



2007: 2000 Series

KTWU-TV's Emmy award-winning Sunflower Journeys premiered its 20th anniversary season in 2007. The 13-episode season featured a link back in time to the many places and stories discovered over the past two decades of travels across Kansas. In each new episode, the Sunflower Journeys' team connected with an earlier trip and updated or revisited that story to see what had changed. The season ended with

the Sunflower Journeys Producers' Reunion - a gathering of those individuals who had worked to allow this series to see its 20th anniversary.

#2001: "SJ20th: Revisiting Solomon Valley"

Solomon Valley Heritage Alliance: We travel along Highway 24 and check out the Solomon Valley Highway 24 Heritage Alliance project, which promotes tourism in that area.

Cowboys and the Open Range: We learn about the history of the open range and how barbed wire changed the way ranchers did their work, including a tour of the Barbed Wire Museum in LaCrosse, Kansas.

Plains People - Helper Dogs: We travel to Washington County and visit KSDS Inc., to see what it takes to train social dogs that provide canine assistance to folks with special needs.

#2002: "SJ20th: Back to the Red Hills"

The Red Hills: We explore the unique geology, geography, and flora of the Red Hills of south central Kansas.

Accessing Communication: From atop a city water tower, we learn about Lawrence Freenet, a non-profit company that helps everyone in Lawrence, Kansas have access to the Internet.

Plains People - Joan Barker: Topeka High School Historian, Joan Barker, shows us how history is tended to at Topeka High School's on-campus historical society.

#2003 - "SJ20th: On the Oregon Trail"

Remembering the Oregon Trail: We look at the Oregon Trail and Ezra Meeker's passion for keeping its story alive. In the early 1900s, Meeker was concerned that memories of the trail would be lost, and organized a reenactment of wagons and horses across the prairie.

Prairie Rose: We head to Wichita to listen to the Prairie Rose Cowboy Singers and learn about Wild West World, a new theme park west of Wichita in Park City, Kansas.

Plains People - Sally Hawthorne: We meet Sally Hawthorne, who opens her ranch north of Eureka to kids of all ages for a real horseback experience, and to share the beauty of the Flint Hills.

#2004 - “SJ20th: Revisiting Monroe”

Revisiting Monroe: We check in to see how the National Park Service’s site at the former Monroe School in Topeka has been reaching out into the community to tell the story of the historic Brown v Board court case that paved the way for integration and the Civil Rights Movement.

Mother Earth News: We open up an edition of the “Mother Earth News,” a national publication now being published in Topeka, Kansas, and learn how Ogden Publications has carried on the magazine’s traditions relating stories of “green” lifestyles.

Plains People - Andrew Roberts: Andrew Roberts of Lawrence, Kansas relates his personal philosophy of the “green” lifestyle by altering a Mercedes to run on french fry oil.

#2005 - “SJ20th: Orphan Train History”

The Orphan Trains: We look at efforts to restore a depot in Concordia which will be the new home for the National Orphan Trains Historical Society.

KC’s WWI Museum: Witness the rededication of the World War I museum in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, one of the only museums of its kind in the United States.

Plains People - Doris Compton: We meet Doris Compton, a lay pastor who loves to share tales of her travels around the world from her Clifton, Kansas home.

#2006 - “SJ20th: Inge Endures”

IngeFest 25th: We visit Independence, Kansas to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the William Inge festival, and learn about a new play commissioned in honor of Inge.

The Landon Center: We look at Alf Landon’s political career and the preservation of the Landon Home in Independence, Kansas. The building is slated to become the new Landon Center.

Plains People - Emily Hunter: We meet Emily Hunter and learn of her passion in the presentation of the Symphony in the Flint Hills in the summer of 2006.

#2007 - “SJ20th: Midland Railway”

Back to the Midland Railway: We visit the Midland Railway in Baldwin City, Kansas and see how they have been busy expanding the railway.

Kansas City Jazz Revisited: We travel to downtown Kansas City to listen to some jazz and learn about the rich jazz heritage on the corner of 18th and Vine.

Plains People - Ms. Wheelchair Kansas: We attend the Ms. Kansas Wheelchair Pageant and see a group of women compete for the 2006 title.

#2008 - “SJ20th: Books in Kansas”

Kansas Book Festival: We visit Wichita and find out about the Kansas Book Festival, a gathering of noted Kansas authors anxious to share their visions of the Sunflower State.

Return of the Big Red One: We travel to Junction City to see how the town geared up for the return of the Big Red One to Fort Riley, Kansas.

Plains People: David Seay: We meet a man who has a passion for time. David Seay restores clocks, from pocket watches to century-old mechanisms that run clock towers.

#2009 - “SJ20th: Nicodemus Today”

Exploring Nicodemus: We return to Nicodemus to observe an archeological dig there and see what clues have been unearthed about the town’s founders in this western Kansas African-American settlement.

New Homesteaders: On to Marquette in central Kansas to learn how the leadership in that town is encouraging modern-day settlers. We talk to some of the new residents who have taken up the town’s offer of “free land.”

Plains People - Elmer Lindell: In our Plains People segment, we meet Elmer Lindell, a Lawrence veteran who brings up memories of his personal experiences during World War II.

#2010 - “SJ20th: Capote Fascination”

Capote in Kansas: We explore some recent theatrical releases about Truman Capote and the time he spent in Garden City, Kansas nearly 50 years ago.

Bunker Hill (the film): Meet Kevin Willmott, a Lawrence filmmaker, who utilizes the concept of “community filmmaking.”

Plains People: Steve Arnold: We meet a modern-day Indiana Jones who searches for meteorites in the fields of Kansas. Steve’s inspiration came from the meteorite that was displayed in Greensburg, Kansas’ Big Well museum prior to the tornado that leveled the town.

#2011 - “SJ20th: Renfest”

KC Renfest: Twenty years ago Sunflower Journeys visited the Kansas City Renaissance Festival in Bonner Springs, Kansas. We returned to see how the festival has evolved since our early visit.

Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant: We venture over to De Soto, Kansas, east of Lawrence, to learn the history of the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, a facility that created gunpowder for several wars.

Plains People - Jolene Savage: Meet Jolene Savage, a woman who’s passionate about teaching kids the importance of social etiquette.

#2012 - “SJ20th: Spirit of the Prairie”

Spirit of the Prairie: We’ll watch runners tackle the Heartland 100 “Spirit of the Prairie” endurance run through the Flint Hills of Kansas.

Prairie Fire: The mysteries of pasture burning are unveiled in this story about the history and practice of burning the prairies in the Kansas Flint Hills.

Plains People - Joyce Thierer and Ann Birney: Meet Joyce Thierer and Ann Birney as they use reenactment to teach history to school children. “Ride Into History” is the name of their performing troupe that portrays historic figures such as Calamity Jane and Amelia Earhart.

#2013 - “SJ20th: Territorial Touring”

Border Raiders Bicycle Ride: We point out some historical highlights in Kansas on the Border Raiders Bicycle Ride, and visit with folks from afar about their impressions of the Sunflower State as they experience territorial tourism.

Plains People - Dave Carlson: We meet Dave Carlson, a man who runs a business in Manhattan, Kansas, cleaning up after pets.

Sunflower Journeys Producers’ Reunion: In our final segment of the 2007 season, we take a behind-the-scenes look at 20 years of making Sunflower Journeys during our Producers’ Reunion. (A longer version of this segment is found on the Special Features of the first through fifth DVD of this season.)

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