

Prairie Museum of Art and History keeps

By Kevin Bottrell

Colby Free Press
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

The Prairie Museum of Art and History is a big draw for I-70 travelers as well as area residents. Director Sue Taylor said the museum can get as many as 50 buses full of tourists each year in addition to drop-ins and locals.

Currently on display at the museum is the High Plains Journeys exhibit. This display shows journeys into and away from Thomas County, from covered wagons to the 1930s migrations to the young men and women who went to war.

The exhibit was planned as a companion piece to the Journey Stories traveling Smithsonian exhibit and remained in place after that exhibit moved on. Taylor said the museum plans to keep High Plains Journeys as a permanent exhibit.

The exhibit lines the walls of the museum's main room. Next to it is a display on Samuel Ramey, the international opera star who grew up in Colby. New to the exhibit are two of his costumes from the San Francisco Opera's production of "Faust," in which Ramey played Mephistopheles.

Always popular, having recently been reported on by the *Hays Daily News*, is the Kuska Collection. A permanent fixture at the museum, the Kuska Collection features 28,000 items collected by Nellie Kuska, a former Thomas County resident. The collection



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

The Prairie Museum recently added chandeliers to the Kuska exhibit's furniture room, making for a very well-lit display.

begins with a few odds and ends – buttons, coins and more – and moves into rooms full of dolls, ceramics and toys.

The museum doesn't have enough space to display all of the items and often puts new items out for viewers. Taylor said they just

added two of Kuska's chandeliers to the furniture room.

One new exhibit, just in time for the Colby



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