

The Prairie Museum of Art & History is gearing up to celebrate Kansas Day 2008 in a special way on Sunday, January 27, 2008, from 1-4 p.m. After months of planning and work, the museum staff invites the public to join them for the grand opening of the new *Kansas Kids Corner*. While designed primarily for young children to enhance their museum experience, the *Kansas Kids Corner* is a fun, interactive space about Kansas where parents and other adults are also welcome. It is housed in a charming, country cottage complete with front porch and screen door reminiscent of Grandma's farmhouse. Inside, children will find a variety of Kansas-themed activities and materials covering such areas as agriculture, history, wildlife, commerce, transportation, geography, and weather. Kids will be encouraged to be active participants as they learn about Kansas from prehistoric times to present day. Items in the *Kansas Kids Corner* include books, maps, puzzles, animal pelts, games, and much more. The space will provide an inviting atmosphere to encourage kids to learn more about the great state in which they live.

Although the day will focus on the addition of the *Kansas Kids Corner* to the museum, the day will also offer a program, "People of the Plains," for the entire family. A variety of presentations and activities for all ages will be offered. Local community members, Gary and Tim Adrian, will be available to share their collection of Native American artifacts while Dale Deaver will be discussing the Norden bombsight used in WWII and his military service. Margot Trowbridge will be sharing information and history on the collection of W.P.A. dolls, as well as the Merci train doll, displayed in the museum's *Rags to Riches* exhibit. Picture books and stories about homesteaders, sod houses, and Kansas twisters will be shared with young audiences, and visitors will have the opportunity to explore trunks filled with artifacts. Individuals may also complete self-guided activities throughout the museum including those in the "Map Master" backpack in addition to other gallery investigations. There will be much to offer all age groups throughout the afternoon.