

“The Nebraska Church Guys” To Visit Area Counties

“The Nebraska Church Guys” set out to document the history and architecture of Catholic parishes in Nebraska. To be in Thomas, Hooker, and Grant Counties May 6-7, 2022.



FROM THE COLLECTION OF RON W. SACK

Saints Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Seneca as it looked in the 1940s. This is one of the parishes The Nebraska Church Guys will be doing research on in Thomas County.

Written above the door leading into Ron Sack's den is the quote, “When a person dies, a library is lost.” He uses that quote as inspiration.

The quote is based on an old African proverb, but Sack heard it again while visiting with historian Alex Meyer of Snyder, Nebraska.

“It's so true,” explained Sack. “My grandparents recorded as much history as they could over their lifetimes in order that it could be passed down for future generations.”

That type of vision is what is inspiring both Ron Sack and Chase Becker of Omaha to tackle their most ambitious project to date—the history of the built environment of Catholic parishes in Nebraska.

This duo plans to be in Thomas, Hooker, and Grant Counties on May 6-7, 2022. They are coming to research the Catholic churches in these counties, both past and present. Parishes include Saints Peter and Paul in Seneca, Saint Thomas of Canterbury in Thedford, Saint Mary in Mullen, and All Saints in Hyannis. They are asking the public for their help so that the history of these places will not be lost. They also heard Catholic churches may have existed in Ashby and Whitman and would like to know if this is true. They also would like to know if the Catholic church in Seneca was demolished or moved.

Both Sack and Becker have strong ties to their respective hometown communities. Sack grew up in St. Paul, Nebraska and still considers St. Peter and Paul his home parish. Becker grew up in Exeter, Nebraska and calls St. Stephen Parish his home.

Since childhood, the two have collected photographs, artifacts, stories, and records of Nebraska Catholic parishes which also includes schools, convents, rectories, hospitals, and cemeteries.

Their collections are long and extensive.

“As an example, both Ron and I have well over a thousand historic images

in our photography libraries,” Becker stated. “Most are from the early 1900s.”

The two met at a postcard show in Omaha several years ago. Over a period of time, conversations started to include writing a book and telling the story of the Catholic parishes in Nebraska—both past and present.

“There has never been a comprehensive book documenting parishes in all three Nebraska dioceses,” Becker said. “We felt these stories and photographs need to be published in one book.”

When the two started to go on the road to research various parishes throughout the state, both thought they needed a good name to call themselves—thus, “The Nebraska Church Guys” was born.

“It had to be a name that was simple and memorable,” Sack noted.

Sack's family traces their Nebraska roots to such Howard County Catholic parishes as St. Paul, St. Libory, Farwell, Warsaw, and Paplin. His professional background includes extensive advertising and design experience at agencies in both Lincoln and Omaha. Ron considers the Nebraska Sesquicentennial logo for Nebraska's 150th statehood anniversary as one of the favorites in his design career. “It was an honor to work on something for 1.8 million Nebraskans.”

Becker's family roots are in Exeter. He studied at St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Nebraska and later earned a degree while studying in Collegeville, Minnesota. He is the liturgist at St. John's Church on the Creighton University campus.

Both have dabbled with writing over the years. Sack, along with Marion Bahensky and the Howard County Historical Society in St. Paul, published the book “Entering Howard County.” The book went on to win Best Non-Fiction Book at the Nebraska Book Awards, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book. It also won a merit award from the American

Association For State and Local History which is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee.

One of the first tasks the duo tackled together was documenting every Catholic parish that ever existed in Nebraska. From there, the two designed several maps that outlined all official Catholic parishes in the three Nebraska dioceses. At last count, there were over 500 parishes that have been established at one time or another. They also created maps highlighting the locations of Catholic schools, colleges, hospitals, and other relevant data.

If anyone wishes to contact The Nebraska Church Guys, they can do so at the information found below.

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Thomas County Art Guild Work Advances To State



Megan Licking's photograph, Reflections, was one of the prints chosen to advance on to state competition.



Remington On The Green, at left, by Linda Teahon and Goose, Goose, Gander, by Terri Licking were chosen for state.

Story & Pictures By:
Terri Licking

Members of the Thedford Art Guild brought their latest ‘masterpieces’ to be judged Friday, April 27, at their annual Association of Nebraska Art Clubs (ANAC) show. Nebraska has close to 40 clubs across the state and each club holds a juried show where their winners advance to the ANAC State Conference Show. This year the show will be held June 8-11 in Broken Bow. Over 300 pieces of amazing art in various mediums will be on display at the Mid-Plains College Campus.

Sixteen pieces of art from four TAG members

were entered and judged by Linda Lacy, Ashby. Lacy is a retired art instructor with Nebraska's Artists in Residence program, teaching youth in rural schools prior to their closing. She is the owner-operator of CaLinda's Pot Shop and Art Gallery in Ashby and makes pottery, painting, and is now making gourmet frappes and coffee as part of what she offers in her shop.

Thedford is allowed five pieces to be entered into the state show. Mary Eatinger was the lone art entry with a pencil drawing entitled, “The Spreading Willow.”

The fifteen other pieces entered were photo-

graphs.

Megan Licking, Stapleton, will send “Snot Today,” a color photo of a bull fighting flies and flinging dirt. She will also send “Reflection,” a photo of a line of trees at sunset reflecting in a pond.

Linda Teahon, Dunning, will send a photo of Dane Pokorny on his horse Remington. This photo was taken on the Sandhills High School football field and is entitled, “Remington on the Green.”

Terri Licking will send “Goosey, Goosey, Gander,” a photo in winter on the Middle Loup River

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Local Team Takes State Runner-Up Title



THEDFORD SCHOOL PHOTOS

The Thedford Economic Challenge team were runners-up at state. They are pictured above, l-r: Cylee Jameson, Summar Schaefer and Martina Falcomer.

different codes that had to be unlocked within a 90-minute period to win. The Thedford team of three was one of two teams to complete this challenge; the other being an AP team from Omaha Millard. The combination of the knowledge test and

escape room put the Thedford team into second place, with the first and second place teams going head to head in a buzzer answer quiz bowl style round to 10 points. During this round, the Thedford team fell just short of victory to a team

from Lincoln.

The Thedford team took runner-up status in the competition to teams from class A and B schools, and they did it being short a player on

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