Heartland Chautauqua to Portray Five Historic Personalities July 1-6

The Heartland Chautauqua will be at Kirksville’s NEMO Fairgrounds July 1-6. It is an event with a deep history in the heartland. From the mid-nineteenth century until the 1930s, the Chautauqua offered a place for Missouri residents to engage in intellectual activity.

The traveling tent shows featured famous politicians and orators, and brought entertainment and education to many small Midwestern towns. Famous personalities such as Teddy Roosevelt and William Jennings Bryan contributed to oratory, musical and dramatic performances that kept audiences returning each summer. The Chautauqua ended its run in the 1930s when it began to lose educational value and could no longer compete with movies and radio.

A revival of its legacy began in the late 1970s as the humanities’ councils in the Midwest recognized the value of the Chautauqua. The Missouri Humanities Council launched Missouri Chautauqua in 1993, and when the citizens of Missouri responded enthusiastically, the Council decided to establish the Chautauqua once again as a permanent traveling program. In 1996 the Illinois Humanities Council joined Missouri’s efforts to create the Heartland Chautauqua.

Five scholars will appear in full costume each evening and present historical characterizations. Each program is free to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. with 45 minutes of local entertainment.

Two personalities to be portrayed that were discussed in the previous Truman Today include Aimee Semple McPherson on July 2 and Willa Cather on July 3. Harry Reser will be portrayed at Heartland Chautauqua on July 4. Reser was a famous musician, composer, band leader, radio producer and banjo virtuoso of the 1920s. His musical talent was discovered at an early age and by the time he finished high school he could play the guitar and piano. Reser also received classical training on the violin and cello. He mastered the banjo and began playing for

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Ten Truman students earned a place on the MIAA Presidential Scholar lists. They included Diana Betsworth, freshman exercise science major from East Moline, Ill.; Andy Crossett, freshman political science major from Liberty, Mo.; Sarah Dance, freshman exercise science major from Lincoln, Neb.; Lance Dorsey, senior biology major from Hannibal, Mo.; Gina Fettig, freshman biology major from Billings, Mont.; Austin George, freshman pre-business administration major from Wichita, Kan.; Jenny Glenn, senior exercise science major from Granby, Colo.; Christine Gould, senior biology major from Ballwin, Mo.; Shawn Guethle, sophomore pre-business administration major from Dexter, Mo.; Steve Jones, freshman pre-accounting major from St. Louis; Abigail Souders, freshman from Rosemount, Minn.; and Brett Werenksi, freshman pre-business administration major from Curryville, Mo. Six of Truman’s MIAA Presidential Scholar students also earned a place on the Academic All-MIAA list while excelling in their individual sports and simultaneously maintaining a 4.0 GPA. They included Betsworth, Dance, Fettig, Glenn, Jones and Souders.

The Speech and Hearing Clinic is providing hearing evaluations for the month of June from 10:30-11:20 a.m., Tuesday-Thursday. There is no cost to the public.

Lynn Swanson will speak about “All I Wanted Was the Sweet Free Open” from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 1, in the SUB Georgian Room. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring their lunch from Mainstreet Market to eat while Swanson speaks. This program is sponsored by Pickler Memorial Library. Swanson will be portraying Willa Cather at the Heartland Chautauqua at 7:45 p.m., July 3, at the NEMO Fairgrounds.

Graduation clearance packets were mailed June 11 for summer 2002 graduates. If you have not yet received your packet, please contact the Registrar’s Office at 785.4143 or registrar@truman.edu. This packet is a graduation requirement, and must be completed by July 12.

Transcripts will cost $5 each beginning Aug. 5.

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amusement parks, ballrooms and dance academies. He formed a band of nine musicians who played as a part of the Clicquot Club radio program.

Another personality to be portrayed will be H.L. Mencken on July 5. Mencken is most remembered for his essays. He began writing as a reporter at the Baltimore Herald. He had his own column by the time he was 30. Shortly after that he and George Nathan founded and edited American Mercury. Mencken gradually added literary criticism, drama criticism, history, biography and fiction to his growing repertoire of essays and columns.

John Dos Passos will be portrayed on July 6. Dos Passos served as an ambulance driver during the Great War where his per-

ceptions of a society gone mad and of the negative effects of capitalism furnished the material for his first two published novels. More novels, all of which offered a critique of urban life, politics, reform and industry soon followed. He wrote his highly-acclaimed trilogy “U.S.A.” after the controversial trial and execution of two Italian immigrants, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.

Musical entertainment and other festivities will accompany the skits underneath the giant tent.

For more information about the Heartland Chautauqua program, or to contribute a monetary donation, contact the Chamber of Commerce at 665.3766.