

County

build good lifestyle rural economic woes

Phillipsburg is benefiting from a major economic boom, fueled by its ethanol plant, oil refinery, and roofing plant. In addition, Brooke Corp., based in Phillipsburg and employing over 200 workers, is rated as being one of the foremost insurance franchising operations in the nation. Brooke has recently been listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

On the west side of town is a city park fit for a Norman Rockwell painting, with a swimming pool, baseball diamond, large playground, and camping facilities.

A skateboard park to be located there is in the planning stages.

Adjoining the city park is the Fort Bissell Museum, complete with stockade and historic one-room school, mercantile store, log cabins, train depot, and world-class antique gun collection.

Fort Bissell is open from May through September and has major improvements underway.

At the south end of Phillipsburg is the beautifully designed Huck Boyd Center, which is used as a community, conference, and entertainment center. It also houses the Bill Clarke Model Train Museum, which includes a large collection of vintage model railroad paraphernalia dating back a century or more.

During the first weekend in June, visitors can enjoy the annual Riverless Festival on the county square in downtown Phillipsburg. Featuring bands and dozens of food stands and arts and crafts booths, the Festival draws attendees from all over the area.

Phillipsburg is also the home of Kansas', Biggest Rodeo, which will be held at the Rodeo Arena north of town from Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 2-4, this year. Included are three nights of Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association competition, as well as a parade on Saturday, Aug. 4.

The Phillips County Fair is held at the Fairgrounds adjacent to the Rodeo Arena the week before, beginning with a horse show on Saturday, July 28.

Proceeding west of Phillipsburg on U.S. 36, on the north side of the highway travelers will come upon a forlorn old native limestone-block house that is perhaps one of the most-photographed and painted scenes in the region.

This picturesque site, known as the Carmen House, has a windmill alongside it and sits upon a treeless, lonely hill, surrounded by wheat fields and cattle pastures.

The roof of the building, as well as some of the walls, are slowly coming down, but it is not uncommon to observe motorists pulling off onto a nearby county road to take pictures of the house at sunset.

Dozens of similar 1870s-era native limestone houses are spread throughout the county, patiently awaiting the photographer, artist or history buff willing to take the time to seek them out.

The next town along the U.S. 36 route is the old German settlement of Stuttgart. This village, once a bustling farm town, still has a service station and historic blacksmith shop. Look carefully, and you may even be able to find an old native-born Stuttgarter or two who grew up

speaking German as their first language who can still "shling da Deutsch."

Continuing west on U.S. 36 out of Stuttgart, a large feature known as Bread Bowl Mound is visible from the highway. Surrounded by pastures and sitting on private property, it is also worth photographing.

For a closer view, travelers can turn south at Stuttgart and go a mile to Old U.S. 36 (unpaved) and turn back toward the west.

The old highway goes up and down hills and comes to within a quarter of a mile of the mound.

Proceeding west along this scenic back road for several more miles, travelers will come to a paved north-south county road. An abandoned 1920s-era service station, made out of native stone, still stands on the corner of that intersection.

Turning to the north will bring the visitor back to the new U.S. 36 and the old Dutch town of Prairie View, which has only one or two businesses remaining, as well as an old post office that is a local historic landmark.

From Prairie View, travelers can turn back south and go to Logan to visit the Dane G. Hansen Museum.

The museum, on a beautifully designed and manicured one-square-block plaza, is renowned for the traveling cultural and art exhibits it features, as well as for its gun, coin and historic memorabilia collections it has on permanent display.

Right up the street is the Logan Historical Museum, which recently moved into a 5,000 square foot facility at the western end of the business district.

At considerable cost, the building has been restored to its 1905 magnificence. It showcases a restored and fully functional 1908 International Harvester automobile, as well as weapons captured by local boys who fought in both World Wars, Civil War memorabilia, antique phones, old safes, and items from now-defunct or now-non-existent churches, train depot, hotel and opera house. Every Labor Day, Logan holds a large celebration on its sand-green golf course just east of town. Featuring a car show, bands, food booths, games and contests, the day is capped off by a spectacular fireworks display that dwarfs many held in larger cities.

Heading back to Prairie View and traveling on north to Long Island, along the way a visitor will see the historic old Dutch Reformed Church at Luctor. Upon arriving in Long Island, you'll see another historic post office, as well as a cafe and bank.

A stone marker under the water tower in Long Island commemorates the nearby site of the desperate and bloody three-day Indian battle fought in 1867 between Native Americans including, Cheyenne Dog Soldiers and Sioux warriors led by Charley Bent and Roman Nose, and Kiowas under Satanta, against troopers out of Fort Hays belonging to the 18th Kansas Cavalry and the 10th U.S. Cavalry (better known as the Buffalo Soldiers).

Continuing toward the west then leads the traveler past more farms, fields and pastures, and on into the rugged hills between Phillips and Norton counties.



This old limestone house between Phillipsburg and Stuttgart along U.S. 36 is a popular photo opportunity for travelers along the highway

The Dane Hansen Museum & Memorial Plaza

110 W. Main • P.O. Box 187

Logan, KS 67646 (on KS Hwy. 9)

(785) 689-4846 • dghansen@ruraltel.net

www.hansenmuseum.org

HOURS:

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- noon 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday 9 a.m. - noon 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

Sundays & Holidays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION TO THE DANE G. HANSEN MUSEUM

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Fort Bissell Museum

Antiques, Military Artifacts, Kingery Gun Collection and much more from the pioneers of Phillips County.

For more info. 785-543-6212

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