



THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE



"THE BIGGEST LITTLE NEWSPAPER IN NEBRASKA"

SINCE 1912

LOGAN COUNTY, STAPLETON, NEBRASKA 69163

(USPS 518780)

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1979

NO. 24



"Stapleton is a very exceptional town and we are lucky to find it" said Richard Greenhill a photographer from London, England. Mr. Greenhill, his wife Sally and two children Sam age 6 and Neil age 2 are spending four months in the United States taking photographs for the Picture Library located in London, England which contains pictures for use in books and magazines.

The Greenhills were crossing the United States looking for a small town to take a profile of and arrived in Stapleton. They found the town full of friendly people, organized and well aware of each other. Stapleton will be included in the 30,000 pictures to be taken across American showing people in different jobs, roles and family life.

According to Mr. Greenhill only 71% of all pictures taken are ever used in a book.

The Greenhill family is staying with Phil and Ursula Geary while in Stapleton, who opened their home to them which the Greenhills appreciated very much.

Addendum

Sally and Richard Greenhill, professional photographers from Great Britain, were traveling through the United States in 1979 when their road trip took them through Stapleton, Nebraska. Sally Greenhill shares how they came to take the beautiful photographs of Emery and his Healing Machine that were used in our documentary. It is thought their collection of photographs may be the last images of Emery before his death in 1986.

We were travelling with our two young children Sam aged 6 and Nell aged 2 in our car from San Diego to North Carolina in 1979. We camped or stayed in motels along the way and, as photographers, we were searching for the perfect American small town. We discovered that iconic town in Stapleton Nebraska where we stayed for three weeks to document the people and the life in the Sandhills which we made into an exhibition which hung in the Photographers' Gallery in London when we got back. Truly a wonderful three weeks they were, we made lifelong friends of locals Ursula and Phil Geary, Ursula stayed with us again with her grandson this summer. (2012) One of the local folks introduced us to Emery as someone worth photographing and learning about.

We stayed about half a day with Emery photographing him in his house and in the big shed which was hung with his sculptures. He was very friendly and eager to explain the sculptures as he saw them, though it wasn't always easy to follow what he was saying. He did seem an extremely benign and well-meaning person. The main reason for making the sculptures seemed to be as universal healing machines for any complaint, you just needed to stay within the orbit of 'the force'.

Amazing man, I have to say that I found him quite an enigma, because there was no to little discussion. Richard was, and is, impressed with his single minded certainty about his work and what it meant, the mark of a true artist. We both found his work quite beautiful but that was not of any importance to Emery. It was "the force, can't you feel it" he would say.

It was a very interesting day though it was hard to believe really in the power that Emery believed in. He created some beautiful hanging mobiles, some of them really lovely and he enhanced the beauty by hanging strings of Christmas lights in amongst them in the dark shed where they were displayed so that they reflected each other as they swayed.

It was a great day, I would say the peak of our time in Stapleton.

Sally Greenhill, Greenhill Photo Library, London, UK (written 12/2011)