'Great legs' gallery walks through history

gallery at the Prairie Museum of seat has a wooden frame and is Art and History in Colby, features padded in the center back. James perennial favorites, including a unique horn chair and a Louis XV desk, and some special pieces that the family lived in Omaha. have fascinating stories to tell.

These additions from the museum's collection include a massive 1850s sideboard, an early American high chest, a Hepplewhite knife box, a Chippendale serving tray and a Jenny Lind child's bed.

The sideboard is built of walnut and cherry wood with a brown marble top. Although never officially confirmed, Nellie Kuska, museum benefactress, held that this piece came from the governor's home at the first Kansas Territorial Capitol in Lecompton. The sideboard is believed to bear a bullet hole from shots fired by of one of Quantrill's raiders as they rode through Lawrence in August

An oak spool storage case bearing J.P. Coats advertisements on its sides has six drawers for thread. It was used at the Smith Cash Store here. The Smith brothers, Floyd, into the Warden building at 500 N. Franklin in 1915. Floyd and his wife Mame ran the store during World War I while Max and Leroy served in the military. Leroy was lost to the war, and the store was sold to John R. Connelly and Sons in 1919, later to be repurchased by Max and Floyd in 1923. Floyd's interest was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Max Smith in 1924 and the business continued until 1953, when Max retired.

Unusual, yet functional, horn furniture is made from the horns or antlers of deer, elk, buffalo, cattle and other animals. It was first made in rural Europe at least as long ago as the Middle Ages. In the United States, the late 19th century saw the beginning of a long-lived popularity for picturesque reminders of the vanishing western frontier and furniture was made from the horns of buffalo and Texas Longhorn cattle.

The museum's horn chair was made using 26 cattle horns of

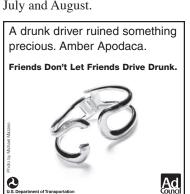
Great Legs, a new furniture various sizes. The fringed leather Sible, father of Colby resident Alice Harrison, made the chair when

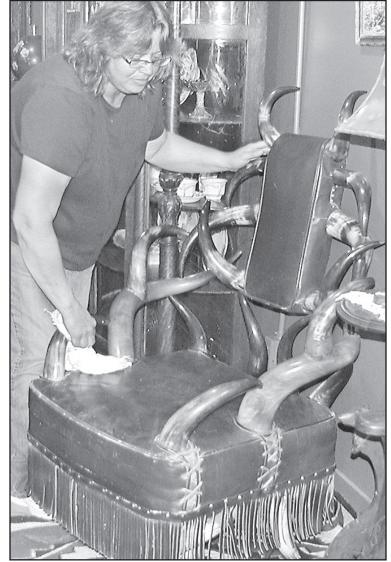
> Sible was a fireman whose station was located across the road from a packing plant. In an effort to make use of the discarded cattle horns, he designed and built articles such as footstools and coat racks, as well as this chair. The family moved to a farm north of Colby by 1905, bringing the chair with them.

More of the Kuska collection is now visible to museum visitors through a special window in the furniture gallery. The window offers a rare view into the museum's permanent storage area.

Most museums display less than 10 percent of their collections, and few have a majority of their collections on display at any given time. The Prairie Museum has about 15 percent of its items on display today. Artifacts not on display are held to be used in future or traveling exhibits, and for re-Max and Leroy moved their store search, teaching and loans to other institutions.

> Visitors are also to see the latest temporary exhibit displayed in the Garvey Educational Room. Featuring the art of the late, renowned western artist Keith Avery, the exhibition showcases his paintings, drawings, prints and poetry. Avery's paintings, which realistically depict horses and cowboy life, appeared on the covers of the Quarter Horse Journal and Western Horseman magazines many times. This exhibit will be open during regular hours throughout





VERA SLOAN/Colby Free Press

Chris Griffin showed off a horn chair that's part of the new "Great Legs" exhibit at the Prairie Museum this morning. The museum is seeing a lot of tourists stop in to visit this month, she said.



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Menus for the week: Monday:

salmon patty, Italian blend vegetables, mixed fruit, noodles, pudding. **Tuesday**: pasta, beef and tomato casserole, corn, cucumbers, pears. Wednesday: mandarin orange chicken salad, cook's choice complement, dinner roll, fruit crisp. Thursday: meat loaf, green bean casserole, strawberries and bananas, birthday cake. Friday: tater tot casserole, spinach salad, apricots.

Sites offer emergency aid

MANHATTAN - When disas- online learning environment of ter strikes, be it flood, tornado, or blizzard, it can be difficult to know where to turn. Two resources available on the Internet are eXtension, found on the Internet at www.extension.org and the Extension Disaster Education Network, also known as EDEN, found at eden.lsu.edu.

eXtension is an interactive

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Bands! Programs begin Friday night, 6:00 p.m.; Festival ends Sunday, 2:30 p.m. CT Enjoy the family atmosphere - camping, crafts, ood vendors, horse-drawn wagon rides, chil-

dren's activities, chess games. For information contact: Colby Convention & Visitors Bureau at

785-460-7643 or 1-800-611-8835

Admission: Weekend (3 day) Advance - \$30 Gate, \$35 • Youth(12-16), \$10 Fri. or Sun. only......\$15 Saturday only.....\$25 Saturday, night only.....\$15 Under 12, FREE with paying adult Tickets: 1-800-611-8835

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