

6.2.09

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

Ottawa • June 3-7, 2009 • City Park  
5<sup>th</sup> & Main Streets in Downtown Ottawa

In the event of bad weather, tent performances will be held inside  
Washburn Towers, 506 S Main Street, Ottawa.

For more information, contact the Franklin County Convention and Visitors  
Bureau at 785-242-1411 or visit <http://www.visitottawakansas.com/>.

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

*Youth Chautauqua Camp*

Presented by Ride Into History

Monday, June 1 – Friday, June 5

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

**Location: Franklin County Annex Building, 1418 S Main**

4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 required. Contact the Franklin County Historical Society at 785-242-1232 or at [history@old.depot.museum](mailto:history@old.depot.museum) for more information.

*The Dust Bowl Traveling Exhibition*

Thursday, June 4 – Sunday, June 7

10 AM – 7 PM

**Location: Carnegie Cultural Center, 515 S Main**

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 3**

*Media Night*

6 PM

**Location: Old Depot Museum, 135 W Tecumseh**

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

6.2.09

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4**

***Making Murals with Folktales: How Butterflies Were Made***  
**Youth Workshop Presented by Joyce Thierer**

**10:30 AM**

**Location: Courthouse Square Apartments Conference Room, 235 S Main 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 vibrant folktales and will talk about the tales 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 experiences.

***Will Rogers: Film and American Society***

**Presented by Doug Watson**

**1 PM**

**Location: Franklin County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2011 E Logan**

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***

**Presented by Fred Krebs**

**3 PM**

**Location: Carnegie Cultural Center, 515 S Main**

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 (\$)***

**6 – 7:30 PM**

**Location: City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, adjacent to Chautauqua Tent**

Sponsored by the Ottawa Soroptimist Club.

***Will Rogers***

**7 PM**

**Location: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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

6.2.09

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

7:30 PM

**Location: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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 5**

*Dear Eleanor, Dear Michelle*

**Youth Workshop**

**10 – 11:30 AM**

**Location: School Room at the Old Depot Museum, 135 W Tecumseh**

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*

**Presented by Fred Krebs**

**10:30 AM**

**Location: Study Room at the City Hall, 101 S Hickory 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: Franklin County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2011 E Logan**

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.

6.2.09

*Radio in the Thirties*

**Presented by Tonia Compton**

**3 PM**

**Location: Carnegie Cultural Center, 515 S Main**

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 (\$)*

**6 – 7:30 PM**

**Location: City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, adjacent to the Chautauqua Tent**

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa.

*Youth Chautauqua Camp Performances*

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

**6 PM**

**Location: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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 6**

*Breakfast with the Chautauquans & Forest Park Tour*

**8 AM**

**Location: Old Depot Museum, 135 W Tecumseh**

Enjoy a continental breakfast, meet and mingle with the Chautauquans, and take a tour of historic Forest Park, home of Ottawa's Chautauquans in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

***Go Gator and Muddy the Water***  
**Presented by Carmaletta Williams**

**10:30 AM**

**Location: Study Room at the City Hall, 101 S Hickory Street**

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: Franklin County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2011 E Logan**

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 (\$)***

**6 – 7:30 PM**

**Location: City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, adjacent to the Chautauqua Tent**  
Sponsored by the Ottawa Rotary Club.

***Radio Show Entertainment***  
**Presented by ACT Ottawa**

**7 PM**

**Location: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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

***Zora Neale Hurston***

**7:30 PM**

**Location: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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

6.2.09

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

***Floods, FEMA, and the Faithful***

**Presented by Tonia Compton**

**1 PM**

**Location: Franklin County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2011 E Logan**

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 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***

**Presented by Doug Watson**

**3 PM**

**Location: Carnegie Cultural Center, 515 S Main**

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 (\$)***

**6 – 7:30 PM**

**Location: City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, adjacent to the Chautauqua Tent**

Sponsored by the Ottawa Lions Club.

***Will Rogers***

**7 PM**

**Location: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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

***Huey Long***

**7:30 PM**

**Location: Chautauqua Tent, City Park, 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets**

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."