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Article Summary: Kivett's summary of 1982 activity stresses the additional space that the Society expected to gain from the ongoing renovation of the former Lincoln Elks Building. That work would enable the expansion of the Archives and Library.

Cataloging Information:

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Photographs / Images: Edwin J Faulkner, president of the Society; Massacre Canyon Memorial Battlefield visitors near Trenton; Draftsman Ed Bubacek and Steve Ryan at work on displays for the new State Museum of History; Museum renovation; John Falter collection being received by Museum Assistant Joe Munn and Curator of Decorative Arts Gail Potter; students from Harrison, Sioux County, touring the Museum; volunteers Jean Jemison, Doris Griffith, Vernon Hanneman; volunteers inflate a hot air balloon at Fort Robinson School Field Day; Indian dancer at School Field Day; participants in the Neihardt Center Conference in Bancroft; Conservation Specialist Judith Fortson Jones speaking at the 1981 Disaster Recovery Workshop; staff members with sign for the Museum of Missouri River History; Chicago and North Western box car at the Neligh Mills Branch Museum; Garber Bank, headquarters building for the Willa Cather Historical Center, Red Cloud; Dr John Weymouth at the Pike-Pawnee archeological site; Society Grants Administrator Bob Puschendorf with Keith Everett of the National Park Service; Curator of Photographs John Carter with patrons



Edwin J. Faulkner was elected president of the Society at its annual meeting in Lincoln on October 9 after 11 years on its Executive Board. For 13 years he has served on the Society Foundation, the last seven of which have been as its president. Mr. Faulkner, a 1932 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was granted its Builder Award in 1976. He has received many national awards in the insurance business, including that of Insurance Man of the Year in 1956. He has served on the National Advisory Council on Social Security and the White House Council on Aging. In Lincoln Mr. Faulkner has been chairman of the City-County Planning Commission and the Bryan Hospital trustees and is a leader in the Chamber of Commerce and Lincoln Community Chest-United Way.

The Nebraska State Historical Society in 1982

BY MARVIN F. KIVETT, DIRECTOR

Presented at the Annual Meeting in Lincoln, October 9, 1982

“What is the State Historical Society doing for the State?” This valid question was a headline in the August 10, 1913, Sunday issue of the *Lincoln Daily Star*. The article was inspired by Addison E. Sheldon, who served the Society as a staff member and director until his death in 1943. It is of interest to note that he stated “the imperative need of the Nebraska Historical Society is a new building and much concern is felt by the Society supporters and friends about the many thousands of valuable pamphlets and materials of all descriptions packed away in the present quarters.” Sheldon noted that the museum collections then numbered some 75,000 items with a library collection of 50,000 titles. The goal was for a new building of 50,000 square feet. Despite good press coverage, the Society was not to realize its ambitious goal until 40 years later in 1953, when the present Society headquarters building was dedicated on the 75th anniversary of the Society.

Now as we stand on the threshold of the Society Centennial in 1983, as a “independent” agency of State Government, our ambitions have increased. Starting in 1974 our goal was a new structure of approximately 100,000 square feet. Next fall as a portion of our annual meeting we expect to dedicate a new museum with some 70,000 square feet in the former Lincoln Elks Building located on the Centennial Mall two blocks south of our present headquarters.

Despite the disappointment that the new building south of the Capitol is not a reality, I believe that we are fortunate, considering the economic conditions, to be able to make this gain. The new museum will have more than double the museum space in the present building and should serve the needs for the immediate future. As you know history does not

always receive the highest priority and particularly during a time of economic stress. As an independent state agency I feel that a great deal of credit must be given to Governor Thone and to the Legislature for their continued support to solve our problems. I think you will be pleased as you tour the new museum next year to see how well a pit bar can be adapted to Lecture Room, Ball Courts to storage space or even Kitchens to Laboratory-work shop areas. Although we may still be short of funds to complete all exhibits, the present appropriation of \$1,635,000 should cover the basic renovation.

Many of you who have followed our building efforts since 1974 know that one of our greatest needs is in the area of expanded space for the Archives and Library. The plan calls for the two programs to expand into the present 30,000-square foot space vacated by the Museum. I realize that for those of you who were present for the dedication of the building in 1953, it is difficult to realize that the building requires major renovation work to bring it to the standards required for Archival-Library use.

Perhaps our most difficult challenge in the months ahead will be to convince state government that this work must be carried out at an estimated cost of some \$600,000. Without the funds it will be impossible to carry out the second phase of the necessary renovation work to produce the proper Archives and Library space. The two buildings will provide some 120,000 square feet for the Lincoln headquarters unit.

And now I might return to the question asked in 1913, "What is the State Historical Society Doing for the State?" First, I might note that we cannot do many things that some individuals feel that we have the ability to do. We cannot automatically preserve every historical site and structure. We cannot restore each abandoned cemetery and we cannot always determine who married Aunt Maggie or whether your ancestors came over on the Mayflower. We do try, however.

Throughout the 104 years of our history as a private and as a state agency, our broad goal has been to preserve and interpret the history of the state. Perhaps we do this in a greater variety of ways today than in the past, but our broad goals have remained. As I view the Society, it seems to me that the major changes are in only a few areas.

In the museum program we have moved out of Lincoln to

establish some branch museums and historic sites throughout the state from the *Lewis* dredge boat, Museum of Missouri River History, at Brownville in the southeast to Fort Robinson in the northwest.

A second major expansion has been in a legal definition and expansion of the State Archives program. Both the Library and Archives have devoted increased attention to the public interested in family history. Certainly this is a growing field.

The effect of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 has had profound impression on the Society and the State. In a modest way the Society has always recorded historical and archeological sites, with the most systematic program being to record and excavate archeological sites. Now the additional quality of architectural significance has been added with the corresponding staff.

This year as in the past I have continued to serve on a number of boards or commissions. Among those are the Hall of Fame Commission, State Records Advisory Board, and State Historic Preservation Board. The Administrative Division headed by John Caleca handles all budget and business affairs of the Society. Historian Leigh DeLay and Editorial Assistant Patricia Gaster edit Society publications including *Nebraska History*. They also edit all special publications, with *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names* (1982) by Elton A. Perkey being in much demand this year.

There are many statistics that we might cite such as 35,546 telephone calls this last year. However, any home with teenagers must feel they have at least half that number. I think that a few highlights from each department may provide some view of our operations this past year.

STATE ARCHIVES

State Archivist Jim Potter reports the amount of public records and manuscripts accessioned in 1981-1982 at the lowest level in many years. Certainly the continuing lack of storage space has placed restraints upon active efforts to acquire new collections. And though the size of the permanent staff has remained stable, the workload in the areas of public service, processing, and preservation of the collections continues to grow. In addition, special projects such as microfilm-



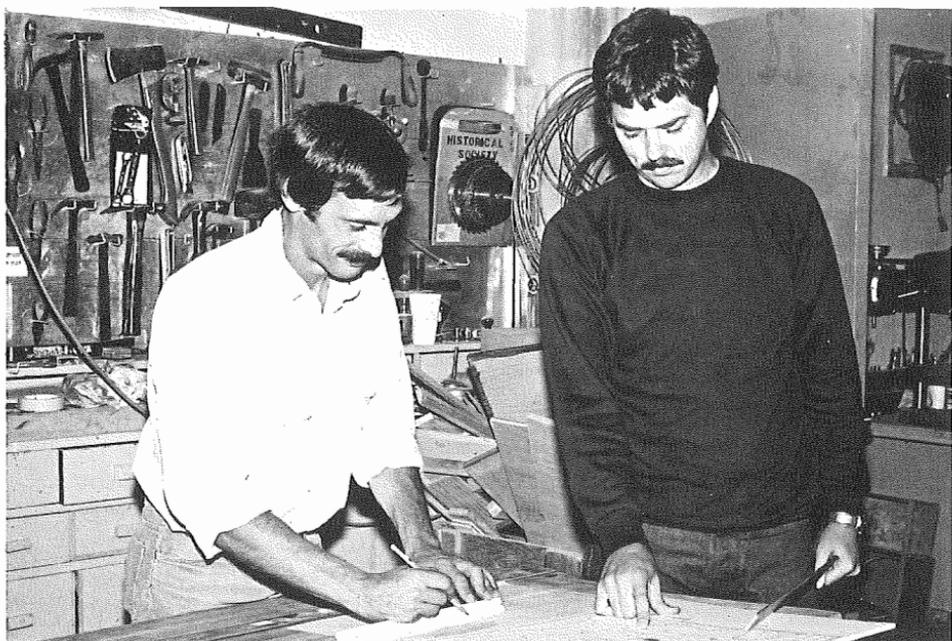
Massacre Canyon Battlefield Memorial visitors near Trenton while attending the Society Spring Convention in McCook June 5 were (from left) Kathy Morgan, Angel RidingIn, Phillip Gover, Nikole Robinson, William Morgan, Wadsworth Howell, Randi Collins, Hilda Howell, Harriet Howell, Reva Belle Howell, all Pawnee tribe members of Pawnee, Oklahoma; Society Historian L. G. DeLay, and Mrs. DeLay. The above and other Pawnee were guests at the convention where Brummett Echo Hawk, Pawnee artist of Tulsa, spoke. Photo courtesy of William Howell, Pawnee (Oklahoma)

ing of the Union Pacific Archives; the administration of a planning grant for future historical records programs; and planning for the renovation of the Society headquarters building have occupied much staff time during the past year.

Manuscripts Curator Andrea Paul reports that over 12,000 persons used one or more of the resources available within archival holdings during the year. Some 6,000 of these were individuals who came to the Society in person to read microfilm or examine records. Over 6,000 pieces of mail and 1,144 telephone calls were processed. Four hundred forty-five manuscript or archival collections were retrieved for use by researchers who identified 45 different topics for study in the preparation of books, articles, and theses. Among those were: Danish settlements in Nebraska; early theatre and film; the Omaha Indians; woman suffrage; the History of the Nebraska Academy of Science; and many others. Most researchers visiting the Archives were pursuing research in family history, local history, or merely searching for items of personal interest. Only a small proportion of the archival patrons were professional scholars, indicating that historical interest on the part of the general public continues to grow.

Although the volume of manuscript materials accessioned was down, some 142 separate donations were processed by Manuscripts Curator Anne Diffendal. It should be noted that the amount of staff time required to process incoming donations and complete accession records is substantial, regardless of the size of the donation. Significant additions to the manuscript holdings include: Records of the Havelock Farmers Institute, 1906-1963; Papers of the Barker family, ca. 1890-1930s (Omaha business and finance); Records of the Sheldon Manufacturing Company of Nehawka, 1913-1963; Records of the Kit Carter Cattle Company, 1883-1903 (ranching in Texas and Nebraska); Papers of former Governor and Ambassador to Finland Val Peterson, 1930-1967; and Papers of Congressman and Judge Robert V. Denney, 1960-1970.

In addition to administering the activities of the Manuscripts Division, Anne Diffendal has served as project director for a needs assessment and planning project for historical records programs in Nebraska, funded with a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Com-



Draftsman Ed Bukacek (left) and Steve Ryan at work on displays for the new State Museum of History. . . . (Below) The State Museum of History (formerly the Elks Building), 15th and P, Lincoln, now being renovated will house some Society exhibits in 1983.



mission. This project began in January, 1982, and will conclude in December.

Microfilming continues to be a major preservation tool, under the direction of supervisor Joleen Smith. Five hundred forty-seven rolls of film were produced by the Microfilm Division in 1981-1982, including church records, newspapers, county tax and assessment schedules, and other documents. A few examples of records placed on film were Lincoln voter registrations, 1915-1924; Boone County marriage records, 1872-1932; village board proceedings of Diller, 1885-1979; and the records of nine churches. The Archives' microfilmed reference collection now numbers over 25,000 rolls of film.

During the past several years Assistant State Archivist Don Snoddy has been devoting a major portion of his time to a project to prepare the records of the Union Pacific Railroad for microfilming. In 1981 the Union Pacific Foundation awarded the Society a grant of \$23,773 to begin the filming project. To date some 20 rolls of microfilm have been produced. We expect this project to continue for several years.

Modest amounts of public records have been transferred in 1981-1982. However, a major project involving the public record holdings in 1982 was the move of several thousand cubic feet of records to a new warehouse. This was the second time in three years that the Archives was required to move a substantial part of its holdings, and points out the continued problems which result as long as we must rely on leased facilities for storage space. The records in such facilities are relatively inaccessible for research, and suffer deterioration from poor environmental conditions.

The conservation program under the direction of Judith Fortson-Jones continues to devote attention to the serious conservation needs of many of the archival holdings. Many of the collections must be treated to insure their survival but, without additional staff, only the worst cases can be addressed at present. In 1981-1982, education and outreach programs were continued, including the production of two slide tape programs, "Storage and Handling" and "Environmental Controls." These programs have been made available for loan or sale. In November, 1981, the Archives cooperated with the Nebraska Library Commission to present a disaster recovery

workshop attended by librarians, archivists, and local historical society curators. The workshop demonstrated methods of salvaging books, documents and microfilm which had been water-damaged.

The Archives staff has been involved in developing plans for the expected renovation of the Society headquarters, to occur after the Museum moves to the new State Museum of History. The Archives plans to expand into storage areas formerly occupied by the museum collections. While the renovation will ease some of the space problems faced by the Archives, particularly in the areas of office and work space, it will not eliminate the need for outside warehouse facilities to house a significant portion of the collections. Many valuable records still remain to be acquired from private sources or from government agencies.

Since the creation of manuscripts and archives reflecting Nebraska's history is an ongoing process, it must be expected that staff to acquire and process historical records, along with the space to properly house them, will remain the two major areas of concern for the Nebraska State Archives program in the future.

LIBRARY

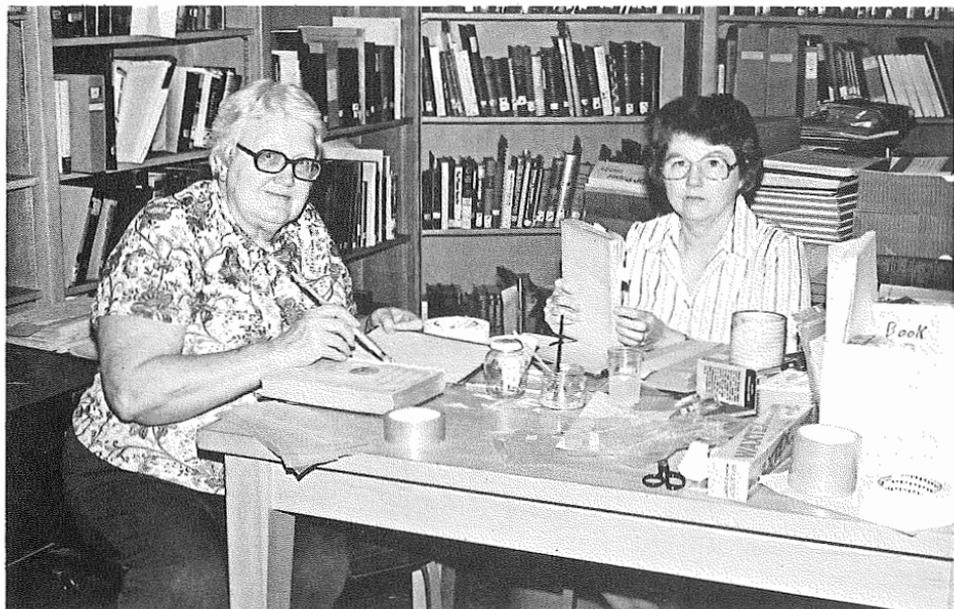
Library Department Head, Ann Reinert, reports that the year ending June 30, 1982, saw another increase in demand for public service. The Library staff assisted patrons with over 10,500 queries for information while patrons purchased over 30,000 pages of photocopies from the Library collection. Nebraska's ethnic groups were a popular research topic this year. Others included Scandinavian immigration to Nebraska, Populism, women's role in early settlement, artist Elizabeth Dolan, banking in Nebraska, Omaha ethnic groups, Indian education, buffalo hunts, author Bess Streeter Aldrich, and pioneer music. However, nearly two-thirds of the patrons were interested in researching their family history.

The support of the Library by nearly 300 donors this past year has been of immeasurable value in developing our unique collection of historical materials. Two hundred and sixteen Nebraska and western history books were donated, as well as an equal number of genealogical reference materials. The Nebraska State Genealogical Society also contributed



Artist John Falter collection is received at the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, by Museum Assistant Joe Munn and Curator of Decorative Arts Gail Potter. . . . (Below) Students numbering 80 from Harrison, Sioux County, toured the Museum May 5.





*Library volunteers Jean Jemison (left) and Doris Griffith repair books. . . .
(Below) Volunteer Vernon Hanneman encapsulates a map.*



duplicates of 200 Family Recognition Certificate applications containing documentation on pioneer families in Nebraska. Several major donations of photographs increased our holdings by 16,000 images.

Although the number of photographs sold decreased by half due to the increase in cost of the prints, the number of patrons assisted increased by 12 percent over the previous year. Curator of Photographs John Carter reports that 884 patrons visited the Photo Library. Of particular interest was Nebraska's State Capitol, whose semi-centennial is being celebrated. Other photograph research topics included sod houses (Solomon D. Butcher collection), steamboats, woman suffrage, and military history.

The Library staff presented 39 programs, workshops, and orientations to groups interested in special information about family and Nebraska historical research or in the preservation of photographs. In August Betty Loudon, a long-time Society employee, was assigned the position of Research Associate responsible for reference and development of our Nebraska history information files. Gwendolyn Birky, cataloger, was presented in December with the Society's Employee of the Year Award, with award funds made available by Mr. and Mrs. Otto Kotouc Jr. Assistant Librarian Cindy Steinhoff-Drake, an area representative for the Nebraska State Genealogical Society, edited the book *The Centennial History of Avoca, Nebraska, 1882-1982*. Ann Reinert, official liaison with the State Genealogical Society, appeared in *Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry*, published in 1981. Nearly 1,000 hours were donated by volunteers, including members of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society, whose assistance is much appreciated. It is with satisfaction that we look back on this year's progress.

LINCOLN MUSEUM

The past year the Lincoln Museum staff has been involved in planning the renovation of the former Lincoln Elks Club building which will within months house the State Museum of History. Wendell Frantz, the Lincoln Museums Curator, worked with a work release crew from the State Prison on demolition.



Volunteers directed by pilot Dave McPherson of Spearfish, South Dakota, inflate a hot air balloon October 4 during the ninth annual Fort Robinson School Field Day. Courtesy of Crawford Clipper.



Indian dancer at School Field Day. Courtesy of Crawford Clipper.



Participants in the Neihardt Center Conference in Bancroft May 8 heard anthropologist Raymond DeMallie of Indiana University and retired Episcopal archdeacon Vine Deloria Sr. of Pierre, South Dakota (Below) Society Conservation Specialist Judith Fortson Jones (in lab coat) speaks at Nov. 6, 1981 Disaster Recovery Workshop presented in Lincoln by this Society and the Library Commission. Observers include Society custodian Eugene Tolston (eighth from right), Manuscripts Curator Andrea Paul (ninth from right), Microfilm Supervisor Joleen Smith (12th from right), and Assistant State Archivist Don Snoddy (13th from right).



While these events were occurring, the normal activities of the Museum were taking place. Visitors to the Lincoln Museum totaled 48,980 for the year. Attendance at other Lincoln sites was 15,086 at the Kennard House; 16,143 at the Ferguson House; 3,762 at Fairview; and approximately 15,000 at the 1981 Nebraska State Fair exhibits. The Education Department gave 239 tours to 9,079 individuals. The student historian program had six chapters with 159 members during the 1981-1982 school year. Curator of Education Dick Spencer was actively involved in audio-visual programming for the Society. Air time given by Nebraska broadcasters during the year to publicize Society events was valued at \$2,696.

A group of nine volunteer docents assisted in giving guided tours in the main museum. The Community Women's Club of Lincoln continued to provide docents for the Governor's House on Thursday afternoons. Wendell Frantz worked with amateur and professional artists from across Nebraska in providing art exhibits at the State Office Building.

The Collections Department reports that 167 donations were received during the past year, and 2,681 artifacts were cataloged. An additional 3,330 dolls, toys, tools, and items of clothing in the Society collections were re-cataloged by volunteers. Ten new loans of 64 artifacts were initiated during the year.

Seven student apprentices from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Department of Home Economics worked on a variety of subjects to provide information for future Society projects.

A major project of the Lincoln Museum was "The Doll Show," an exhibit at the Ferguson House from the Society collections of dolls and toys. This was a joint project with the Junior League of Lincoln, aided in part by the Lincoln Doll Club and the Great Plains Doll Club. Funds for the exhibit came in part from the Junior League of Lincoln and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. Miss Elizabeth Jane Coleman, authority on dolls and co-author of *The Collector's Encyclopedia of Dolls*, gave a public program and did consultant work with curatorial staff. "Entertaining for the Holidays" was the Christmas exhibit featured at the Ferguson and Kennard Houses. Assistance in decorating the houses was provided by member florists of the Allied Florists of Lincoln. Also exhibited at the Ferguson House in the early part of 1982

were 25 coverlets from the Museum collection. "Pastimes and Playthings," a spring children's festival, was again held at the Kennard-Ferguson properties with approximately 3,000 in attendance.

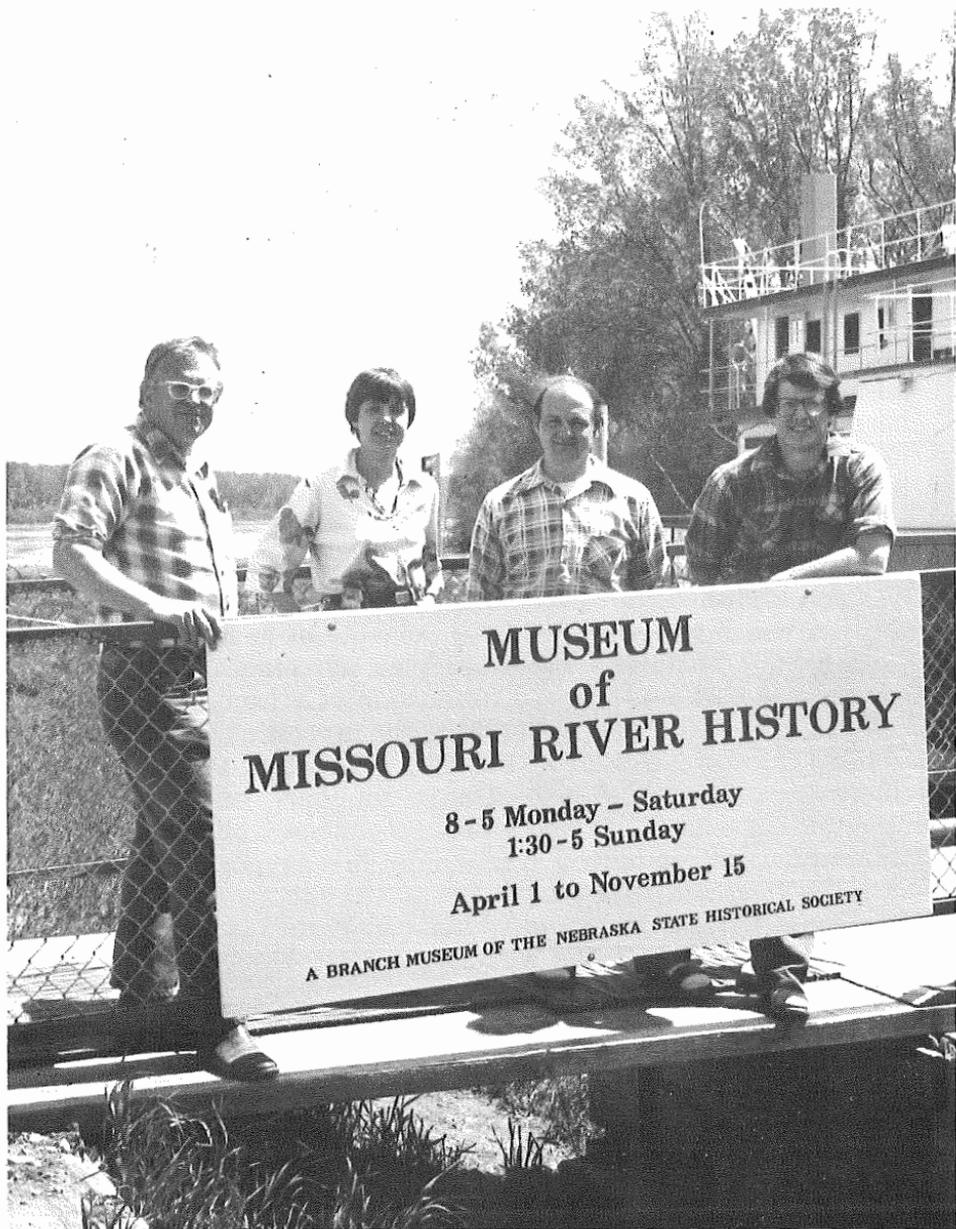
Restoration work on the Ferguson House continued with the third floor ballroom and bedrooms being restored. Lynne Ireland consulted on a number of projects concerned with Nebraska Folk Art. With the addition of Ed Drier to the staff of the Lincoln Museum, first as Historic Horticulturalist, and in January, 1982, as half time Curator of the Kennard House, landscaping and plantings of the Kennard-Ferguson area have been greatly improved during the year.

ARCHEOLOGY

The fiscal year 1981 was not as busy as 1980 with regard to archeological excavations. A great deal of survey and planning was accomplished, however. Until mid-August, 1981, Gayle Carlson was involved in finishing excavations at Rock Creek Station State Historical Park under an agreement with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Carlson spent the balance of the fiscal year supervising the processing of the collections from excavations at the site, which by June 30 had resulted in nearly 15,000 catalog numbers being given representing some 70,000 individual specimens. The collection is about one-half cataloged. Carlson finished a report detailing both the 1980 and 1981 excavations at the site.

In June, 1982, Carlson and William T. Waters began an archeological survey of the vicinity around Fort Robinson, Nebraska. Several interesting archeological sites were discovered. The survey continued until mid-August, 1982.

Highway salvage excavations at two sites on a Department of Roads construction project in Custer County, 25CU23 and 25CU25, were completed in early July, 1981, by Steve Holen and John Ludwickson. Minor testing of archeological sites and archeological surveys of Department of Roads projects consumed the rest of the field time during the past year. Right-of-way on 58 projects was surveyed and borrow pits relating to 11 projects were surveyed. A total of 21 new archeological sites were discovered as a result of this activity.



MUSEUM
of
MISSOURI RIVER HISTORY

8-5 Monday - Saturday
1:30-5 Sunday

April 1 to November 15

A BRANCH MUSEUM OF THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Carl Jones (left), Curator of the Meriwether Lewis at Brownville, is joined by Artists Alice Filbert and Curt Peacock, and Curator of Exhibits Eli Paul. Courtesy of Auburn Press-Tribune.



At Neligh a Chicago and North Western box car has been placed on a siding at the Neligh Mills Branch Museum.



The Garber Bank, headquarters building for the Willa Cather Historical Center at Red Cloud, underwent restoration work this year.

EXHIBITS

The Exhibits Department, under the supervision of Eli Paul, is responsible for the design and production of museum exhibits for the Society and certain other state agencies. A total of 120 display units were produced in the past year. Major exhibits for the year were "Entertaining for the Holidays" and "The Doll Show," both at the Ferguson and Kennard Houses. New displays were also made for the dredge *Meriwether Lewis* at Brownville and updated displays installed at the Neligh Mills.

As a member of the Museum Renovation Committee, Paul assisted in the selection of an architectural firm, the review of plans and specifications, and the monitoring of work. In addition, Paul and Staff Artist Herbert Thomas prepared a preliminary layout of the new exhibits for the second floor gallery of the new Museum. This plan calls for over 170 display units which will trace Nebraska pre-history and history from earliest times—over 10,000 years ago—to the present. Photographer Ken Kopta documented a portion of the construction work at the new Museum and completed exhibit photographs.

The Society continued its tradition of helping other state and local agencies and organizations in the planning of museum exhibits. These included such diverse groups as Boys Town, State Game and Parks Commission, Ash Hollow State Historical Park, the Hastings Museum, and the Nebraska High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

BRANCH MUSEUMS

The Branch Museums, headed by Bill Munn, assisted by Ron Kivett, registered slight increases in attendance for the year, making overall visitation up 2 percent, with a total of 132,000 visitors. Increased operating hours at the *Meriwether Lewis* in Brownville and re-opening Highway 26 between Bridgeport and Bayard contributed to the increase in visitation. Other factors were special events mentioned in the following report on individual branches:

At Bancroft the Neihardt Historical Center, under the supervision of Curator John Lindahl, has begun restoration work on the Neihardt Study, to be completed soon after the

year's end. This consists of rebuilding the porch and painting both interior and exterior. A grant from the Kiewit Foundation, matched with funds from the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and the Neihardt Foundation, allowed for the purchase of video equipment, which is a helpful addition to the Center, making it possible to view many Neihardt lectures which are recorded on video tape. Special exhibits during the year included the Alfred Jacob Miller watercolors, paintings by Bancroft artist-in-residence Myron Heise, a quilt show, and a traveling photo exhibit, "Of Dust Bowl Descent." Events included the annual August Neihardt Day, celebrating the 100th anniversary of Neihardt's birth, which featured speaker Tom Allan, and a Neihardt Conference in May.

At the Neligh Mills in Neligh, important acquisitions during the year included a 40-foot boxcar donated by the Chicago and NorthWestern Transportation Company and material from the files of General Mills pertaining to the purchase of the "Gold Medal" brand from the Neligh Mills. Special events included Old Mill Days on July 4 and a special program with the Neligh Arts Council featuring art exhibits and musical entertainment. Four new displays were installed during the year. Curator Tom Buecker presented a paper on mill architecture at the Missouri Valley History Conference and his article on wind-powered mills appeared in the publication *Old Mill News*.

At Fort Robinson near Crawford attendance increased slightly over the previous year, the most significant event being the annual school field day in October. Curator Vance Nelson reports that the field day was attended by nearly 1,200 with the most popular feature being a glass-blower demonstration. A major event in June was the reunion of former Fort Robinson military and civilian personnel. The annual Western Professional Art Show again drew significant crowds to the Fort. The historic buildings operated by the Society continue to be popular attractions. During the year restoration work was completed on the post engineer building and blacksmith harness repair shops. Energy-efficient boilers were installed in the post headquarters and officers' quarters, new restrooms were put in the veterinary hospital, and repair work was done on the bandmaster's house. Staff at the Fort has been supplemented by such programs as Chadron State College work-study, CETA, and Project Green Thumb.

Captain Meriwether Lewis Museum of Missouri River History at Brownville—Additional areas of the boat were opened to the public during the year, specifically the engine room and boiler room, making it easier for visitors to understand how the boat worked. Interior restoration continued, dependent on available staff. Programs such as CETA and SYEP have been valuable in providing personnel for restoration and maintenance. The paddle wheels have been rebuilt so that they appear functional, which helps the interpretation of the working boat. Several new exhibits were installed during the year, bringing us closer to filling all exhibit space. Two large pipeline pontoons were acquired which will eventually be placed in their working position to show how dredged material was discharged. Curator Carl Jones is now assisted by the addition of Assistant Curator Kurt Hasselbalch.

At the Willa Cather Historical Center in Red Cloud, Curator Ann Billesbach reports that visitation increased by more than 10 percent over the previous year, possibly helped by publicity received in such publications as *British Vogue* and *National Geographic*. Major restoration of the Garber Bank building was completed. This included a new roof with insulation, masonry repair and painting, with funding provided by the State Building Renewal Task Force. A new central heating system was installed in the Burlington Depot and stabilization work continued on the Pavelka farmhouse. A horticulture survey was completed on all of the properties, resulting in a project to establish historically correct plantings. The Curator was involved with the annual Cather Conference and participated in other related activities in addition to her regular duties.

At the Senator George Norris House in McCook, visitation was just over 3,000 for the year, an increase of 20 percent, according to Curator Robert Ray. The Society's Spring Meeting and the local centennial celebration no doubt contributed to the increase. During the year a new energy-efficient heating system was installed with the aid of 309 Task Force funds. Staff was supplemented by one CETA person during the summer months.

Mobile Museums—The museums at Chimney Rock and Courthouse Rock continue to get good reviews by travelers in that area. Last year's highway construction adversely affected

visitation, but the resumption of traffic in 1982 brought things back to normal. As in the past, local seasonal employees are staffing the museums.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Office of Historic Preservation enjoyed temporary quarters in the former Elks Building until late October when renovation of the building began in earnest. The office then moved to its present quarters on the third floor of the State Office Building at 301 Centennial Mall South.

By the end of the fiscal year the preservation staff was again near full strength. Cultural Historian Janet Jeffries Spencer returned to this position on January 1 after six months as Curator of the Kennard House. L. Robert Puschendorf was hired on April 26 as the new Grants Administrator. He works primarily with certification procedures for rehabilitation of historic buildings under the Economic Recovery Tax Act. He is a native of Norfolk, Nebraska, and holds an MBA degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Richard E. Jensen, previously Preservation Archeologist, began his duties as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer on the first day of the fiscal year.

The National Register of Historic Places re-opened during the year for listing of privately owned properties after nearly a year's moratorium. The delay was requested by the National Park Service to allow time for the promulgation of federal regulations to meet the new requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980. During this time seven publicly owned properties were listed on the National Register. After the new regulations were issued nominations for 17 privately owned properties were approved by the State Historic Preservation Board, of which 11 were listed on the National Register before the end of the fiscal year.

Historic Preservation was given a boost with the passage of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981 (ERTA). Signed into law on August 13, 1981, and effective on January 1, 1982, the Act provides new tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic structures. These include a 25 percent investment tax credit and a 15-year recovery period, which proved substantially greater incentives than had existed previously. Since the

initiation of the Act, approximately \$8 million has been committed to rehabilitation. The Historic Preservation Office is responsible for the state-level review of the tax act projects before submission to the National Park Service for final approval. During FY 1981-1982 15 projects involving 18 buildings were reviewed.

Survey activities of the Historic Preservation Office were very limited during the summer months of 1981 due to a reduction in the program's federal appropriations. However, the survey team utilized this time to carry out one-day trips to follow up on potential National Register properties and perform necessary documentation and field work for specific areas. Trips were made to document the Sparta Store and Drobny-Liska house at Sparta, Knox County, the Andrew Colman house and the Diller Opera House in Jefferson County, and other sites in eastern Nebraska.

By June, 1982, normal survey activities had resumed. By the end of the month a survey team consisting of Survey Architect David Murphy, Cultural Historian Janet Jeffries Spencer, and Preservation Associate Joni Gilkerson with Steve Pondelis serving as summer Survey Assistant had completed work in Madison County. The survey data can be used to assess the National Register potential of buildings in the county and to assist local agencies as well as individuals in their plans to preserve the county's historic structures.

On-going programs of public education, newsletter, and conferences have also occupied the staff to a lesser degree during the year. All staff members have participated in speaking engagements about preservation to local and statewide groups. The office newsletter, "The Cornerstone: Historic Preservation in Nebraska," continues to be published. The editor is Preservation Historian Penny Chatfield Sodhi.

The Society nominated Mayor Helen G. Boosalis of Lincoln for the Certificate of Commendation for Public Officials from the National Trust for Historic Preservation for her emphasis on preservation in the city and with the U.S. Conference of Mayors. She received the award, which was presented by Mrs. Ronald Reagan on May 7 at the National Trust Honor Awards ceremony to Daniel Kidd, preservation planner for the City of Lincoln, Mrs. Boosalis' representative, and a former staff member of this office.



Dr. John Weymouth (right), UNL Physics department, and his students conduct a proton magnetometer survey of the Pike-Pawnee archeological site in Webster County. . . . (Below) Society Grants Administrator Bob Puschendorf (right) discusses Economic Recovery Tax Act projects with Keith Everett, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service.



The State Historic Preservation Board consists of Professor James H. Gunnerson, George Haecker, J. M. Hart Jr., Frank N. Latenser, Professor James A. Rawley, Professor H. Keith Sawyers, and S. N. Wolbach. I served as chairman. The purpose of the board is to review National Register nominations before they are forwarded to the National Park Service for final review and approval. The board members deserve special recognition not only for their service as a review board, which they do without compensation, but also as preservation advocates in their respective communities and throughout the state.

THE FUTURE

The coming year will be busy for the Society staff, not only in terms of public service but in the major change in our physical space. The Museum will move its collections, which in a sense, represent the Nebraska Attic, but even more demanding will be the work of starting new displays. Certainly I do not expect all displays to be completed a year from now but they will be underway. Under our policy of rotating exhibits the Museum will never be completed.

The new Museum has already attracted new donors who are providing outstanding collections. One of these is the John Falter collection of more than 35 paintings and sketches along with the furnishings and props of his Philadelphia studio. Falter who grew up in Falls City is probably Nebraska's best known illustrator. He was the artist for more than 150 *Saturday Evening Post* covers as well as other national journals. John Falter died May 16 of this year. Through the generosity of his widow Elizabeth, the collection has been donated for all Nebraskans to enjoy in the new State Museum of History.

As I indicated earlier we are now approximately half way in our goal of improving our physical space. The next big step will be to improve the present building for expanded Archives and Library use.

The progress reported today represents long study and support by a dedicated Executive Board headed by S. N. Wolbach. We have a dedicated, hard-working staff throughout our operations. From my view the Society continues to have an important mission and a bright future.

FOUNDATION

Much of the progress reported for the year would not be possible without the dedicated support of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. In almost all areas of the program the Foundation support has made the difference. Headed by President E. J. Faulkner and a dedicated Executive Committee, funds have assisted in most of the programs.

The Foundation can be even more in the future a vital force in the preservation and interpretation of Nebraska history. We are particularly grateful to many of you who donated funds for the new exhibits in the State Museum of History. The needs of history are great and we must seek ways of establishing a sufficient endowment that matches the needs of our great Nebraska History.

Curator of Photographs John Carter (right) assists patrons Velma Cooper of Decatur (left) and Melva Christensen of Lyons.

