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“Amelia Comes Home” with Mural Dedication

(KAIR) -- The official start to the 16th annual Amelia Earhart Festival began Wednesday afternoon with “Amelia Coming Home.”

A mural depicting Earhart, navigator Fred Noonan and an imitation of their Lockheed Electra aircraft was dedicated on a rural property south of Atchison as a donation of artist John Cerney and an area landowner.

Corky Jackson says he was happy to donate a portion of his and his wife’s pasture.

(Play Audio) RT: :19

John Cerney says he spontaneously got the idea to do the project on a drive in the country.

(Audio Continues) RT: :32

Cerney says he wanted to create a depiction that Amelia ran out of fuel, but she landed back home.

(Audio Continues) RT: :30

He says it didn’t take very long to put the mural together, and says it was the shortest project he’s had from idea to completion.

(Audio Continues) RT: :31

The mural has an expected lifespan of 15 to 20 years.

Cerney was also given a bust of Amelia for his work from the festival committee on Wednesday.

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