

Local artist's paintings on display

By Karen Krien

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McDonald artist, Marilyn Frisbie, is showing her oil paintings through the month of January at the Goodland Grind and Gallery at 1530 Main Street, Goodland. The business features an artist each month.

Mrs. Frisbie began her painting career over 40 years ago. She said she took one lesson and she was "hooked!" Through the years, she tried different mediums but, early on, she decided she liked working in oils.

"If I don't like it, I can sand it off but, if it is a water color, the paper is wasted," she said.

In her early days of painting, she painted on barn wood. Another artist, Russ Hamilton, told her she was too good to waste her talent and brushes on wood. She also used canvas board which she has found is not like painting on framed canvas.

At a workshop conducted by Lee K. Parkinson, a Utah artist, she discovered using a glazing technique which she has used for the last 30 years.

"I like the effect it gives the painting," she said.

Her inspirations for the paintings may come from different sources and times. She has found that the windmills and western plains scene sell better than mountain scenes. She has lived in both areas, coming from Colorado and now living in northwest Kansas with her husband Gilbert.

During the drought, she painted the "Promise of Rain," a painting of a thunderstorm and lightning.

"I had never painted lightning but, this painting was just what I

wanted," she said.

It was a painting that, she said, seemed to "flow" out of the brush.

However, not all paintings come that easy. She will often leave a painting and then come back to it. She also has her easel in a room down the hall where she can see the painting and, being able to look at it from a distance helps her better see what she wants in the painting.

"You need the desire (to paint) in your heart," Mrs. Frisbie said. "I love what I am doing so much that each painting is a part of me."

Starting

When she first started, she was raising three children and painting every chance she had. She was producing about 30 original paintings a year. Today, she generally paints around 10 a year. From those original paintings which cost around \$1,500, she makes prints which are mounted on canvas frames. The prints cost much less and are affordable to most people.

Mrs. Frisbie has several regular customers who collect the originals with the latest (pictured) being already spoken for.

To enter most of the shows, her paintings have to be accepted by the juror. When she first started, she took in most shows to advertise her paintings. Now she attends only a few which have become regulars.

In Nebraska, she shows in Ft. Robinson, Gering and North Platte and, in Kansas, at the Art and Book Fair in Wichita, the Mulvane Art Fair, Topeka, and the Oberlin Show. She also donates paintings to the Wildlife Banquets in Cheyenne and Rawlins counties.



MARILYN FRISBIE finishes stretching the canvas on one of her paintings.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Inherited

Mrs. Frisbie says she probably got much of her artistic ability from her mother Frances who encouraged her. One year before her death, the mother and daughter were able to paint together.

"It was a special time together," she said.

Mrs. Frisbie tried to teach her

children to paint. Her daughter, Becky, paints and Laurie has also done some painting. However, Dave does not take the time, she said. Several grandchildren have shown an interest and they have taken lessons from Grandma.

Through the years, Mrs. Frisbie has seen her paintings go from very "flat" paintings to her paint-

ings today that have dimension and beauty. She has taught young and old to paint. She likes watching people learning and enjoying painting and being able to see them grow in their ability.

She urges people to stop by the Goodland Grind and Gallery to see her show through the month of January.

Members discuss fair premium sale

At the last meeting, the Cheyenne County Fair Board talked about the premium sale which is held on Friday evening of the fair. The sale allows 4-H'ers and FFA'ers the opportunity to sell projects from the fair. In the end, the matter was tabled until they could talk to more parents and to the extension agent. It will be brought up at the next meeting on Feb. 7.

A 4-H'er or FFA'er can sell two items at the sale but, if they are selling an animal, they can sell only one and then an arts and craft item or cooking, just to name some. It should be noted that the term "sell" is used loosely as the buyer gives a "premium" and the kid keeps the item. If the buyer wishes to purchase the animal, he/she can make the arrangements after the sale.

The main area of concern was the fact that some people are unhappy that a kid can receive a premium for a plate of cookies for the same premium that a livestock project brings.

"It just doesn't seem fair," said Megan Douthit-Downey, board member.

Jared Douthit, board member, was in agreement with Mrs. Downey, saying that it takes months to get livestock ready for the fair while cookies can be made in 30 minutes.

Erika Zimbelman, board member, said she had talked to some

parents who said, by the time their child bought the animal, fed it and trained it, they came out in the hole.

Mrs. Downey said that she went to college on what she had received from selling her 4-H projects. Besides, she said, kids learn from having 4-H animals and selling them.

The question was asked if there could be two sales — one for livestock and the other for arts and crafts and baking?

Lacy Reed, board member, said the main reason they started selling premiums was to help build the livestock numbers at the fair. "And it has," she said. She was not in favor of having two sales.

They talked about how the 4-H sale used to be and 4-H'ers sold their animal — there was no premium. Again, it was pointed out that buyers can still purchase the animal if the 4-H'er is willing to sell it but it is in addition to the premium. However, they noted that by the time the fair is over and the animal had been on limited feed and water, the buyer generally lost money unless he takes it to a feed yard and feeds it out for a month.

Rawlins County still has a sale without arts and crafts. One of the board will talk to a Rawlins County Fair Board member. They will also be talking to more parents and to Joe Leibbrandt, extension agent.

Free-throw contest set

A free-throw contest is being held at the St. Francis high school gym on Sunday for youth, both boys and girls, ages 10 through 14.

The 2008 Knights of Columbus free-throw contest will begin at 2 p.m. The age eligibility will be determined by the contestants age as of Jan. 1.

Anyone interested may pick up a registration form from any school

office at either Cheylin or St. Francis. There will also be registration forms at the contests.

Contestants are required to bring a copy of their birth certificate.

The doors will open about one hour before the competition.

The winners will be given a plaque as well as move on to the District contest, which will be held in Goodland.

Board reviews fair

By Karen Krien

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The Cheyenne County Fair Board looked back at the 2007 fair and talked about how they could improve this year's fair by making some changes.

The mutton bustin' event has been open to very young ages with a child's weight determining the limit (they could only weigh a certain amount and anything over could not participate). However, some of the committee members thought changes needed to be made.

Compared to other mutton bustin' contests, the county's event is not a "true" mutton bustin'. In regular contests, there is no clown to run along side the animal and rescue the child before he/she falls. There was a concern that the clowns (which were high school students) might fall on the child instead of making a rescue.

Rules and regulations from other fairs or the Denver stock show will be obtained and the members will be discussing this event in the future.

Gary Cooper, one of the Ranch Rodeo events, said Shawna Blanka, coordinator, had asked if the kid's rodeo could be moved to another day besides Wednesday as it is a busy time with the horse show and weigh-in for livestock. No decision was made.

Mud bog

The mud bog, a contest where kids and adults drive four-wheelers through an area filled with mud. The county attorney was concerned with the liability of the age of children participating as well as the sport. Clay Zimbelman, one of the coordinators, suggested that the event be replaced with a lawnmower tractor pull. Mr. Zimbelman said he had been collecting the parts and equipment to build a sled for the tractors to pull. He said there would be little speed involved and the younger kids could still participate.

The event would be held in between heats of the demolition derby. He said he had noticed at other derbies that the crowd gets bored when there is no entertainment to fill in.

T-shirts/hats

The board discussed having T-shirts and hats to throw to the crowd during the derby. They also talked about having them to give out during the parade on Saturday morning. It was the consensus that this would be a great idea. Dick Bursch, president, said that he will get some prices to bring to a future meeting.

Jenkins Hall

Jenkins Hall is the building where businesses and groups can rent a booth space during the fair. However, it doesn't fill up like the board would like to see.

Earlier, it was suggested that the large fan be moved to a different area. The board also talked about having music which might draw visitors as well as renters into the building. A sheet was available for members to write sign up to help in Jenkins Hall on Wednesday of the fair.

Gate office building

At a prior meeting, the board had acquired a building to put at the east gate of the fairgrounds. Electricity was a concern but, they had forgotten that, when the lights were put in by Stanton Electric, they had installed an extra breaker box not too far from the location.

Gary Cooper, board member, said a foundation grant had been applied for and the board had received \$400 toward the building. They already had \$400 from donations at fair time so they agreed that they had most of the money needed to finish the building.

In other business

In other business:
• President Bursch announced that the board needs a computer — preferably a laptop. They discussed what they thought it would cost. Mrs. Zimbelman has an older laptop that needs some repairs but would donate it to the board. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.



KANSAS DAY Committee Sandy Smull, Helene Landenberger and Marsha Magley discuss plans for the annual celebration.

Photo courtesy of Janet Carman

Kansas Day activities planned for Jan. 29 in Bird City

Cheyenne County has celebrated Kansas Day since 1930. On Jan. 29, Cheyenne County will continue its Kansas Day tradition, celebrating with the theme "Kansas Territory Days."

Leo Oliva, historian from Stockton, will present a special Kansas Day program, which he calls "Rowdy Kansas Territory."

"Not many communities in Kansas observe Kansas Day, so come on out to Bird City this year and join the celebration," said Janet Carmen, president of the Kansas Day Association.

The Mother's Circle of the Bird City Methodist Church organized the first celebration, a "Kansas Day Picnic" which turned into an all day affair. Again in 1931 the

Bird City community celebrated Kansas Day with skits, dances, poems and songs.

Year by year, the Kansas Day celebration grew in popularity. In 1935, some by-laws were accepted by the Kansas Day organization. The object was to promote and maintain the proper observance of Kansas Day in Cheyenne County.

On Jan. 29, 1958, a blizzard struck Cheyenne County. This is the only time residents did not gather for the Kansas Day celebration. In 1971 the observance was moved to the Bird City Legion Hall. Kansas Day activities are still held there.

Elected officers plan for Kansas Day. Local churches rotate

responsibilities for kitchen duties and table decorations.

The celebration begins with registration and a potluck at noon. Students from St. Francis and Cheylin Schools entertain the group with songs, dances and skits. Speakers, whose varied themes have added flavor to the celebration, have presented programs including these topics: "Covered Wagons to Apollos;" "The Plains Indians;" "The Cattlemen;" "Flags Over Kansas;" "Homestead Heritage;" "Kansas Before the Plow."

The historical information was gathered from Cheyenne County History, Volume I, 1987. "Kansas Day Celebration" by Marsha Magley.