

receives INS papers

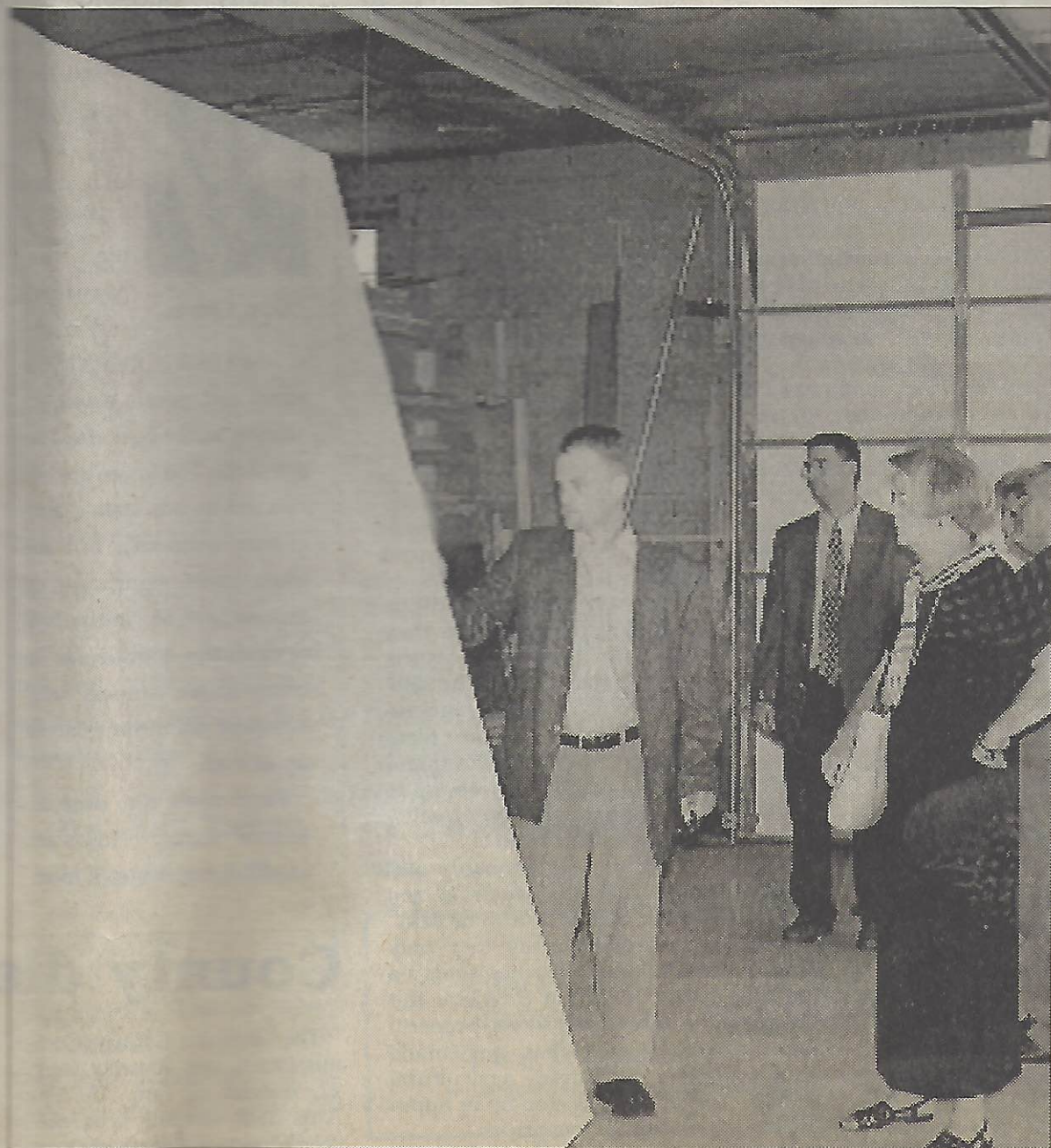


Photo by Eric and Roxie Yonkey

Above — On a visit to Goodland last month, VanGogh Project artist Cameron Cross (left) inspects the boards on which he will paint a reproduction of a Vincent VanGogh sunflower painting. Looking on are (from left) Marcia Golden, vice-president of Sunflowers USA; Ron Harding, Sunflowers USA treasurer and Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce Director; Donna Price, Assistant Director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors' Bureau and engineer Darin Neufeld. The painting will be one of seven world's largest paintings on an easel. Left — Goodland's sunflower painting will look like the painting on the left, but it will be mounted like the one on the right. The painting on the right is a replica of Cross' first VanGogh Project painting, the one in Altona, Manitoba, Canada.

Goodland group plans to build an exhibition hall featuring sunflowers.

"Once he starts painting, we'll start fund raising to start the exhibition hall," she said.

Cross' first VanGogh Project painting is in Altona, Manitoba, Canada, where he taught art, and the second is in Emerald, Queensland, Australia.

To donate or for more infor-

mation, contact Sunflowers USA, P.O. Box 628, Goodland, KS 67735. Call 785/899-5950 ext. SUN. Fax 785/899-3091 or e-mail gdlchamber@goodland.ks.com.

Artist finally

By ROXIE YONKEY
EDITOR

After months of waiting for a positive answer from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Goodland finally has a yes. The INS said "yes" Monday to Sunflowers USA's request to allow Canadian artist Cameron Cross to paint the world's largest painting on an easel in Goodland.

The painting will be a reproduction of one of Vincent VanGogh's sunflower paintings. Cross plans to paint seven of the paintings around the world in places that are either associated with VanGogh or with sunflowers. Goodland is the only place in the United States to have one of the paintings. Cross had copyrighted the idea, so he was the only person who could paint it. It took months for Goodland to convince the INS of that fact.

Marcia Golden, vice-president of Sunflowers USA, thanked Sen. Pat Roberts' (R-Kan.) office for their assistance.

"His office walked our application through the process," Golden said, "and the Senator enclosed a letter to the INS."

Even with Roberts' help, Golden said the papers were a long time coming. When the organization started planning for Cross' painting, they thought it would take "six weeks" for the papers to come through, she said. Instead, the process required "eight months. This waiting... was so frustrating."

Sunflowers USA feared that the INS delays would force Cross to paint in another country, possibly South Africa, before doing Goodland's painting. Now he will stay on his original schedule and paint in Goodland next month.

