

1994: 700 Series

In the seventh season of *Sunflower Journeys*, viewers can tour the Chaplin Nature Center near Arkansas City, the crayon factory at Winfield or the new canyon created by floodwaters below Tuttle Creek Reservoir. Other stories explore the arts with the Wichita Children's Theatre, the Prairie Wind Dancers, Farmer Bahr, Lemuel Sheppard and Susan Sylvia Scott performing as Amelia Earhart.



Hikers pass through the rocky landscape of Tuttle Creek Canyon in program #708.

#701: “Cowboy Culture”

Cowboy Poetry: *Sunflower Journeys* joins a cattle drive at Cassoday and listens to some cowboy poetry.

Cowboy Bootmakers: Meet Jim Holenbeck and Carolyn Hammon, who hand craft custom-made cowboy boots.

Rodeo School: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the Homestead Bronc Shop near De Soto, where young bronc riders get a feel for rodeo.

#702: “Back to Nature”

Chaplin Nature Center: Enjoy the outdoors at the Chaplin Nature Center. Naturalist Gerald Wiens takes us on a tour of the grounds and describes some of the programs the center offers. Phillip Drennon Thomas of the Audubon Society discusses the importance of such natural spaces.

Wildflowers of Kansas: Learn about Kansas wildflowers from Paul Willis of the Kansas Wildflower Society and Craig Freeman of the Kansas Biological Survey. Co-author of *Roadside Wildflowers of the Southern Great Plains*, Freeman discusses the variety of wildflowers the Kansas landscape offers each year.

Heartland Farm: Visit Heartland Farm, located near Pawnee Rock in central Kansas. This retreat offers visitors a range of holistic therapies in a peaceful setting. Heartland Farm residents, Sister Imelda Schmidt, Chuck Crimmins and Larry Hesed talk about the benefits of their sustainable lifestyle.

#703: “Our Town”

Soda Fountains: Take a trip down memory lane as we visit restored soda fountains in Marquette, Kensington and Concordia. Marci Penner, co-author of several Kansas weekend guides, reminisces about the days when soda fountains were the social hub of many Kansas communities.

Main Street, Peabody: Learn about the Main Street program, which helps towns like Manhattan and Peabody revitalize their central business areas. Bernd Foerster, a professor at Kansas State University, describes the evolution of the Main Street program and how it works.

Elk Falls: The town of Elk Falls is featured in this story. A retired actor, local resident Barry McGuire reviews efforts made by community members to attract tourism. An old-fashioned sawmill, scenic gardens and the falls themselves are among the reasons why many tourists are visiting this small town.

#704: “Native American Art”

Buckskin & Beadwork: Visit Kiowa artist Betty Nixon of Wichita. Although she does not sell her traditional beadwork to the public, Betty’s colorful bead designs adorn the traditional dress of members of her tribe.

Painting in the Flat Style: Winnebago artist Laurie Houseman Whitehawk of Lawrence talks about the history behind the traditional flat style of painting. A recent series of her paintings illustrate the concepts present in Richard Niehardt’s *Black Elk Speaks*.

Beyond Tradition: Haskell Indian Nations University art instructors Blanche Wahnee and Leslie Evans explore the modern-day role of Native American art. We see examples of the diversity in Native American artwork at the fifth annual Lawrence Indian Arts Show.

#705: “Three-Dimensional Art”

Works in Bronze: This story introduces Jim Brothers, a sculptor from Lawrence. Working in bronze, Jim favors Midwestern and historical themes for his sculptures. His accomplishments include a life-sized bronze statue of Mark Twain.

Glass Creations: Meet glass artist Vernon Brejcha. The abstract creations of this Lawrence artist have achieved international acclaim. A native of Holyrood, Kansas, Brejcha calls upon Kansas images as themes for his work.

Flint, Flowers & Clay: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the Abilene studio and gallery of Bob and Inga Bow. This artistic couple creates tiles and sculptures featuring Kansas scenes, using clay and flowers from the local landscape.

#706: “Kids & Creativity”

Crayon Factory, Winfield: Tour the Binney & Smith factory in Winfield, where Crayola brand crayons are manufactured. We also visit Shawnee Heights Elementary School in Topeka, where students from Mrs. Sides’ second grade class demonstrate their creativity with crayons.

Arts in Education, Salina: Tom Klocke of the Kansas Arts Commission explains how the Arts in Education Program enhances the education of Kansas children. We visit the Salina Art Center and a Topeka latchkey site where Arts in Education projects are successfully operating. Director of the Salina Art Center, Saralyn Reece Hardy relates why school art programs need supplementation.

Wichita Children’s Theatre: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the Wichita Children’s Theatre. This story features scenes from the group’s tour productions of “Sleeping Beauty,” “Aladdin” and “Little Red Riding Hood.” Jeanne Klein, director of the Theatre for Young People at the University of Kansas, relates the role of theater in child development.

#707: “Baseball History”

Town Teams: Bob Linder, history professor at Kansas State University, discusses the history of baseball in rural Kansas. For years, town baseball teams have fostered pride and local spirit in their communities.

Legends of the Game: What did Smokey Joe Wood, Walter Johnson and Mike Torrez have in common? Jim Carothers, an English professor at the University of Kansas, talks about these and other famous baseball players from Kansas.

The A’s & the Royals: Garrett Smalley of Kansas City’s *Daily Record* and Joe McGuff, former editor of the *Kansas City Star*, trace the history of professional baseball in Kansas City.

#708: “Changing Landscapes”

A Century of Change: Hired by the Union Pacific Railroad, Alexander Gardner crossed Kansas in 1867, taking photographs to promote settlement along the railroad lines. *Sunflower Journeys* joins a team from the Kansas Geological Survey as they retrace Gardner’s steps, documenting changes that have occurred in the landscape since Gardner’s original photographs.

Flood Control on the Kaw: *Sunflower Journeys* reviews flood control in the aftermath of the 1993 flooding of the Kansas River Valley. You’ll also learn about a buy-out plan to move structures from flood-prone areas.

Tuttle Creek Canyon: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the canyon formed by waters released from Tuttle Creek Reservoir during the flood of 1993. Local geologists have found the exposed rock strata to be helpful in understanding the geological history of the area.

#709: “These Old Houses”

Constructing the Capitol: *Sunflower Journeys* uncovers the history behind the construction of the Kansas Statehouse. Local historians review the controversies surrounding the construction, which began in 1866 and was completed in 1903.

The Heritage Trust Fund: Learn how the Heritage Trust program helps preserve historic places. The program assists in the restoration of such properties as the Santa Fe Depot in Madison, Irvin Hall at Highland Community College and Morgan House in Peabody.

Stone Schoolhouse: Visit a site near Clinton Reservoir where an historic schoolhouse is undergoing renovation. Find out why some people think that such projects help preserve old-fashioned values.

#710: “Community Groups”

The Grange: *Sunflower Journeys* explores the history of the Grange. We also join the annual state Grange meeting in Topeka for an update on the status of this organization today. Created by and for farmers, the Grange still continues its historical role of promoting community service.

The Ku Klux Klan: Bill Tuttle from the University of Kansas traces the history behind an entirely different kind of community organization. In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan was an accepted fraternal

organization in Kansas. The activities of the KKK in the 1920s are contrasted with the organization today, as we join a Klan protest of Martin Luther King Day at the Kansas Statehouse.

Community Theater, Stafford: *Sunflower Journeys* visits the small community of Stafford, where the Drama Guild has united community members for more than half a century. Ron Willis from the University of Kansas Theatre Department discusses how community theater involvement helps to reinforce the solidarity of a community.

#711: “Storytelling & Folklore”

Rudy Bahr, Storyteller: Rudy Bahr of Gridley displays his storytelling talent to a group of local schoolchildren at the Gridley Public Library. Questioning the impact of television and the mass media on children, Bahr values more personal forms of communication. Known as Farmer Bahr to the children, he raises grain and cattle on a farm southeast of Emporia.

Folklore in Motion: Lawrence’s Prairie Wind Dancers perform “Folklore in Motion” for Topeka schoolchildren. Candi Baker, artistic director of the group, and author Tom Averill, who researched and scripted the piece, discuss the various elements of folklore that are integrated into the performance.

Roots of the Blues: Lemuel Sheppard performs a selection of African-American folk music. We join him at a Brown Bag Concert in Topeka and performing for students at Theodore Roosevelt School in Manhattan.

#712: “European Influences”

Polka Music: Learn about the European roots of polka music. Folklorist Jennie Chinn from the Kansas State Historical Society, talks about some of the changes that have taken place with this folk tradition. Various musical numbers are performed by polka musicians Joe and George Schiefelbein of Topeka.

Bavarian Folk Dancing: Meet folk dancers from the German American Citizens Association of Kansas City. With a wide range of members, including transplanted Germans, those of German descent, and folks who just enjoy Bavarian folk dancing, the folk dance group preserves part of the colorful culture of one of Kansas’ major ethnic groups.

Russian Theater: *Sunflower Journeys* joins a group of Russian actors during their 1993 visit to Topeka. Voyaging all the way from St. Petersburg, Russia, the actors from Theatre na Litynom performed *Catherine the Great* by George Bernard Shaw at the Topeka Civic Theatre during their stay.

#713: “Aircraft & Aviation”

Amelia Earhart: *Sunflower Journeys* reflects on the life of the heroic aviator Amelia Earhart. Born in Atchison, Earhart is famed as the first woman to fly across the Atlantic solo. Sister Celine Carrigan from Benedictine College highlights some of Earhart’s achievements in the air and on land.

The Air Capital, Wichita: Learn about the origins of the aircraft industry in Wichita. Famed as the Air Capital of the World, Wichita is home to Beech, Cessna and Boeing aircraft companies. Today, Beech and Cessna dominate the world market in the production and sale of private aircraft. Boeing is the largest private employer in Kansas.

Kit Planes & Ultralights: *Sunflower Journeys* examines the manufacturing of kit-made planes and ultralights in Kansas. We visit a company in Hays that designs and produces the components of small recreational planes for home assembly. A smaller company outside of Topeka also produces ultralight aircraft for recreational purposes.

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