

Don't be afraid of the Lucas Triangle

By Ron Wilson
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The Lucas Triangle. It sounds rather forbidding, like the Bermuda Triangle, but this is a region of a different sort. The Lucas Triangle consists of three remarkable attractions within a single community in rural north central Kansas. This threesome features an incredible array of what is called grassroots art. Special thanks to Kansas! Magazine and writer Sally Snell whose article told this remarkable story. Rosslyn Schultz is the director of the Grassroots Art Center in Lucas. The Arts Center is sponsored by the Kansas Grassroots Art Association, which was organized more than 30 years ago to encourage appreciation of self-taught artists. The Arts Center is one of the three components of what has been termed the Lucas Triangle. But the element of the Lucas Triangle which was created first goes back more than a century

ago. It is something which could win an Olympic medal for eccentricity, called the Garden of Eden. People have been looking for the Garden of Eden for a long time. Appropriately enough, this Garden of Eden is located east of Paradise - that's Paradise, Kansas, on Highway K-18. Nineteen miles east of Paradise, we find the community of Lucas where S.P. Dinsmoor's Garden of Eden is located. Dinsmoor was a Civil War veteran, farmer, and Populist politician. He was also what was called at the time a "Freethinker," which was a type of philosophy that encouraged rational over emotional thought. All that supposed freethinking caused Dinsmoor to build his Lucas home from limestone logs and to surround the house with concrete structures, providing commentary on the religious and political controversies of the time. The structures are labeled with a sign calling it the Garden of Eden. Here the viewer can find concrete figures of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and the devil

and an angel. There's also a depiction of the populist view of the crucifixion of labor and much more. These unusual sculptures entirely surround the house. In fact, it took Mr. Dinsmoor 22 years to build these sculptures. He used 113 tons of cement. He also built a 40-foot tall limestone log mausoleum where he is laid to rest and still visible in his handmade, glass-topped concrete coffin. So much for rational thought... About a half block northwest of Dinsmoor's home is the second component of the Lucas Triangle, the Deeble House and Rock Garden. Here we find the home of Florence Deeble. For more than 50 years, she created "postcard"-type scenes of famous U.S. landmarks in her yard, using concrete and stones. Those works of art are available for viewing today. For example, the visitor can see a mini interpretation of Mount Rushmore. Dinsmoor's and Deeble's work are just two examples of grassroots art, which is the focus of the Grassroots Art Center. The art

center itself is the third and final leg of this tripartite collection of eclectic artwork. It is located on the main street of Lucas with an open-air gallery in its backyard. Rosslyn Schultz explains that grass-roots art is often made using recycled materials. She says, "The artists are always self-taught, and they're having a heck of a lot of fun." The Art Center includes local and state artists' work, such as concrete creatures by Ed Root and a pull-tab motorcycle by Herman Divers. All these attractions and more have caused more than 10,000 visitors a year to come to the rural community of Lucas, population 427 people. Now, that's rural. More stories and pictures of Lucas can be found on the pages of Kansas! Magazine, the beautiful quarterly which showcases our state. For more information or to subscribe, go to www.kansas-mag.com. For information on travel and tourism in our state, go to www.travelks.com. The Lucas Triangle. No, it's not something scary like the Bermuda Triangle.

Kansas governor tabbed as potential running-mate

TOPEKA (AP)- The veep sweeps are in full buzz, and there's increasing chatter surrounding two rising Democratic stars — Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, two potential running mates who could help Barack Obama woo female voters. Both are well-regarded within national Democratic circles for winning two terms in states that traditionally lean Republican. They're seen as serious contenders for the No. 2 spot because Democrats worry Obama's presidential-primary victory has alienated supporters of his chief rival, Hillary Rodham Clinton. Democrats in Sebelius' and Napolitano's states have been chattering about their prospects — with trepidation in some cases — though neither governor has said much herself. "I have an interest in being governor of Arizona," Napolitano said Wednesday. "He'll look, I'm sure, at a number of possibilities. The Democratic bench is a very deep one." Sebelius was in her Statehouse office Wednesday, interviewing judge candidates and holding meetings. In a statement, she acknowledged she's had regular contacts with Obama's campaign and the candidate himself. But she said, "There has been

no discussion from the Obama campaign with me or anyone else on my team about serving as vice president." Both governors have downsides, including that each would have a tough time drawing her state into the Democrats' column come November. Peter Fenn, a Democratic media consultant in Washington, said Obama also would face a natural question from Clinton's supporters if he considers putting Sebelius, Napolitano or another woman on the ticket: "Why didn't you take Hillary?" Obama's campaign wasn't dropping any hints Wednesday about who his running mate might be. Clinton said in a conference call with her congressional delegation Tuesday that she is "open to it" if it helps Democrats.

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Dear Concerned Kansan:
The foreclosure crisis hitting the nation is very real and should cause great concern. While it sounds like you are safe from losing your home, you need to be aware of a variety of other scams. Unfortunately for Kansans, predators and scammers are using the home foreclosure crisis to take advantage of consumers. In the Attorney General's Office, our Division of Consumer Protection receives complaints of scams going on around the state. Our office just began getting com-

plaints about a new scam relating to the deeds of homes. A company has reportedly been sending out letters in Shawnee County and other counties. In short, the letter recommends that each homeowner have a certified copy of the deed to their home to keep with their important papers. It even quotes the U.S. Government Federal Citizens Information Center to make it sound official. The homeowner is encouraged to fill out the bottom portion of the letter to order a Certified Copy of their home's deed for a fee of \$69.50. This is a completely unnecessary service. If you received such a letter, report it to our office immediately. It is not necessary to have the original or certified copy of your deed in your possession. You can, however, receive a copy of your

deed for very little expense. The Shawnee County Register of Deeds will provide you with one for about \$2.50. The entire process takes just a few minutes. To view your deed in Shawnee County is free; copying the deed will cost \$1.50 per page, and official certification costs an extra \$1. Please be careful when reading notices and/or offers regarding your home or any of your possessions. There are too many predators willing to exploit tragedy for their own benefit. To contact the Kansas Register of Deeds offices, visit www.ksrods.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

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PrairieFest
June 7-8
Annual music & art festival.
Wilson Park, Arkansas City
9 AM — 4 PM, www.arkcity.org

Smoky Hill River Festival
June 12-15
32nd annual festival, celebrating great music, art and family fun.
Oakdale Park, Salina (785) 309-5770
www.riverfestival.com

Father's Day Car Show
June 15
Antique, classic, original & restored cars, trucks & motorcycles. Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure, Salina (785) 827-9488, www.rollinghillswildlife.com

Midsummer's Day Festival
June 21
Enjoy Swedish heritage and culture. Live music, dancing, children's activities, demonstrations and food. Volvo regional meet, Lindsborg (888) 272-2227, www.midsummersday.org


Hiawatha Summerfest 2008
June 28
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