



Courtesy of Joel Sartore

"Regulars" play out their noon ritual of dominoes at Frank's Garage in Hamilton, Kan. This photo, along with 36 others, won Sartore the Inland Daily Press Award.

## Shooter wins Inland award

By Dave Weber  
Staff Reporter

For three months last summer, Joel Sartore drove three times a week to work in Hamilton, Kan., population 385.

But he wasn't there as an oil worker or farmer, the two main sources of employment for people in Hamilton. He came to photograph their daily lives, and in the process, he used about 125 rolls of film.

"The community didn't have a hotel, so I stayed in a town called Eureka, 20 miles away. Lisa (Austin, the reporter who wrote the accompanying story) lived on the main street in a trailer home," Sartore said.

Sartore, a 1985 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, won the 1987 Inland Daily Press Award for his photo essay called "Holding Onto Home." He was also named Photographer of the Year in Region 7, which covers four Midwestern states, and was chosen as one of five candidates for the Pulitzer Prize in feature pho-

tography.

Rich Clarkson, former National Geographic photo chief and a freelance photographer for Life and Time magazines, was one of the judges at the Oct. 26 Inland Daily Press Award Annual Convention in Chicago. He described Sartore's 37 winning photographs as being "full of (Henri) Cartier-Bresson-like moments."

"When someone says that, it means that it captures the moments that are so fleeting in life," Sartore said.

Sartore's photographs appeared first in a feature series for five consecutive Sundays this year in the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle-Beacon, reaching about 175,000 people each week. He was chosen for the Inland Award from 1,050 other news photographers.

His photos have since appeared in the National Press Photographer Association's monthly magazine. His photos show "not only the hard times, but the love and comradeship of the people," he said.

"To be compared to Cartier-

Bresson is the highest compliment that can be paid a photographer," said Julie Dean, assistant photography instructor at UNL, who assisted Sartore in a photography class.

Sartore started shooting pictures and writing for the Daily Nebraskan in December 1982, and then interned as a photojournalist for the Wichita Eagle-Beacon the summer before his senior year. During his senior year he was photo chief of the Daily Nebraskan and then was asked back to the Wichita paper.

Sartore said, "The way I figure it, the more time you put into something, the better the results. I would have missed probably 50 percent of the best shots I had last year had I not been putting the extra hours in."

He is quick to thank his boss, Steve Harper, for giving him some freedom. In a bigger paper, he'd be just another photographer, but in Wichita he gets a chance to do a lot of things, he said.

"Only about half of the work I do is actually assigned," he said.

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