

Story Ideas

Hudson, Kansas

Bicycling

■ TransAmerica Trail – Coast to Coast

Since the inauguration of this trail in 1976, tired, hungry, homesick cyclists have found a warm welcome in Hudson. They camp in the city park or shelter at the community hall. *“This is still the greatest and most used bicycle route crossing America.”* www.adventurecycling.com.

■ Chicken Ride (annual bike ride) and Ham & Jam

The fifty-five mile Chicken Ride moves through sand hills and prairies every August. It’s always about food in Hudson: breakfast before the ride, chicken dinners, pie after the ride, and in the evening the Ham & Jam - just what it sounds like – a whole pig with all the trimmings, plus a music jam in the park).

“You can chicken out at any time you want but you get your chicken dinner even if you do.”

Food and Famous Flour

■ The Wheatland Café has built a thriving 20 years business by being open to customers for one meal per week.

Located on Main Street in tine Hudson (population 125), the restaurant draws a crowd every Sunday for a buffet that includes home baked goods – made with Hudson Cream Flour – and Grandma’s pan-friends chicken. There is also a 10am coffee break at the Wheatland Café every day! Everyone is welcome and there are always good stories.

■ **Stafford County Flour Mill** has developed a loyal following of pastry and bread makers who insist on Hudson Cream Flour. It is one of the last independent flour mills remaining in the U.S. Their biggest market in is West Virginia and surrounding states. *“The best bakers I know are in Bandy, VA up the mountains. My Mom mentioned that one of the ladies up there told her that Hudson Cream is the key to making great breads. Generally I’d say that flour is flour, but Hudson Cream is the exception.”* –Cyndi A, NC Biscuit Queen and home baker – www.hudsoncream.com

■ **Turnip Festival** is held in November of the even-numbered years, date dependent on when the turnips are ready. Gather in the Hudson city park hop on the turnip trolley with a bag and get ready to pick turnips. When you return with your bag full, there are turnip recipes to sample, turnip t-shirts, a Turnip King crown, turnip pottery, songs, and a Mr. Turnip Head contest. Turnips were popular depression era food – they were cheap (or free) and plentiful because farmers threw the tiny turnip seeds on their alfalfa fields to hold the soil down. The tradition continues today on farms around Hudson. In the spirit of the depression, excess Turnip Festival turnips are donated to local food banks.

Good Stuff

■ Rattlesnake Creek

■ The original town was called Rattlesnake after the nearby winding creek.

■ Rattlesnake Creek, completely spring fed, has a dual nature:

West of Highway 281 – Fresh Water East of Highway 281 – Salt Water

West of Highway 281 – Trees on Banks East of Highway 281 – No Trees

■ Rattlesnake Creek provided salt for Native Americans who harvested it when the creek bed was dry.

■ Snake Creek T-shirts is operated by Hudson entrepreneur, Brent Walters, who does everything from design to print

■ Christmas Celebrations

■ Silent Night is sung in German every year at the Christmas Eve candlelight ceremony in the historic church.

■ Year-round, there is a hole in the middle of Main Street where the town’s Christmas tree is placed.

■ In odd-numbered years, Hudson holds an Old-Fashioned Christmas celebration.

■ Local Artist

■ Carol Long Pottery

■ Local musicians play at area gatherings. Darrell Bauer, Lowell, Fenskey, Shannon Raybern

■ **‘Give an Acre of Hudson’** raises money for community projects, in cooperation with Stafford County Flour Mill.

For more information: We will be happy to supply photographs, contact information for interviews, tours, guides, background information, and assistance with travel arrangements.

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