

1846-1996
Smithsonian

MEDIA ADVISORY

Smithsonian Exhibition Makes its National Debut at Kansas' Newest Museum

"The Prairie Schoolhouse: A Photo Essay by John Martin Campbell" begins its 20-city national tour at the new Stauth Memorial Museum in Montezuma, Kan. The Smithsonian traveling exhibition, on view Feb. 24 - April 7, 1996, highlights the museum's grand opening festivities.

Stark and poetic, the 42 black-and-white photographs draw a portrait of an American icon -- the prairie schoolhouse of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Anthropologist John Martin Campbell traveled throughout the shortgrass and sagebrush plains of the American West to photograph 30 schoolhouses that vary widely in scale and appearance.

The exhibition represents a variety of photographic perspectives: sweeping views of one-room schoolhouses set against the sky, glimpses of architectural details, and intimate studies of the objects once used by prairie children and their teachers.

"The Prairie Schoolhouse" is based on an exhibition organized by the Maxwell Museum at the University of New Mexico. The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), which joined Campbell to create the exhibition, develops, organizes, and circulates exhibitions on art, history, and science throughout the United States and abroad.

The Stauth Memorial Museum, located at 111 N. Aztec St. in Montezuma, Kan., is open 9:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:00 Tues. through Fri., and 1:30-4:30 on Sat. and Sun. Admission is free. Call (316) 846-2527 for more information.

###

To learn more about the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, call (202) 357-3168, ext. 119, or visit these electronic addresses:

<http://www.si.edu/organiza/offices/sites> (for general information about SITES)
<http://www.si.edu/activity/states> (for a quarterly schedule of exhibition locations)