

6/4/08

**Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties
Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua**

**Beloit • June 11-15, 2008 • Chautauqua Park
Chautauqua Drive and Highway 14**

**In the event of bad weather, tent performances will be held at the
Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey.**

**All evening tent programs are moderated by
Will Rogers, portrayed by Doug Watson.**

**For more information contact the Solomon Valley-Highway 24-Heritage
Alliance at www.hwy24.org or visit www.knchautauqua.org.**

Events are free unless indicated by (\$)

Youth Chautauqua Camp

Presented by Ride Into History

Wednesday, June 11-Sunday, June 15

Location: Contact the Mitchell County Historical Museum, 785/738-5355

1-5 PM Wednesday – Saturday; 1-7 PM Sunday

4th-8th grade participants will research a local historical figure and portray them under the Chautauqua tent on Sunday evening. Pre-registration required. Contact the Mitchell County Historical Museum at 785/738-5355 for more information.

Dust Bowl Traveling Exhibit

Wednesday, June 11-Sunday, June 15

1-4 PM

Location: First National Bank Room, North Mill Street

In the 1930s, the Farm Security Administration (FSA) photographed the faces and landscape of the Dust Bowl. Forty years later, Nebraska photographer Bill Ganzel found and re-photographed the survivors for a book and exhibition. The *Dust Bowl* exhibit, from Humanities Texas, combines the FSA photographs with Ganzel's photographs to tell a story of strength and triumph in the face of despair.

6/4/08

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Iconic Images

High School workshop

1 PM

Location: Mitchell County Historical Museum, 402 N 8th

1930s photographers, like Dorothea Lange, captured the hardship and despair of the Great Depression in images that are still powerful today. Aspiring high school photographers will study local images from the 1930s and will create their own iconic modern-day photographs. Cameras provided. Pre-registration required; contact the Mitchell County Historical Museum at 785/738-5355 for more information.

Meet the Chautauquans Social

6 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

Join the Chautauquans under the tent to meet, mingle, and get a preview of the exciting events for the upcoming week!

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Agriculture Then and Now

Presented by Patrick McGinnis

10:30 AM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

Today's family farm looks much different than the farms of our grandparents and great-grandparents. During the 1930s, New Deal farm policies changed traditional farming practices and the role of government in agriculture. This workshop will examine why these policies were introduced and how they affected rural communities.

Will Rogers: Film and American Society

Presented by Doug Watson

1 PM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

From 1929-1935, Will Rogers made 21 "talkies." These movies, filled with Rogers' trademark wit, wisdom, and an optimistic vision of American society, were extremely popular. They also provide insight into social topics from the time period such as new wealth, rural distress, political and economic corruption. This workshop examines how Rogers' movies informed Americans about complex issues. Can the same be said about today's movies?

6/4/08

Huey Long and State Innovation

Presented by Fred Krebs

3 PM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

Huey Long was innovative in his approach as Governor of Louisiana from 1928-1932. He worked to create laws that would make life easier and more equitable for the people. This workshop will examine Long's work as a reformer in his home state. How did his ideas effect change in Louisiana and the nation?

Concessions (\$)

5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14, adjacent to Chautauqua Tent

Snacks and drinks available from local vendors.

Will Rogers

7 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

Will Rogers (Doug Watson) opens the evening's tent programs with his authentic American commentary, rope tricks, and down-home humor.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

President Franklin D. Roosevelt (Patrick McGinnis) chats about his New Deal programs and his plans to put the nation back on track.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

Dear Eleanor, Dear Laura

Youth Workshop

10-11:30 AM

Location: Mitchell County Historical Museum, 402 N 8th

If you could write a letter to the First Lady of the United States, what would you write? During the Great Depression of the 1930s, children from all over the country sent letters to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. In the letters, children asked Mrs. Roosevelt for everything from a pair of roller skates to food for their family. Participants in this workshop will become historians-in-training as they research the letters and learn about the 1930s. At the end of the workshop, they will write a letter to First Lady Laura Bush.

6/4/08

Crisis and the Role of the Demagogue

Presented by Fred Krebs

10:30 AM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

A demagogue can be defined by a leader who champions the cause of the common people or a leader who makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power. So - was Huey Long a demagogue? Participants in this workshop will consider what leadership meant to politician Huey Long. Clips will be shown of Roseen's 1949 film "All the King's Men," a fictitious account of Long's life.

What do Historians Say?

Presented by Patrick McGinnis

1 PM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

In 1932 during his presidential campaign, Franklin Delano Roosevelt introduced his New Deal ideas. Historians differ on the interpretation of the impact and legacy of these relief programs. This workshop will explore many interpretations and give participants the opportunity to discuss how the image of FDR changes with the perspective presented.

Radio in the Thirties

Presented by Tonia Compton

3 PM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

Radio in the 1930s changed the ways Americans learned about the world around them. Used by FDR, Huey Long, Will Rogers, and Aimee Semple McPherson as a new way to reach the American public, this workshop will include samples of popular shows. Workshop participants will analyze radio's impact on cultural, political, and social changes of the 1930s. How does today's technology influence American society?

Concessions (\$)

5:30-7:30

Location: Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14, adjacent to Chautauqua Tent

Snacks and drinks available from local vendors.

Local Entertainment

7 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

Huey Long

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

Meet Louisiana Senator Huey Long (Fred Krebs). The larger-than-life politician will share his plan to make "Every Man a King."

6/4/08

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

Floods, FEMA & the Faithful: Religious Organizations' Relief Efforts in the Wake of Disasters

Presented by Tonia Compton

10:30 AM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

This workshop will examine the development of religious groups' work providing relief efforts to people across the United States when natural or man-made disasters wreak havoc on human habitation. From the recent devastation of Hurricane Katrina, to disasters in the early twentieth century like the San Francisco earthquake in 1906, victims and government agencies have increasingly come to rely on private efforts by religious organizations to provide aid. This workshop will consider the development of this trend, and look at how churches and other religious groups responded to the Dust Bowl on the Great Plains.

Iconic Images

High School workshop presented by

1 PM

Location: Mitchell County Historical Museum, 402 N 8th

Day 2 of the high school workshop. Aspiring high school photographers will study local images from the 1930s and will create their own iconic modern-day photographs. Cameras provided. Pre-registration required; contact the Mitchell County Historical Museum for more information.

Making Murals with Folktales: How Butterflies Were Made

Presented by Wanda Schell

Ages 8 and up

1 PM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

Zora Neale Hurston compiled folktales for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) from her home state of Florida. One folktale tells how the colorful butterflies were created to keep the flowers company and how they came to be called butterflies. In this workshop, children will listen to the vibrant story told by "Zora" and will then talk about the tale and compare it to the world they live in today. They will create a mural based on the images in the folktale and related images from their own experiences. The mural will be photographed and displayed on the website.

Concessions (\$)

5:30-7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14, adjacent to Chautauqua Tent

Snacks and drinks available from local vendors.

Local Entertainment

7 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

6/4/08

Aimee Semple McPherson

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14
Aimee Semple McPherson (Tonia Compton), the charismatic founder of the Foursquare Church, will recount her pioneering work in the church and on the radio.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Go Gator and Muddy the Water

Presented by Wanda Schell

1 PM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

Zora Neale Hurston wrote for the Federal Writer's Project during the Thirties, collecting folklore as well as other stories. In this workshop, participants will compare Kansas and Nebraska folklore, myths, and rituals to that of Florida collected by Hurston and its importance both then and now. Additionally, participants will explore healing rituals, songs, and children's games from Hurston's writing and how some of the more controversial themes were received by her contemporaries.

Youth Chautauqua Camp

Presented by Ride Into History

1-7 PM Sunday

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

4th-8th grade participants will research a local historical figure and portray them under the Chautauqua tent on Sunday evening. Pre-registration required. Contact the Mitchell County Historical Museum at 785/738-5355 for more information.

Role of Political Satire and Commentary

Presented by Doug Watson

3 PM

Location: Beloit Municipal Building, 119 N Hersey

During the 1930s, political cartoons, radio programs, newspaper articles and film mirrored, and sometimes exaggerated, how Americans responded to political and religious leaders. This workshop will use examples of Will Rogers' work from the 1920s and 1930s to discuss the continuing role of humor as a response to today's world.

Concessions (\$)

5:30-7:30

Location: Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14, adjacent to Chautauqua Tent

Snacks and drinks available from local vendors.

6/4/08

Youth Chautauqua Camp Performances

5:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

Come and watch the youth camp participants bring Beloit's history to life as they portray famous local figures from the past.

Zora Neale Hurston

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Chautauqua Park, Chautauqua Drive & Hwy 14

Zora Neale Hurston (Wanda Schell), Harlem Renaissance author and folklorist, will discuss her work with the WPA and her efforts to preserve African American folklore.