

Santa Fe Trail Center Museum and Research Library looking forward to 2018 events

The Santa Fe Trail Center Museum and Research Library is a regional museum dedicated to the historic Santa Fe Trail and the settlement era of central Kansas. Located on 10 acres, the museum complex consists of the main museum, four historic structures, three reproduction homes, and two large exhibition buildings that house antique agricultural implements and automobiles. The Trail Center's collections include 15,000 three-dimensional objects, 7,000 historic photographs, and a large archival collection.

The archival documents at the museum include historic Pawnee County records such

as marriage licenses, election records, school records, court cases, and personal property tax records. In addition, the Trail Center houses archival documents about local businesses and organizations, Pawnee County events, family history files, and much more. The library and archives are open to the public. Researchers interested in using the available resources are advised to call ahead and make an appointment to ensure someone is available to help.

The Santa Fe Trail began in 1821 when Mexico gained independence from Spain, opening up trade opportunities for American and Mexican merchants. Freight wag-

ons pulled by oxen and long trains of pack mules transported goods up and down the trail until 1880, when the railroad neared Santa Fe. Exhibits in the main museum depict the story of the trail and the people who traveled on it.

As the era of the historic trade route was ending a new one was beginning; settlement of the Plains. Pioneers from the East established homes, farms and large ranches along the ruts of the old trail.

In addition to exhibits in the main building that illustrate what life was like on the plains in the early 1900s -- there is a sod house, dugout home and, mini log cabin on the grounds of the Trail

Center. Historic structures include an AT&SF railroad depot, 1906 church, 1880's limestone cooling house, and early 1900's one-room school-house.

Other exhibits in the main museum include a full-sized mounted buffalo, Wichita Indian grass lodge, and numerous American Indian artifacts. These exhibits tell the story of the Plains Indians who inhabited this region before the arrival of the white man.

Two large exhibition buildings - the Dale & Melba Woods Farm Museum and the Dale & Melba Woods Automobile Museum - house a large collection of antique agricultural equipment and automobiles.

Each year the museum holds many successful events that appeal to a broad range of people. Some of the many events to look forward to in 2018 include; the annual Kansas Day Celebration, Family Fun Kite Fly in May, Rendezvous history conference in September, and the Santa Fe Trail Tired Iron show in October.

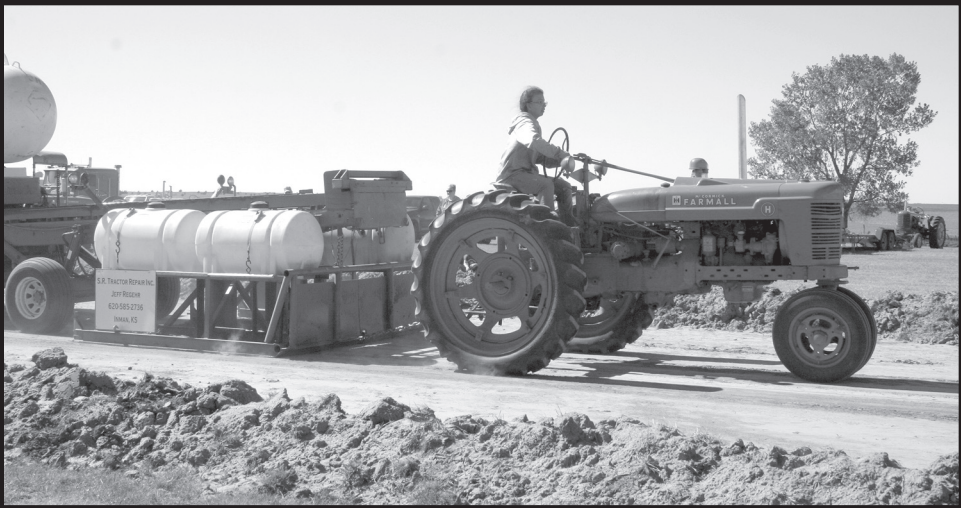
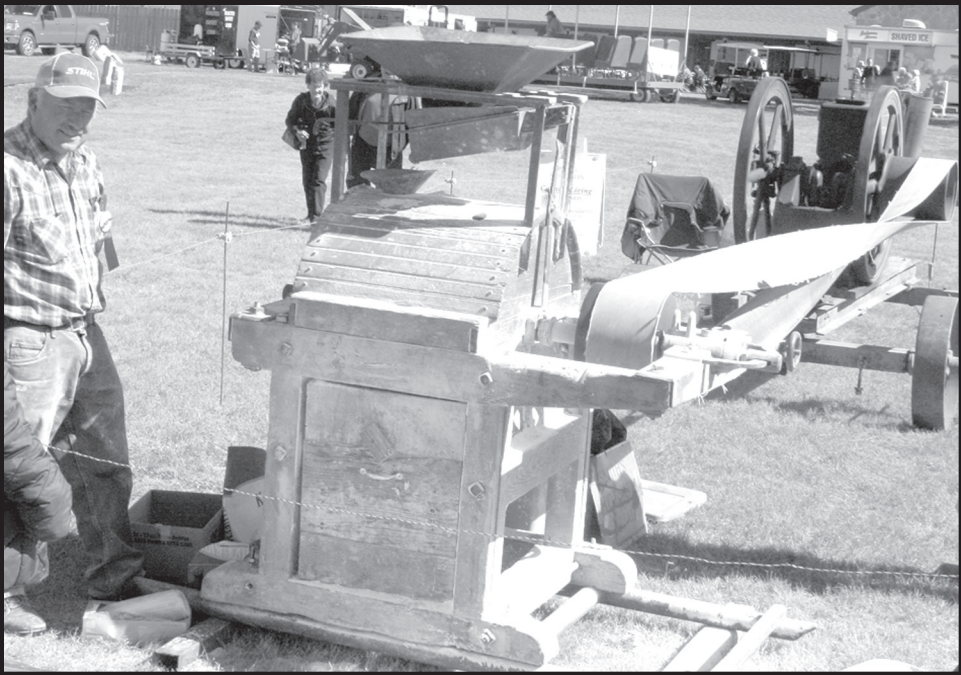
The museum offers facility rentals for meetings, workshops, and parties. A digital projector and screen are available for use. In addition, the historic Johnson Street Escue Chapel is available for church services and weddings.

Admission to the museum is \$6 for adults, \$3 for ages 12 - 18, \$2 for ages 6 - 11, and free for children age 5 and under. Historical Society members are free. Docents are available to give tours to school groups, provided they are booked in advance. Admission for organized school tours is half-price. However, Pawnee County schools can tour free.

The Santa Fe Trail

Center Museum is located two miles west of Larned on Kansas Highway 156. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information on the museum, upcoming events or a facility rental please call 620/285-2054, email museum@santafetrail-center.org or check our website at www.santafetrailcenter.org. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



NOT SO TIRED IRON - The Santa Fe Trail Center's annual Tired Iron Show featured several mechanical demonstrations including flour milling, threshing, blacksmithing and on Sunday, a tractor pull. (photos by Mike Gilmore) (Reprinted from Oct. 17, 2017 issue of The Tiller & Toiler)

they have there. They are not up-to-date, he says. And Mrs. Harvey is very parsimonious with her scraps at the Bisonte. He does not see what people can see in the Bisonte. To tell the truth, he says, there is no garbage can at the Bisonte, and the hostelry evidently disposes of its garbage in some out-of-date manner.

"Possum" came back thoroughly in favor of hard roads. Anything that will benefit the drivers of cars, and provide more running boards to ride on, says he.

Possum
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driver, who gave him up reluctantly, when informed that there was a general demand in Larned that the dog be returned. It cost Leon \$8.00 in cash for express, collar, etc., to get "Possum" back, but it is worth it; at least so the kids who are interested in the dog believe, and that includes a majority of those in this town.

"Possum," when interviewed, expressed considerable regret that he ever went to Hutchinson. He says it is no town for a dog, and he don't like the type of garbage cans

Aflac specializes in an employee benefits program at no cost to the employer

Leigh Anne Seeman has made Larned her home since 1994. That is not including the time she spent here in the early '70s. Born but not raised in Larned, she moved with her family in 1973 to Leoti and then Hill City. She is the daughter of Jack and Lois Smades, Larned. After graduating from Kansas State University and living in Kansas City for a time, Leigh Anne found herself moving back to Larned to join her father in the insurance business. Jack Smades was a barber in Larned in the 1960s and '70s. When given the opportunity to move back to Larned in 1988, Jack and Lois jumped at the chance. Now being in the insurance industry with Farm Bureau, Jack hired Leigh Anne as an agent in his agency. Leigh Anne enjoyed a career with Farm Bureau for several years. During the last 2-3 years she was with Farm Bureau, the company created a partnership with Aflac in which Leigh Anne pursued whole-heartedly. "Farm Bureau's partnership with Aflac allowed me to work with business owners as a benefits consultant; addressing specific needs for their employees and their families. I ended up traveling the state training other Farm Bureau agents how to offer this same value to business owners in their own

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counties. I loved it."

After about 12 years away from the insurance industry, Leigh Anne came back in July 2013 in an Aflac District Sales Coordinator role. In late October 2015, she was promoted to Regional Sales Coordinator overseeing 25 counties in the Southwest corner of the state. In her spare time you will find her enjoying time with her family; Tyler Stelter who is a Junior at Kansas State, Megan Stelter, a senior at Larned High School and Jack Stelter, a freshman. Leigh Anne is married to Mike Seeman, a long-time Larned resident.

The Larned Regional Aflac office, located inside Farmers Bank

and Trust, is staffed by part-time administrator, Rhonda Vratil. Rhonda is responsible for handling claims and is also the region's Recruiting Administrator. Rhonda is married to Barry Vratil and they have 3 sons; Garrett, Justin and Sam.

Aflac specializes in an employee benefits program at no cost to the employer. They also offer policies such as cancer and accident insurance on an individual basis. In addition, they are looking to acquire new talent and currently have sales positions available. For more information, call or stop by 102 W. 6th, inside Farmer's Bank and Trust, Larned, 620-264-5030.

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AFLAC, CONTACT:
Leigh Anne Seeman
102 W 6th (Inside Farmers Bank & Trust)
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