



Once in a Lifetime Jeffrey Retrospective

Dianne Jeffrey has exhibited her art many times in various places. Dr. Joe has presented programs about his collections hundreds of times to thousands of persons. But they've never had a show at the same time in the same place. Until Now.



The Dawson County Museum is excited to present the exhibit, *Joe & Dianne Jeffrey: A Retrospective*. For the months of June and July our Art Gallery will be filled with Dianne's paintings and Joe's photographs, models and books. As they were setting up the display, Joe joked that the title for the show should be "Where Was All This Stuff?" Wherever they had it stored, we're privileged to have it all here now!

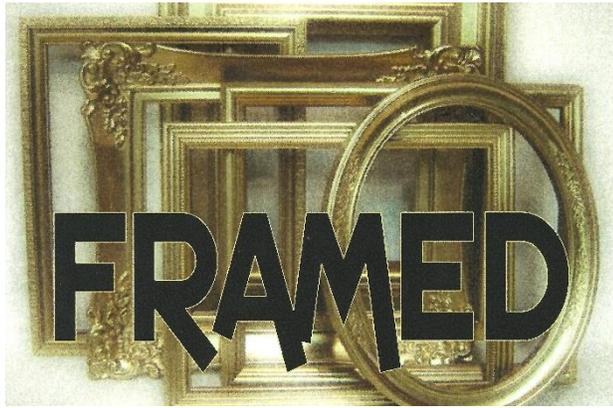
Dianne chose a delicious sampling of her artwork. There are a few historic pieces – oil paintings from early in her career. There are environment pieces – acrylics in settings from central Nebraska rangeland to the adobe and cacti of Arizona. There's a Best of Show award winner titled *The Last Sweep*. One wall is filled with stunning flora. (I call it Captivating Cacti.) Then there's my personal favorite, a series of door knobs on textured canvas. Her cross-over pieces are paintings of unique fenceposts.

Dr. Joe's fenceposts are his photos, framed with weathered wood and barbed wire. Sitting in one corner is a fencepost with faces carved in it. Joe's a generous man – he's made us privy to his privy collection. Most of the outhouses were gifts to him. There are privies made of stained glass, needlework, clay, metal, wood, ceramic and a Pepsi can. He has salt & pepper shakers, banks, music boxes and exploding toilets. Joe's latrine reading library is extensive.

The museum will host an open house for the exhibit that will include Joe's program on outhouses. Watch for a date and time!

In the meantime, come see this exhibit. They've never done a shared show before and have no plans to do one again. Don't miss it! It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

--- Cheri Bergman



A FRAME BY FRAME GLIMPSE INTO 150 YEARS OF DAWSON COUNTY FAMILIES THROUGH THEIR ART

by Crystal Werger

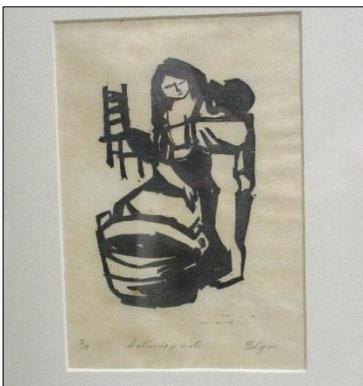
Art has always been an important part of my life. No, I'm not an artist but I am always amazed with the beauty and personality you get out of looking at a painting or photograph or even a piece of pottery! There is so much of the artist that goes into the creation of their art.

Art can be seen every day in whatever form you wish. God was the Master Artist when he created the Earth. There is so much beauty I find every day from the budding flowers at the museum to the sound of the birds outside my bedroom window each morning! Art has a way of calming my senses and inciting passion in my heart and fire in my veins! Art can be seen in the living and breathing thing or in a piece of drift wood brought in by the ever-moving ocean. Art can be heard and felt, but most importantly it is "experienced" by each one of us. Often in different ways and on different levels but there is no denying that no matter what form it takes it leaves its mark upon our souls.

That is why we had to incorporate an art show into our "150 Years of Dawson County in Nebraska" year-long celebration. After all, we have our very own display artist working for us and what better way to put her talent to work! *FRAMED: A Frame by Frame Glimpse into 150 Years of Dawson County Families through their Art* was the exhibit in the Dawson County Museum art gallery during the month of May.

Getting ready for a new exhibit is always fun. There is a lot of research that is involved that can be very time consuming but I have to admit it's my favorite part. First of all, Cheri has to go through the DCHS museum collection and decide which pieces she wants to use. Once the pieces of the "exhibit puzzle" come together in her mind she starts researching each piece. And that's when things get interesting...

Dawson County, Nebraska has had its share of great artists but most of them are relatively unknown in the community. We've all heard names like Carl Grim, Ruby Hollingsworth, and Beulah Batie; but did you know they or their family members were artists? After working at the Dawson County Museum for three years these names were familiar to me, but over the course of preparing for our "Framed" exhibit I learned so much more about them and their families.



Saturday Night by Elgas Grim

Two of the pieces in the exhibit are woodblock prints by Elgas Grim, son of Carl Grim. This was not the first time Elgas Grim's work has been displayed in the Dawson County Museum. In 1975, Elgas and his wife, Dorothy, a potter, had an exhibit in the original building's art gallery.

Elgas was born to Carl and Edith Grim in 1913. He graduated from Lexington High School in 1931 and went on to earn a Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts at the University of Nebraska. He later moved to Los Angeles, California where he studied and taught at the Chouinard Art Institute, now known as the California Institute of the Arts.

During World War II, Elgas Grim spent four years in military service heading a group that prepared graphic materials for training of troops. After the war, he returned to advertising illustration and in 1952 was one of four artists to found Studio Artists, Inc. in Los Angeles, California. Elgas worked in various art forms throughout the years such as graphics woodblock printing, wood engraving and etching, enamels on copper, and jewelry.

I would like to think that Elgas got his love of art from his father, Carl. Carl loved flowers and creating beautiful flower gardens. Have you ever heard of "Carl's Corner"? Once located on a 5-acre plot north of Lexington, Carl Grim created a beautiful picnic area complete with electricity for all to use and enjoy. Especially known for his gladioli he won several awards and was featured often in Lexington newspapers. At its peak, he had 20,000 plants. . . many were bulbs that needed to be sorted and cataloged in the fall. One weekend in August of 1965 he picked 300 flowers and prepared altar arrangements for 12 local churches.



Most of us have heard of Ruby Hollingsworth or at least have heard of the Hollingsworth Hotel which is still located along Highway 30 in Lexington. Ruby was a charter member of the Dawson County Historical Society and spent many years restoring monuments and markers at the Evergreen Cemetery. Besides her keen interest in preserving history she was also an artist and much of her art survives in the Dawson County Historical Museum's collection.

Ruby Bolen Hollingsworth was born July 15, 1911 in Lexington, Nebraska. She began taking art lessons from Mrs. Warnen when she was 9 years old. *Still Life in Oil* was the painting Cheri chose to display in the "Framed" exhibit during the month of May at the Dawson County Historical Museum. Ruby was 12 when she painted it.

Two of the Ward brothers from the Overton area married women who were painters. Together they learned and refined their art of china painting. Our DCHS collection has many pieces of their work. The "Rose Plate" was painted by M. Alice Ward and the "Violets Plate" was done by Frances Ward. (Beulah Batie & Wylie Ward's mother and aunt) Look for more of this collection in the dining room of "Our House"



Art is different things to different people but I think the Dawson County Museum's art gallery exhibit *FRAMED: A Frame by Frame Glimpse into 150 years of Dawson County Families through their Art* did a wonderful job of portraying what art is and has been to the people of Dawson County. (See full list of the artists on the last page.)



150 Years of Dawson County in Nebraska:

LEXINGTON BUSINESS COLLEGE

Dawson County has an educational center for Central Community College at the Opportunity Center in Lexington. CCC was established in Lexington in 1977 and is a wonderful place with many different options from earning an Associate's Degree, GED, adult workshops, to youth programs. Even on-line non-credit learning. Whatever you're looking for, Central Community College probably has it. But did you know that Lexington once had a Business College before the days of CCC?

In 1906 J.H. Hale founded the Lexington Business College. Its home was on the 3rd floor of the First National Bank, which we now know as the Pinnacle Agency. In its first year, classes were offered to both men and women in shorthand and typewriting. The next year they added classes in business, English, business writing, dictation, spelling, bookkeeping, arithmetic, and banking. Mr. Hale and Mr. O.S. Seaton were staff instructors with several Lexington business men such as Alfred E. Grantham and F.L. Temple teaching banking and other business practices classes.



Tuition for one course started at \$45 and \$75 for a combination of courses, with books costing an additional \$9-15. On average a student finished a course in 6-8 months. After a couple years the cost went up to \$60 for one course and \$100 for combination courses. In 1908, college enrollment outgrew its space in the bank building and moved one door south to the 2nd story of the Aubel Building.

The Lexington Business College promoted a "practical business education" with the motto "The School for You" in all its advertising. Dawson County was growing rapidly and needed business men and women to fill positions in their growing business districts. This college, like many others, also had sports teams. For a short period of time the college had basketball and baseball teams that competed against area high school teams. But in the Spring of 1911 the college closed its doors. Founder, Mr. Hale, had been hired to teach commercial courses in the newly built Lexington High School.



Though its life span was short, The Lexington Business College played an important role in Dawson County history. If you have more information or pictures of the Lexington Business College to add to our DCHS archives please contact the museum. We are always looking for more Dawson County history! --- Crystal

in the LOOP

By Crystal Wergler

We've been talking about "The Loop" for quite some time now so if you're behind the times and not exactly sure what "The Loop" is let me give you some vital information!

A couple years ago Cheri and I were discussing the Mainstreet exhibit and the need for walls to separate businesses and the rooms in our house. As we started laying out a plan for Mainstreet, we realized we needed more space than we had, so Cheri brought up the idea of moving into the unfinished old part of the original museum behind the main gallery. There is a lot of space back there that was intended to connect the east side of the new addition to the west side so visitors could walk around in a circle instead of having to backtrack through the main gallery. That's when Cheri decided to call it "The Loop" because it loops around. Not only would it connect each side, but it would open up a lot more display space that we badly need to display new exhibits.

We're finally making that discussion a reality this summer. With the help of several Dawson County Historical Society Board of Directors, John Jordening, Chuck Tilson, Primary Electric and several others the Dawson County Historical Museum is going to have a fully functional "Loop" really soon!

Last November the Dawson County Museum raised a little over \$10,000 during *Give Big Lexington* to help pay for the construction for "The Loop" but since total costs will come closer to \$20,000 we are still looking for donations. Anything helps, even if you can't provide a monetary donation, there are still things that need to be done that require manpower. So, if you can donate your time to help us move furniture, paint walls, or build shelves that is just as good, if not better!



It's a bit scary now, but it will soon be Mainstreet businesses.

Come to the Dawson County Museum and see all the work that has been done in the last 5 months. I guarantee you won't walk away disappointed. There is always something new to see at the museum. Speaking of which, have you seen our Palm Tree?

PROGRESS IS A PROCESS

OPENING A NEW DOOR

Thanks to John Jordening and Chuck Tilson we now have a fantastic new barn door in the back yard of "Our House". The concept of a barn door and the practicality of a pocket door is perfect to lead us into "The Loop". It sets the stage for what's to come. Immediately behind it you'll be able to see fresh new blacksmith, leather shop and carpenter shop exhibits.

There's a lot of work to be done before those displays are up and running, but it's so good to see tangible progress to the planning we've been doing for three years.

John's been a great help! He's caught the vision. We each have our own mental image of how things should look, but we make a good team. Most days we go on a couple of "walk throughs" to pull together our ideas of how to accomplish that vision.



WISH LIST:

GARDEN / PARK BENCHES TO USE INSIDE THE MUSEUM
60" ROUND WHITE TABLES FOR GROUP FUNCTIONS
VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH EXHIBIT INVENTORY

ARTISTS EXHIBITED IN FRAMED IN MAY

Marion Anderson	Mary Strever
Georgia Kugler	Jan Streit
John Rutledge	Dianne Jeffrey
M. Louisa Fitzgerald	Eliza Wambsgans
Hattie Billingsley	Cora Benton
Hap Haynes	1894 Shull Family
Jordan Murray	Harlan Hirsch
Allan Adams	Leota Knapple
Ella Beatty	Elgas Grim
Frances Ward	M. Alice Ward
Marguerite Anderson	Ruby Hollingsworth

**Celebrate Independence Day
then come for**

COFFEE WITH CAROL

**Wednesday, July 5th
10:00 to noon**

(Remember Coffee With Carol is the 1st Wed of the Month)

The Mobile Children's Museum
will be at
Dawson County Museum
August 31-September 2



NEBRASKA
STATEHOOD 150