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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Plattsmouth plans schedule of events for Chautauqua

The community of Plattsmouth has planned a five-day schedule of events surrounding the visit June 24-28 of “Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties,” the Nebraska Humanities Council’s 2009 Chautauqua program.

The schedule includes a “Dust Bowl” exhibit of photographs, a youth day camp and youth workshops. Among the opening-day events is a 6 p.m. historic re-enactment of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s October 1936 visit to Plattsmouth with a chance to meet all five Chautauquans.

Main events will be held each evening June 24-28 at Rhylander Park at 615 Lincoln Avenue. Evening stage performances offer local entertainment and first-person interpretations of historical figures from the era of the Great Depression. Evening Chautauqua sessions begin at 7 p.m. Daytime workshops will be held for adults and youth of all ages.

Scholars will portray five historical characters who helped shape America’s response to the Great Depression. The scholars are Doug Watson as humorist Will Rogers, Patrick McGinnis as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Fred Krebs as Louisiana governor and U.S. Sen. Huey Long, Tonia M. Compton as evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson and Carmaletta Williams as WPA folklorist Zora Neale Hurston.

A collaboration of the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Kansas Humanities Council, the Chautauqua also visits Broken Bow June 17-21 and goes to Ottawa and Hesston in Kansas.

The “Bright Dreams, Hard Times” Chautauqua is funded, in part, by a major three-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of the NEH’s special “We The People” initiative.

For additional information on this summer’s Chautauqua, go to the Kansas-Nebraska Chautauqua website, www.knchautauqua.org, or contact Beth McQueen at (402) 474-2131 ext. 108 or beth@nebraskahumanities.org.

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