

Art invades Oberlin



ENJOYING THE SHOW, Decatur Community High students Anthony Marshall and Karyn Jordan (above) admired the many paintings and photographs in the exhibit. Part of an oil painting (below) called Sun-Kissed Clouds by Marilyn Frisbie of McDonald was among the more than 200 pieces displayed. It was one of the first-place winners.

High Plains Artfest offers beauty to patrons of three-day showing

It was a celebration of the arts at The Gateway on Friday, as original paintings, sculpture and photographs vied with wine, hors d'oeuvres and music for patrons' attention.

About 180 art fans, artists and their guests attended a reception at The Gateway to kick off the three-day, first and hopefully annual High Plains ArtFest.

Art purchase patrons wandered among the more than 200 pieces of work by more than 30 students, amateur and professional artists from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

The patrons, who had paid \$100 each for the privilege of attending the event, and could bring a guest with them, were given the opportunity to choose their favorite piece from those on sale. Artists could bring one guest and an additional guest for \$37.50, but students got in free. Everyone got to vote on the "People's Choice" award.

During the evening, 15 pieces of art were sold. Mary Henzel, program director for the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, said that total sales during the three days were \$3,675 for 27 pieces of art.

Oberlin's Anna Seeber Shaw won the People's Choice Award and also the

Best of Show for a pastel, "Farmers Sunset."

Brenda Meder of the Hays Arts Council served as a judge for the entries, awarding first places of \$100 each to Gary Shike, Charles "Rick" Doeden, Carol Moye and Carol Shirley, Oberlin; Justine Richardson, Stratton, Neb.; Kathleen Leitner, Atwood; Muschi Mues, Holbrook, Neb.; and Marilyn Frisbie, McDonald.

Second-place awards of \$50 each went to Norma Unger and Susan Brenn, Oberlin; Anne Kennedy, Rick Johnson, Jack Stevens and Deb Goodenberger, McCook; Ken Tidball, Logan; and Dorothy Clegg, Wray, Colo.

First place for high school student art at \$50 each went to Shannon Lare, Phillipsburg; Rebecca Woodall and Sarah Manhart, Wheatland; Kylee Witt, Norton; Katie Curtin, Atwood; and Spencer Johnson and Whitney Fagot, McCook.

Second place for student art and \$25 went to Abiel Dunbar, Chelsey Williams, Jessica Rall and Katelyn Clark, Atwood; Paula Blaylock, Hayes Center, Neb.; Kimberly Lueking, Southern Valley High School, Neb.; Ashley Hancock, McCook; and Erin Neitzel,

St. Francis. Music for the evening was provided by Gary Fredrickson, organ; Deanne Spanier, clarinet; Ken Morris, trombone; Christie Morris, flute; Robin Marks, harp; and Cheryl Metcalf, piano accompaniment.

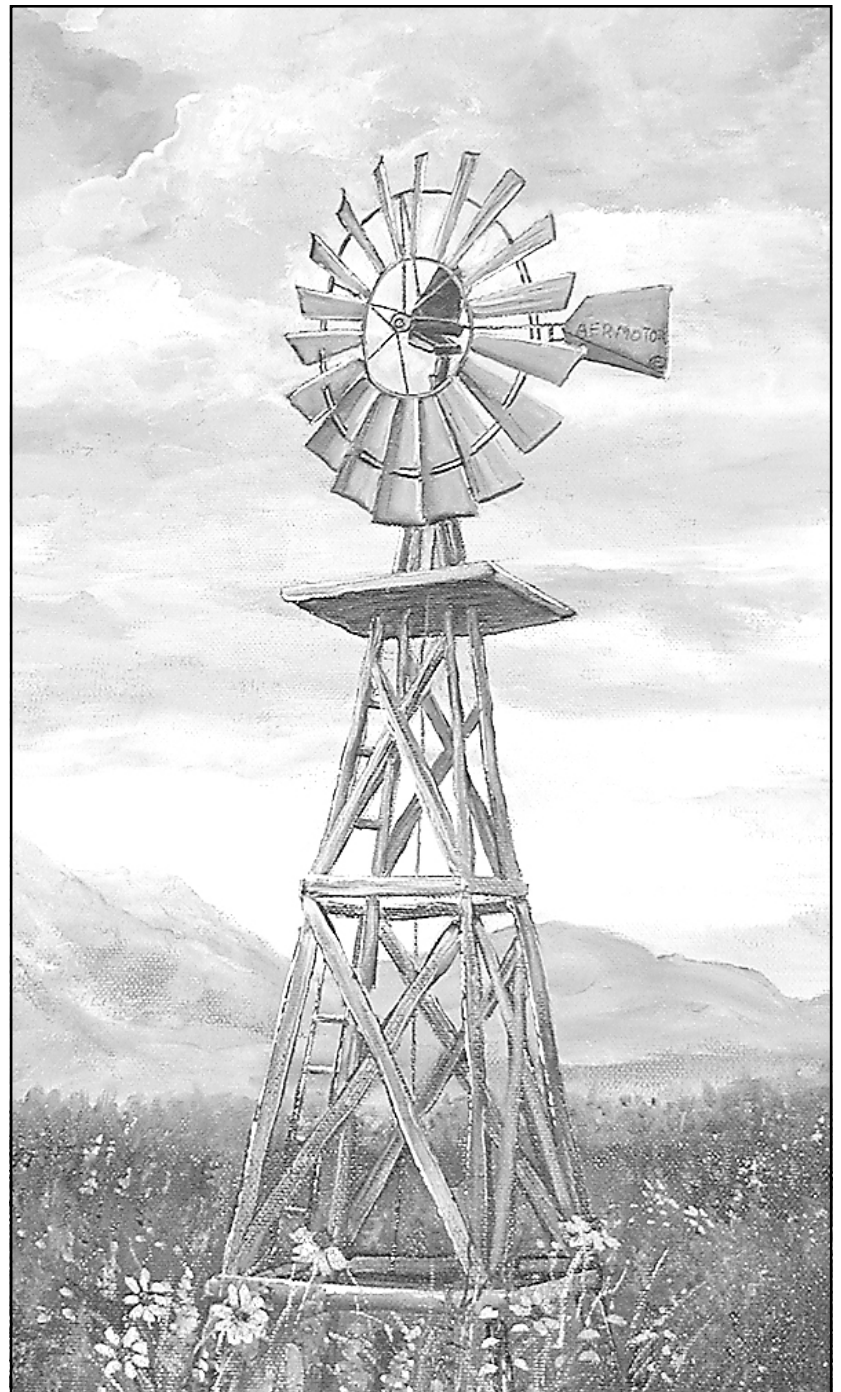
Volunteers for the evening were members of the arts commission and other art enthusiasts.

The show ran from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday.

"It was extremely successful," Mrs. Henzel said. "We will definitely do it again next year."

Connie Grafel, marketing director for The Gateway, said things went well, everyone was happy and the committee is "raring to go" for next year.

She said they were going to determine if they would have another ArtFest next year by the evaluations. She said of the 50 or so that have come in from artists and patrons, there have been just a handful of negative comments. The comments have been things like "great," "awesome" and "great to have this kind of event in northwest Kansas." Ms. Grafel said she has some new names to add to the patron sponsor list next year.



LOOKING OVER THE ARTWORK at the ArtFest were Judy and Dennis Shirley (above). While the patrons enjoyed the visual art, musicians including Robin Marks on the harp (right) entertained.

