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Article Summary: This article is the transcript of Director Marvin F Kivett's remarks at the Annual Meeting in Lincoln, September 6, 1980. It is, essentially, the "state of the society" address.

THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1980

By Marvin F. Kivett, Director

Presented in part at the Annual Meeting in Lincoln, September 6, 1980

It is always of interest to look back on the history of the Society and particularly as we observed our centennial in 1978. Common to most of the reports are statements dealing with a lack of an adequate budget and the increased workload. They all note progress in one form or another.

At the meeting of the Society at the Commercial Hotel, Lincoln, on January 21, 1880, Secretary Samuel Aughey reported progress. A thousand printed circulars had been produced setting forth the aims of the Society and listing the members. A legislative committee had also agreed to appropriate \$300 a year for the Society. Aughey reported, however, that for some reason he "could not discern, this appropriation was left out" of the bill on final passage. For lack of funds to pay a copyist, he was unable to secure many important manuscripts. He had made a special effort to collect the Centennial addresses of 1876 and had those from two-thirds of the counties. The membership also took action to approve a budget for the year. The secretary was allowed \$25 for incidental expenses of his office and a salary of \$100 for the year 1880.

A century later we are still not always able to discern why our budget requests are sometimes left out of the final passage of the budget bills, but we do make a special effort to prevent such action. Authorized staff for the year stood at 118 full-time employees. Almost without exception the statistics that we tabulate to justify our annual budget request reflect an increased workload. It is not my purpose to quote figures but rather to provide a summary statement on the overall work of each division.

The Administrative Division headed by John Caleca handles all business affairs including budget preparation. Historian Leigh DeLay and Editorial Assistant Patricia Gaster edit all

Society publications, including *Nebraska History*. As Society Director, I serve on a number of boards or commissions, including the Hall of Fame Commission and the State Records Board. A special function, that of State Historic Preservation Officer, accounts for some 40 percent of my time.

Among the most important duties of a Society Director is to work closely with the Executive Board to secure an adequate budget to attract and maintain a qualified staff. History and other cultural activities have always had a relatively low priority with the competition for state funds increasing each year. This last year we were forced to cut many desirable activities from our operations, and this will be the pattern for the year ahead. Our budget has increased each year but with this increase has come added responsibilities.

At present we have responsibility for the maintenance of some 27 important structures throughout the state, ranging from the small study used by Poet John G. Neihardt to the *Meriwether Lewis*, Missouri River dredge, which approaches the length of a football field. The most recent acquisition is the former Lincoln Elks Lodge building of some 70,000 square feet. Associated with these structures are some 225 acres of land, all of which must be maintained. Our largest land areas include some 80 acres at Chimney Rock and a similar acreage at Courthouse Rock, both major landmarks on the Oregon Trail.

Our relationship with other state agencies during the year has been excellent and of benefit to the preservation and interpretation of our history. We work closely with the Department of Roads under the direction of David Coolidge. The department funds two archeologists on the Society staff to be certain that archeological remains will not be damaged by road construction. We also have excellent cooperation with the department in the historical markers program throughout the state.

We continue to have excellent cooperation from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission headed by Director Gene Mahoney. Under a memorandum of agreement the Society provides research of various kinds, including archeological. This year Society archeologists began work at Rock Creek Station in Jefferson County. The Society is also aiding the Commission in its efforts to improve their exhibits and interpretation at several of the historical parks. Last year the Society completed exhibits for the new visitors' center at Ash Hollow in Garden County.



Charles C. Osborne of Hastings retired from the Nebraska State Historical Society Board following the Fall Meeting in Lincoln. He served as the Society President between 1965 and 1967.



James C. Olson (left), president of the University of Missouri system, addresses Fall Meeting. At right is Executive Board member Otto Kotouc Jr., Humboldt. . . (Below) Edwin J. Faulkner (right), Lincoln, Foundation President, presents Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award to Lloyd M. Kunkel, M.D. of Weeping Water. Dennis N. Mihelich, Creighton University, received the James L. Sellers Memorial Award.





Participants in February 29 Standing Bear bust dedication, Nebraska Hall of Fame: Governor Charles Thone (left); State Senator Richard Marvel; Mrs. Fred Wells, Hall of Fame Commission chairman; bust sculptor Ted Long; Marvin Buzzard, Nebraska Indian Commission director; Nebraska Supreme Court Justice Norman Krivosha; Miss Nebraska, Kathy Saathoff. . . .(Below) Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robinson at August 2 state historical marker dedication near John Hollman grave, Garden County.





The reconstructed office for Senator Carl T. Curtis was dedicated at the Harold Warp Pioneer Village, Minden, May 31, as part of 27th anniversary observances for pioneer Village. Participants included Mrs. Curtis (left), Senator Curtis, and Harold Warp. . . . (Below) Society Director Marvin Kivett (right center) commends Lincoln Community Women's Club chairman Lois Williams during a July 8 coffee for docents at the Ferguson House.





Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson attended the October 3 opening of the Ferguson House, Lincoln. Ferguson is the grandson of William Henry Ferguson, who built the home in 1909-1911. Lynne Ireland is Society Coordinator for the Center for Nebraska Folklife, now located in the Ferguson Mansion. Curator of the nearby Kennard House is JoAnne Kissel. . . . (Below) Attending the opening were Lieutenant Governor Roland Luedtke and Mrs. Luedtke (right).



LINCOLN MUSEUM

Museum Curator Wendell Frantz reports an attendance of 50,363, down slightly from 1979, reflecting a decrease in the traveling public, especially in July and August. Records show that school systems are curtailing class field trips. Interestingly, Kennard House attendance of 13,467, is up 1,100 visitors over last year. Special exhibits at the Ferguson Mansion have helped increase attendance at the Kennard House nearby. Seasonal exhibits at the Kennard House interpreting aspects of Victorian life included one titled "Wedding at the Residence of Thomas P. Kennard." "Christmas: A Child's Perspective" was accompanied by a related exhibit at the main Museum. An exhibit on cleaning and housekeeping techniques in conjunction with Nebraska folk crafts demonstrations was displayed at the Ferguson Mansion.

The Center for Nebraska Folklife at the Ferguson Mansion is supervised by a coordinator, a state-supported position. A \$15,000 federal grant has enabled the center to inaugurate a field survey of traditional artists and artisans with Kay Young as director. Following her research folk arts presentations will be made at the Cather Center, Neligh Mills, Neihardt Center, and Fort Robinson. Photographs, recorded interviews, and other materials gathered during the survey will be available to researchers at the Ferguson Mansion.

Public presentations were held at the Ferguson Mansion to acquaint people with various aspects of Nebraska's folk heritage: a "Traditional Music Festival," with traditional Serbo-Croatian, German-Russian, Czech, and American country music; "Nebraska's Folk Art Heritage in Quilts," an exhibit of over 70 quilts from Nebraska collections in cooperation with the Lincoln Quilters Guild, including 12 examples of the work of "Nebraska's Quilting Queen," Grace Snyder of North Platte; "Holiday Traditions," a festival of food craft and custom in cooperation with the Lincoln Junior League featured elements of Czech, Jewish, and Danish tradition; "Whirligigs, Whimmey Diddles and Thingamagigs," folk crafts including Omaha Indian beadwork, whittling, toy making and cornhusk doll making and a special display of Nebraska-made whirligigs. Photographs, made by the Shonseys during their survey of folklife in western Nebraska, were used to produce "Scenes

from Panhandle Folklife," an exhibit shown in Scottsbluff and in Lincoln.

Restoration of the Ferguson Mansion is progressing, the "tear down" stage having passed and "put back" stage progressing rapidly. The 1st floor, stairs, and 2nd floor foyer have been carpeted and the 1st and 2nd floors repainted and papered. Much concern has gone into choosing materials which would be proper for the period of about 1910.

During the year 177 collections were logged—84 from new donors, 52 from previous donors, and 41 from other departments; 2,226 items were cataloged. Loans were made on 28 occasions, which involved 23 borrowers and 112 items. A large percentage of our loans consisted of paintings placed in state offices and the Governor's Mansion. Among the major accessions during the year have been tools and materials from the Lincoln Art Glass Shop; four working models of agricultural machinery built between 1928 and 1930 by the Smolczyk brothers of Ogallala and donated by Mrs. Karyn Stansbery of Brule. The Collections Department was involved in a large number of projects beyond the basic work of receiving donations, cataloging artifacts and the maintenance and management of the museum historical collections. Gail DeBuse Potter worked on the restoration and decoration of the Ferguson Mansion, Arbor Lodge, and governor's suite in the Capitol. Research and production of Kennard House and Ash Hollow exhibits and painting exhibits at the State Office Building were also completed. An increased use of Collections Department reference literature is being made by students, collectors, and institutions; even the National Park Service has used our resources.

The Education Department provided tours to 8,307 people in 229 groups. Curator of Education Dick Spencer assisted with audio-visual programming for the State Fair and exhibits at the Kennard House and Lincoln Museum. Two educational leaflets were published: *Flour Milling in Nebraska* and *An Outline of Nebraska Archeology*. A docent program has been organized at the Governor's Mansion. Community Women's Club members provide volunteer staff aiding Gwendoline Birky, Fairview docent, and Mrs. Mary Gake part-time docent at the Kennard House. KOLN-TV of Lincoln has give the Society \$7,240 worth of air time in public service announcements.

The Education Department Junior Historian program super-



State Archivist Jim Potter (left) watches Society Secretary Dorothy Jackson serve cake to Building Superintendent Alfred Riggert during February 27 observance of his retirement after 22 years of service. . . (Below) Society Curator of Collections Robert Pettit examines museum artifacts.





Society Curator of Education Dick Spencer (left) with Student Historian award winners and advisors: Ralph Spencer, Sidney; Sandy Bianchi, Millard; Tim Moll, Deshler; Terry Welte, Millard; Mark Anderson (front left) and Joe Brinjack, both of Millard. . . . (Below) Stromsburg fourth graders under teacher Mrs. Wallace Fredrickson tour the Lincoln Museum. Photo courtesy of Stromsburg Headlight.



vises 18 chapters (386 members) and produced five newsletters. Awards were presented to the following chapters: first place, senior division, Sidney High Historical Society; first place, junior division, Millard North History Club, Omaha; honorable mention, junior division, Sandhills Student Historians, Angora; individual award for outstanding research paper, Timothy L. Moll, Deshler Lutheran Husker Historians.

The Lincoln Museum supervises placing exhibits on the main floor of the State Office Building. One group was a *pot pourri* entitled "Painting From The Collections"; another, Civil Works Administration (1930s) paintings and drawings. Shows were sponsored by the Old Church Art Guild of Syracuse and the Lincoln Artists Guild. Photos by Ron Giebert of rodeo and fair scenes and the exhibition of architectural photos, "Dreams in Dry Places," were also displayed.

Society-sponsored traveling exhibits included "Images of Nebraska," photos by four young Nebraska photographers, Roger Bruhn, Larry Ferguson, Bill Ganzel, and Maggie MacKichan. Traveling under the auspices of the Nebraska Arts Council it showed in Ogallala, Blair, Omaha, Kearney, Aurora, Ord, Gordon, and Bassett. A second touring exhibit was "Progress in the West," of platinum prints from E. H. Rinehart negatives of Omaha's Trans-Mississippi Exposition (1898). This show by the Society was made possible by a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities. After being on display at the Society Building in Lincoln, it exhibited in Kearney, North Platte, Hastings, Holdrege, Syracuse, Omaha, and Beatrice.

The Museum cooperated in the production of an exhibit sponsored by the Society, the University of Nebraska School of Architecture, and the Center for Great Plains Studies: "Dreams in Dry Places," photographs interpreting Nebraska architecture. The Society Museum assisted in development of a traveling exhibit, "Of Dust Bowl Descent," sponsored by the Society and the Center for Great Plains Studies.

Several exhibits developed for use by the Museum have since been loaned. One, "Nebraska Farming," includes photos relating to farm machinery. Another exhibit reproduces pages from 1880s seed catalogs. These exhibits have been used by museums and libraries in Holdrege, Syracuse, and other communities. Other loan exhibits include photos from the John Anderson and Crossland Collections.

Over 25 lectures were given or meetings held. The museum hosted an American Association for State and Local History seminar, "Interpreting the Humanities through Museum Exhibits." Folklife Coordinator Lynne Ireland served on the faculty of the seminar here and at Fort Worth, Texas.

Two Alfred E. Matthews lithographs of Nebraska City scenes have been cleaned at the UMCA laboratory, and the Society's painting of "Bellevue" by Albrecht is undergoing conservation treatment.

Several local museums groups were given assistance during the year. Staff members met with the Bellevue Historic Buildings Committee, Sarpy County Historical Society, Nemaha Valley Museum, Otoe County Museum of Memories, Jefferson County Historical Society, Papillion Historical Society, and Otoe County Historical Society, as well as answering inquiries from others.

In view of the fact that a research project, or assistance to a patron can take two minutes, two hours, or two months, statistics do not tell the whole story. However, it is interesting to note that the year's work included responding to 11,577 phone calls and 388 letters while doing other work. One uncompleted project worked on as time permitted concerned space requirements for the new Heritage Center.

BRANCH MUSEUMS

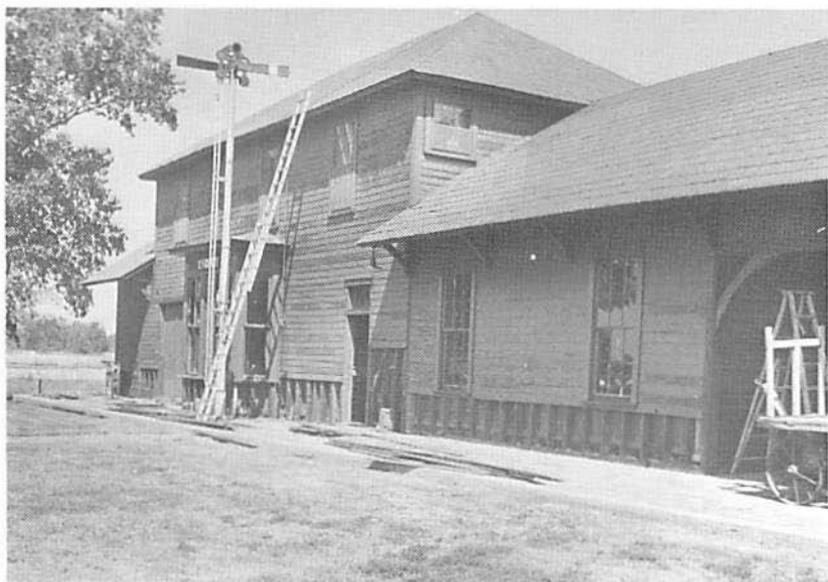
Curator Carl Hugh Jones is involved with the administration of the Branch Museums throughout the state. Assisting is Eli Paul, who in April became head of the Exhibits Department, thereby reducing his time with Branch Museums. A total of 128,181 visitors in 10 Branch Museums represents a 0.3 percent increase over last year.

John G. Neihardt Historical Center—The Center carried on a variety of activities in Bancroft related to Nebraska's Poet Laureate (1881-1973). These include art exhibits sponsored by Bancroft artists, Lions Club members, and by groups from other towns. Neihardt Day, a state festival, is held each August. Attendance of school groups is encouraged through such activities as a poetry-reading team from Wayne State College. During January and February the Neihardt Foundation spon-



A July 4 ice cream social at Neligh Mills was a special feature of Old Mill Days, held annually in Neligh. Neligh Mills curator is Tom Buecker. . . (Below) Ron Hull, Lincoln, was master of ceremonies at August 3 John G. Neihardt Day festivities at the Neihardt Center, Bancroft. Center curator is John Lindahl. Photo courtesy of Dick Manley.





The Burlington Railroad station is being repaired at the Willa Cather Historical Center, Red Cloud. Historical Center Curator is Ann Billesbach.



At May 3 Cather Spring Conference: Dr. Robert E. Knoll (left), UNL; Dr. A. L. Rowse, Oxford, England; and Mildred Bennett, Red Cloud, chairman of the Cather Pioneer Memorial and Education Foundation.



Great American Eagle Dance Club members from the Batesland, South Dakota, area perform at School Field Day, October 6, at Fort Robinson. . . (Below) Western Nebraska school children view dance club members south of the Fort Robinson Museum. Vance Nelson is Society curator.





Los Diablos Drum Corps, Omaha, directed by Arlene E. Dacus, participated in School Field Day with the aid of the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities. . . .(Below) Society-sponsored Heritage Village exhibits at the Nebraska State Fair included Mobile Museum No. 2 and the Hudson Log Cabin.



sored two Human-Values Forums at the Center. Curator John Lindahl reports 1980 attendance at 4,245, an increase of 2.5 percent over 1979.

Neligh Mill—The flour mill on the Elkhorn River is becoming the center for participation in Old Mill Days at Neligh on July 4. Special exhibits are displayed in the mill; other activities include an ice cream social. The 309 Task Force provided funds for the stabilization of floor joists and flooring on the west side of the third floor of the mill. They also provided funds for the re-roofing of the 1886 and 1915 additions to the mill. Two major exhibits have been added, one a 20-inch Leffel turbine, once used at the Valentine plant; another, experimental flour rollers used by the UNL College of Agriculture in wheat research. These rollers will be set up to grind flour at the mill.

Curator Tom Buecker produced an educational leaflet, "Flour Milling in Nebraska," and Neligh's Bi-Centennial Committee printed a promotional brochure. Attendance was 5,532, down 4.5 percent.

Fort Robinson Museum—Housed in eight buildings, this increasingly popular summer vacation spot in northwestern Nebraska continues to attract more visitors. A wide variety of activities has included evening film programs, lamp-light tours of installations and grounds, and retreat ceremonies, including firing of the cannon. Many of these activities are in close cooperation with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The Western Art Show convened again this year at the Veterinary Hospital and School Field Day has become an October fixture. We have been pleased to have additional staff: The Green Thumb Program provides two people 26 hours weekly; the CETA and SYEP Program provides up to eight people; four came from the Work-Study Program at Chadron State College and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This staff enables us to handle effectively 80,516 visitors in the various museum buildings—a 29% increase over last year. Many tourists visited outlying buildings, which seemed to reflect longer stays in Game and Parks Commission facilities.

Interpreting the history of the fort is only one phase of our work at Fort Robinson. Preservation of the unique structures is also important. This year we completed restoration of the brick granary. A wood-shingle roof was placed on the bandmasters' quarters, and new porch floors were put on the Headquarters

Museum Building. The porch is now equipped so that it can be made wheel-chair accessible, and similar specifications are drawn for the Blacksmith and Harness Repair Shops.

Missouri River History Museum—Housed in the 280-foot Dredge *Lewis* at Brownville, this facility was closed during the 1979 tourist season because of painting. During the winter funds from a federal Maritime Grant were used to fill in the lock lagoon, where the *Lewis* had sat for two years; a hand-rail was constructed around the main deck for safety.

Workmen have renewed the electric system; two modified doorways permit wheel chairs on the main deck. Several exhibits were installed and six period rooms opened, including captain's quarters, wireless operators' room, mess hall, and galley. Captain Raymond Holland continues as Curator of the *Lewis*.

Starting in May we again opened the boat to visitors. This late opening did not bring the yearly total (4,736) up to that of past years, but we are running an average of 45 percent more visitors than the highest month of previous years.

George W. Norris Home—The home of Nebraska's famous senator is in McCook. During the past year the original shingle roof was restored, and work has continued on the interior, preparatory to redecorating. We have also been able with the aid of SYEP help to paint much of the exterior, which was damaged in a hail storm. Attendance was 2,135, down 8 percent.

Trailers 1 and 2—These trailers were located at rest areas on Interstate 80. No. 1 at the Grand Island west-bound rest area, No. 2 at the Maxwell-Brady east-bound rest area. Attendance has been declining for a number of summers partly as a result of increased activity by the summer tourist guides of the Department of Economic Development and the placement of additional historical exhibits and local-services signs in rest areas. A decision was therefore made to remove trailers, with one going to Courthouse Rock and the other being reserved for the State Fair. Attendance: Trailer No. 1, 3,178; Trailer No. 2, 1,979.

Court House and Jail Rocks—These landmarks in western Nebraska have been the site of a Mobile Museum since the state became their owner. We have improved the facility by moving 12 exhibits to Trailer No. 1. The roadway has been improved and the parking lot moved to a more suitable location. Attendance: 3,108, up 25 percent.

Chimney Rock—The Society maintains 83.8 acres of land surrounding the famous landmark Chimney Rock—land given the Society 40 years ago. For 15 summers we have operated a mobile museum trailer in a road-side park owned by the City of Bayard on Nebraska Highway 92, 1¼ miles northeast of the rock. 1980 is the first full year for a new trailer, the third vehicle at the site. Mobile Museum No. 4 is designed with wider doors and ramps for wheel-chair accessibility.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In July and August a four-person crew surveyed historical/architectural sites in Seward, Dodge, Pawnee, and Johnson counties identifying properties for which preservation is encouraged, some of which may be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. During the year 21 individual properties and three historic districts received federal approval for National Register listing, ranging from the Spade Ranch in Sheridan County to the Mount Emerald and Capitol Additions Historic District in Lincoln. William Munn is the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

The newly constituted Historic Preservation Review Board convened for the first time in October, 1979, and met twice more during the year to consider properties for nomination. As required by federal regulations, a majority of the board are professionals in history, architecture, archeology, and architectural history.

Historic preservation grants suffered a budget cut this year. From an all-time high of \$686,000 for the previous year, our allocation for this year was \$344,000. From this allocation, grant projects have been funded in Blair, Central City, Hastings, and Grand Island. Approval is pending for other projects at Fort Robinson, Lincoln, and Tecumseh.

Throughout the year Preservation staff and the State Historic Preservation Officer participate in various meetings to discuss the effects of federal-involvement projects on historic resources. By our involvement during the planning stages of these projects, we are able to avoid last ditch efforts which cause project delays. It is our goal for future years to be able to provide such identification of historic resources for all areas of the State.



Historic Building Survey team members David Murphy (left), Janet Jeffries Spencer, Linda Syverson, and Joni Gilkerson worked in Dodge, Johnson, Pawnee, and Seward Counties. . . (Below) Assistant State Archivist Donald Snoddy (right) with Nebraska State Genealogical Society officers in McCook: Eugene Bang (left), Fremont, president; Mrs. Michael Batenhorst, Kearney, secretary; Mrs. Janet Harms, Beatrice, publications director; Mrs. Ernest Smethers, Beatrice, vice-president; and Mrs. Raymond Bates, Cozad, treasurer. Photo courtesy McCook Daily Gazette.



STATE ARCHIVES

State Archivist Jim Potter reports demands on archival resources and services continue to grow while staff and facilities remain static, or in some cases have been reduced. During 1979-1980, the reference division directed by Anne Diffendal assisted more than 5,700 patrons, responded to over 1,000 telephone calls, and processed some 5,000 pieces of mail. More than 40,000 copies of archival and newspaper materials were provided for patrons and staff use. Most work is carried out by the director and 2.5 clerical assistants.

The increasing complexity of reference service and need for security of collections require extensive training before personnel are able to assist the public effectively. Yet, during much of 1979-1980, budget limitations and resignations have made it impossible to maintain a trained reference staff at full strength.

Assistant State Archivist Don Snoddy coordinates archival operations, including accessing and storage. While considerable processing of collections has been completed by Manuscripts Curator Andrea Paul, lack of clerical staff and our perennial storage problem have slowed acquisition of new materials, especially manuscript collections. The staff faces a large backlog of material awaiting processing or microfilming.

Significant accessions of manuscripts and public records were: Seward County naturalization records, 1869-1943; Dodge County naturalization records, 1882-1952; Nebraska Supreme Court Transcripts, from 1854; Phelps County probate and criminal dockets, 1882-1959; Nebraska Library Association records, 1943-1977; Nebraska Geological Society records, 1968-1979; Society of the 355th Infantry Regiment (WWI) records, 1936-1980.

The Microfilm division headed by Jo Smith produced 562 rolls of film containing church records, manuscripts, public records, and newspapers. These projects included Douglas County marriages, naturalization records from seven counties, and records of 11 churches. As the newspaper backlog has been reduced, more filming has been devoted to public records and manuscripts.

A federal grant enabled the development of a paper-conservation program. Conservation Specialist Judith Fortson-Jones received training at the National Archives, directed a

survey of the Society's paper-conservation needs, and prepared a disaster-prevention and recovery plan to be used in the event of major damage to the Society's archival or library holdings. Five workshops in Nebraska dealing with paper conservation were attended by some 250 persons. In cooperation with Curator of Education Dick Spencer she produced two slide-tape programs dealing with conservation techniques; these are now available for loan or purchase.

An oral history project with former US Senator Roman L. Hruska will continue. State Archivist Potter cooperated with State Senator Don Wesely on a legislative study which resulted in amendments to the Nebraska Records Management Act as it relates to the files of elected public officials. Surplus newspaper files, previously microfilmed, were distributed to the Nebraska State Genealogical Society for preparation of a computerized index.

The cooperative program between the Society and Kearney and Chadron State colleges to establish regional archival centers has made limited progress; neither the Society nor the colleges have had sufficient funding to provide adequate development. Additional resources for staff time and travel must be provided before the archival centers fulfill the goal of providing wider access to materials in central and western Nebraska.

The Archives staff represented the Society at eight meetings of national or regional archival and historical organizations during the year. Anne Diffendal and Judith Fortson-Jones presented papers at several of these meetings, including the Society of American Archivists, The Midwest Archives Conference, American Association for State and Local History, and the Western History Association. Andrea Paul completed the two-week institute, "Introduction to Modern Archives Administration" held at the National Archives, Washington, DC.

Many of our funding problems are common to archival repositories around the country. Certainly we have received better support over the years than archival programs in some neighboring states. The establishment of a conservation program is a major gain, and the staff has tried to compensate for an increasing workload. When the Museum vacated the present building, it will provide an easing of the Archives' critical space problem. Careful planning for building renovation will be necessary to achieve the best conditions for preserving paper collections.

In the future adequate staff must be provided or some services will have to be reduced. Inflation, affecting the cost of supplies such as microfilm, has had an adverse effect on some activities. In the face of budgetary restraints, it is likely that reductions in weekend services may continue.

LIBRARY

Librarian Ann Reinert reports 1979-1980 reference activity increased by 10 percent over the previous year. Records indicate over 5,000 patrons used the book, pamphlet, and map collections, while 650 patrons used the photograph collection. Nearly 4,000 other patrons were served through correspondence or by telephone. Almost 40 percent of the Library's total reference service dealt with genealogical requests. Other topics of interest included orphan trains, the Unicameral Legislature, the California Trail, the 1935 Republican River flood, General George Crook, pioneer women of the plains, drouth, Wells Fargo Express, and Danes in Nebraska.

Staff members presented 33 programs and educational tours or participated in group presentations which informed the public about Nebraska history and reference materials. Several hundred persons viewed the slide-tape, *Historical and Genealogical Resources at the Nebraska State Historical Society*, which was loaned for programs.

Reference materials have been donated by 381 persons. Several rare editions of John G. Neihardt's poetry were contributed by the Neihardt Foundation. A unique acquisition was the extensive archeological collection of Dr. John L. Champe, noted archeologist and former chairman of the UNL Anthropology Department. This collection, donated by his widow Flavia Waters Champe, numbers several thousand items, including rare pamphlets and periodicals. Other contributions included 61 community histories, church and organizational publications, and 147 genealogical reference books. Over 2,500 photos were donated to the Library.

Curator of Photographs John Carter provided 1,586 copies of photographs for patrons, including publishers. He assisted with the production of photo exhibits, "Dreams in Dry Places: A Photographic Exhibit of Historic Nebraska Architecture" by



June 5 the Lincoln Museum was visited by regional cultural leaders from 17 foreign countries as part of a US State Department-sponsored tour of selected museum and research centers.



Society Curator of Photographs John Carter (right background) listens as Research Associate Paul Riley addresses foreign cultural leaders.

David Murphy and Roger Bruhn and "Of Dust Bowl Descent" by Bill Ganzel. Carter read a paper before the American Folklore Association and represented the Society at the Director's meeting of the Mid-America Arts Alliance. Research Associate Paul Riley presented a paper and chaired a session of Nebraska authors at a meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English. Mrs. Reinert was 1979 President of the Nebraska Library Association and served as chairman of the American Library Association's Genealogy Committee.

ARCHEOLOGY

During the year the Highway Archeology staff, Steven Holen and John Ludwickson, conducted work on 36 Nebraska and/or federal highway projects involving 120 miles of highway. In addition, 33 county federal-aid highway projects were surveyed, covering approximately 40 miles. About 10 new archeological sites were discovered, some requiring significant amounts of excavation when the projects go to construction. There were a number of sites discovered during surveys, which, because they lie outside of rights-of-way, will be unaffected by construction unless additional borrow activities are carried out. No major excavations were performed during the year.

During the summer of 1979, Gayle Carlson performed major excavations at Fort Atkinson State Historical Park under an agreement with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. An area of several thousand square feet was exposed and an estimated 15,000 specimens collected. Carlson performed survey of fifteen Federal Waterfowl Production Areas in the Hastings Wetland Management District under an agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. About 40 acres were surveyed during April, 1980, resulting in the discovery of one archeological site, which will not be affected by the proposed work of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Carlson and other staff members also performed literature and records searches for the transmission line corridors pertaining to the Comstock generating station and the Mandan Project, Nebraska Public Power District.

Published this year was the book *Salvage Archeology in the Red Willow Reservoir, Nebraska* by Roger T. Grange Jr., pro-



Society Archeologist Gayle Carlson participated in a summer excavation of West Ranch house and attached store at Rock Creek Station, Jefferson County.