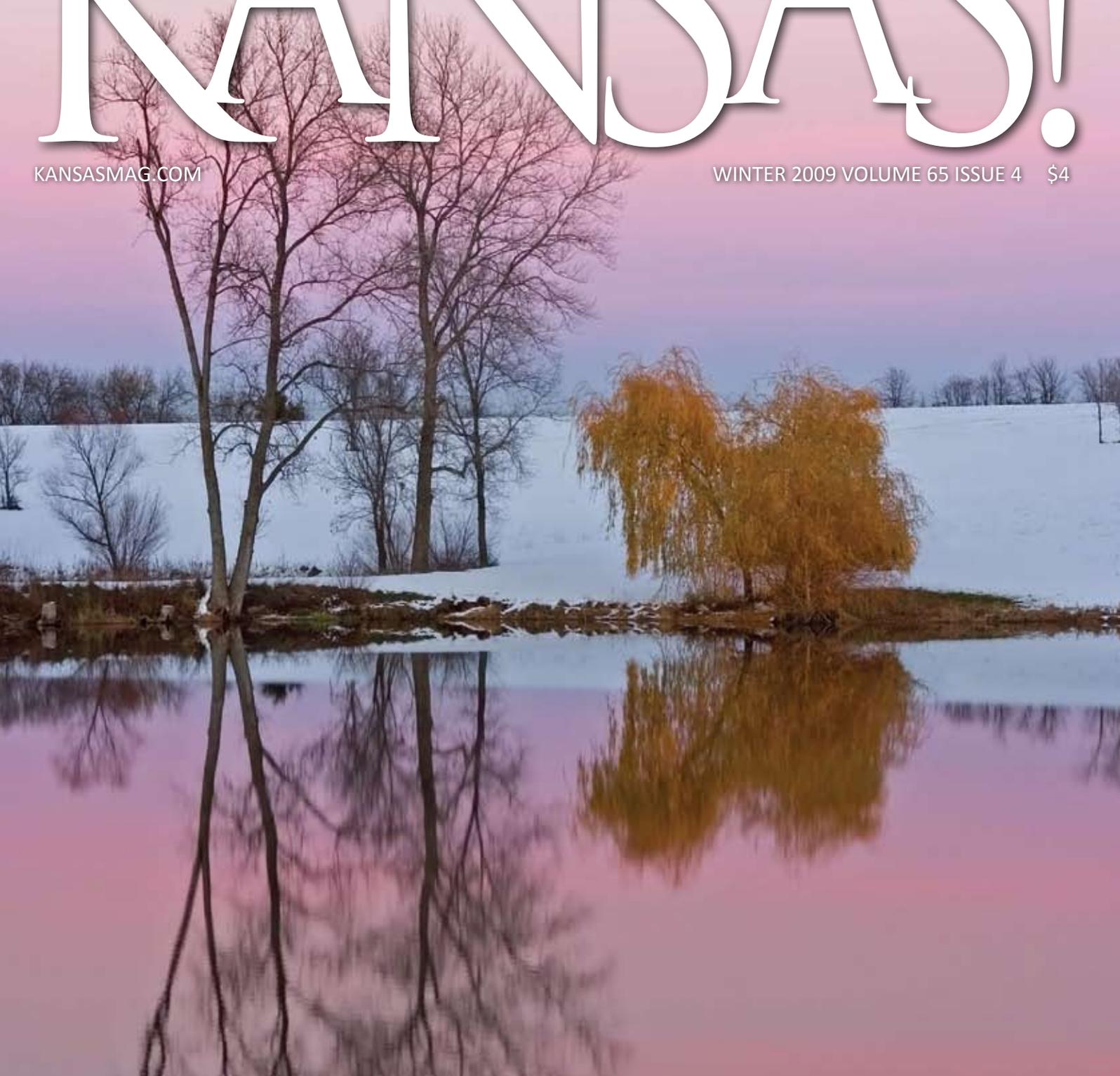


KANSAS!

KANSASMAG.COM

WINTER 2009 VOLUME 65 ISSUE 4 \$4



CELEBRATING

THE GIFTS OF WINTER

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KANSAS!

Send your story ideas to
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KANSAS!, 1000 S.W. Jackson St.,
Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66612-1354.



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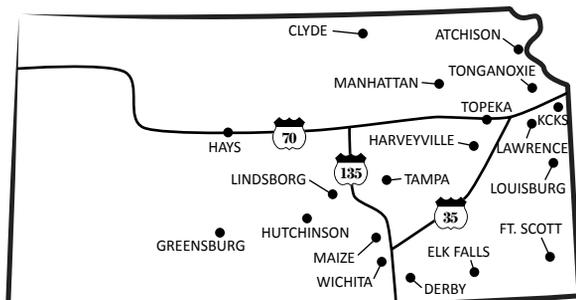
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FROM THE EDITOR

Fond memories flutter in this time of year. We enjoy the sights and sounds of bustling holiday activity around us and look forward to gathering with family and friends. I am even reminded of my grandmother's Christmas decorations and her love for this special time of year. It's so clearly a moment for reminiscing and preparing to begin anew.



As you may notice with our 2009 winter issue, a few things are different. With the 65th anniversary of the magazine around the corner and a new publisher on board, we are freshening up as we work toward the winter 2010 commemorative issue. Many of you have given us your thoughts on the magazine and shared your pride in Kansas. We hope to continue on that path next year.

As we bask in winter's wonderland, we hope you are reminded of KANSAS! magazine's glory and long-standing traditions this holiday season.

We'll see you next year.

Jennifer Haugh, Editor

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FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @KANSASMag

LETTERS

INSPIRING IMAGES

I agree with the letters to the editor that *KANSAS!* magazine is terrific. However, I really admire the 2009 calendar photos (May, June and August are my favorites). The spring and summer photos certainly portray the real and refreshing sides of Kansas. Thanks for sharing your state with me through the magazines and calendar. Glad to be a subscriber.

DOTTIE MADJERICH
Kingman, Arizona

REMINDERS OF HOME

I just received the fall 2009 *KANSAS!* magazine today. I always look forward to receiving the issues; it gives me a sense of home. My husband and I currently live in Texas but are originally from Wichita and Wellington. Before moving to Texas we lived in Independence for six years, and in reading the article "Splendor in the Grass" highlighting this town, it made me feel very proud to have a little bit of Indy in me. The photographs were beautifully taken and they gave a sense of what Independence is ... a beautiful, down-home, caring community. Thank you. The rest of the magazine, with all of its fall photographs, was just wonderful. Many pictures had me sitting and imagining the sounds and smells that come with a Kansas autumn. Thank you all for a great magazine. I definitely will be showing my Texas friends this issue.

DENISE GARNER
Athens, Texas

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

Editor, *KANSAS!*, 1000 S.W.
Jackson St., Suite 100, Topeka, KS
66612-1354 or e-mail
KSMAGAZINE@SUNFLOWERPUB.COM

BEAUTIFUL BARN

I just received my beautiful 2010 calendar and I am thrilled to see the old barn on the September page with information about the Kansas Barn Alliance and our September Barn Fest. In June of 2010, the national barn conference will be held in Atchison and we will be touring barns of Doniphan County. Thank you for all your good work and especially for your information about the Kansas Barn Alliance.

SALLY HATCHER
KBA President,
Leavenworth, Kansas

THANKS FROM THE NORTHWEST

I would like to applaud your efforts in this month's issue to feature U.S. Highway 36 and especially Oberlin and the LandMark Inn. ... Thanks again for promoting the northern tier of counties and northwest Kansas attractions. As usual the photos are tremendous. I love the line, "It's 26 miles shorter than I-70 ... but it's miles more interesting and fun." We sincerely appreciate the coverage.

CONNIE GRAFEL
Oberlin, Kansas

SWEET SOUTHEAST

Wow, thanks for the "Splendor in the Grass" article. I grew up in Independence from 1926 to being drafted in World War II and have always remembered what a wonderful place it was. Always look for Flint Hills and southeast Kansas items. You do a wonderful job at telling about Kansas. Thanks again.

GENE ATKINSON
Winston-Salem,
North Carolina

KANSAS!

WINTER ISSUE 2009

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KANSAS
as big as you think™



Where artists gather
in pursuit of beauty and
in honor of heritage



As you leisurely stroll along Lindsborg's brick Main Street, lined with unique shops and a playful herd of brightly painted Wild Dala horses, lively Scandinavian folk music hums in the background. You've arrived in a town with roots so deeply embedded in its heritage, it's known as "Little Sweden, U.S.A." Lindsborg was founded in 1869 by pioneers from Sweden with an appreciation and passion for art, music and craftsmanship—all of which continue to thrive today.

The Works Progress Administration constructed the castle at Coronado Heights, north of Lindsborg, in 1932. Known as a popular attraction, the castle provides excellent views of the Smoky Hill River Valley.
Photo by Carla J. Wilson

“We moved here because the people value the performing and visual arts, and we wanted to be among people who think creatively.” – Kathy Richardson



TOP Hello Dala! is one of the many Wild Dala horses throughout Lindsborg. The dalas painted by various artists represent Norwegian tradition and Lindsborg’s community of art. *Photo by Jeanette Steinert*
BOTTOM Sneak a peek into Small World Gallery, one of many galleries and studios in Lindsborg. *Photo by Jim Richardson*

one of several Lindsborg gift shops offering Scandinavian items.

Colorful works of art are created at Clogs & Such, where a clog master crafts the Swedish wooden shoes painted by folk artists. Wander over to Swedish Pastries & Emporium to discover arty treats, like the light and tasty Swedish pancakes topped with lingonberries and dusted with powdered sugar.



ATTRACTIONS

Old Mill Museum (785) 227-3595, WWW.OLDMILLMUSEUM.ORG
Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery (785) 227-2220, WWW.SANDZEN.ORG
Smoky Hill Bison Co. (785) 667-2707, WWW.BISONFARM.COM

THE ART OF HERITAGE

The Dala horse, Sweden’s symbol of culture and crafts, is Lindsborg’s best-known icon. Pick up a brochure at the Chamber of Commerce and hunt for the 4-foot-tall Wild Dalas on the streets. Individually decorated by area artists, each Wild Dala has a clever name, such as Fala the Dala Brick Road, dubbed in honor of the town’s brick streets, or Kronor the Dollar Horse, named for the Swedish currency unit but bearing the look of a U.S. \$1 bill.

Visit Hemslöjd, known as the Dala horse factory, to watch a woodcarver whittle one of the widely popular Dala house signs to be personalized by the resident folk artist. Bearing the Swedish word for handicraft, Hemslöjd is just

CREATIVE ROOTS

“It’s a Swedish tradition to make things beautiful and not just functional,” says Kathy Richardson, co-owner of Small World Gallery with her husband, Jim, a photographer for *National Geographic* magazine. “They believe in the arts in everyday life, from decorative painting to woodcarving to ironwork.”

This desire to beautify the environment is reflected in the architecture of the 1904 World’s Fair Swedish Pavilion at the Old Mill Museum’s Heritage Village. It’s also what attracted the Richardsons to open a gallery featuring Jim’s work and Kathy’s handmade jewelry.

“We moved here because the people value the performing and visual arts, and we wanted to be among people who think creatively,” says Kathy.

OUR TOWN

"We want people to take with them an appreciation for bison, nature and agriculture." – Linda Hubalek



Gary Shogren, Lindsborg community development director, says more than 60 working artists and craftsmen live in the town with a population around 3,300. Observe a weaver at Elizabeth's, get tips from a painter or wood carver at Studio Lindsborg or learn how a candle is poured at The Butcher, The Baker and The Candlestick Maker.

An appreciation of diverse art can be found at the Courtyard Gallery, a former movie theater renovated to reflect Swedish architecture. The works of more than 75 Midwest artists, many from Kansas, can be found on the shop's five levels. There are prairie landscapes, sculptures, glass art, jewelry, pottery and more.

"We have a rich history of the arts in Lindsborg," Shogren says. In 1894, a Swedish-born and Paris-trained painter, Birger Sandzen, arrived in Lindsborg to teach art at Bethany College and became the first influential artist in the city. Today his work is preserved at the Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery on

Bethany's campus. Lester Raymer was another prominent artist whose masks, ceramics, metal and jewelry are still found in his Red Barn Studio.

MORE THAN VISUAL ART

Lindsborg is well-known for hosting performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, a tradition that began in 1881 at Bethany College. According to Shogren, the town also boasts the longest-running outdoor theater in Kansas—the 50-year-old Broadway RFD that performs in Swensson Park.

The community embraces its history through a traditional Lucia Festival in December, Midsummer's Day Festival in June and Svensk Hyllningsfest—featuring Swedish folk dancing, cuisine and music—in October of odd-numbered years.

Just north of Lindsborg, climb the winding road to the top of Coronado Heights to see the imaginative stone castle built through the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s. Then travel northeast to the Smoky Hill Bison Co.,

Lindsborg was founded in 1869 by pioneers from Sweden with an appreciation and passion for art, music and craftsmanship—all of which continue to thrive today.



MAIN STREET

Shopping is a must in Lindsborg.

Find treasured items and original art at:

Hemslöjd (785) 227-2983, WWW.HEMSLOJD.COM

Swedish Pastries & Emporium (785) 227-2680

Small World Gallery (785) 227-4442

Studio Lindsborg (785) 227-8922

The Butcher, The Baker and The Candlestick Maker (785) 227-8904

Courtyard Gallery (785) 227-3007, WWW.COURTYARDGALLERY.COM

Red Barn Studio (785) 227-2217, WWW.REDBARNSTUDIO.ORG

ABOVE A wintry view of downtown Lindsborg, where various galleries and heritage shops are open year-round. *Photo courtesy Lindsborg News Record*

OPPOSITE

TOP Bison graze the land at Smoky Hill Bison Co. northeast of Lindsborg. The ranch also serves as a popular stop for visitors, featuring art, books, meat and a prairie experience. *Photo by Linda Hubalek*

BOTTOM During the Midsummer's Day Festival in June, many community members gather for a traditional Swedish dance at the historic Swedish Pavilion on Mill Street. It's a lasting tradition and popular event for visitors. *Photo by Carla J. Wilson*

where you'll find American Indian art among the buffalo meat, hides, books and toys in the Visitors Center. Although there are no pasture tours during the winter months, the bison herd can be viewed from the Visitors Center, where owner Linda Hubalek eagerly discusses the animal with guests.

"We want people to take with them an appreciation for bison, nature and agriculture," she says. "It's really neat to see buffalo out roaming in the snow."

Also an author, Hubalek wrote *Planting Dreams*, a tale that follows her Swedish ancestors who settled on the Kansas prairie. Her *Butter In the Well* series relates the story of the Swedish immigrant family that homesteaded the farm on which she was reared.

Like so many Lindsborg residents, Hubalek believes her Swedish heritage contributes to her appreciation of tradition, art and culture.

Abilene writer Cecilia Harris travels to Lindsborg as least once a year and always finds new works of art she admires.

END OF THE DAY

Scott Bean, Tuttle Creek Lake

