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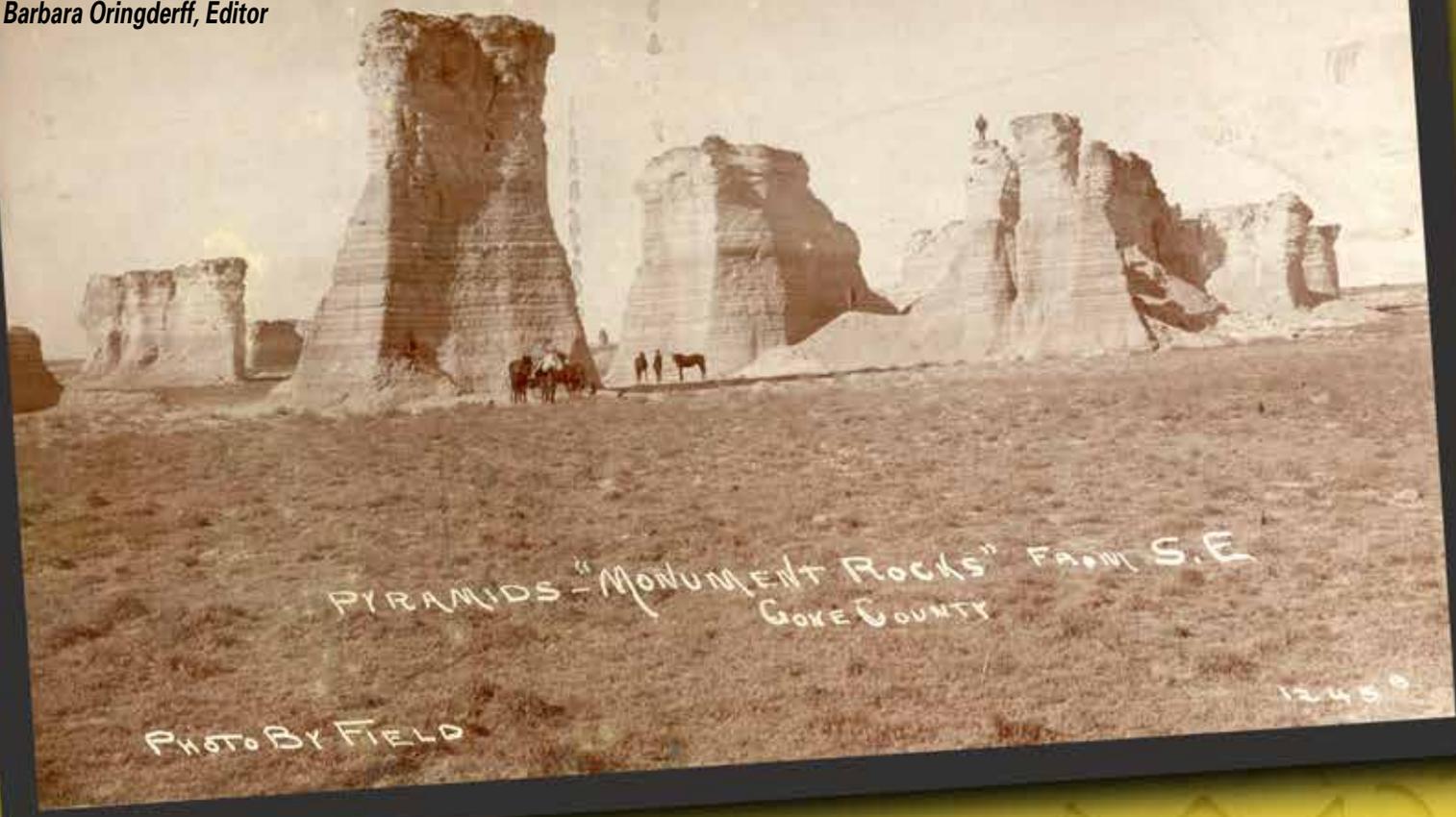
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Dear Readers, I have not forgotten my quest to learn "Who was Daisy Hatch?" I have received several phone calls, and will let you know the rest of the story about this interesting journal keeper from the early days of old Ravanna in my next column.  
Barbara Oringerff, Editor

# Covering the Territory

## *With the Editor*



When this photograph of a group of young people on horseback was taken over a hundred years ago, Monument Rocks was already a favorite attraction. It was also a "Wow!" favorite of my granddaughter Rachel when she drove there with her Mom, Carol, for the first time this summer. (Barbara Oringerff, Editor/Publisher. We thank Jim Brown, our Territorial Magazine Art and Graphics Director for sharing this fabulous photo taken by Photos by Field and owned by his grandparents, Don and Bonnie Brown who lived at Oakley which is only 20 miles north of the Rocks.)

## THE INTENTIONAL TOURISTS

By Barbara Oringerff

Already a "tourist" attraction when this photograph was taken more than a hundred years ago, Monument Rocks in Gove County is listed now in the Wonders of Kansas! guidebook as one of the "Overall Top 8 Wonders of Kansas."

This beautiful guidebook by Marci Penner, executive director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, with photographs by Harland Schuster, is a gift to all who want to explore Kansas like my daughter Carol Schuetze and my 17-year-old granddaughter Rachel did this summer (2015).

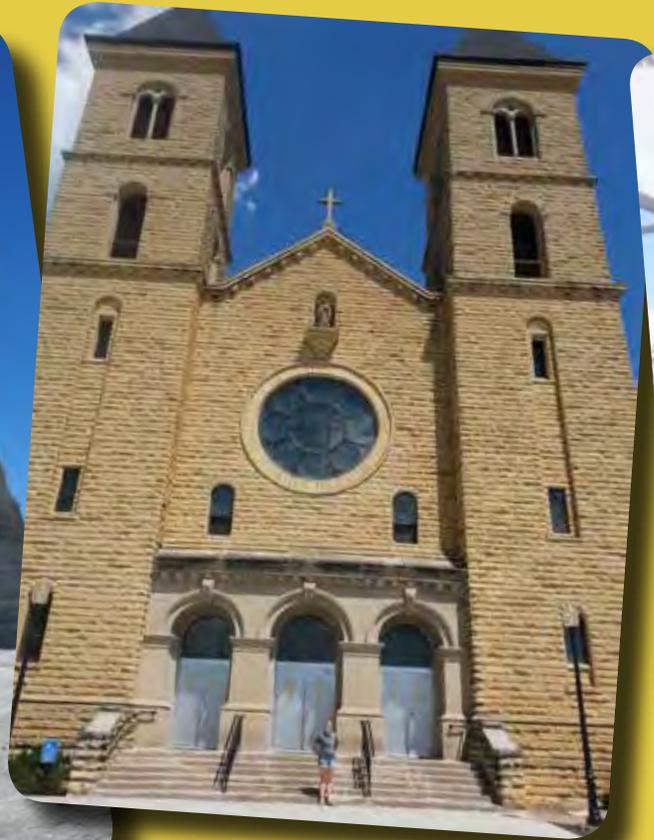




"Wow! exclaimed Rachel. "It was hard to believe when we first saw the chalk pyramids from the car. It's just so odd standing there with nothing around it, and how it has stayed there while everything around it washed away. It was pretty hot, so we didn't climb around much, but it was amazing." All of the comments are made by Rachel

We wished we had brought old shoes to nail on the Shoe Tree at Wetmore. There were lots of different shoes there, and it looked kind of fun!"

"I took Mom's picture out of the car window when we stopped in Cawker City to check out the world's largest ball of twine!"



"It's beautiful!" said Rachel. Known as the "Cathedral of the Plains", St. Fidelis Catholic church at Victoria is also listed as one of the "Overall 8 Wonders of Kansas" because of the architectural grandeur and impressive craftsmanship achieved by the area's Volga Germans. That's Rachel standing on the steps in front of the 141-foot tall bell towers. (Staff photos)





"The Garden of Eden at Lucas was odd!" laughed Rachel. "I thought the figures were made of wood (from pictures in the guidebook), but they were constructed of concrete in 1905 by a local artist named Samuel Perry Dinsmoor. He used 113 tons of concrete!"

The Garden of Eden sculpture garden is one of the top 10 contemporary folk arts site in the world. Don't miss the unique Grassroots Art Center.

"It Lebanon, the geographic center of 48 states, it was kind of ironic but cool, that they had a little chapel at the site."

A shortened trip to Manhattan to visit her sister Sarah, a K-State student, left mother and daughter with a rare span of three or four days with nothing much scheduled. Rachel was soon bored, and said she wanted to go on a Kansas road trip.

The two intentional tourists left on a Monday morning in July from their country home between Dodge City and Cimarron, and returned home by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 1,406 Kansas miles later!

First the pair drove to Scott City, then traveled 18 miles north of Scott City on US Hwy 83 and turned east on a dirt road (Dakota Road) to see Monument Rocks, what we always called the "Chalk Pyramids". The Chalk or Pyramid Rocks that makes up these spectacular natural formations was deposited 80 million years ago when the area was an inland sea that was several hundred feet deep. The fossilized remains of sea shells, fish, turtles, sharks (mostly teeth) and reptiles are famously preserved in these chalk beds over a wide area in this part of Kansas.

"Our favorite meal on the trip was at the Brookville Hotel in Abilene. (Second was at the wonderful Hays House in Council Grove.) Who wouldn't love Brookville skillet-fried chicken,

Alcove Spring near Blue Rapids was a popular Oregon Trail campsite near the crossing of the Big Blue River. We hiked up to see the waterfall at the springs, but it was a little disappointing because there was only a trickle of water when we were there."





"I'm standing by the entrance to the Kanza Indian (earth lodge) cave near Atchison. It's gated now, so you can't go in and wander around, but it was cool."

There's also a marker near Independence Creek, because Lewis and Clark explored this area in 1804."

mashed potatoes with cream gravy, cream-style corn, biscuits with butter and preserves, and homemade ice cream for dessert? All served family style!"

(Started in 1915 by Gus and Mae Magnuson in the little town of Brookville, the famous restaurant has a new home near Abilene and is owned and operated by Helen Martin, daughter of the original owners. (Brookville and the Hays House are both listed as Top 8 Wonders of Kansas Cuisine.)

When I asked the Intentional Tourists what they learned on this exploration of Kansas, Rachel said: "We learned a lot of history, and that there's a lot of cool things to see and do in Kansas. It was fun!"

Her mom's experience was a bit more introspective: "Most importantly, I learned that Rachel and I are OK traveling together. We did have fun."



"We laid on the floor to take this photo, and we weren't the only ones doing that! The murals in the Kansas Capitol building in Topeka are by John Stewart Curry (they also are one of the '8 Wonders of Kansas'), and they looked great."

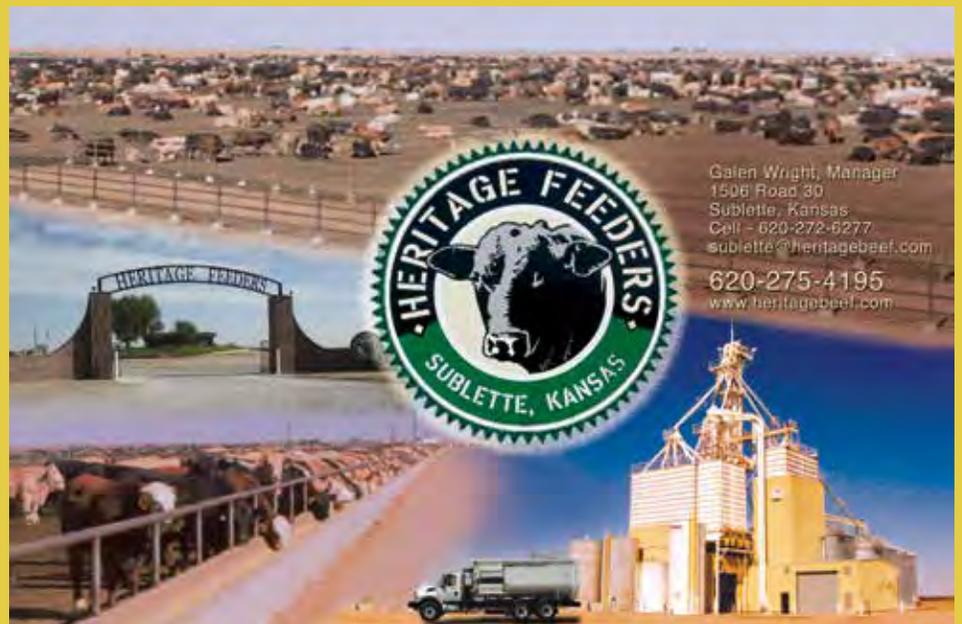
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