

Subject: 8 Wonders of Kansas Abilene Exhibit Reception

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SPOTLIGHT ARTICLE
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For Immediate Release
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Lindsborg's 8 Wonder of Kansas

LINDSBORG, KANSAS - 04/12/2011 -



With four winners and two finalists in the Kansas Sampler Foundation contest, Lindsborg is an authentic 8 wonder of Kansas. The Foundation states the purpose of the contest was to educate the public about what there is to see and do in Kansas and encourage the public to get out and see for themselves. Visit Lindsborg and experience our wonders in Geography, Art, Commerce, History and Customs!

The Eisenhower Presidential Library in Abilene and the Inman-based Kansas Sampler Foundation partnered to display the 8 Wonders of Kansas in an exhibit designed to help celebrate Kansas' sesquicentennial in 2011. The exhibit is on-going until September 5, 2011. The Eisenhower Presidential Library is located at 200 SE 4th Street and open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. There is no admission charge to the exhibit.

A reception for the exhibit and the premier of the *8 Wonders of Kansas Guidebook* will be held April 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Eisenhower Library with the program at 2:00 p.m. The public is welcome but a RSVP to marci@kansassampler.org is appreciated.

"Lindsborg should be very proud to have seven entries in the 8 Wonders of Kansas contest and book. The book, featuring 800 photos by Harland Schuster, will be used as a guide to visiting the best Kansas has to offer. With background information, directions and hours, the book makes it easy to know when and where to visit 216 places in Kansas."--Marci Penner, Director of the Kansas

Sampler Foundation

Lindsborg Winners:

Coronado Heights, Geography

One of Coronado Heights' neighbors, the late L.A. Johnson, was heard to say, "If Coronado Heights could talk, half of Lindsborg would have to move."

Coronado Heights acquired its name honoring Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, who visited central Kansas in 1541 in search of the rumored "Seven Cities of Gold." Native Dakota sandstone was used to build the castle and the picnic areas found at the top in 1936 as a project of the Works Progress Administration. This wonder is perfect for destination weddings, photography enthusiasts, artists, flying kites and/or hiking or riding the off-road bicycle trails.

Hemslöjd-Dala Horse Factory, Commerce

The only shop in the U.S. that handcrafts Dala horse shaped signs and other traditional Swedish crafts, "Hemslöjd" is Swedish for handicraft. Lindsborg-based Hemslöjd, Inc. carries on the Swedish tradition of handcrafted items featuring personalized wood Dala horse signs and etched glass. You are invited to watch the craftsmen at work and visit the gift shop of Swedish and Scandinavian imports. Since opening more than 36,000 Dala horse signs have been sold.

Dala Horses (Displaying an Ethnic Handicraft), Customs

The Dala Horse is a wooden tail-less, stubby horse with origins that date back to early Swedish loggers and miners that whittled this horse for their children during long cold Scandinavian nights. Dala horses were believed to have been brought to Lindsborg with the Swedish settlers who founded Lindsborg in 1869. Lindsborg celebrates its Swedish heritage with the red-coated Dala horse as a welcome symbol and community identity icon.

In 2000, the community came up with a pop-art twist on the traditional handicraft. The name for the pop-art Dala horses? Wild Dala Horses! From 2000 to present day, the Wild Dalas of Lindsborg have grown to a herd of 30.

Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, Art

Birger Sandzén is one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas Art because of his unique landscape paintings featuring bold brushwork and vibrant color and because of his lithographs, block prints, and drypoints.

In 1899, Sandzén had become the principal art teacher at Bethany College. He taught at Bethany for the remainder of his career, retiring in 1946. During his lifetime he completed in excess of 2600 oil paintings and 500 watercolors. He created 207 lithographs, 94 block prints and 27 drypoints, which when the editions are totaled amount to over 33,000 prints. Donations welcomed.

Lindsborg Finalists:

1898 Roller Mill, History

The Smoky Valley Roller Mill is the oldest operational roller (flour) mill in the Midwest and the only one with all of its original equipment in place. It has been not only preserved, but fully restored to operating condition and is capable of producing flour at any time. The mill operates (without grain) once a year during the museum's Millfest event, the first weekend in May. Between 10 and 15,000 visitors each year visit the site to see the historic mill and learn more about the agricultural heritage of the state and region. Admission fee is adults \$2; children 6-12 \$1.

Red Barn Studio, Art

The Red Barn Studio was the working studio of professional artist and craftsman Lester Raymer (1907-1991). The studio is filled with Raymer's art and handiwork, from paintings and prints to

ceramics and metalwork, from woodcarving to stitchery, furniture and jewelry. His work is influenced by his love for the world's great painters (especially the Spanish masters), the Southwest and Mexico, religious symbolism and folk art. Donations welcomed.

Birger Sandzen, "Smoky River", Art Post Office section

As most struggled through the depression, the government looked to ways to put people to work and pay them for their efforts. One such program was the "Section of Fine Arts" that funded artists to produce fine art on public buildings to provide accessible art to all people. Birger Sandzen painted the oil on canvas, "Smoky River" in 1938 as a part of "the Section" program. The painting is still located in the Lindsborg Post Office at Second and Lincoln.



Contact the Convention and Visitors Bureau for more information regarding events in Lindsborg. Ph: (785) 227-TOUR (8687) or Toll free: (888) 227-2227. E: cvbdir@lindsborgcity.org. W: visitlindsborg.com. When in Lindsborg, please stop by at 104 E. Lincoln for all travel information. See you in the 'Borg--A Destination For All Seasons!

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