

# COTTONWOOD CONNECTIONS

## SEASON 8 (SPRING 2026)

- **General Eisenhower (April 12)** - In this first of a two-part series, we explore Ike's connection to Kansas and his rise to the rank of general and leadership of the Allied forces in Europe for the D-Day invasion.
- **President Eisenhower (April 19)** - In the wake of the Allied victory in Europe, General Dwight Eisenhower's popularity was at its peak. In this second of two episodes about the Kansas boy who would be president we look at how that wave carried him to the highest office in the land.
- **Starting a Pioneer Town (April 26)** - Don Rowilson discusses the process of starting a town on the wide open High Plains and we learn the story of Mystic, Kansas, a town that didn't boom.
- **The Story Beneath Our Feet (May 3)** - Don is joined by KU professor Dr. Rolf Mandel for a look at the geology of western Kansas and how the land itself is so important to the history of the area.
- **Prohibition and the Bootleggers (May 10)** - Kansas was on the front lines of efforts to bring about prohibition, and held out as a dry state longer than many, but that didn't stop the flow of the strong stuff into the communities of the High Plains.
- **Dirty 30s: Boom and Bust Set Stage (May 17)** - In part one of a three-part series we look at how the Roaring 20s come to a screeching stop and the country was plunged into economic distress and an agricultural crisis.
- **Dirty 30s: The Dust Bowl (May 24)** - Agricultural practices driven by automation and the huge demand of a booming economy in the 20s left the plains unprepared for record drought stirring up epic dust storms that would define a decade and a region.
- **Dirty 30s: Building to Rebuild (May 31)** - Depression and drought ravaged farming communities of the plains. Public works programs from agricultural practices to infrastructural facilities to works of art would employ people in efforts to rebuild.
- **High Plains Wildlife (June 7)** - We look at what wildlife were present in the high plains at the time of settlement and at current day efforts to conserve this wonderful natural resource.
- **Legendary Longhorns (June 14)** - They are rare today, but the iconic cattle of the trail driving days still capture the imagination and present an iconic image of our cattle trail heritage.
- **Worth 1,000 Words (June 21)** - Through an in-depth look at the collections of Fenton Pratt and other area photographers, we delve into this visual art which was evolving even as pioneers were settling the west, and discuss how this important medium helps give greater understanding of our history.
- **Kansas and the History of America (June 28)** - With the United States celebrating its 250th we consider the Sunflower state's role even before statehood in the American story.