

Nomination of Rose Marie Wallen for the KAA Lifetime Achievement Award

April 2020

Rose Marie Wallen discovered the Kansas Anthropological Association in 1992 when the Kansas Archeology Training Program field school investigated the Sharps Creek site (14MP408) in McPherson County and headquartered in Lindsborg. She has not missed a KATP field school since and has participated in all facets of the KAA and advanced the organization's mission in many ways.

Rose Marie's parents, Arline and Burdett Ledell, descended from relatively recent Swedish and German immigrants. They ran a wheat and cow/calf operation on their farm between McPherson and Lindsborg. Rose Marie and her three siblings (two sisters, a retired nurse and a home economics teacher, who live in the Omaha, Nebraska, area, and one brother, who ran a veterinary clinic in McPherson until retirement) enjoyed strong Swedish cultural traditions growing up, as well as experiencing farm life, a two-room rural school, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and Future Homemakers of America.

As a young child, Rose Marie had a natural fascination with rocks, which developed into curiosity about stone tools and other artifacts. Her mother encouraged her with Christmas and birthday gifts of mineralogy and archeology books. Rose Marie's interest in archeology and anthropology grew further when she graduated to the "big room" for fifth through eighth grades at Sunny Slope School. The classroom had a subscription to *National Geographic Magazine*, and she devoured every issue.

Rose Marie graduated from McPherson High School and attended the University of Kansas, earning a B.A. degree in anthropology with a minor in art (studio art and art history) in 1973. She married John Michael "Mike" Wallen in 1971, and together they served in the Peace Corps in Estanzuela, Nicaragua, from 1973 to 1976. Rose Marie became a fluent Spanish speaker and functioned effectively as a health and nutrition educator. Part of her work involved collection of folk beliefs and documentation of curative plant use in the area. The couple's efforts were recognized as a model for other Peace Corps volunteers. Together the Wallens have continued to travel internationally, visiting 28 countries from 1974 through 2017 and consistently incorporating cultural and archeological sites in their itineraries.

Upon returning to the United States, Rose Marie and Mike made Lindsborg their home. They had two daughters, Anne and Miriam, who were KAA members in their youth and have gone on to successful careers in the humanities. For a few years Rose Marie was quality assurance coordinator with Sterling Drug Company in McPherson, but she soon put her considerable skills to use in repair and remodeling of historic structures. Between 1977 and 2012 she and Mike renovated six homes. She can do just about anything, but her specialties include plastering, applying faux finishes, stenciling, painting, staining, varnishing, and refinishing.

Rose Marie has generously volunteered her time and talents in her community. She has been a docent at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery since 1999 and served on its foundation board in various capacities from 1999 until 2009. Other volunteer leadership work has been with the Bethany Lutheran Church (1977-present), Messiah Oratorio Society, Girl Scouts of America (1987-1999), American Scandinavian Student Exchange (2002-2003), and Broadway RFD (2003). In 2019, the Lindsborg sesquicentennial year, musical collaborators Rose Marie (lyrics) and Mike (music) wrote “Kära Lindsborg Mitt Hem” (Dearest Lindsborg, My Home), which has been declared the official song of the City of Lindsborg.

Rose Marie is a gifted artist with emphases in drawing, painting, and printmaking. Her original, individually made Christmas cards are treasured by those who receive them. She participates in Lindsborg’s active arts community, such as the Holiday Studio Open House (2011-present), and donates her artwork to many charitable causes. She often has lent her artistic talents to the KAA, designing a new logo (2008), two KAA t-shirts (tool chronology and logo), a KAA business card (2016), and ten Mud Creek Chapter commemorative pins (2002-2003, 2006-2013). She has lettered innumerable KAA Certificates of Appreciation. In addition to writing nominations for four previous Lifetime Achievement Awards, she created stained glass and block print artworks to recognize recipients.

Rose Marie’s administrative contributions to the state KAA organization include serving as Certification Program chair (2001-2008), treasurer (2004-2008), and president (2008-2012). During her terms she handled challenges and initiated innovations. She revised the KAA Certification Program guidelines and information handout (2002), researched the original KAA charter for the organization’s recertification as a non-profit (2004), instituted an electronic bookkeeping system (2004), proposed and defined the KAA Lifetime Achievement Award that was adopted by the KAA Executive Committee (2003), worked with KSHS Public Archeologist Virginia Wulfkuhle to establish the annual KAA Certification Seminar (2005), created three teaching kits for KAA member use in outreach activities (2006), authored the original KAA code of ethics (2011), spearheaded the Mud Creek Chapter video archive project and provided DVDs to the KAA Historian-Recorder, KAA library at Colby Community College, and KSHS Archeology Office (2013). She currently is a member of the Certification and Publications Advisory Committees.

On the local level, Rose Marie has been an officer of the Mud Creek Chapter in multiple years: vice president (1995 and 1996), president (1997 and 1998), and secretary (1999- 2020). She organizes chapter events, such as the annual artifact identification workshop, and presents many programs to the chapter and many local civic groups, such as Bethany College anthropology classes, Smoky Valley Historical Association, Lindsborg Kiwanis Club, McPherson Lions Club, PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), Saline public access TV, and Bethany Church adult forum.

In 2016 Rose Marie joined an elite group of KAA members who have completed all categories of the KAA Certification Program. In fulfilling requirements she often broke new ground. For Outreach Specialist in 2005, she researched and wrote a successful nomination for placement of her house on the National Register of Historic Places. Her capstone project for Advanced Archeological Surveyor (design, carry out, and report on an intensive survey of a defined area) consisted of documenting more than 50 historic properties in Lindsborg and entering them into the electronic Kansas Historic Resources Inventory. She has authored various articles, published in the *Kansas Anthropological Association Newsletter*, *The Kansas Anthropologist*, and *Kansas Preservation* (see bibliography).

In addition to being a crew member at KATP field schools, Rose Marie has been recruited by KSHS archeologists to be on the volunteer staff in the jobs of architectural recording (1995 and 2000), excavation techniques instructor, photography team leader (2010-2012), records team member, and cataloging lab data entry specialist (2015-2019). In 2010 Mike and Rose Marie invented a device used to photograph excavation units at a uniform height above the squares. Apart from the KATP, she assisted KSHS Archeologist Martin Stein in total station mapping of five Great Bend aspect council circles in 2005. From 2003 through 2018, she submitted at least 33 new or revised archeological site reports to the KSHS and assisted Mud Creek Chapter members with others. In 2006 she collaborated with the Education Chair of the Professional Archaeologists of Kansas on Kansas Archaeology Month educational materials, writing a middle school lesson plan about early trade in Kansas that correlated with Kansas Board of Education Standards. That same year she was recommended by State Archeologist Robert Hoard and appointed by Governor Kathleen Sebelius to the Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Board, and she continues to serve in that capacity. She completed U.S. Department of Interior Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act training in February 2008.

In addition to the KAA, Rose Marie is a member of the Santa Fe Trail Association, Smoky Hill Trail Association, Archaeological Conservancy, and Plains Anthropological Society.

Her awards include Outstanding Girl Scout Leader (1988), Outstanding Girl Scout Volunteer (1992), Birger Sandzén Gallery Featured Artist (2009, 2014, 2016), McPherson Opera House Featured Artist (2010), Dala horse commission by Bethany Lutheran Church (2011), Grace Episcopal Cathedral Cloister Gallery (Topeka) Featured Artist (2011). She received KAA Certificates of Appreciation in 2005 and 2012.

For these outstanding contributions and achievements, Rose Marie Wallen is nominated for the KAA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Selected Bibliography

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2021 (in press) *Getting into Art*. Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery, Lindsborg, Kansas.

Almost every issue of the *KAA Newsletter* since 2001 contains items authored by Rose Marie for Certification News, A Word from our President, and/or Mud Creek Chapter News.