

The Hastings Family Times™

A FREE Weekly Publication for Families

October 6, 2003 - Vol. 1, No. 6

P.O. Box 1361, Hastings, NE 68902

Mignery Exhibit a "Must See" at Museum

by Andrew Callahan, Editor
I strongly encourage anyone with an interest in the American West to go to the Hastings Museum this week. This is the last week for the Both Sides of Mignery exhibit at the Museum. The exhibit is on display during regular Museum hours through Saturday, October 12.

There are 22 bronze sculptures and 46 original cartoons in the museum's East Gallery. The cartoons are a light-hearted look at life in the American West, primarily the life of modern cowboys. Most

of these cartoons were originally published in *Western Horseman* magazine. They are witty insightful, and just plain fun.

The sculptures, however, are evocative of strong emotions and establish an immediate bond with the viewer. There are sculptures of working men, shepherds, ranchers, cowboys, a family or two, and several of Native Americans. These sculptures all capture a vivid reality of life. In some they portray action and force; in others stillness perhaps brought on by exhaustion or contemplation.

Both Sides of Mignery is well worth the price of admission to the Museum itself, but of course the museum also offers many other exhibits and daily planetarium shows. This could be an excellent family outing. Don't put it off, the Mignery exhibit is only here through Saturday.



Mignery's Sculpture "Spirit" at Hastings

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Modeling Reading to Our Kids

by Cecile J. Callahan, Managing Editor

In the Hastings Senior High School Newsletter for Oct. 2003, there is a message from the English Department requesting that we parents of high school children show our children that we value reading. I believe that this is good advice to parents with children of any age. I would like to pass on their suggestions for helping our children become readers with the hope that, whatever age your children happen to be, you too would share the joy of reading with your children.

1. Model the importance of reading books, newspapers or magazines yourself.
2. Make appropriate reading material available at home - newspapers, magazines or library books. Your having a library card reminds your children that items can be checked out of the public library.
3. Ask your child frequently about what he/she is reading at school. There will be very few times when he/she is not assigned some kind of reading in English class.
4. Provide a good place at home for reading to occur, preferably somewhere away from the television and telephone.

To these I would add that even older children like to be read to (but don't be surprised if they borrow the book to finish it more quickly themselves). Letting children have their own library card gives them a sense of independence and responsibility and, if you have shared the reading experience with your children and know what they want (or have a book that you really want to share with them), books make excellent gifts. Every Christmas and almost every birthday each of our children get at least one book.

We are blessed in that our children love to read, but they don't all like reading the same things. Our oldest, for example used to read novels like my husband eats popcorn. He could read five a day. Our youngest son, however, enjoys reading the encyclopedia. Set the good example and encourage reading.

Call Cecile at 461-6355 to suggest story ideas for The Hastings Family Times

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Prairie Friends Shares Life of Nebraska Pioneer Girl

by Cecile J. Callahan, Managing Editor

Betsy lives on the Nebraska prairie with Pap, Mama and her little brother, Judd. Judd isn't little enough to be cute or big enough to be a real friend. Besides, when the neighbors come for a husking bee, Judd has Frank Dawson, a boy his own age, to play with. The Dawsons and the Shaws are good neighbors, who share their homemade candles and buffaloberry jam with Betsy's family, but all their children are younger. Betsy longs for a girl just her age to be friends with.

Mama, too, wishes neighbors were closer here on the prairie, and Pap tells them the news Mr. Shaw shared with him, that new neighbors are moving into their area. Pap and Betsy make plans to visit the next day only to be thwarted by a Nebraska thunderstorm. The day after the storm, bearing a pitchfork and a loaf of bread to welcome the newcomers, they set off. During the wagon ride, Betsy imagines to her Pap, what the girl's name might be, if there is a girl.

Arriving at the creek, they meet a man named Fitzroy. He's alone. Betsy must have been disappointed, but as they offer their gifts and introduce themselves, they find that he does have a family. They will arrive when he has the dugout, a house dug into the creek bank, built for them to live in. And yes, there is a daughter, Emmeline, who is just Betsy's age.

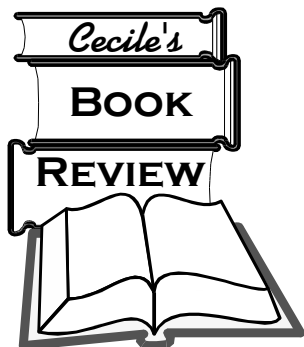
While waiting for Emmeline to join her father, Betsy decides to make a corn husk doll for her new friend. She patiently works on it, making it perfect, even to replacing the skirt when it folds flat instead of standing out round as it should.

At last, Emmeline and her mother arrive at the creek crossing and the neighbors all come to help build them a soddy, a house built out of blocks or strips of prairie grass ploughed up with the roots. Meeting Emmeline, Betsy hands her the doll. Emmeline's response is less than positive and Betsy is again disappointed. But at Mama's urging, Betsy tries again and

the girls race the boys to pick the most buffalo berries. After filling their basket the girls play tag in the tall prairie grass and become lost. Emmeline is afraid, but Betsy knows that if they can find the creek, it will lead them right back to the Fitzroy place. As she tries to determine which direction to go, she hears the cranes calling as they land on the creek for the evening. Following the calls, the girls locate the creek and it does lead them home. Emmeline is impressed and Betsy promises to teach her how to do things in her new home on the prairie.

This cheerful little story portrays life on the prairie of 150 years ago, showing the courage, self-reliance, cooperation and friendliness of the people who pioneered this area; some of the same values that characterize the Plains residents today.

What's new at the Hastings Public Library?



Prairie Friends
An I Can Read Book
by Nancy Smiler Levinson -
Illustrated by Stacey Schuett

Upcoming Events

Babysitter's Clinic - Sat, Oct. 18th - Central Community College - 8:45 to 3:15 - open to boys & girls grades 4-8 - registration forms available at schools, agencies & YWCA - topics include infant care, healthy snacks, emergency procedures and activity planning - register by Oct. 11 - cost: \$15

Lights On! Celebration - Oct 9 - the Zone

Preschool Playday - Oct. 14 - 10 am - Halloween Hooligans - Hastings Museum - reservations required - 461-4629 or 1-800-508-4629

October 10, 2003 - Noon Dismissal - Hastings Public Schools

Lions' Club Pancake Feed - Oct 9 - 7 am to 7 pm - Hastings City Auditorium, 400 N Hastings Ave. - Tickets: \$3.50 in advance, \$4 at the door - available at HS Banks, City National Banks, Wells Fargo Bank or from any Lions' Club member - preschoolers free - 463-4647

2003 PSAT exam - Tues., Oct 21 - register in the HS guidance office - Juniors & Honors Sophomores - \$10.50 -

Creative Kids Day - Imperial Mall - 462-6671

Doniphan School Fun Night - YMCA - 463-3139

Nebraska Country Music Festival - Oct.12-13, Eagles Club, 107 N Denver; Oct 14-17, Adams County Fairgrounds, 947 S Baltimore

Finding Nemo - Oct 11-12 - Lied SuperScreen Theatre - Hastings Museum- Sat, 7pm; Sun, 4:30pm - reservations recommended - \$4.50 - 461-4629 or 1-800-508-4629

This is the last week for the *Both Sides of Mignery* exhibit at the Hastings Museum; it will be here through Oct 12 and then it will be gone.

The Hastings Family Times™

Original & Local Word Search #6

Hastings Streets and Avenues

B	A	L	T	I	M	O	R	E	M	M	L	
E	U	A	X	I	N	S	O	T	U	I	R	
L	M	R	O	G	A	C	I	H	C	N	E	
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E	R	S	R	I	H	E	O	K	L	E	R	
V	A	R	A	T	N	N	F	C	I	S	U	
U	O	V	N	V	L	G	D	O	F	O	T	
E	L	I	E	I	N	E	T	L	O	T	A	
M	N	R	L	V	M	L	E	O	R	A	R	
H	L	E	D	R	A	N	B	R	N	G	A	
T	O	T	E	F	I	X	C	A	I	O	P	
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Elm
Hastings
Laird
Lincoln
Marian
Minnesota
Ninth
Pine
Seventh
South
St Joseph
Turner
Webster

Some Words for the Week

From Robert Browning:

Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp,
or what's a heaven for?

Why stay we on the earth except to grow?

Lions' Club Pancake Feed

The Annual Lions' Club Pancake Feed will be held at the Hastings City Auditorium, 400 N Hastings Ave, this Thursday, October 9, 2003 from 7 am to 7 pm. Tickets are \$3.50 in advance, \$4 at the door and can be purchased from Hastings State Bank, City National Bank or Wells Fargo Bank or any Lions' Club member. Anyone in kindergarten or older needs a ticket; preschoolers are free. So come on out and enjoy the pancakes! For more information, call 463-4647.

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K.I.D.S. Recipe of the Week

Cornmeal Pancakes

1 cup boiling water	2 eggs
3/4 cup yellow corn meal	1 teaspoon salt
1 cup buttermilk or sour milk*	1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 cup sifted all-purpose flour	1/4 teaspoon baking soda
3 teaspoons baking powder	

Pour water over corn meal; stir until thick. Add milk; beat in eggs. Sift flour, baking powder, salt, and baking soda; add to cornmeal mixture. Stir in vegetable oil. Bake on hot ungreased griddle (350°F). Makes about 14 pancakes.

* To make sour milk, pour 1 Tablespoon vinegar into liquid measuring cup and add milk to equal one cup.

These are a favorite at our house. We usually make a quadruple batch for supper, so we can have leftovers for breakfast. And sometimes we add a can of drained, whole kernel corn to the batter. When the children were little, we used to make shapes, like ducks and Mickey Mouse faces; now the boys like to have contests to see who can make the biggest pancake and still flip it without breaking it. (Then it seems like they have another contest to see who can eat the most.) - Cecile