

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

Hesston • June 10-14 • Hesston High School Grounds
600 E Randall (South of Football Stadium parking lot)

In the event of bad weather, tent performances will be held inside the
Hesston High School Auditorium, 200 N Ridge Road.

For more information, contact the Hesston Recreation Commission
at 620-327-7128 or www.hrce.org.

All events are free unless indicated by (\$)

Youth Chautauqua Camp

Presented by Ride Into History

Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12

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

Location: Hesston Middle School Computer Lab, 100 N Ridge Road

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. Pre-registration is required. Contact Susan Lamb at 620-327-2422 for more information.

The Dust Bowl Traveling Exhibition

Wednesday, June 10 – Sunday, June 14

9 AM – 4 PM Wednesday – Friday; 9 AM – 2 PM Saturday; 11 AM – 2 PM

Sunday

Location: The Water's Edge, 701 S Main Street

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-photograph 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 10

Media Night

6 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall

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

6.2.09

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Making Murals with Folktales: How Butterflies Were Made
Youth Workshop

10:30 AM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall Street

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 folktales 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 folktales and related images from their own experience.

Will Rogers: Film and American Society

Presented by Doug Watson

1 PM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall Street

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 movies today?

Huey Long and State Innovation

Presented by Fred Krebs

3 PM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall Street

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?

Will Rogers

7 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall

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

Franklin D. Roosevelt

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall

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 12

Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle

Youth Workshop Presented by Gaye Pennington

10 – 11:30 AM

Location: Hesston Middle School, 100 N Ridge Road

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 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

Presented by Fred Krebs

10:30 AM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall Street

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?

Presented by Patrick McGinnis

1 PM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall Street

In 1932, during his presidential campaign, Franklin D. 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

Presented by Tonia Compton

3 PM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall Street

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?

6.2.09

Youth Chautauqua Camp Performances

Presented by Youth Chautauquans and Ride Into History

6 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall

Watch the youth camp participants bring Harvey County's history to life as they portray local figures from the 1930s. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy as you watch the presentations.

Aimee Semple McPherson

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall

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 13

Breakfast with the Chautauquans (\$)

9 AM

Location: The Water's Edge, 701 S Main Street

Enjoy breakfast with the Chautauquans. For more information about menus and prices call The Water's Edge at 620-327-4099.

Go Gator and Muddy the Water

Presented by Carmaletta Williams

10:30 AM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall

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

Presented by Patrick McGinnis

1 PM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall

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.

6.2.09

1930s Music by Jay Huber

7 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall
Jay Huber performs Woody Guthrie's songs inspired by the struggles of the Great Depression.

Zora Neale Hurston

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall
Zora Neale Hurston (Carnaletta Williams), Harlem Renaissance author and folklorist, will discuss her work with the Works Progress Administration and her efforts to preserve African American folklore.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

Floods, FEMA, and the Faithful

Presented by Tonia Compton

1 PM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall

This workshop will examine the development of religious groups' work providing relief efforts to people across the United States when natural or man-made 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 have 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

Presented by Doug Watson

3 PM

Location: Hesston Area Seniors, 108 E Randall

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.

Will Rogers

7 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall

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

6.2.09

Huey Long

7:30 PM

Location: Chautauqua Tent, Hesston High School Grounds, 600 E Randall
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.”