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Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties
Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua

**Broken Bow ∞ June 17-21, 2009 ∞ Custer County Fairgrounds
Intersection of Highways 2 and 92 (East edge of Broken Bow)**

**In the event of bad weather, tent performances will be held inside
Broken Bow High School, 323 N 7th Avenue, Broken Bow.**

Master of Ceremonies: Dave Birnie/Bob Bowles

**For more information, contact the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce at
308-872-5691 or visit www.brokenbow-ne.com.**

All events are free unless indicated by (\$)

Youth Chautauqua Camp

Presented by Ride Into History

Monday, June 15 – Friday, June 19

1-5 PM Monday – Thursday; 1-7 PM Friday

Location: Broken Bow Middle/High School

4th – 8th grade participants will research a local historical figure from the 1930s and will portray that person under the Chautauqua Tent on Friday evening. Preregistration required. Contact Ryan Hogue at 308-872-6441 or at ryhogue@bbps.org for more information.

The Dust Bowl Traveling Exhibition

Wednesday, June 17 – Sunday, June 21

10 AM – 5 PM

Location: Custer County Museum, Highway 2 and S. 9th Avenue

In the 1930s, the Farm Security Administration (FSA) photographed the faces and landscapes of the Dust Bowl region. Forty years later, Nebraska photographer Bill Ganzel found and re-photographed the original subjects for a book and exhibition. *The Dust Bowl* exhibit, from Humanities Texas, combines the FSA photographs with Ganzel's images to tell a story of strength and triumph in the face of despair.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Media Night/Meet the Chautauquans

6 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds, intersection of Highways 2 and 92

Celebrate the kickoff of Chautauqua in Broken Bow! Enjoy a preview of the upcoming Chautauqua festivities and meet the Chautauquans.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Making Murals with Folktales: How Butterflies Were Made

Youth Workshop Presented by Wanda Schell

10:30 AM

Location: 4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

Zora Neale Hurston compiled folktales for the Works Progress Administration from her home state of Florida. One folktale tells how the colorful butterflies were created to keep the flowers company and how they came to be called butterflies. In this workshop, children will listen to the vibrant story told by "Zora" and will talk about the tale and compare it to the world they live in today. They will create a mural based on the images in the folktale and related images from their own experiences.

Will Rogers: Film and American Society

Adult Workshop Presented by Doug Watson

1 PM

Location: 4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

From 1929-1935, Will Rogers made 21 "talkies." These movies, filled with Rogers' trademark wit, wisdom, and an optimistic vision of American society, were extremely popular. They also provide insight into social topics from the time period such as new wealth, rural distress, and political and economic corruption. This workshop examines how Rogers' movies informed Americans about complex issues. Can the same be said about today's movies?

Farmers Market

2-6 PM

Location: City Square, Downtown

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Huey Long and State Innovation

Adult Workshop Presented Fred Krebs

3 PM

Location: 4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

Huey Long was innovative in his approach as Governor of Louisiana from 1928-1932. He worked to create laws that would make life easier and more equitable for the people. This workshop will examine Long's work as a reformer in his home state. How did his ideas effect change in Louisiana and the nation?

Concessions –Brown Bag Supper (\$)

6-7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Sponsored by the Grange.

Will Rogers

7 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Will Rogers (Doug Watson) opens the evening's tent program with his authentic American commentary, rope tricks, and down-home humor.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Franklin D. Roosevelt (Patrick E. McGinnis) chats about his New Deal programs and his plans to put the nation back on the road to economic recovery.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle

10-11:30 AM

Youth Workshop

Location: Broken Bow Middle/High School

If you could write a letter to the First Lady of the United States, what would you write?! During the Great Depression of the 1930s, children from all over the country sent letters to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.! In the letters, children asked Mrs. Roosevelt for everything from a pair of roller skates to food for their family. Participants in this workshop will become historians-in-training as they research the letters and learn about the 1930s! At the end of the workshop, they will write a letter to First Lady Michelle Obama.

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Crisis and the Role of the Demagogue

10:30 AM

Adult Workshop Presented by Fred Krebs

Location: Paddock Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

A demagogue can be defined as a leader who champions the cause of the common people or a leader who makes use of popular prejudices and false claims and promises in order to gain power. So - was Huey Long a demagogue? Participants in this workshop will consider what leadership meant to politician Huey Long. Clips will be shown of Robert Rossen's 1949 film "All the King's Men," a fictitious account of Long's life.

What Do Historians Say?

1 PM

Adult Workshop Presented by Patrick McGinnis

Location: Paddock Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

In 1932, during his presidential campaign, Franklin Delano Roosevelt introduced his New Deal ideas. Historians differ on the interpretation of the impact and legacy of these relief programs. This workshop will explore many interpretations and will give participants the opportunity to discuss how the image of FDR changes with the perspective presented.

Radio in the Thirties

3 PM

Adult Workshop Presented by Tonia Compton

Location: Paddock Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

Radio in the 1930s changed the ways Americans learned about the world around them. Used by FDR, Huey Long, Will Rogers, and Aimee Semple McPherson as a new way to reach the American public, this workshop will include samples of popular shows. Workshop participants will analyze radio's impact on cultural, political, and social changes of the 1930s. How does today's technology influence American society?

Concessions – Hot dogs and root beer floats (\$)

6-7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Sponsored by the Grange

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Youth Chautauqua Camp Performance

Presented by Youth Chautauquans and Ride Into History

6 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Watch the youth camp participants bring Franklin County's history to life as they portray local figures from the 1930s.

Aimee Semple McPherson

7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Aimee Semple McPherson (Tonia Compton), the charismatic founder of the Foursquare Church, will recount her pioneering work in the church and on the radio.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Breakfast with the Chautauquans

9 AM

Location: Bonfire Grill, Arrow Hotel, 509 S. 9th Ave.

Enjoy breakfast and meet and mingle with the Chautauquans.

Go Gator and Muddy the Water

10:30 AM

Adult Workshop Presented by Wanda Schell

Location: 4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

Zora Neale Hurston wrote for the Federal Writer's Project during the Thirties, collecting folklore as well as other stories. In this workshop, participants will compare Kansas and Nebraska folklore, myths, and rituals to those of Florida collected by Hurston, and will examine their importance both then and now. Additionally, participants will explore healing rituals, songs, and children's games from Hurston's writing and will look at how some of her more controversial themes were received by her contemporaries.

Agriculture Then and Now

1 PM

Adult Workshop Presented by Patrick McGinnis

Location: 4-H Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

Today's family farm looks much different than the farms of our grandparents and great-grandparents. During the 1930s, New Deal farm policies changed

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traditional farming practices and the role of government in agriculture. This workshop will examine why these policies were introduced and how they affected rural communities.

Walking tours of Broken Bow

3-5 PM

Location: Meet in front of Custer County Museum (tour every 30 minutes)

Concessions – Ham and beans and cornbread (\$)

6-7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Sponsored by the Grange

Local entertainment

7 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Zora Neale Hurston

7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Zora Neale Hurston (Wanda Schell), Harlem Renaissance author and folklorist, will discuss her work with the Works Progress Administration and her efforts to preserve African American folklore.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Floods, FEMA, and the Faithful

1 PM

Adult Workshop Presented by Tonia Compton

Location: Paddock Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

This workshop will examine the development of religious groups' work providing relief efforts to people across the United States when natural or manmade disasters wreak havoc on human habitation. From the recent devastation of Hurricane Katrina, to disasters in the early twentieth century like the San Francisco earthquake in 1906, victims and government agencies have increasingly come to rely on private efforts by religious organizations to provide aid. This workshop will consider the development of this trend, and look at how churches and other religious groups responded to the Dust Bowl on the Great Plains.

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The Role of Political Satire and Commentary

3 PM

Adult Workshop Presented by Doug Watson

Location: Paddock Building, Custer County Fairgrounds

During the 1930s, political cartoons, radio programs, newspaper articles and film mirrored, and sometimes exaggerated, how Americans responded to political and religious leaders. This workshop will use examples of Will Rogers' work from the 1920s and 1930s to discuss the continuing role of humor as a response to today's world.

Concessions – Sloppy Joes (\$)

6-7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Sponsored by the Grange

Local entertainment

6:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Will Rogers

7 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Will Rogers (Doug Watson) returns to the stage for the final evening of Chautauqua.

Huey Long

7:30 PM

Location: Custer County Fairgrounds

Meet Louisiana Senator, and former governor, Huey Long (Fred Krebs). The larger-than-life politician will share his plan to make "Every Man a King."