

## **Spirit of Brown County - Video Overview & Treatment**

1/10/12

### **Overview**

Mention Brown County to someone who's been there and ask what comes to mind. Chances are they'll think about Brown County State Park or the nearby town of Nashville with its share of both authentic arts & crafts and tchotchke shops. Or perhaps they've been to Bill Monroe's music festival up at Bean Blossom. Maybe hiking Yellowwood Forest or visiting the TC Steele studio near Belmont- where a rich legacy of art blossomed from the beautiful landscape.

But go to Brown County and ask someone there the same question. You might be in for a surprise. They might tell you about the Thursday night jam session at Uncle Otis's place, or old legends about Browning Mountain, which is just past the lost town of Elkinsville.

Millions of tourists, TC Steele, Bill Monroe and the old hermit who lived on Browning Mountain all have something in common: the love of the beautiful woods and rolling hills of Brown County, Indiana.

[The Spirit of Brown County will explore the art, history, and culture that developed out of the rugged, vast, and beautiful landscape of Brown County, Indiana.]

### **Treatment / Video Outline**

**Act I** (5 minutes) -----

#### **Scene 1 - Opening**

Voiceover: Brown County Indiana is a popular tourist destination. During the fall, more than a million people flock to Brown County State Park to admire the beautiful vistas and colorful autumn foliage. It's the largest and most popular state park in Indiana.

The region attracts more than tourists. It's also been home to a number of notable artists. In 1907, Indiana painter Theodore Clement, or TC Steele moved his studio to a ridge just outside of Belmont. Other artists soon followed. The painters Adolph Schultz, Marie Goth, and photographer Frank Hohenberger are just a few who rambled the hills and hollows capturing the sublime imagery of Brown County. TC Steele's presence marked the beginning of an arts movement that continues to the present day.

Who are the people- the folks who call Brown County home? What is it that draws and inspires so many?

**Scene 2 - Introduction** (introduce key characters and threads)

Montage of key interview subjects describing why they love Brown County and how it relates to their passion/work. “These hills have always been my home....”; “I love Brown County...”; “A painter couldn’t ask for a prettier landscape...”; etc.

Jim Eagleman (naturalist)  
Rachael Perry (art historian & author)  
Dan Bilger (musician)  
Pam Raider (prominent local figure)  
Andrea deTarnowsky (TC Steele caretaker & historian)  
Fred Lacey (mountain biker and hiker)  
Kara Barnard (musician & teacher)  
Andy Rogers (businessman)  
Tamar Kander (painter)

It’s no surprise that so many varied folks call Brown County home. There’s so much to see and do. (Montage of activities: horseback riding, painting, hiking, paddling, panning for gold, eating, playing music, flying, mountain biking, enjoying vistas.)

**Act II** (24 minutes) -----

**Scene 1 - Early History** (3 min)

Once a part of Monroe County, Brown County was established in 1836. (Early maps and photos) Julie Pearson (historian) and Diana Biddle (Brown County Genealogist) describe the origins of the region and the early characters that helped establish Brown County.

**Scene 2 - Artists put Brown County in the spotlight** (4 min)

In 1907 Theodore Clement (TC) Steele and his new wife Selma moved to the region and established an art colony. Other artists soon followed including Adolph Schultz, Marie Goth, the photographer Frank Hohenberger and the popular Indiana writer, James Whitcomb Riley. The arts scene flourished, attracting tourists and drawing national attention to the high caliber of art, artists, and scenery in Brown County. The momentum of attention and rising tourism helped establish Brown County State Park, which opened in 1929. Rachel Perry & Andrea deTarnowsky explain how the arts blossomed in Brown County.

**Scene 3 - The House of the Singing Winds** (3 min)

Selma Steele coined the name “House of the Singing Winds” because of the unique and lyrical sounds the breeze made as it whistled through the screens on the porch. Selma was an avid gardener and loved nurturing the gardens and the landscape around the house. Andrea deTarnowsky and Rachel Perry take us on a tour of the grounds including the Dewar Log Cabin. (Could possibly use Bobbie Lancaster’s song about the House of the Singing Wind.)

**Scene 4 - Present Day Arts & Crafts** (5 min)

A stroll through Nashville shows that the arts and crafts are vibrant as ever. You can poke into the Brown County Art Gallery on Main Street and see original works by TC Steele, Ada and Adolph Schultz, and Marie Goth. And just down the street you can find locally made dulcimers, guitars, and fiddles from local craftsmen. And there's the fudge and candy shops.....

Brown County Art Guild (Jaime Sweany gives tour)  
Bruce Taggart - mandolin, banjo & fiddle maker gives tour of studio.

### **Scene 5 - Music in the Hills** (6 min)

The landscape of Brown County does more than inspire painters. Go out in the hills and listen. If you're in the right place at the right time, you might hear the strains of music echoing through the valleys. On Thursday nights Uncle Otis holds a jam session on Lower Schooner Road. This is frequented by some musical greats including the White Lightning Boys. (Uncle Otis jam session and White Lightning Boys interview.)

Kara Barnard is a musician, teacher and an artist. She also owns the Weed Patch Music Company in Nashville. (Kara interview on music and the spiritual qualities of the land.)

And up in Bean Blossom, there's the ever-popular Bill Monroe Bluegrass Festival. (Bean Blossom Festival footage)

### **Scene 6 - Culture** (3 minutes)

Brown County is host to an interesting collection of people and businesses. Only 15,000 live in Brown County but every year, more than a million visitors travel through the county. (Key characters reflect, sometime humorously, their perspectives on tourism and small town life.)

## **Act III** (22 minutes) -----

### **Scene 1 - What's Going On?** (5 min)

Word and news travels fast in a small town. Beside the word on the street, Brown County residents have a few ways of staying in touch with news and events. Cindy Steele, editor and publisher of INto Art and Our Brown County talks about what she does and how it reflects the region's interesting culture.

Sara Clifford, editor of the weekly newspaper, The Brown County Democrat gives a tour. One long-running popular column is the Sheriff's Log. (Sara reads a few choice samples.) Of course enforcing the law isn't really a joking matter.

### **Scene 3 - The Law of the Land** (3 min)

Sheriff Rick Followell takes us on patrol in Brown County and gives us a tour of the Sheriff's Department. Crime in Brown County wasn't always handled the same way. (Diana Biddle on the historic log jail and legend of the Whitecappers.)

## **Scene 2 - Out and About in Brown County (9 min)**

There's so much to see and do in Brown County. Yes, you can appreciate the landscapes, art and music. But what else do people do for fun?

The Moonwalkers are a hiking club that meets on the full moon of every month. (Mike Kelley or Julie Pearson on the Moonwalkers)

Brown County is a Mecca for mountain bikers. Gnawbone, Nebo Ridge & Brown County State Park are just a few places where pedal pushers can find some beautiful single track to ride. (Mountain biker clips)

Paddlers can enjoy the quiet waters of Yellowwood Lake, Salt Creek and Lake Monroe. (Kayak/canoe footage)

And there are the summer camps. Camp Palawopec has been home to generations of campers. (Camp Palawopec campfire ceremony) Possibly mention Camp Rancho Framasa as well.)

Panning for Gold at the Gatesville Country Store. The Gold Prospectors Association (GPA) meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month. Storeowner Robin Stevens of the Gatesville Country Store has been supplying prospectors with the necessary tools and know-how for years.

Browning Mountain - The place of many legends

## **Scene 3 - Brown County State Park (5 min)**

Brown County State Park is the largest state park in Indiana and one of the largest in the country. Jim Eagleman, State Park naturalist talks about the uniqueness of the park and how it serves as a vital corridor for migratory birds.

Horse Camp  
Abe Martin Lodge

## **Act IV (5 minutes) -----**

### **Scene 1 - Future of the County: Protecting the beauty (2.5 minutes)**

Recent issues have put growth and development at odds with protecting the region's natural beauty. Andy Rogers, businessman and philanthropist whose investments in Brown County have helped protect its heritage and cultural treasures. (Andy Rogers on growth and the region's character. Jim Eagleman on State Park conservation.)

A planned new road will provide a path for hikers and bikers from downtown Nashville directly to the heart of Brown County State Park.

**Scene 2 - Beauty Springs Eternal** (2.5 minutes)

Great art in Brown County is not just a thing of the past or to be found in history books. The blue hills of Brown County continue to provide artists with inspiration for their canvasses. (Painting workshop footage). Tamar Kander has an alternate way of looking at the landscape. Based in Brown County, Kander's abstract mixed media work is known worldwide.

New frontiers in art - the abstract work of Tamar Kander

Brown County will continue to be a place that inspires and that folks call home for generations to come.

(End with a few choice quotes on living amongst the blue hills of Brown County.)