

# Smith Center Library Happenings

## December 2012

This year’s Summer Reading Club theme for the Smith Center Public Library is “Color Our World.” The nation-wide program is focused on the arts: drawing and painting, fiber art and wearables, photography, 3-D art and the performing arts. The library is pleased to host one of the most unusual displays ever presented here. Gina Long is sharing some of her almost-impossible-to-describe-in-words three dimensional paper art. If the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words” is really true, it definitely applies to Gina’s creations! This is something you really HAVE “to see to believe.” Think “pop-up books on steroids.” On her Facebook designer account (c90designs) Gina describes herself and her projects as “Brand Ambassador for Graphic 45, handmade gifts, mini albums, mixed media, scrapbooking and card making.”

In 1998, Gina began expressing her creativity through scrapbooking. Several years later she discovered a scrapbook paper company called Graphic 45 (g45papers.com). It is an “award-winning scrapbook and paper crafting company... offering vintage inspired crafting products that capture the flamboyant style of times gone by – with vibrant color, irresistible texture and imagi-

native design to create products with decades-old appeal that’s both fresh and familiar.” The company is owned and operated by a mother, Diane Schultz, and her two daughters. Diane was a designer for McCall’s, Simplicity, Vogue and Butterick pattern companies. At forty-five she went back to school and got a degree in graphic design. Thus, the company name was born! Graphic 45 holds worldwide open auditions for individual artists to design creations using the company’s products and then submit an online tutorial for the item. Only twenty percent of the supplies for the finished product can be from outside sources. Gina let her imagination run wild and designed a “little” library inside a real re-purposed book. She has been chosen twice as one of twelve “Brand Ambassadors” for Graphic 45. Other current Brand Ambassadors are from Czech Republic, Iceland, Mexico, India, Canada, Thailand, Wales, United Kingdom, and Spain. Currently, only three are from the USA, Gina being one of them. Customers can sign up for quarterly kits and any Graphic 45 customer may submit images of their finished projects to the “Graphic 45 - Official Community Page” on Facebook.

As a Brand Ambassador,

throughout the year, Gina receives packets of Graphic 45 paper and is assigned a type of project she is to design and create. Gina says “creating and working with paper has become a way to relax and is one of my happy places. My paper art has evolved into Albums, Junk Journals, upcycled projects, and mixed media.” All her finished creations belong to Gina, to keep or sell. The company promotes the images and videos of the projects to encourage other people to recreate the item, adapt it to

their own taste, or to “level up” – embellish it even further. Many of Gina’s creations have begun with a “basic” idea, and she then changed it into a tunnel book, accordion book, pop-ups, journals, lift-the-flap, manipulative or some other interactive design. She occasionally makes “ordinary” items like greeting cards – however, they are FAR from ordinary. Fans contact her to create custom cards, photo albums, journals and other one-of-a-kind gifts. Gina has sold and shipped items to her

fans as far away as Australia. However, the creative process is more important to her than the sale of the items. According to Gina, “I’ve also been creating family heirloom albums for quite a while now. Customers send me copies of their vintage family photos, and I design albums that incorporate those images into the page layouts as decoration—while still leaving plenty of room for them to add their own photos and personal touches. It’s become one of the most meaningful parts of what I

do.” To fully appreciate her artistic creativity, you really need to stop by the library and see for yourself!

On Gina’s professional Facebook account there are links to her social media pages which contain video demonstrations of the finished items as well as tutorials to create your own version. Gina posts on Facebook (Gina Long and c90designs), YouTube (gina long), Instagram (gina.long\_c90designs), and Pinterest.

## Pushing the Limits

BY JOLEEN BREWER  
*Smith Co. Pioneer*

While sitting in the office on Thursday morning, a gentleman walked in and asked about a farm out by the geographical Center. A farm that was built in one day.

Galen, a guy from Hunter, Kansas, was told the story by his father about a farm built in one day. He remembered going to see the farm, and there was a big sign telling all who stopped about the farm that was built in one day. This sign is no longer there.

With the sign gone and nothing about this on Google, his family had a hard time believing him. In desperate need, he stopped by the Smith Co. Pioneer office and asked us if we knew anything about it.

I never heard of such a thing, but Pam, on the other hand, knew a bit about it. This was some reassurance to the gentleman. Who started to believe that he was going cuckoo.

I sent a quick email to Mrs. Cindy Stones looking for information, then left my office for lunch.

I stopped by my mom’s (a Lebanon native) and asked her if she knew anything about the farm. She did remember a Dairy farm being built. She said there were more people there than she had ever seen before. She recalled the large tents where wooden planks rested on buckets that served as public restrooms. Hang your bottom over the plank and do your business.

When I arrived back at the office, Cindy Stones replied to my email with an excellent write-up about the farm built in one day.

A Century at the Center 1887-1987". It is available at the Lebanon Library.

The article reads as follows.

The “Balanced Farming Day, The Hub of America Way”, held at the Hobbs farm near Lebanon, Thursday, August 7, 1952, was the biggest event ever staged in Smith County and probably the best educationally, for the basic industry of this state.

The size of the crowd, estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000, exceeded even the most optimistic prediction by local people. They started coming in the early morning hours and from 10:30 a.m. to about 2 p.m., the Visitors were driving bumper to bumper for the last mile or so as they approached the site for the demonstration. Cars were still arriving after 6 p.m. and it was estimated that 1,500 cars visited the place on Sunday.

People were there from at least 18 states and from most of the counties in Kansas. Some came out curiosity but most came to learn something. A man from Marshall County told a reporter that he saw a solution for one of his hilly farms in the day’s demonstration. “I sold a place like this a year ago because I didn’t know what to do with it,” he said.

The large crowd slowed down operations, particularly on the house and the dam. Workmen on the house had a few bad minutes when a support their weight. Only a miracle prevented their being plunged into the basement.

It was a big day for WIBW, Topeka radio station, too. The local idea

originated with the station’s farm service director, Wes Seyler, and the station’s continuous “Plugging” for the event, plus the help of newspapers and other radio stations certainly gave Lebanon and Smith County the most publicity they have ever had. A group entertainers from WIBW Helped swell the crowd and make the day more interesting. Several broadcasts were made directly from the farm.

Mr. Seyler praised the work of the local committee. “All credit goes to the members of the local steering committee for the success of the Balanced Farming Day program,” he asserted to a reporter before leaving the next day.

Paul Gilpin, county agent, credited the success of the day to the help and cooperation of many people... the men in charge of various federal agencies, national, state and local, and their employees; various organizations, including the Hub Club and the Smith Center Chamber of Commerce; to companies and business men, who donated goods and services; to hundreds of men and women, who helped in numerous ways to make the big project, go; and to WIBW, Wes Seyler and other members of the staff.

The big project wasn’t finished by the day’s end, but was before the week. The floors were to be sanded, plastering and painting were still to be done and the general finishing touches added. The house was one project of the big day that could have used, more skilled labor but that kind of help is hard to get, hence the delay in completion.

The barn was practically completed but some equipment still had to be installed. This part of the project was finished in the next two weeks and the dairy was put into operation soon thereafter. Eleven of the dairy cows had been bought, but at least nine more were added to the herd.

Members of the steering committee agreed that the important part of the project was the follow-up on the economic. The place must begin to produce for the tenant and his family, if the big project was to be successful for him and the owner. And, the committee was certain that it would be productive under the plan that worked out. Promoters of the idea felt, too, that if one person in a hundred, who visited the project was a big success.

Any person who watched the numerous operations going on among those thousands of curious people had to be impressed with the planning required to make the big event go. Moreover, he had to admire the spirit that moved hundreds of people to lend a hand in the events of the day.

Balanced Farming Day was another saga of the midwest. A storey of the neighborliness and the spirit of cooperation of the people of Smith County, was dramatized with plows, bulldozers, scoops, tractors, hammers and saws, gasoline, diesel fuel, elbow grease, and backbone by the finest people in the United States

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### RESOLUTION NO. 25-07 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SMITH COUNTY, KANSAS.

WHEREAS on this 9th day of June, the Board of County Commissioners of Smith County, Kansas, meeting in regular session at the Smith County Courthouse, Smith Center, Kansas, at 9:00 a.m. pursuant to K.S.A. 68-102 et. seq. considers the vacation of a road in Smith County, Kansas, to wit:

E Road between 10 Road and 20 Road, beginning at the North corner between Section Two (2) and Section Three (3), Township 1 South, Range 15 West, running North and South for one (1) Mile, German Township, Smith County, Kansas, in said County and State.

WHEREAS, said road lies within German Township Smith County, Kansas said road was established by Plat filed of record in Book D, Page 43 in the Office of the Smith County Engineer’s Smith County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, notice to the public was published in the Smith County Pioneer on May 22, 2025 and May 29, 2025 and notice to adjacent landowners

was given by certified mail, return receipt requested; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners appointed themselves as viewers; and

WHEREAS, the viewers recommended that the Board of Smith County Commissioners determine that E Road between 10 and 20 Road, is NOT a public utility and should be vacated; and

WHEREAS, no written applications for damages were made by any owners of property adjacent thereto; and

WHEREAS, the said viewers requested no compensation for services as viewers.

WHEREAS, pursuant to K.S.A. 68-102 the Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing to consider the requested vacation; and

WHEREAS, the Board determined that the public would suffer no loss or inconvenience by the requested vacation and that no private rights will be injured or endangered thereby; and

IT IS NOW, THEREFORE, HERBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Smith County, Kansas, that E Road Between 10 and 20

Road described above, is hereby vacated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND RESOLVED THAT the vacation of said of road

is subject to the reservation of any currently existing easements for public utilities over and under, and across all that portion of vacated road for the repair, maintenance, and replacement of any existing utilities presently located within the vacated road.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Clerk to be placed in the road records.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Appraiser.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect after its publication in the official County newspaper.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Smith County, Kansas this 9th day of June.

(Published in the Smith County Pioneer Thursday, June 12, 2025.)