

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

Plattsmouth ∞ June 24-28 ∞ Rhylander Park  
615 Lincoln Avenue (Southeast of downtown)

In the event of bad weather, tent performances will be held inside the  
Plattsmouth High School, 1916 Highway 34

*All events are free unless indicated by (\$)*

*Youth Chautauqua Camp*

Presented by Ride Into History

Monday, June 22 – Friday, June 26

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

Location: Plattsmouth Public Library

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.

*The Dust Bowl Traveling Exhibition*

Thursday, June 25 – Sunday, June 28

10 AM – 5 PM Thursday; 9 AM – 5 PM Friday and Saturday; 1-5 PM Sunday

Location: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.

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.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

*Community Band*

5:30 PM

Location: Caboose Park, 1st and Main streets

*Meet the Chautauquans/Historic Re-enactment*

**6 PM**

**Location: Caboose Park**

Celebrate the unique kickoff of Chautauqua in Plattsburgh with the historic re-enactment of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's October 1936 visit to Plattsburgh!

Enjoy a preview of the upcoming Chautauqua festivities and meet the Chautauquans.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25**

*Making Murals with Folktales: How Butterflies Were Made*

**Youth Workshop Presented by Wanda Schell**

**10:30 AM**

**Location: Plattsburgh Public Library**

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: Plattsburgh State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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?

*Huey Long and State Innovation*

**Adult Workshop Presented Fred Krebs**

**3 PM**

**Location: Plattsburgh State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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 (\$)*

**5:30-7:30 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

Sponsored by Plattsmouth Rotary Club.

*Will Rogers*

**7 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

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: Rhylander Park**

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 26**

*Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle*

**10-11:30 AM**

**Youth Workshop**

**Location: Plattsmouth Public Library**

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.

*Crisis and the Role of the Demagogue*

**10:30 AM**

**Adult Workshop Presented by Fred Krebs**

**Location: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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.

*Lunch with the Scholars (\$)*

**12 PM**

**Location: Plattsmouth Senior Center – Plattsmouth Community Center, 308 S. 18th St.**

*What Do Historians Say?*

**1 PM**

**Adult Workshop Presented by Patrick McGinnis**

**Location: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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 (\$)*

**5:30-7:30 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

Sponsored by Lions Club.

*Youth Chautauqua Camp Performance*

**Presented by Youth Chautauquans and Ride Into History**

**6 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

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

*Local Entertainment: The Radio Show*

**7 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

Relive the magic of old-time radio by watching – and listening – to a live performance of *Flash Gordon*.

*Aimee Semple McPherson*

**7:30 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

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 27**

*Midwest Antique Tractor Club Show*

**9 AM – 5 PM**

**Location: Richey Street, east end of downtown**

**Sponsored by Plattsmouth Optimists Club**

*Go Gator and Muddy the Water*

**10:30 AM**

**Adult Workshop Presented by Wanda Schell**

**Location: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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.

*Plattsmouth Conservancy Homes Tour (\$)*

12-5 PM

*Agriculture Then and Now*

1 PM

**Adult Workshop Presented by Patrick McGinnis**

**Location: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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

*Concessions (\$)*

5:30-7:30 PM

**Location: Rhylander Park**

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus.

*Local entertainment – Nebraska City Apple Corps Barbershop Chorus*

7 PM

**Location: Rhylander Park**

*Zora Neale Hurston*

7:30 PM

**Location: Rhylander Park**

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 28**

*Community Church Service featuring the Dustbowl Chorus*

10 AM

*Fried Chicken Dinner (\$)*

11:30 AM -1 PM

**Location: Golden Living Center, 602 S. 18th St.**

*Floods, FEMA, and the Faithful*

1 PM

**Adult Workshop Presented by Tonia Compton**

**Location: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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.

*The Role of Political Satire and Commentary*

3 PM

**Adult Workshop Presented by Doug Watson**

**Location: Plattsmouth State Bank Community Room, 446 Main St.**

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 (\$)*

5:30-7:30 PM

**Location: Rhylander Park**

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

*Local entertainment, Terry and Jonathan Little*

6:30 PM

**Location: Rhylander Park**

*Will Rogers*

**7 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

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

*Huey Long*

**7:30 PM**

**Location: Rhylander Park**

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."

*Cass County Museum open Tuesday–Sunday, noon-4 p.m.*