she brought her project that was made mostly out of matches but also included furniture pieces, a roof made out of popsicles and fabric for the wall colors. It took two years to create with the help of her granddaughter.

This year she was asked to bring a project that was completely made out of matches, furniture and all. For it she



Darryl Neighbor and James Cruveling shape their pieces of wood into art. Neighbor has been doing wood carving since he has retired 17 years ago. "For me, it is just for fun, some of these guys do it for the money but I just do it for fun," Neighbor said. Photos by Laurel Barber.



Working on and off for two years Luella Bishop creates a house out of matches, popsicle sticks and fabric with her granddaughter. This was Bishop's first big project that she has put in the fair which she put in last year.

created a two-story house, using colorful matches. In her free time, she also enjoys upholstering furniture pieces, woodcarving, oil portraits and even drawing with gel pens.

"The creation part is my favorite part — seeing what I can come up with, what I can create, whether I show it or not," Bishop said.



Luella Bishop shows the different levels of her matchstick house. The house took five months to create which she created intended for this fair.

Spellbound



Three reasons Glenda Mann loves the fair is the things you can do, the things you can learn, and all the things you can eat! Glenda twirled her hula hoops to entertain fairgoers. "We started out small then got asked to do more and more shows," Glenda said. Photos by Laurel Barber

Couple combines humor, magic to entertain

Eleanor Badeker
Scholastic Press Corps

Amid peals of laughter, a smack-talking ostrich and color-changing balls delighted audiences at Glenda and Mike's Mysteries and Wonders Show.

The performance included tricks with linking hula hoops and disappearing scarves and ventriloquism using both puppets and audience members.

Glenda and Mike Mann have been performing for more than 15 years, with Glenda specializing in magic tricks while Mike does ventriloquism. The couple lives in a magic-filled house in Hutchinson but travels frequently for shows.

The Manns originally performed a musical act before they were asked to perform for some children. Looking for something more appealing to kids, the Manns decided to try magic, inspired by Glenda's grandmother, another magician.

**"If we're not having a good time, they're not having a good time."
— Glenda Mann**

Mike's ventriloquism act was inspired by TV personas like Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets. "It was very uncomfortable doing ventriloquism for the first year," Mike said, "you have to get it perfected because everyone looks at your mouth all the time," Mike said. Starting with Muppet type puppets set the stage for

Mike's ventriloquism, teaching him how to act and coordinate mouth movements. "You're acting for two people all the time," Mike said, "yourself and the puppet." The Manns now own

about 10 puppets that they use for a variety of acts.

The Manns incorporate animals into their act, using white doves and a lionhead rabbit named Stardust. "They're really sweet, kind animals, that's why magicians use them," Mike said.

The Manns perform for audiences of all ages, from elementary schools to business parties. "Sometimes adults laugh even harder than the kids," Glenda said.

The Manns enjoy having fun along with their audience. "If we're not having a good time, they're not having a good time," Glenda said, "so we try to make it a party."



Volunteer Aaron Twanzen becomes a human ventriloquy puppet. Twanzen and his family come to the fair every year.



Gavin from Wichita hula hoops during the Mann's performance wanting to win a prize. Gavin and the other volunteers received a magic coloring book.