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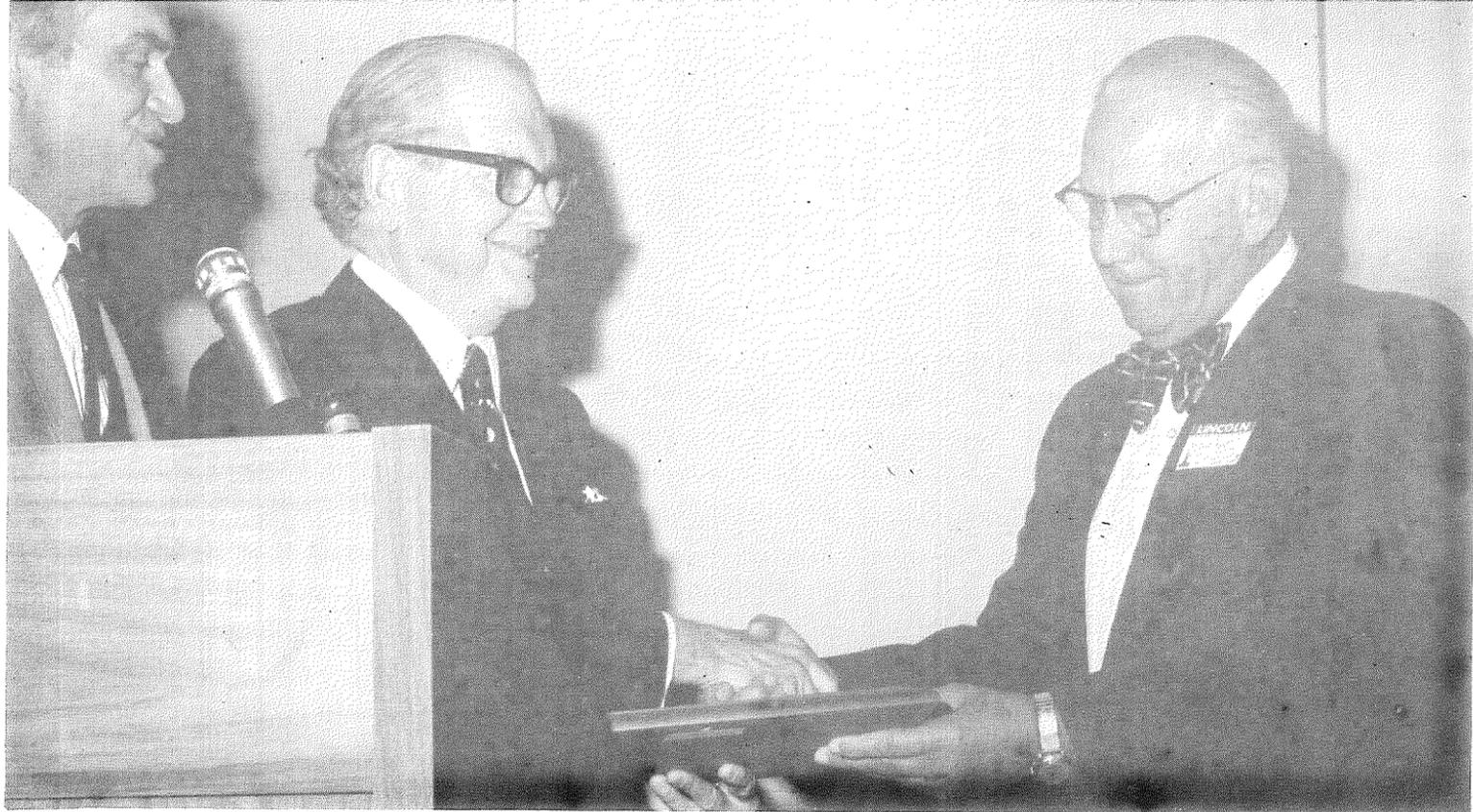
Article Summary: Kivett's report affirms that in each NSHS department there has been progress toward long-term goals in 1974. He emphasizes the increase in staff numbers and quality.

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Photographs / Images: Foundation President Maurice S Hevelone presenting the Addison E Sheldon Memorial Award plaque to Harold Warp; Don Wilson addressing the Annual Meeting of the Society; Major General Frances L Winner presenting a "general" card to Larry Norgard at the Spring Meeting; tour groups visiting Fort Robinson area sites at the Spring Meeting (2 views); Curator Wendell Frantz and Artist Herbert Thomas providing information on displays at the annual fall workshop; Archivist James Potter conducting workshop session on research materials; Museum Registrar Gail DeBuse demonstrating a loom; school buses of children visiting the Society Museum; James Potter, canoneer at a centennial flag-raising ceremony; centennial field day for school children; workmen at Fort Robinson restoring the roof of the 1904 Harness Shop; Archeologists Gayle Carlson and Terry Steinacher investigating remains of a prehistoric Indian earthlodge disturbed by road construction; Mormon Trail Historical Marker, Hall County; new style Historical Marker in rest area near Ogallala; marker dedication; papers of the Lincoln Land Company: Manuscript Curator David Hooper conferring with donor William J Turner, Archivist Donald Snoddy and Wayne Waggoner processing the records; congested conditions in the working area of the Library; Museum Artist Curtis Peacock measuring beams of the Hudson Log Cabin; Architect Larry Enerson explaining plans for the John G Neihardt Center at Bancroft; Nebraska Hall of Fame plaque installed with the William Jennings Bryan bust in the State Capitol in 1974



*Foundation President Maurice S. Hevelone (center) presents the Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award plaque to Harold Warp, owner of the Minden Pioneer Village. Society President James A. Rawley is at left. . . . The James L. Sellers Award for the outstanding article in Nebraska History for 1973 was made to Oliver Knight of the University of Texas-El Paso for his "War and Peace: The Anxious Wait for Crazy Horse."*

## THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1974

by MARVIN F. KIVETT, *Director*

Presented in part at the  
Annual Meeting in Lincoln, September 21, 1974

The past year has been one of increased interest and responsibility but also a year of some progress in our long range plans. One of the important areas of progress was the action taken by the 1973 Legislature in passing L.B. 704 which designated a block of ground adjacent to the Capitol as the Nebraska Historical Heritage Block and further directed the Society to develop plans for the construction of a Historical Heritage Center on the land. We fully realize that this important step might not have occurred had it not been for the dedicated interest of people throughout the state. We also realize that in the history of the Society the acquisition of land for a building does not guarantee a structure. We are hopeful that additional planning funds will be made available in the next fiscal year for the start of construction within a two-year period.

As one compiles an annual report he often seeks earlier goals and considers whether progress has been made toward meeting such goals. In 1962 your Society Board designated a committee to consider goals and objectives. The Committee consisted of Professor James L. Sellers, Dr. James C. Olson, and the then Society Director William D. Aeschbacher. Each of the committee members compiled brief separate reports but there were many points in common. There was, of course, common agreement on the need for an adequate budget to support operations to meet the needs of the state. It was stressed that whereas published history was important — “the public still must see its history portrayed in historical sites and displayed in buildings on the historical sites” — the need for expanded building facilities was also stressed. Dr. Olson particularly

emphasized the need for improvement of the State Archival function through more adequate legislation and funding. The study called for increased services to researchers in the library and archives. The need for increased membership was stressed. It was recommended that the Society revive the *Publications* series and develop a program to publish research studies on Nebraska history. The report also recommended that the Society strive to bring together representatives of historical organizations in a workshop session at least once a year. We believe some progress has been made toward meeting these goals, and now is the time to set more far-reaching and comprehensive goals for the future.

Our membership as of June 30 this year stood at 5,186. This represented an increase of 46 Life Members for a total of 345. An important gain of 105 Contributing Members now provides a total of 710 in this category. An increasing number (14%) of regular Annual Memberships have transferred to Annual Contributing Memberships for additional Society support.

Local and regional historical organizations continue to increase in number and membership. They are a vital factor in the preservation of local history. Their projects run the full range of interest from genealogical studies and county histories to the restoration of historic structures. Our goal is to be of service to these organizations in every way possible. It is obvious that the State Society cannot do full justice to the local story. It has been said that life is a local story, and without the local story the regional or state history cannot be written.

The administration of activities relating to the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 in the state has required increased effort and staffing. The Historical Markers program continued to receive increased public attention. A total of 169 such markers have now been erected. The majority have been cooperative efforts between the state and local historical organizations or service groups. Without the outstanding cooperation provided by the Department of Roads, this program would not be successful.

The weekly "Out of Old Nebraska" columns, now in their 28th year, are widely used by the weekly press. Such columns are edited and written by Leigh DeLay and other members of the staff. *Nebraska History*, now in its 54th year has continued

to publish on various aspects of our history. We have continued to expand the volumes with Volume 53 for 1972 numbering 580 pages and Volume 54 for 1973 expanding to 735 pages. It should be noted that this was a special effort on our part to reduce the considerable backlog of meritorious manuscripts. I'm sure that all of you are aware that *Nebraska History* has continued to attract many contributors and an increased number of manuscripts must be rejected each year. Because of the increased demand for this publication by libraries and other research institutions throughout the country, an agreement has been reached with a national distributor of microfilm to include *Nebraska History* in its listings.

Last year we reported that Volume XXVI of the *Publications Series* titled "From the Missouri to the Great Salt Lake, An Account of Overland Freighting" by Professor William E. Lass was published. The third study carried out under a Woods Charitable Fund Inc., is now in press. This definitive study by Professor Everett N. Dick is titled "Conquering the Great American Desert." It is an outstanding study by the author of the classic *Sodhouse Frontier*.

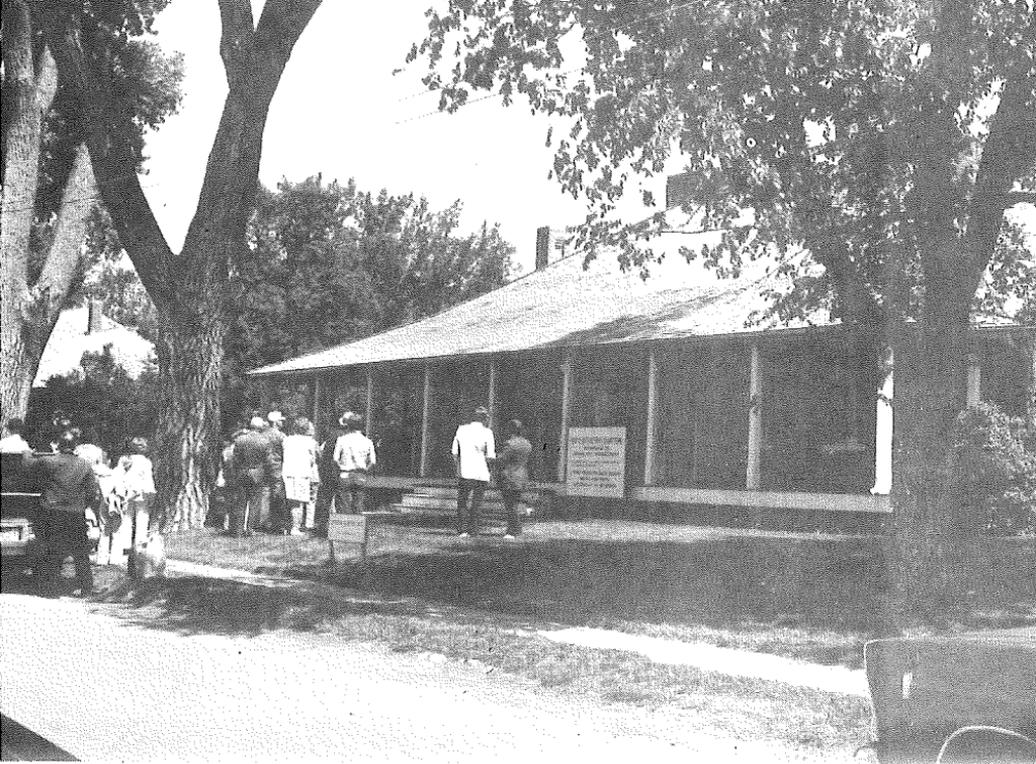
Number Five in the *Publications in Anthropology* series, titled "Archeological Salvage and Survey in Nebraska", was published during the past year. Part I by Research Archeologist Gayle F. Carlson deals with Highway Salvage investigations in Nebraska from 1965 to 1968. Part II by Curator of Anthropology Richard E. Jensen is a report of a 1971 archeological survey carried out by the Society in Cheyenne and adjacent counties. Bulletin No. 5, *A Guide to the Manuscript Division of the State Archives* by State Archivist James E. Potter and staff which was published this year, will provide an important research tool for individuals writing various phases of the state's history.

As I have reviewed the Society publication program this year and in recent years, I am pleased by the progress. I should hasten to add that much credit for this accelerated program must go to a very sincere and dedicated staff member Leigh DeLay, who carries out much of the final editing and communications with the printer. The James L. Sellers Memorial Award for the most outstanding original article published in *Nebraska History* has been an important factor in the submission of manuscripts.



*The Annual Meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society at the Lincoln Hilton is addressed by Don Wilson of the Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas. . . . At the spring meeting in June at Fort Robinson, Maj. Gen. Frances L. Winner (left) presented a "general" card to Larry Norgard, president of the Fort Robinson Centennial Commission.*





*Fort Robinson Spring Meeting tour groups visited the restored 1880 Adobe Duplex (above) on the post proper and the sites of the Spotted Tail Indian Agency and Camp Sheridan (below), twelve miles east of Crawford.*



The Annual Spring Meeting held on June 1-2 at Fort Robinson was well attended and provided an opportunity for many of us to see the important historic sites of the region. The meeting was sponsored locally by the Crawford Historical Society with excellent cooperation from the Dawes and Sioux county historical organizations.

Statistics provide some indication of the work load and staff activity. For example, we processed 18,808 pieces of mail providing information last year as compared to 14,133 the year before. The staff attended 346 meetings last year as compared to 321 the year before. Our telephone calls increased to 9,559 as compared to 5,670 the year before. A total of 1,600 printed pages were edited last year as compared to 850 the year before. I continued to serve on a number of commissions and advisory boards ranging from the Hall of Fame to Arbor Day Foundation.

Your Society operates with four major programs including Administration, State Archives, Library, and Museum. The museum program is further divided for administration into divisions for the Lincoln operation, State Historical Sites, Anthropology, and the Historic Preservation activities. A few highlights from these operations will be presented today with the complete report being published in the 1974 winter issue of *Nebraska History*.

### LINCOLN MUSEUM

The attendance recorded at the Lincoln Museum is 46,716 for the year, down seriously from a year ago. The loss of about 1,000 visitors monthly during the winter is due most probably to the problems of area schools reaching the museum due to increased costs, shortages of gasoline, school buses, etc. Summer losses probably reflect a lack of parking facilities near the museum. The Kennard House registered attendance of 6,970.

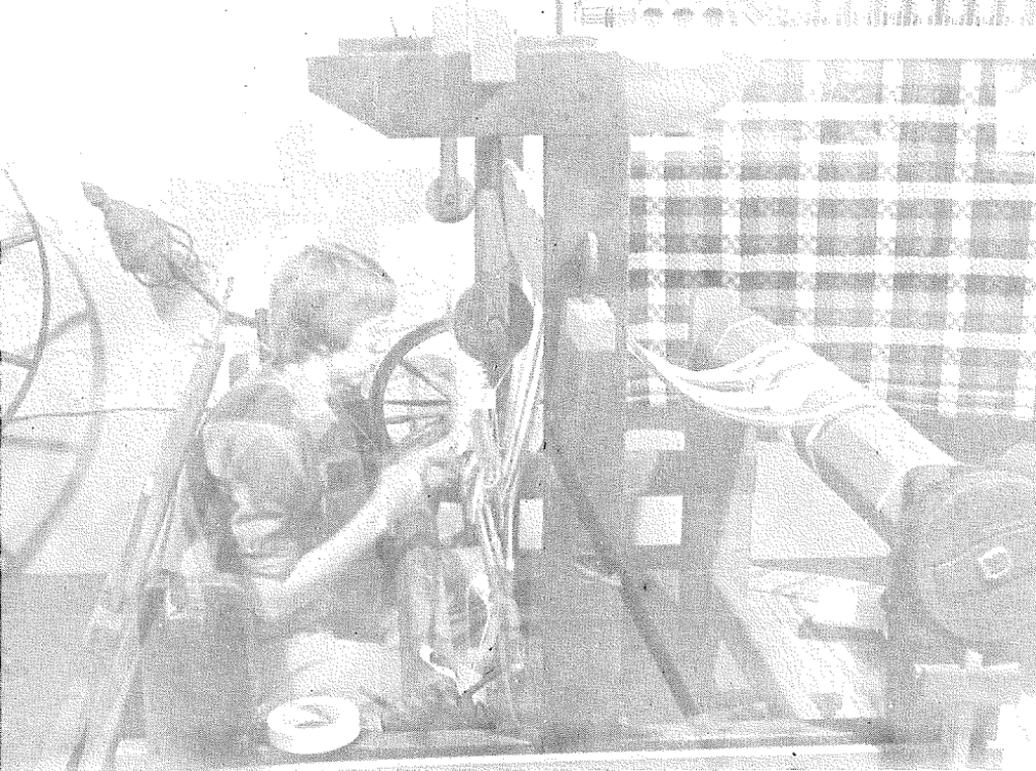
The Education Department gave tours to 9,562 persons in 190 groups. Literature on Nebraska history was sent to 1,369 persons and 537 teachers' packets were sent out. Two loan displays for use by area teachers were made up and used in schools as far away as Wayne.

The museum art staff produced 47 separate displays. These ranged in size from 2 foot by 3 foot school-loan exhibits to a

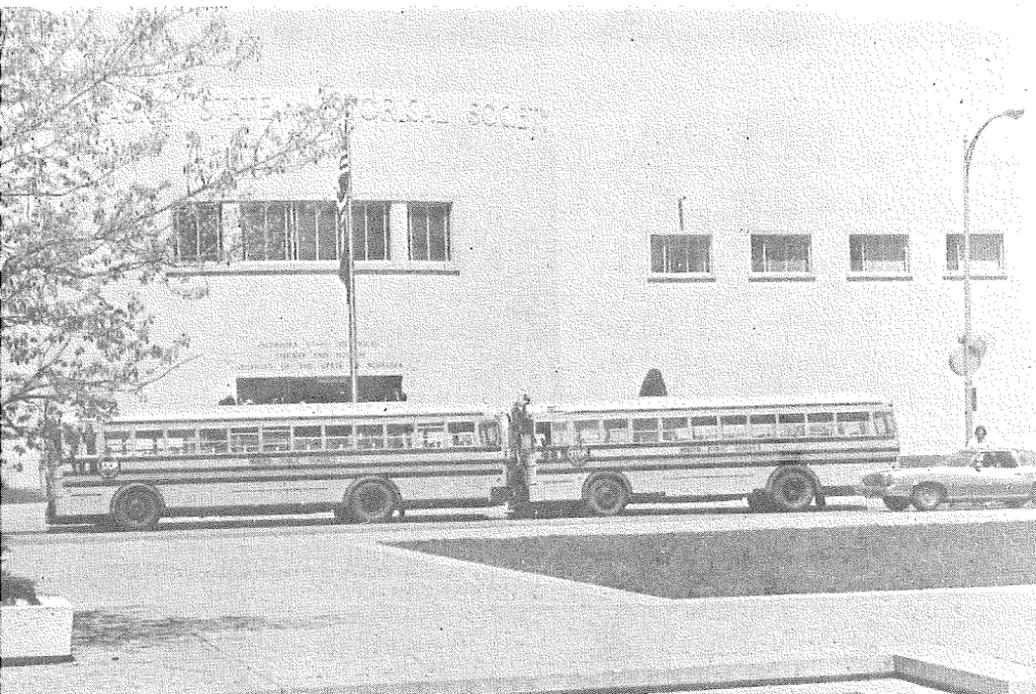


*Museum Curator Wendell Frantz (left, above) and Artist Herbert Thomas provide information on displays at the annual fall Workshop session. . . . Archivist James Potter (below) conducts Workshop session on research materials available at the Nebraska State Historical Society.*





*Added emphasis to the arts and crafts has provided new interest in special Musuem exhibits. Gail DeBuse, Museum Registrar (above), demonstrates loom. . . . Thousands of school children visit the Society Museum in Lincoln by bus (below), but lack of parking prevents many tourists from stopping.*



large built-in area in the east gallery of the museum, 21 feet long and 9 feet deep. Twenty-one displays in the museum were rebuilt or replaced. One of these displays was of the tools, materials and products of spinning and weaving. A display of quilts was installed in the special exhibits area on the second floor. The 2nd floor hall has been utilized to display art work from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration artists collection. Subjects included in this collection are contemporary and historic Nebraska scenes, depression era scenes, and NRA poster art.

The curator of collections reports a total of 120 donors to the museum and 1,345 items cataloged into the historic collections during the year. A wide variety of objects are received each year. One of the major donations received this year is a beaded buckskin dress given by Mrs. Harriet Persinger Searcy Murphy, which is reported to have belonged to Standing Holy, the daughter of the well-known Hunkpapa Teton Dakota chief, Sitting Bull. Museum items are also loaned for temporary display at special events such as the exhibition of 34 quilts and coverlets at a Lincoln shopping center.

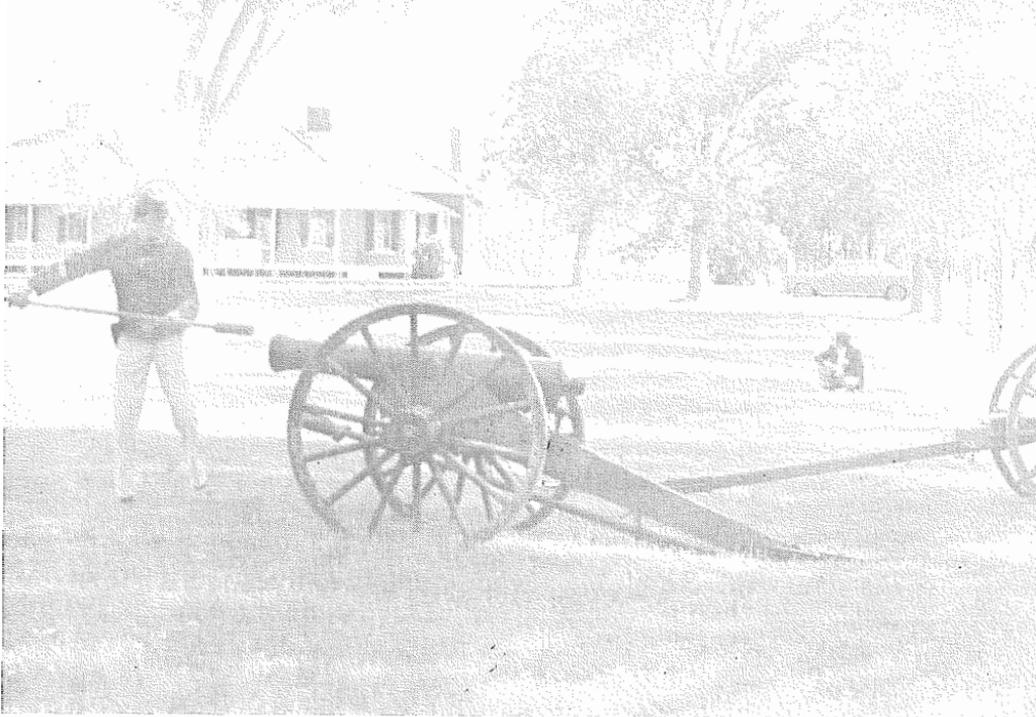
The museum photographer made approximately 2,000 prints for display, use in Society publications, and for various patrons. Copy negatives were made of 483 pictures and 99 rolls of film were developed for staff use. Color transparencies were also made for museum and publication use.

The staff of the museum continues to be involved in assisting local museums through personal contacts, correspondence, and the annual workshop, in planning and production of displays, cataloging systems, building planning, and organization.

### BRANCH MUSEUMS

The Division of Branch Museums has continued to grow. The last Legislature assigned the responsibility to the Society for the development of the John G. Neihardt Center in Bancroft. By the end of June, tentative plans for the Center had been approved, and it is hoped that by the next annual report the building will be nearing completion. The Curator of Branch Museums, Carl Hugh Jones, traveled 15,000 miles on Society business.

At the end of the 1973 summer season some public service



*Cannoneer at various Centennial flag-raising ceremonies at Fort Robinson this year was James Potter, Archivist of the Nebraska State Historical Society.*

spots highlighting the branch museums were provided by KOLN-TV and KGIN-TV. We were able to expand this service in 1974 to all commercial TV stations in the state and to cover all of the Society's museums. We are indeed grateful to the television stations for their support. Mr. Jones has also been active in the creation of a Nebraska Attractions Association, which will aid in informing the traveling public about Nebraska attractions. Mr. Jones also serves on the Council of the Mountain-Plains Museums Conference as State Representative.

The following is a summary of activities for the various Branch Museums:

*Fort Robinson* – This was an important year for the Fort Robinson Museum program. The Fort was founded 100 years ago, and after two years of intensive planning, a series of Centennial activities started on March 29 with a musical performance in Howard Dodd Hall. On April 26 over 2,000 school children from the area participated in a school Field-Trip Day at the Fort with such activities as the "Living History Demonstration" team from the National Park Service at Fort Laramie and the ROTC drill team from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

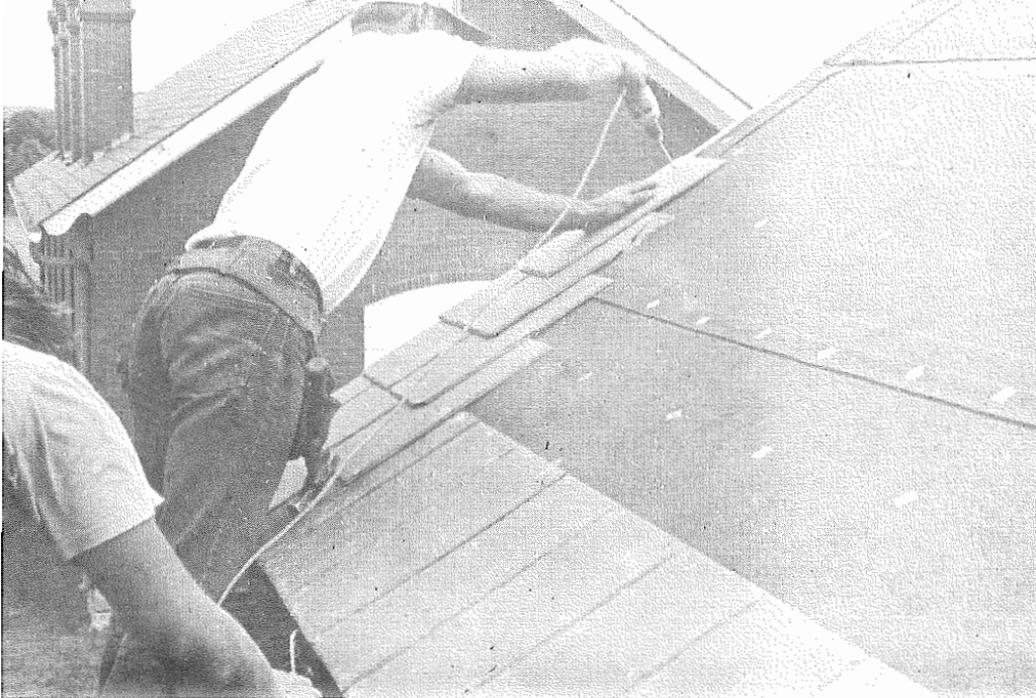


*Over 2,000 school children from the three-state area surrounding Fort Robinson turned out for the Centennial Field Day sponsored by the Society in April.*

The Centennial activities and the promotional program of the Fort Robinson Centennial Commission have resulted in the reversal of a drop in attendance caused by last summer's failing gasoline supplies. Attendance at the Fort in the main museum was 27,512, and in other buildings some 12,865 people were counted.

The Centennial was not the only activity going on at the Fort this past year. New slate roofs were installed on the 1905 Post Headquarters Building, and on the Blacksmith and Harness Repair shops. The 1936 Garage #201 located behind the adobes was restored with a new roof and paint job. Restoration work is also continuing on the Wheelwright's Shop. The new slate roofs and work on the Wheelwright's Shop, as well as the finishing touches carried out on the 1887 adobe Officers' Quarters, are part of our historic preservation projects. One half the costs of these projects come from the National Parks Service.

The successes of Fort Robinson would not have been possible without the dedication of the staff at the Fort. Vance Nelson, Curator, not only provided the leadership for the Museum, but has put in many hours as secretary of the Fort Robinson Centennial Commission.



*Workmen at Fort Robinson have laid slate shingles on the roof of the 1904 Harness Shop at Fort Robinson as restoration work is carried out by the Society.*

Six new panel exhibits dealing with the buildings and the history of the post, were completed this year. Research into the history of the post, the units present, and the commanding officers was carried out. This resulted in the families of some of the former commanding officers visiting the post during the centennial, and we also located Colonel Lee O. Hill, the last commanding officer, who was able to be present for the soldiers' reunion. Colonel Hill came to the post at the beginning of World War II as a second lieutenant and was there until 1949.

*Chimney Rock National Historic Site* – Since 1939 the Historical Society has owned Chimney Rock, which was designated a National Historic Site on August 9, 1956, by the Secretary of the Interior. Since the summer of 1966, the Society has operated a summer museum program from a trailer in the Bayard City Park on Nebraska Highway 92, about two miles north of Chimney Rock. Over the years attendance has continued to grow until this year it reached 14,169 visitors, or about three times what it was in 1966.

*Trailers No. 1 and No. 2* – In 1968 we initiated the three trailer museums and placed two of them along I-80 and the third at Chimney Rock. These two mobile museums continue to

be popular with the interstate travelers, as they provide an outline of Nebraska's history as well as information on sites to visit. Attendance did fall, due to the gasoline shortage, but still remained at 13,075 for Trailer No. 1 in the Grand Island westbound rest area and 7,893 in the Maxwell-Brady eastbound rest area. These two trailers operate from about Memorial Day to Labor Day.

*Norris Home* – This spring Mrs. Darlene Brooks of McCook replaced Mr. Bonow as Curator. This is the fifth full year of operation at the Norris Home.

*Neligh Mills* – The Mills have completed their first full year of official operation with 3,363 visitors. This reflects local efforts, including the assistance of the Neligh Centennial Committee, in promoting the mill during the summer of 1973.

The flume and penstock have been the subject of a year-long research and engineering study, which we hope will result in the restoration of these important features of the mill. The brick on the mill was tuck-pointed and the exterior surface waterproofed. The mill office was also air conditioned, making it a more pleasant place to visit and work.

*Mud Springs* – This was the first year of operations for Mud Springs, a Stagecoach, Pony Express, and Telegraph Station located in Nebraska's Panhandle. The museum, which is off the beaten path, has proved an interesting experiment in advertising. Approximately half of the visitors find their way to the museum from the directional signs on U.S. Highway 385 and on the back road from Courthouse and Jail House rocks. One fourth of the visitors come from the local area because of newspaper articles, and the rest find their way to the museum as the result of word of mouth and our other promotional activities. It is expected that as the site becomes more generally known, the attendance will continue to increase to the old stone school house museum graciously loaned by the Mud Springs Women's Club.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

During the past year the Society has become increasingly involved in its Historic Preservation Program. I serve as the State Historic Preservation Officer for Nebraska as provided for in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Under provisions of

the law, historical, architectural, and archeologically significant buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects are nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Enrollment in the National Register potentially qualifies such properties for grants-in-aid assistance from the National Park Service.

Four staff members work in the preservation program. During the fiscal year twenty new properties were enrolled in the National Register, a majority, reflecting Nebraska's important aboriginal history. Nebraska has had ninety-eight properties approved since the establishment of the Register.

The grants program received an expanded federal grant of \$102,200 to be matched from state and private sources. In addition to continuing the restoration of Neligh Mill and Fort Robinson, funds have been committed for the Fort Sidney Bachelor Officers' Quarters Restoration Project, sponsored by the Cheyenne County Historical Association; the Phelps Hotel Restoration, sponsored by the Phelps Hotel Historical Preservation Association of Big Springs; architectural research preparatory to the Western Heritage Society's restoration of the Omaha Union Passenger Terminal; restoration of the Episcopal Church of Our Most Merciful Saviour on the Santee Reservation; and restoration of the Brownville Historical Society's John Carson House and Carriage House.

### ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK

In June and July of 1973, the second and final season of archeological investigations were carried out at a historical site in Fontenelle Forest near Bellevue. This project was supervised by Richard E. Jensen, Curator of Anthropology. By combining the information obtained from the archeological excavations and the data from historical documents and maps a fairly clear history of this outpost is emerging. It appears to have been established as a permanent fur trading post, probably in the closing months of 1822, by the reorganized Missouri Fur Company under Joshua Pilcher. With the collapse of the company in 1827, it was purchased by Lucien Fontenelle. He operated the post until 1832 when it was sold to the federal government for \$1,000. From that time until its abandonment it 1839, the post served as headquarters for the Omaha, Oto, Missouri, and Pawnee Indian Agency under John Dougherty. A



*Staff Archeologists Gayle Carlson (left) and Terry Steinacher investigate the remains of a prehistoric Indian earthlodge disturbed by road construction in Indian Cave State Park. (Courtesy of Lincoln Star)*

full report on the history and archeology of this site is being prepared by the Curator of Anthropology.

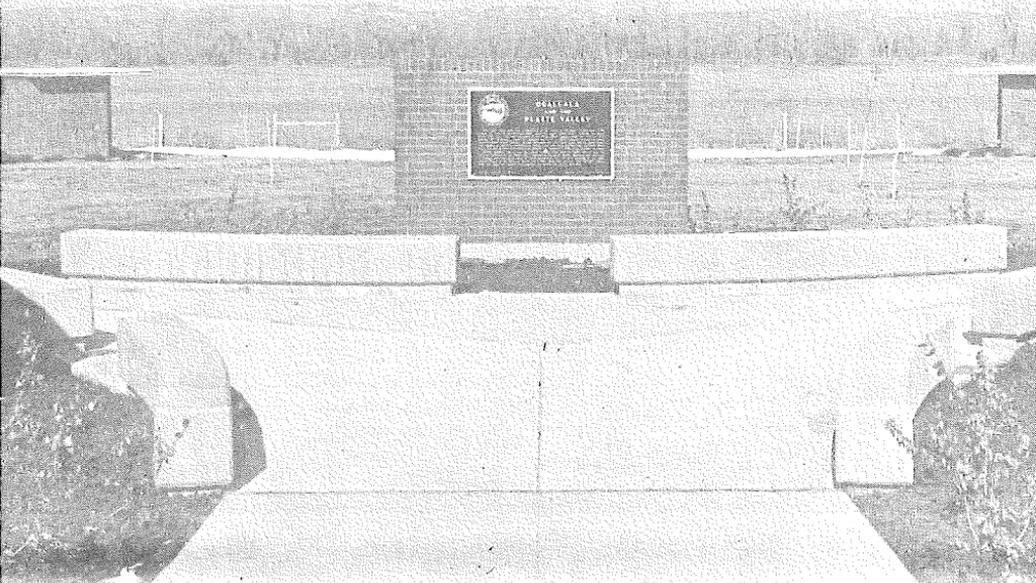
In March of this year a manuscript entitled *Archeological Investigations at the Crow Creek Site (39 BF 11), Fort Randall Reservoir Area, South Dakota* by Marvin F. Kivett and Richard E. Jensen was accepted by the National Park Service in fulfillment of an archeological salvage contract. This report describes the excavations at a site in central South Dakota where the remains of two earthlodge villages were examined by the Society in 1954 and 1955. The older village was inhabited during a part of the thirteenth century while the more recent was occupied about A.D. 1500. The latter occupation is of special interest to Nebraska prehistory because it may represent a northward migration of peoples who formerly lived in the eastern and southern portions of the state.

During the past year Highway Salvage Archeologists Gayle Carlson and Terry Steinacher conducted surveys on ninety-nine highway projects throughout Nebraska. During the course of project surveying, thirteen previously reported sites were reexamined and thirteen new sites were recorded. Salvage excavations were completed for the Homer-Winnebago project,



*The Mormon Trail, the route taken by the Latter-day Saints from Omaha to Salt Lake City, is marked in Hall County with the cooperation of the Hall County Historical Society.*

which bisected the site of a former Omaha Indian Village (25DK5) occupied during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Several storage pits were uncovered and a sample of artifacts which consisted principally of European trade material was obtained. A depression was tested north of the Gretna Fish Hatchery and was shown to be the remains of a prehistoric earthlodge of the Nebraska Phase, dating circa A.D. 1150-1350. Another site near Lodgepole, Nebraska (25CN53) was tested with results indicating that the site will have minimal damage by highway construction. Surface collections from 25CN53 suggest that the site was occupied at least two different times. Near the highway were found Dismal River materials dating to circa A.D. 1675-1725, and in an adjoining pasture were collected stone artifacts of Archaic origin, probably dating to the period 6000 B.C. to A.D. 1. Arrangements have been completed for excavations on the above-mentioned earthlodge depression north of the Gretna Fish Hatchery in Sarpy County and at two historic territorial townsites, DeSoto and Cuming City, in Washington County, Nebraska. These projects are scheduled for completion during the 1974-1975 period.



*A new style of State Historical Marker (above) has been designed in cooperation with the Department of Roads for pedestrian traffic in rest areas on I-80. This marker is near Ogallala. . . . (Below) Marker dedications are also a time to become acquainted.*

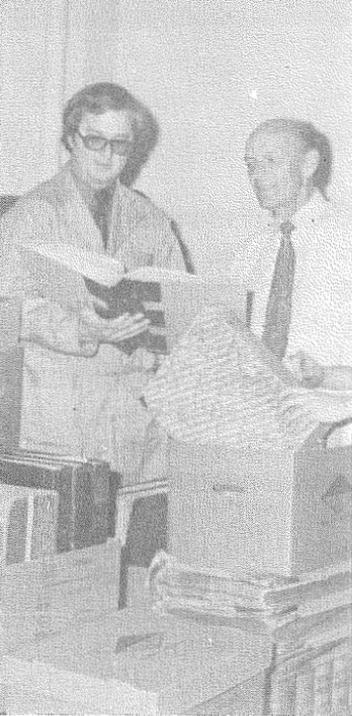


## STATE OF NEBRASKA ARCHIVES

Accessions of the State Archives have continued at a steady pace during 1973-1974. Unfortunately, adequate storage space to allow for the further expansion of the Archives' preservation program is no longer available within the Society building. This is a serious consideration with respect to the thousands of cubic feet of historical materials which still remain in private hands or in agencies of state and local government. The microfilming program of the State Archives continues operation at maximum capacity, filming files of Nebraska newspapers. As long as the backlog of newspaper files remains, we will be unable to devote more than token efforts to the preservation of archival and manuscript materials via the microfilming process unless another microfilm camera is acquired. In addition, many rare or unique published sources within the library collection must be considered for microfilming in the near future if they are to be preserved.

The acquisition of several important manuscript collections and public record groups have highlighted the achievements of the State Archives during the past year. Under the direction of Donald Snoddy, the Manuscript Division has received such important collections as the Congressman Dan V. Stephens papers, 1911-1919; the papers of Robert G. Simmons, Congressman from 1923-1933 and Nebraska Chief Justice, 1939-1963; papers of Congressman Archibald J. Weaver, 1883-1887; the legislative files of State Senator Lester Harsh, 1965-1969; papers of Nebraska historian J. R. Johnson, 1939-1973; records of the Nebraska Friends Meeting (Quaker), 1898-1952; and records of the Lincoln Land Company, ca. 1880-1974. The Lincoln Land Company records represent a very important resource because the company was instrumental in the platting and development of many townsites and lands in Nebraska and Wyoming in conjunction with the building of the Burlington Railroad. Several manuscript collections have been placed on microfilm, including the minutes of the Omaha, Lincoln, and Beatrice Railway Co., 1903-1929; Records of the Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, 1857-1973; and papers of the Gilbert M. Hitchcock-Henry Doorly families of Omaha, 1910-1936.

Research for seven books, numerous theses and dissertations, and a variety of seminar papers and articles has been undertaken



*Papers of the Lincoln Land Company have been accessioned by the Archives. Manuscript Curator David Hooper (left) confers with donor William J. Turner. Assistant Archivist Donald Snoddy and Wayne Waggoner (right) process records.*

within the Manuscript Division. Among the collections receiving the most attention have been the Senator Hugh Butler and Senator Kenneth Wherry papers for studies of "Bi-partisan U.S. Foreign Policy, 1949-1953"; "Congress and the Cold War"; and "Political Economy of War, 1937-1955". The J. Sterling Morton papers have been examined in conjunction with a proposed book on the reaction to reconstruction in the West. Willa Cather and Mari Sandoz remain popular subjects for literary studies. Other interests on the part of scholars and students have included the careers of jurist Roscoe Pound; the late Poet Laureate John G. Neihardt; and William F. Cody and the Wild West Show. In cooperation with the Society museum, a display case was prepared which outlined the careers of several of Nebraska's important political figures, including John M. Thurston, Church Howe, and Gilbert M. Hitchcock. Although these men played important roles in our history, for the most part few of their personal or political papers have come to light.

Much of our work during the year has emphasized the inventory and preservation of county records having historical value. This is one of the State Archives' major statutory responsibilities. Some forty offices in seventeen counties across the state have been visited by the staff since July 1, 1973.

Assistant Archivist David Johnson spent much of his time in the western Nebraska counties where little work had been done in the past. In several instances important records were transferred into the Archives for permanent preservation. In others, records were microfilmed here and returned to the county officials. In some counties, Archives personnel assisted in the inventory and disposal of several hundred cubic feet of obsolete records which had occupied valuable space within courthouses for years. For those counties operating their own microfilming program, we have continued to provide safe archival storage for the security negatives. This service has grown rapidly and 1973-1974 has seen an addition of more than 2,100 reels of security microfilm to the holdings, making the total more than 5,500 reels.

Among the county records accessioned by the State Archives were tax lists from the counties of Lancaster, 1864-1952; Scottsbluff, 1887-1949; York, 1870-1950; Wayne, 1871-1940; and Platte, 1860-1953. Court records continued to come to the Archives as a result of the reorganization of the Nebraska Court system.

County records have been used by students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and elsewhere for a variety of research projects including an examination of lawyers on the Nebraska frontier.

Accessions of state records during 1973-1974 have included minutes of the State College Board, 1906-1963; annual statements of domestic insurance companies from the Department of Insurance, 1950-1970; legislative bills from the Secretary of State, 1969-1970; transcripts of hearings of the now defunct Water Pollution Control Council, 1958-1968; and Attorney General's case files, 1951-1966.

There has been continued cooperation between the State Archives and the Records Management Division, Office of the Secretary of State. Staff members from both offices have cooperated to make several visits to county and state agencies to inventory and evaluate records and record-keeping practices.

On a day-to-day basis more persons utilize the resources of the Microfilm Division than any other segment of the State Archives' holdings. Students, genealogists, and the general public all find important reference material within the extensive collection of Nebraska newspapers, census records, and manu-

script materials which are available on microfilm. Despite increasing demands on the staff for public service, the microfilming of newspapers and other primary sources continues without interruption. In addition to the Division's service to patrons visiting the society, 328 reels of microfilm were sold to the general public, to local historical societies, and to scholars.

An important new service for genealogists has been the interlibrary loan program instituted by the National Archives. Now patrons are able to borrow microfilmed census records from the regional branches of the National Archives system by requesting them through the State Archives or other qualified libraries. This makes out-of-state census records available for use here at the Society. During the past year 56 individual requests to borrow census microfilm were processed by the Archives staff.

Significant personnel changes have included the resignation of Assistant State Archivist David Johnson on Feb. 1, 1974, to accept a similar position at the Michigan State Archives in Lansing. New to the staff is David H. Hooper, a native of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a Ph.D. candidate in History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. As Manuscript Curator, Mr. Hooper is responsible for a variety of activities relating to the collection and preservation of manuscript sources dealing with all aspects of Nebraska history. Former Manuscript Curator Donald Snoddy has assumed coordination of the state and local records program of the State Archives as Assistant State Archivist. In this capacity he has contacted numerous county and state officials and has worked closely with the Records Management Division, Office of Secretary of State.

Funds from the U.S. Department of Labor under the Public Employment Program enabled us to add in July, 1974, a full-time microfilm technician to the staff. Funding of this position under the public Employment Program will continue at least through December, 1974, at which time state funds will allow the retention of this employee as a permanent staff member.

Fiscal 1974-1975 will be marked by the addition of a fourth professional staff member to the State Archives. By the appropriation which made this possible the Legislature has recognized the need for adequate professional staff to carry out

our statutory responsibilities for the collection and preservation of historical materials. Recognition of our immediate requirements for more space must also be forthcoming if the archival program is to continue to grow and meet the needs of government and the public.

Expansion of the Society's physical plant is realistically some years away. Yet archival storage within the building is now exhausted for all practical purposes. It would be ironic if the lack of physical facilities should curtail our efforts to preserve Nebraska's documentary history at the very time when both the size and quality of the staff dictates increased efforts toward realizing this goal.

### LIBRARY

The important research and reference work of the Library has continued under the direction of Mrs. Louise Small. Certain changes in emphasis are apparent as one studies the library statistics for the year. An intensive microfilming program has put much material on microfilm, thus increasing the patrons' use of that media, rather than the standard printed word. This is reflected in the drop in number of patrons using the library and an increase in the number of patrons using material on microfilm. The increase of requests by mail and telephone rather than in person may also be the result of our difficult parking situation. As our significant photographic collection becomes increasingly well-known, we received more letters, requesting prints, than we had patrons visiting the Library in person.

Lack of space has made us more discriminating in the books we add to our collection. Cooperation between the local libraries has made specialization more possible. Often the same sets of seldom-used publications have been part of the collections in five libraries within a mile radius. We have tried to withdraw from our collection those which had more significance in some other libraries, and others have followed the same procedure.

In this, Fort Robinson's Centennial Year, we have added to the Branch Library at the Fort. Much of this addition has come from the Emil Kopac Memorial Collection, which was a gift to the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1971. Sorting and



*Congested conditions in the working areas of the Library are apparent in the above picture. In the foreground is Mrs. Marie Wiles, Plattsmouth, a patron; in the center, Sheila Jacobs and Cynthia Lee (partially obscured), Library Secretaries; at rear, Donald Snoddy and James Potter, Archivists.*

processing has taken longer than anticipated but has made possible a fine Branch Library at Fort Robinson. We urge students, scholars, and others in western Nebraska to take advantage of this Library housed in the Headquarters Building at Fort Robinson.

In the annual reports for the last four years, the Librarian has called attention to the increase in patrons interested in genealogy. As this becomes almost a national interest, this cannot be too earnestly emphasized. Over 50% of the telephone calls and letters received by the Library Staff concern family history. Recently a national news magazine devoted several pages to the subject. Some years ago the state libraries pooled their genealogical resources at the Society, making ours the largest and finest genealogical library in the State. Genealogy is no longer the inexpensive hobby of elderly persons. Our fine library here contains irreplaceable material which is rapidly deteriorating. Our goal is to place this material on microfilm.

As in all libraries and other information media, the situation is changing rapidly. The best preservation method now available is microfilm. Sociological and economic history is replacing the adventurer and his brave deeds. The library of the future, whether it be genealogical, historical, or anthropological is changing rapidly and users must accept that change.

#### IN SUMMARY

In each department there is evidence of some progress. One of the important gains has been the recognition by State Government that our Nebraska history is deserving of an adequate staff not only in number but in quality. This is particularly noticeable in the Archives Program where some ten years ago we had the equivalent of one half-time professional staff member and now have four such staff members. There has been a similar expansion in the museum program as new responsibilities are assumed. In 1963 our full time staff was 21 and in 1974 our full time staff numbered 55. In my 25th year with the Society, I recall in 1949 that the total staff numbered seven.

Our number one goal must be that of acquiring expanded quarters if the full talents of the staff are to be utilized. As noted earlier, with the enactment of L.B. 704 by the last

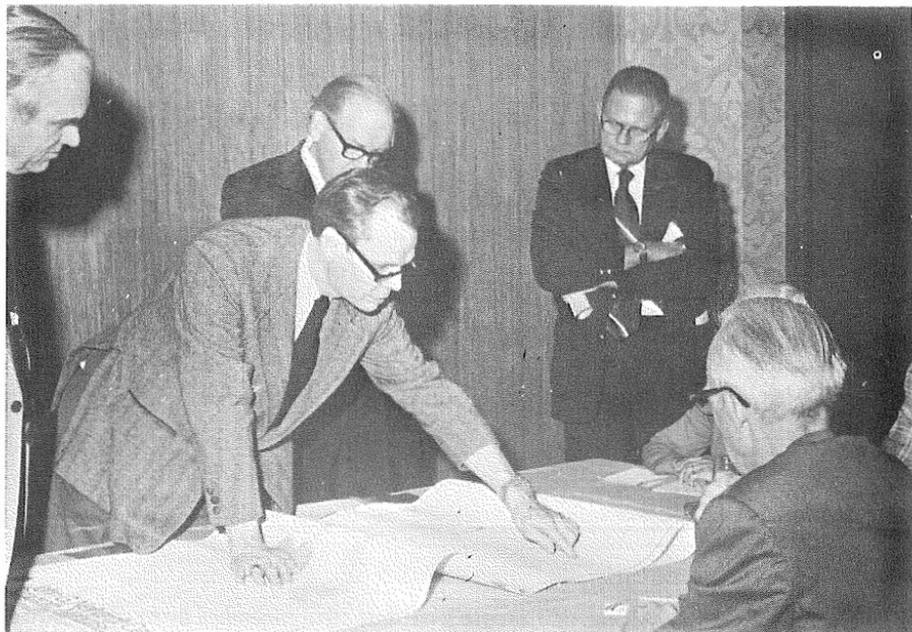


*The Hudson Log Cabin, one of Lincoln's earliest structures has been dismantled by the Society preparatory to restoration in a different location. Curtis Peacock (above), Society Museum Artist, measures structural beams.*

Legislature we now have an excellent site for the museum building. It is expected that funds will be requested during the next two years for planning and design. Upon the completion of these plans we will seek construction funds. This somewhat extended period for plans could be cut in half if funds were made available. It is certain we will need the help of all Nebraskans interested in their history if we are to reach our goal. It should be noted that L.B. 704 authorizes the Society to accept public and private funds for such construction.

Throughout this report there is evidence of the support provided by the Society Foundation. Some fifty Foundation Trustees throughout the state under the leadership of M. S. Hevelone work for the benefit of the Society. The Foundation needs expanded support if it is to be a factor in the construction of a new building. Your non-profit foundation is deserving of support, which may also be given through wills or bequests.

Your Society Executive Board, headed the past two years by Professor James A. Rawley, has been responsible for much of the progress reported today. Our dedicated staff has worked to achieve our goals.



Architect Larry Enerson (left, center) explains plans for the John G. Neihardt Center now under construction at Bancroft to Society Executive Board members (from left): James A. Rawley, Maurice S. Hevelone, Otto Kotouc, Jr., Nellie Snyder Yost (partially obscured), and Marvin F. Kivett, Director.

## WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

1860 - - 1925

THREE-TIME NOMINEE OF DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY FOR U.S. PRESIDENT

CONGRESSMAN - U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE

ORATOR - RELIGIOUS LEADER - AUTHOR

"YOU SHALL NOT CRUCIFY MANKIND  
UPON A CROSS OF GOLD."

ELECTED TO NEBRASKA HALL OF FAME 1971

SCULPTOR  
WILLIAM WHITNEY MANATT

BUST DONATED BY  
BRYAN FAMILY

A Society-related activity is the Nebraska Hall of Fame in the State Capitol. This plaque was installed there following the dedication of the William Jennings Bryan bust in March, 1974.