



Helmi Moody sets a linotype machine to print the weekly paper, the Almena Plaindealer in program #412.

1991: 400 Series

As in previous years, the 1991 season of *Sunflower Journeys* featured a wide variety of Kansas people, places, issues and information. There is little in our state which *Sunflower Journeys* does not address, but the one constant in all this variety is the program's focus on people — how they relate not only to this geographic region we call Kansas, but also how they reflect and indeed often define its character.

In this season, *Sunflower Journeys* uses a thematic approach to tell its viewers about the state. This organization of what could have been seemingly disparate topics gives viewers the opportunity to consider not only the diversity that is Kansas, but also allows them to see interrelationships of issues and activities throughout the state. This thematic arrangement also gives viewers a sense of continuity throughout the series.

#401: “Music”

Fiddling & Picking, Lawrence: The tenth annual State Fiddling and Picking Championship in Lawrence provides viewers with a sampling of Bluegrass and folk music.

Sunflower Music Festival: Top chamber musicians from across the United States unite at Washburn University in Topeka for the Sunflower Music Festival.

Ring of Fire, Salina: A unique performance staged during the 1990 Smoky Hill River Festival in Salina provides a less conventional music sampling with a piece of performance art composed for “found objects.”

#402: “African-Americans”

Buffalo Soldiers: *Sunflower Journeys* joins the groundbreaking ceremonies for a new monument at Ft. Leavenworth in honor of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, the first African-American military units formed during peacetime. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, describes the contributions of these “Buffalo Soldiers.”

Nicodemus Homecoming: *Sunflower Journeys* considers the social and cultural roots of the small community of Nicodemus in north-central Kansas, which celebrates its African-American heritage through an annual homecoming.

Marching Cobras, KC: Willie Arthur Smith, founder of the Marching Cobras of Kansas City, reviews the genesis of this drill team. Their talents are displayed as they perform in Council Grove for those attending Washunga Days.

#403: “Plants”

Natural Heritage Program: The heritage program in Lawrence gathers information about the natural features of Kansas—particularly rare and endangered plants, animals and ecosystems. This story also examines the destruction of Elkins Prairie in Douglas County.

Wildflower Photographer: A retired physician, Maxwell Berry of Overland Park expresses his appreciation for Kansas wildflowers by photographing them. In this story, he demonstrates the method he has used to photograph the wildflowers of the bluestem prairie.

Seed Savers: *Sunflower Journeys* investigates the Central Prairie Seed Exchange, a group organized to preserve the genetic diversity of locally adapted, non-hybrid plants. Members of the exchange save and trade seeds of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables that have been replaced by a much smaller selection of hybrid plants in the agricultural industry.

#404: “Animals”

Project Release: *Sunflower Journeys* visits Project Release, a wildlife rehabilitation group in Manhattan. With the assistance of Kansas State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Project Release helps injured and orphaned wild animals and birds re-adapt to their natural habitats.

Return of the Bison: *Sunflower Journeys* reviews the slaughter of the bison in North America. Phillip Thomas of Wichita State University tells how they have returned to Kansas to roam across places like the Maxwell Game Preserve near Canton.

Minor Breeds—Wichita Zoo: *Sunflower Journeys* investigates Sedgwick County Zoo’s efforts to preserve the genetic diversity of a wide variety of domestic animals. For various reasons, most of these breeds have lost their economic importance in this country, but their survival may still be important for other reasons.

#405: “Environment”

Environmental Ombudsman: *Sunflower Journeys* investigates the efforts being made at the University of Kansas to reduce the negative impact the University’s everyday operations have on the environment. Steve Hamburg, KU Environmental Ombudsman, describes some of the programs brought about through the combined efforts of students and the administration.

Recycling Efforts: *Sunflower Journeys* reviews what the average consumer can do to help implement recycling in his or her community. Kathlyn Parker, State Recycling Chairperson, defines the government’s role, and John Baldwin, president of Dillon’s Supermarkets, describes the company’s involvement in these efforts.

Outdoor Education: This story focuses on an outdoor education program at Rock Springs 4-H Center south of Junction City. Laura Harmon, outdoor education coordinator, explains how this new program encourages environmental awareness in youth.

#406: “Public TV”

Public TV in Kansas: *Sunflower Journeys* explores the history of public television in Kansas.

Influence of TV on Kids: Examines a study by the University of Kansas that was funded by the producers of *Sesame Street*.

Reading Rainbow: *Sunflower Journeys* visits with the animator of this popular PBS children’s series.

#407: “Care Givers”

Camp Hope: Offering regular summer camp activities to children who have, or have had, cancer or leukemia, Camp Hope staffs medical personnel for routine chemotherapy and medical emergencies. Donna Brown, camp founder, and staff members Patsy Barker, MD and Ken Miller describe the positive effects of uniting these children in a recreational setting.

Topeka AIDS Project: *Sunflower Journeys* presents an insider’s perspective on care giving to people infected by the AIDS virus. Jay Johnson, clinical director of the Topeka AIDS Project (TAP), describes the project’s “buddy” system, which unites volunteers with people infected with the HIV virus. A TAP volunteer and an HIV-infected client discuss what they each have gained from this service.

Biofeedback & Self-regulation: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the Voluntary Controls Program at the Menninger clinic in Topeka. Patricia Norris and Steven Fahrion teach self-regulation techniques as a means of dealing with such diseases as cancer and AIDS. Biofeedback, visualization and an awareness of the interaction between mind and body are some of the techniques they employ.

#408: “Social History”

Quilt Diaries: *Sunflower Journeys* examines the role of quilt making in family and community life. Quilter Sadie Waller takes viewers along to a meeting of her quilting group in Seneca, and Mary Madden, a research director of the Kansas Quilt Project, discusses quilt-making’s role in preserving personal and social history.

Hair Weaving: Lenora Dodds of Kiowa shares with viewers a lesser-known artistic tradition, known as hair weaving. Locks of hair, woven into intricate flowers and wreaths are framed and displayed to preserve the memories of relatives and friends.

Territorial Days, Lecompton: Reenactments of various historical events, including the Battle of Fort Titus, help to keep this community’s heritage alive.

#409: “War & Peace”

WWI Photographer: *Sunflower Journeys* reviews the work of Donald Thompson. A native Kansan from Topeka, Thompson was one of the first photographers to capture the images of World War I on film. David Mould, film historian from Ohio University, provides background information on this groundbreaking photographer.

Kansas National Guard: Excerpts from the documentary, “Dear, I’ll be Back in a Year” take viewers back to World War II. Produced by Ron Frank of Manhattan, the documentary recounts the mobilization of the Kansas National Guard and their training at Camp Robinson in Arkansas.

Islamic Society: *Sunflower Journeys* examines Western stereotypes and misperceptions of Islam and the Middle East, which have been exposed by the recent war in the Persian Gulf. Professor Deborah Gerner of the University of Kansas and members of the Islamic Society of Shawnee County share their perspectives on Arabs and Moslems.

#410: “Sports”

Sunflower State Games: *Sunflower Journeys* heads to the 1990 Sunflower State Games in Lawrence. One of the organizers, Wayne Osness, chairman of the Governor’s Council on Fitness, describes this Olympic-style competition. Norm Yetman, professor of Sociology and American Studies at the University of Kansas, discusses the role of sports in American society.

Sports Hall of Fame, Abilene: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the All-Sports Hall of Fame, which is moving from Lawrence to its new location in Abilene. Dev Nelson, longtime Manhattan sports broadcaster, reminisces about Kansas’ outstanding athletes, whose photos and mementos highlight the exhibits.

Disc Golf: Herington resident Dennis Vahsholtz, a member of the Professional Disc Golf Association, and Bruce Hudson of the Topeka Dawn to Dusk Disc Golf Club discuss the evolution of disc golf. Relatively new to Kansas, disc golf is patterned after traditional golf, but uses small, Frisbee-like discs thrown into baskets rather than clubs, balls and holes.

#411: “Educators”

Country Schools: *Sunflower Journeys* reviews the era of country schools in Kansas. Nona Thompson and Leo Simecka, both former teachers in one-room schoolhouses, share their memories of the hardships and rewards of managing children of all ages in one class. Historian Katie Armitage notes how changes in education affected the rural community.

Teaching by Satellite: *Sunflower Journeys* looks at how the information age has touched education. The STAR Schools service provides instructional programming to school districts across the state via satellite. The Kansas Regents Educational Communications Center at Kansas State University produces and uplinks programs in conjunction with the STAR Schools project.

Next Century School: *Sunflower Journeys* reviews changes taking place in the way children are taught at New Stanley Elementary School in Kansas City, Kansas. Donna Hardy, principal, describes some of the changes at New Stanley, which was recently designated as a Next Century School. Fred Rodriguez, assistant professor in the School of Education at the University of Kansas, discusses the need for a restructuring of education in the United States.

#412: “Editors & Publishers”

William Allen White: *Sunflower Journeys* explores the life of William Allen White, former editor of the *Emporia Gazette*. The story contrasts the paper as it is today with how it was when White managed it.

Little Blue Books: Learn how social reformer Emanuel Haldeman-Julius of Girard revolutionized publishing through his line of pocket paperback books. Known as the Little Blue Books, Julius' paperbacks ranged from Shakespeare to how-to books and were sold for a nickel each.

The Almena Plaindealer: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the small northwestern Kansas town of Almena, where the weekly newspaper recently closed. Helmi Moody, former owner and editor of the *Almena Plaindealer*, talks about her work on the paper, which was printed on the last linotype machine to operate in the state of Kansas.

#413: “Energy”

Kansas Crude: *Sunflower Journeys* explores the origins of the oil industry in Kansas. Beginning around the time of Kansas' statehood, this industry played a major role in the development of the Sunflower State.

Wind Power: At times, the Kansas wind seems more a hindrance than a help, but some people have been working to harness this abundant resource into usable energy.

Solar Designs: The sun is held by many people to be the best option for an environmentally safe energy source. This story investigates the use of solar energy in Kansas homes and businesses.

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