



SIGN POSTS

Volume 2, Issue 2, Summer 2020

The Official Online Newsletter of the Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery

MOVING DOWN OUR PROJECT LIST

Since the beginning of the new year our organization has been engaged in a number of projects to upgrade our facilities and address some longstanding needs in the museum building. Starting last Christmas when we opened a major new show in our art gallery on Robert Henri we have been working on a number of projects. As outlined in our last newsletter we finished major plumbing and electric work in February and installed a new hanging system in our two galleries in the museum. Then at the end of April the painting of the trim of the museum and the painting of the porch began and is now completed. The work was undertaken by Seth Denney



Painting of Kearney, Nebraska. You may recognize his name as he co-anchors the nightly news for ABC affiliate NTV News in Kearney.

Before we began the painting project it was clear some remedial work was needed on many of the windows, sills and trims of the building. In one case one window sill was so badly rotted one could put their hand all the way back to the interior wall. In another case a door needed to be replaced. In the end, Larry Paulsen and Paulsen, Inc immediately stepped up and their crew spent about nine days on site making the necessary repairs that allowed the painters to go forward. We are grateful to Paulsen, Inc. for their work which would have cost thousands of dollars to complete. In addition, we are grateful to board member Larry Karre for his assistance and guidance.

The paint color chosen was the result of an analysis by the director and the light grey is believed to be the color that was used after the stucco was applied. The building looks great sporting its new coat of paint which was provided at a special price by member Tom Gosinski, owner of Dawson Home here in Cozad. Tom was of great help in choosing the color and type of paint and stain for the porch. Long-time members will recall that he was our president years ago. We are also grateful to Chuck Birgen who photographed the progress as it was being made.

These plumbing, electric and painting projects were paid for with Dawson County Improvement Funds that are generated by taxes paid when travelers stay in one of the county's many hotels. The museum has



completed many projects over the years that protect and maintain our building for future generations with this funding. We are grateful to the Dawson County Commissioners for their long time support. The funds, once allocated, then pass through the Cozad Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Committee to our organization.

Photographs: Courtesy Chuck Birgen



SPREADING THE WORD

We are pleased to announce that our neighbors and friends at 242 House have been chosen as Cozad's Nebraska Passport stop for 2020. If you are not familiar with the program seventy stops are chosen around the state and visitors, both in state and out of state, are encouraged to visit them all. There are ten categories of stops including restaurants and museums. In 2019 more than nine hundred people went to all of the stops.



The Passport program generated almost twenty-four million dollars for the state's economy last year. The museum and the 242 House have been partnering since the restaurant opened and people who are eating there often come over to the museum afterwards for a tour and the museum encourages our visitors to eat and have drinks there. It has worked out well for both of us and in fact some of our meetings have been held there.

The 242 House has a special meaning for Marlene Geiger, our president, because when

she was married she made her final preparations for the wedding in the house as it was owned by relatives. In the photograph she is coming down the stairs with her husband Otto.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be featured in *Nebraska Life* magazine in the July-August issue. The museum has not been featured in this statewide publication for many years so we are delighted. Copies will be available in late June. The museum's director has been working with Alan Bartels, the publisher, and Tom Hess, the writer, for several months on the project. In addition, Marlene Geiger has been helping with the project too.

We are so excited because the magazine, a must read for Nebraskans, former Nebraskans, and wannabe Nebraskans will give us great exposure to future visitors and highlight all the progress we have been making for the last thirty years. We have not had this kind of exposure since *True West*, a national magazine, featured an article on the shooting of Alf Pearson by John Cozad and the life of Robert Henri in their October 2013 issue.

We will have copies of the Nebraska Life magazine on sale in our gift shop. In addition we will be hosting a *Nebraska Life* “Robert Henri issue” magazine release party on Thursday, July 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Reserve your spot by calling (308) 784-4154 or emailing rhenni@cozadtel.net. There will be no admission charge and will be limited to 100 attendees and whatever rules may be in place for the virus. The evening's programs will include tours of the Henri home, museum and gallery, light refreshments, commemorative “Robert Henri issue” sales and gift shop specials.

Photograph: Courtesy Marlene Geiger



FAREWELL TO WINDSWEPT REFLECTIONS

For the last few months there have been ongoing discussions between the Robert Henri Museum, the 100th Meridian Museum and the Wilson Public Library about Windswept

Reflections, a beautiful work of art that has stood in front of the museum since 2007. This contemporary style stainless steel windmill, designed by local artist Trudy Geiger, was installed on the lot between the two museums during the *The Year of the Windmill* proclaimed by then Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman. The project was originally

sponsored by Cozad State Bank, State Farm, Heidi Bazata, First Bank and Trust and Cozad Chamber of Commerce Tourism.

In describing the piece at its dedication Trudy Geiger said: *Picture in your mind the wind sweeping across the plains with such force that all in its path surrender to its power, bending to survive the wind's fury -- Windswept.*

It was agreed by everyone that the windmill would be moved to the newly created sculpture garden at the Wilson Public Library. With the help of Paulsen, Inc. the piece was moved three blocks and installed on the west side of the library near the entrance. We are so grateful to Paulsen, Inc. for their help in moving it and especially to Larry Paulsen and Matt Yocom. The effort was coordinated between Paulsen, Inc, Laurie Yocom, the library director, Judy Andres, the museum's director and our director. Windswept Reflections is owned by the 100th Meridian Museum.

It looks great in its new location. Make a trip to the library to see the other art works located in and outside of the building.

Photograph: Courtesy Peter Osborne

OUR MUSEUM IS OPEN ONCE AGAIN

The museum's board of directors met on May 11, 2020 and decided to reopen on Memorial Day weekend. We are doing this with an abundance of caution and

will strictly adhere to the social distancing rules that are in place, specifically that we all keep six feet of distance between us. Our staff may be wearing masks and gloves for their safety and for our visitor's safety. We will not be taking large tour groups yet but that may come in the future as the new regulations allow. We continue to follow recommendations from the CDC and Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts.

We want you back but if you are sick, please stay home until you are well, or if you have been sick recently, please respect our other visitors and staff and come



back when you are completely well. We certainly do not want to spread the virus any more than it has already been spread. Like everyone we will be trying to deal with what will be the new normal for some time to come. We look forward to seeing you.

Tour guide Chuck Birgen is properly and socially distanced from a recent visitor.

Photograph: Courtesy Robert Henri Museum



COLLECTION NEWS

The most important task for any museum is to acquire objects that support the mission statement, maintain its collection and interpret it for the public. The Robert Henri Museum purchased the Past Perfect software a number of years ago to maintain its accession records which essentially is keeping track of all of the museum's objects, photographs, paintings. The software is used universally across the museum world. Locally, the Dawson County Historical Museum uses it and the director of the Henri recently met with Crystal Wegner, the museum's director, to discuss the new upgrade which they own and use.

The newest version of the program, called MultiMedia Upgrade, will allow for our museum to photograph each item in its collection and incorporate those images into the digital database program. This is critically important as the museum has just finished inventorying all of its Robert Henri paintings and sketches but needs to incorporate the new images into its digital inventory. The museum also owns about one thousand objects including textiles, prints, furniture and objects and manuscripts. Over the years staff and volunteers have been working on getting the collection better organized.

Recently the museum applied to the Dream Project program of the Dawson Area Leadership Class 17 for funding to purchase the upgrade of the program and the Class 17 awarded its project to the museum. The purchase of the program is an essential first step and would allow the museum to continue with its long range accessioning program but also allow staff and volunteers to begin the major effort of photographing each individual object in its collection.

Once the program is purchased, volunteers and staff will begin the task of going through

the museum's storage and display areas to get the collection inventoried and photographed. The next step will be to create a network at the museum that would allow researchers, visitors, members and staff to be able to access the information easily. In addition, the museum will ultimately create an online inventory. The purchase of the program will implement one of the museum's long-term strategies.

Dawson Area Leadership is designed to assist participants in developing leadership skills and in expanding their awareness of the social, economic, and political challenges facing the Dawson County area. Dawson Area Development believes that each participant has the potential to become a leader and valuable decision-maker in the future. The program includes nine full-day sessions held between September and May in various locations across Dawson County and Lincoln for State Government Day. Topic areas include agriculture, education, health and human services, art, culture and recreation, local government and law enforcement and state government.

By completing the program, informed leaders can better understand issues, define problems and develop solutions to serve their communities. Graduates of Leadership Dawson County are encouraged to seek positions of higher responsibility, whether in their business or at the local, regional or state level. The program is for adults living and/or working in the Dawson County area, including all of Dawson County, Elwood and Eustis.

We thank the Leadership Class for their generosity and support of the museum and its efforts to accomplish one of the goals of its long range strategic plan. The members of this class are:

Dawson Area Leadership, Class 17

Alisa Keiser, Jessica Haack, Nic VanCura, Austin Boller, Julie Rupe, Roxanne Converse-Whiting, Brenna Bartruff, Kasey Rushton, Tinna Therrien, Jackie Jasnoch, Korlynn Applegate and Melissa Thompson

Photograph of print: The Coast of Achill Island, Ireland, Courtesy of the Robert Henri Museum

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 23, 2020 - Reopening of the Museum and Art Gallery for regular hours with soft opening

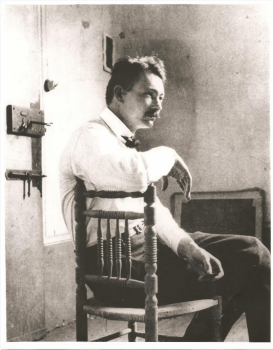
June 20, 2020 - Robert Henri Arts Festival - CANCELLED

July 16, 2020 - *Nebraska Life* "Robert Henri issue" magazine release party on Thursday, July 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Museum Hours From May 23, 2020 - October 1, 2020

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

To get even more information on the museum's programs go to our web page and the calendar of events at www.roberthenrimuseum.org/calendar



WHAT WOULD ROBERT HENRI SAY?

*Paint the flying spirit of the bird, rather than its
feathers.*

Robert Henri

Photograph: Courtesy Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery



Peter Osborne, Newsletter Coordinator
Jan Anderson, Marlene Geiger, Chuck Birgen, Editors

To see our past newsletters go to <https://www.roberthenrimuseum.org/press>

Our newsletter's name, *Sign Posts*, comes from a phrase at the beginning of Robert Henri's *Art Spirit*. He wrote:

There are moments in our lives, there are moments in a day, when we seem to see beyond the usual. Such are the moments of our greatest happiness. Such are the moments of our greatest wisdom. If one could but recall his vision by some sort of sign. It was in this hope that the arts were invented. Sign-posts on the way to what may be. Sign-posts toward greater knowledge.



Visiting the
Robert Henri Museum and Art Gallery
Open: May 23 – October 1
Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Admission
\$5 for Adults
\$2 for Children (5-18)
We accept all major credit cards
Closed on the major holidays
Phone: (308) 784-4154
Email: rhenri@cozadtel.net
Web page: www.roberthenrimuseum.org.