



THE PAXICO POST



MILL CREEK ANTIQUES

Spring 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

Woodland Wonder

When John James Audubon set off down the Mississippi and towards the southland in 1826 he had only his gun, a traveling companion, and art supplies for his wilderness adventure. The product of this excursion was his, The American Woodsman, which he filled with beautifully drawn bird portraits and detailed descriptions of life in the wilds. The book was an immediate success as America and Europe were at the height of the "Romantic" period and were thirsty for idyllic depictions of wilderness life, the natives, woodland beauty and the plants and animals that graced these scenes. Audubon set the standard for naturalists and his illustrations are



national treasure for us all. The vast size of our country, the endless variety of landscapes and wildlife, and the creative and imaginative spirit of our ancestors have all played a role in the creation of exquisite literature, artwork, and craftsmanship throughout our history. The woodland carvings on a burl walnut bedroom set at Mill Creek Antiques are a perfect example of this. As Audubon searched for creatures hidden among the trees, so you will find hidden in the natural burl walnut patterns, the shapes of animals—a butterfly, a cougar, & more. They emerge from the wood and from the past as lifelike as those that greeted Audubon so long ago.



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PAXICO NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◇ **Sacred Heart Church Spring Rummage & Bake Sale**, Paxico—Sat. 3/19/08—7:30 to 1:00 pm—Go bargain hunting, buy delicious baked goods, stop in at Mill Creek Antiques, and linger in town for the evening's silent film showing!
 - ◇ **Paxico Trader's Market**—Sat. 6/21/08 and Sun. 6/22/08—Free vendor spaces available.
- Call 785-636-8400 for more information or to reserve a prime space.

MILL CREEK MISCELLANY:

- What's new?
www.millcreekantiques.com
- Paxico High school Reunion will be held in Paxico at Mill Creek Valley Jr. High school on 6/21/08 the same day as our Paxico Trader's Market.
- Stop in and see Ron's ongoing plant progress as he graces the shop with a profusion of flowers and incorporates iron-work & antiques!

Hearty Laughs with Laurel & Hardy!



"Welcome to the movies!
Welcome to the stars!
Welcome to this grand illusion!
All of it's yours right through these doors!"

Back by popular demand! **Saturday, April 19th at 7:00 pm**, Mill Creek

Antiques will host Silent Film Night in Paxico. This time our stars include **Laurel & Hardy, Gloria Swanson, Charlie Chaplin, and Buster Keaton**. Admission is **FREE** though free-will donations are appreciated! Popcorn and drinks will be for sale. Bring along your friends! Phil Figs will provide live piano accompaniment from our 1876 Steinway piano. Call **785-636-5520** for details.



PRAIRIE PLENTY "...Pa stuck his sharp hatchet in his

belt, he hung his powder-horn beside the hatchet, he put the patch-box and the bullet-pouch in his pocket, and he took his gun on his arm." ... "He went away. For a little while they could see the upper part of him above the tall grasses, going away and growing smaller. Then he went out of sight and the prairie was empty." ... "Then Ma took the sadiron out of the wagon & heated it by the fire." ... "She spread a blanket and a sheet on the wagon seat, and she ironed the dresses." ... "All around them to the very edge of the world, there was nothing but grasses waving in the wind. Far overhead, a few white puffs of cloud sailed in the thin blue air. Laura was very happy. The wind sang a low, rustling song in the grass. Grasshoppers' rasping quivered up from the immense prairie. A buzzing came faintly from all the trees in the creek bottoms. But all these sounds made a great, warm, happy silence. Laura had never seen a place she liked so much as this place. She didn't know she had gone to sleep until she woke up. " ... "The sun was low, and Pa was coming across the prairie. Laura jumped up and ran, and his long shadow stretched to meet her in the waving grasses. He held up the game in his hand, for her to see. He had a rabbit, the largest rabbit she had ever seen, and two plump prairie hens." ... 'This country's cram-jammed with game,' he told her. 'I saw fifty deer if I saw one, and antelope, squirrels, rabbits, birds of all kinds. The creek's full of fish.' He said to Ma, 'I tell you, Caroline, there's everything we want here. We can live like kings!'"

Taken from Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder



1886—less than twenty years after the Ingalls family moved to Kansas, the Rock Island Railroad brought settlers to Paxico, Kansas and the first buildings in town were being constructed—the old general store and the depot. Originally owned by the Bolton family, the general store would have carried calico fabrics like Ma used to make Laura and Mary's dresses, the sadirons for pressing them, and the washboards for scrubbing them. Cast iron cookware like Ma made her cornbread and pancakes in were to be found in plenty as well as flour, corn meal, feed for animals, and seed for gardening. Shortly after the general store and depot were constructed, came other stores and saloons. The scenery around these new shops was the Kansas tall grass prairie just as the Ingalls first encountered it. Rolling hills of big blue stem grass and sunflowers were teeming with prairie chicken, quail, white tailed deer, rabbits, squirrels, and insects. While cattle were housed in stockyards in downtown Paxico for eventual shipment to Kansas City, wild game were abundant along Mill Creek where the Pottawatomie Indians set up camp. Chief Pasqua, the medicine man was a fixture in town. Then, as today, Kansas is a hunter's paradise and just like way-back-when, Mill Creek Antiques carries many of the items that were originally found here when the Boltons first ran the store. Hanging over the door that leads into the stove showroom at Mill Creek Antiques, we have a black powder rabbit-eared shotgun handmade over a hundred years ago by a man who signed his name to his work. We even have a fishing basket hand-woven in the style of the Native Americans that the Ingalls would later encounter in their new prairie home in the "Indian Territory" of the Kansas of long ago. You will find sadirons, cast iron skillet, corn ear pans, and pioneer cook books containing wild game recipes. We even carry western trail cook books with pancakes & cornbread that warrant even Ma's seal of approval! If you're the first person to mail us the names of the Ingalls's horses that led their Conestoga wagon to Kansas, we'll send you a copy of your cook book of choice for a prize!



Inside the Garden Gate

"What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back with a hinge in it."

Charles Dudley Warner, My Summer in a Garden, 1871

As any gardener knows, hours spent on one's knees or pushing a shovel is backbreaking work but the rewards are well worth the toil. The anticipation of waking bright and early to check the progress of baby plants and to see with every passing day more abundance, more color, and bees and birds buzzing and chirping joyously in this garden haven is blissful. Just like a mother with a new baby, the avid gardener has her plants in mind all the time. For her seedlings she provides a mulch blanket. Their milk is her regular watering, and as for apparel, the gardener searches for little decorations that will compliment her baby plants and their garden "nursery" such as gazing balls, little figurines, wire insects on wands that seem to float

about the flowers and sections of decorative fence and wrought iron-work. An antique iron gate with a friendly and welcoming "squeak" when she lifts the latch and enters the garden is charming and reminiscent of the elusive "Secret Garden." What a perfect entrance to this little paradise of her creation and what a safeguard against the creatures who would love to pass through and dine on delicacies of baby blooms. At Mill Creek Antiques we have hoop and spear iron fence dating to the 1890's, antique garden gates, and new wrought iron plant hangers, fence sections, trellises and arbors, and seats so you can sit and enjoy the "fruits of your labor" and creative spirit after a long day's work in the garden for as the passionate and persistent gardener knows, "Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it!"

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