



oklahomareads

All the Places to Love and Will Rogers, Illustrated by Mike Wimmer

To Norman artist Mike Wimmer, the memory is as fresh as a new tube of paint. It's 1960s Muskogee, and the screen door at Sadler's General Store is open. Inside, the glass-domed candy case is stocked with multi-colored gumballs. But six-year-old Mike is eyeing something more satisfying—one-of-a-kind posters drawn by local comic book artist Buck Sadler. This time Buck, also the resident butcher, has drawn a gravity-defying likeness of Superman. But the posters aren't for sale, so Mike settles for a ten-cent comic book instead.

Nearly forty years have passed since that memory, and now Mike is the one inspiring the next generation of Oklahomans with his artwork.

Centennial Artwork

In 2003, Wimmer's history-defining painting "President Teddy Roosevelt Signing Statehood Proclamation" was unveiled at the State Capitol. In honor of Oklahoma's centennial, full color posters of the work have been placed in every public and private school in the state.

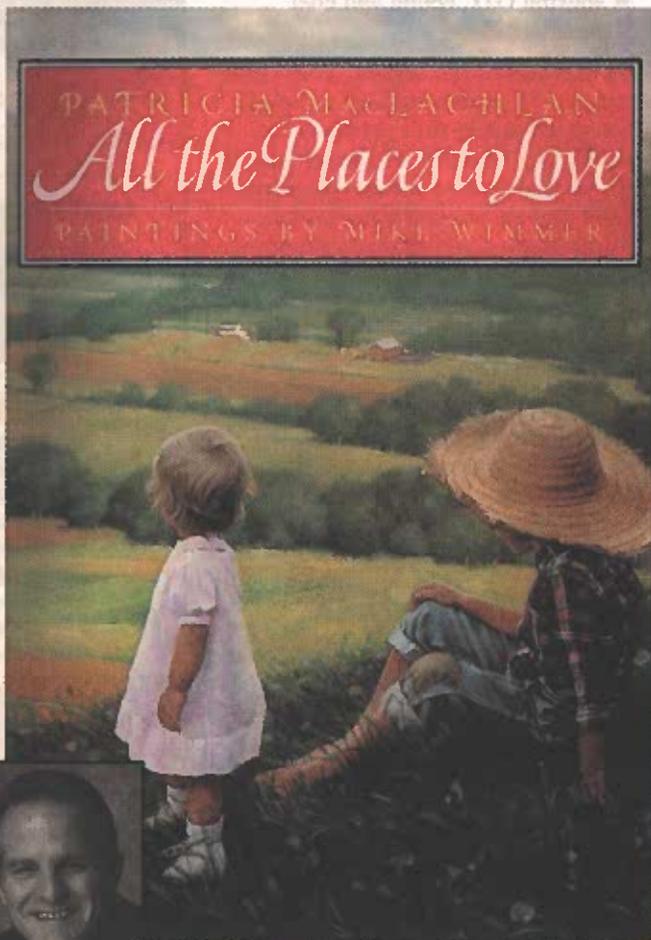
"A painting's incomplete if it doesn't communicate an idea," says Mike. "I know my work's accomplished when I can hear—and see—the people talking." (View the artist's complete portfolio at MikeWimmer.com.)

A Varied Palette

Mike Wimmer knows about finishing paintings. Twenty-one of his commissioned works hang at the State Capitol, while his commercial designs are sought after by companies such as American Airlines and Procter & Gamble. But Mike enthusiastically states, "I like to illustrate children's books best." Two of those books, *All the Places to Love* (a 1995 Oklahoma Book Award winner) and *Will Rogers* (a 2003 Oklahoma Book award nominee), are surefire Oklahoma reads.

All the Places to Love

"*All the Places to Love* is my favorite of all the children's works I've illustrated," says Mike. Paintings of Mike's children, Eli and Lauren, figure prominently in the book, yet places set the tone of the



story. Enjoying this book with your child takes you back to the time when hopscotching across a rocky streambed or skipping up a berry-laden hill formed memories more enduring than a visit to a theme park. In 28 pages, Mike distills the nostalgic elements of every place you have ever loved, whether it be a Missouri barn, an Oklahoma vista, or a Connecticut meadow. Etched into each page is an inherent respect for both the land, from which sustenance is gleaned, and elders, from whom a worthy example is inherited.

Will Rogers

If *All the Places to Love* enshrines people and places dear to the heart, then *Will Rogers* portrays a heart that embraced people and places. In



the BEST of BOOKS

Hooray! Hooray!
It's time to plan your vacation or camping trip.

Cowboy Camp
by Harold Dowd
illustrated by Mike Wimmer

Sleeping in a Jack

Stationary • Journals • Audio Books
Educational Games & More!

Kickingbird Square
Danforth • Bryant • Edmond
340-9202
Locally owned and operated
Mon—Sat 9a-8p • Sun 1-5p

this book's illustrations, Mike has leavened well-known elements of the famous humorist's life with unexpected vignettes depicting Rogers' most endearing qualities. Will Rogers flew around the world; he was also "on top of the world." Will loved horses; his menagerie also included a stick horse. Will was a master roper; he got that way by practicing on whatever was close at hand. Will's is the face of one of Oklahoma's most famous sons; in Mike's illustrations, Will's gaze catches your eye.

A Foundational Principle

Although Mike's artwork is multifaceted, all of his paintings are distinguished by an unwavering creed. "I use Jesus Christ as my standard," the artist says. "That's why my standards as a teacher and a professional are very, very high." ♦

Lori Williams is a freelance writer who specializes in writing about international adoption and the special needs child. Lori resides in Bethany with her husband Dean and daughter Aurelia.



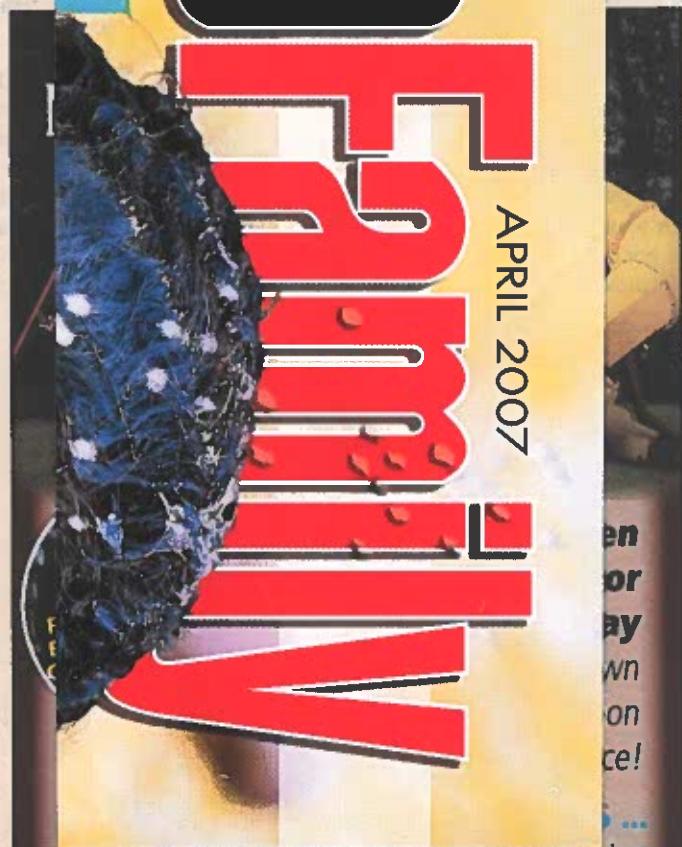
make real part of the

"I've always taught my experiences into your w life is like a well; if it's that in mind, Wimmer c

- ✓ Read a variety of auth
- ✓ Embrace uncomfortab on the other side.
- ✓ Travel to different pla
- ✓ Don't shrink from phy splinters in your hand clean spot on your ski

Metro Family

APRIL 2007



Girls' Night Out!
 presented by Metro Family Magazine, KMGL 104.1, Dairy Max, OU Physicians & the ATHENA Institute
 A Night of Education, Entertainment & FUN!

Save the date:
 May 17th at 6:30 p.m.
 For sponsorship info & registration details,
 go to metrofamilymagazine.com or athenaknows.com

Spring Bling Ahead

Any Trampolines!

a FREE color catalog & DVD!

A family company... with family in mind.

OKlahoma Playgrounds
www.okplay.com
 -444 W. Edmond Road • Edmond, OK
 (405) 359-9997