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Article Summary: The Jenner brothers built an elaborate amusement park with many educational exhibits from all over the world. This Loup City attraction drew thousands of visitors for many years.

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Photographs / Images: Henry and Robert Jenner during the 1920s; park entrance as it appears today; park mummy house, built in 1909; fountain and water garden; Bob Jenner inside the park's ocean wave amusement ride; monkey-faced owls in park animal cage

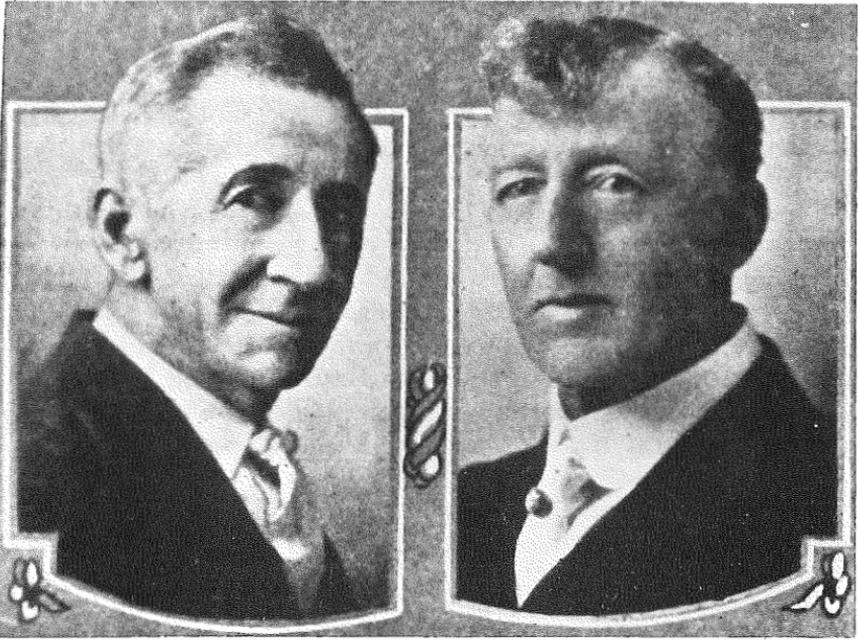
Jenner's Park, Loup City, Nebraska, 1900-1942

By Janet Stoeger Wilke

At the east end of O Street in Loup City, Nebraska, stand stone blocks once forming the gateway to one of central Nebraska's most interesting places of recreation—Jenner's Park. The vestiges of stone and iron cages set into banks, the concrete outlines of flower beds and fountains, the covered bench carved like a serpent are evidence that this was once much more than a place for picnic tables and swings. But there is no record or sign that this small area once hosted thousands of Nebraskans on hot Sunday afternoons. Children wandered through the museum and were exposed to exhibits from the four corners of the world.

From 1900 to the early 1940s full title of this recreational facility was Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park, a place to gather, play, learn, and expand the horizons of insular inhabitants of the dry farming country of north-central Nebraska.

Henry and Robert Jenner, the park's founders, were Londoners born to wealthy parents¹ in the brewing business. The boys' early education was at Eton. Later, they matriculated at King's College University of London, where they studied art. After his graduation, Henry worked in his father's company for a few years. It was during this time that he was attracted by a magazine article whose sponsor promised "for \$350.00 we'll teach you to farm."² The American Colonization Society through the London firm of Rathbone and Company had been advertising for young Englishmen to come to American plains states for instruction in ranching and farming. Henry arrived in Nebraska in February, 1883. He was the last arrival of a group sponsored by the Colonization Society; it became known as the "English Crowd," a prominent segment of society in the early years of Sherman County.³



Henry (left) and Robert Jenner during the 1920s. . . . (Below) Park entrance as it appears today.



While Henry opted for a life of ranching, Bob spent a year in Cape Town, South Africa, painting, drawing, and hunting. In late 1883 he joined his brother in Loup City.⁴

The Jenner brothers were hardly typical dirt farmers. A picture owned by Henry's son, Robert, of Loup City shows the brothers, guns in hand, surrounded by hunting trophies. Robert Jenner recalls that his father's and uncle's early years in the state consisted more of hunting and riding than of planting and harvesting.⁵ In the early 1890s Henry married Laura Lee Smith of Tennessee, and after ventures in farming, ranching, and the creamery business became Loup City's water commissioner and engineer. He moved to the eastern edge of Loup City and bought a nearby seven-acre section of land forming a horseshoe-shaped depression along Dead Horse Creek.

As his daughter Constance and sons Hal and Robert grew, he installed playground equipment for them near his house. The terrain of his creek land fascinated him. His son remembers, "He would stand and look down there and dream."⁶ Eventually the brothers began to improve the area and turned it into a park. He opened it to the public around 1900. The earliest Loup City newspaper reference to the park was in the *Times* of July, 1903: "Loup City Park is now open for picnics and private parties. For terms apply to Henry Jenner."⁷

The development and growth of Jenner's Park, which began before 1900, continued for 42 years. Robert Jenner once said, "My father, knowing his background, where he got all these ideas I'll never know."

Henry Jenner wanted the park to provide recreation for families but also serve as an educational center.⁸ Admission price for the day during the early years of the park was 10 cents for adults, with some games and rides inside requiring separate tickets. Gate price was raised to 25 cents during the 1930s but later reduced during the depths of the Depression.

A dominant feature of Jenner's Park has been its striking entrance. Before present Nebraska Highway 92 was built, travelers entering Loup City from the east viewed the park entrance before turning west to the business district. The main entrance of the park faces west.

Early pictures of the park show a simple entrance defined by poles and spanned with a Jenner's Park sign. In 1926 an

elaborate masonry structure entrance was built. Enclosed ticket offices on either side of the opening were connected by an arch. Vines soon covered the structure. The finished entrance looked like a small medieval fortress. Only persons afoot were allowed through the gate, but an exception was made if an invalid were to enter in a conveyance.⁹ The entrance is now partially boarded, but the stone structure still stands, a bit forlorn, but looking much as it did when built.

In 1936 a second entrance was built to a car-parking area south of the site. Henry Jenner carved totem poles to stand on stone bases to frame this entrance.¹⁰ The bases remain. The concrete borders, which enclosed flower beds, are still visible, as are a few flower urns. Among the flowers was a sun dial, once a fixture in the garden of Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII of England. Well-manicured lawns surrounded the plots of flowers,¹¹ which were applauded in newspaper articles as early as 1909. Also mentioned was the elevated walk called Lover's Lane, which wound up a bank and across a bridge.¹² In the trees along the walk were wood carvings of spiders, dragons, and coiled snakes with shining eyes. Lying on the ground was a 10-foot alligator, carved from a tree trunk; pressure on its head caused the jaws to move up and down. The mechanical alligator typified the Jenners' sense of fun.¹³

The park contained some specialized botanical features, including a fernery built of rocks, in which grew rare varieties. There also was a water garden and fountain with cattails, water grasses, and goldfish. Henry Jenner set out banks of bulbs each spring.¹⁴ Shade trees served to cool the park, a not inconsiderable item before air conditioning, and doubly important during the drought years of the 1930s.

The first structure in the park was the barn-like pavilion, erected to the right of the park entrance atop the south bank. There were eventually two sets of stairs built to its doors. The date of its construction is not known, but a 1904 broadside advertised "dancing in the pavilion, first class floor." The pavilion was used for more than dancing. Also called the museum, the pavilion held the acquisitions of the Jenners, who were tireless travelers and collectors. The Jenners' Park guide book of 1927 lists 20 pages of museum materials.¹⁵

A unique construction in 1909 was the Mummy House. Set

on the south bank east of the pavilion, a broad set of stairs ended at its wide doorway.¹⁶ The idea for the structure came to Henry Jenner after his visit to the Egyptology section of the British Museum in London. His fascination with things Egyptian increased when one of the curators gave him a turquoise scarab. It is a prized possession of his son.

The Egyptian theme was developed by Henry, who accordingly painted the building exterior gray and sanded it to a finish closely resembling stone. The interior was designed to resemble a stalactite cave; walls were inset with colored lights. Most of the mummies were bought when the Lenniger Art Gallery in Omaha sold its collection. Others were acquired through the years.¹⁷

From the beginning Jenner's Park housed a zoo. In 1935 there were 39 cages, but the actual number of animals was much higher. Included were such exotic species as leopards, alligators, monkeys, bears, and a large collection of birds. Such native animals as raccoons, porcupines, and badgers also had a place.¹⁸ In 1909 the zoo acquired a wounded falcon, and in 1914 a tarantula found in a local store's bananas was accepted.¹⁹

Animals from diverse climates required special treatment, especially in the winter months. Quarters for warm-weather animals were built into a hill east of the park. It had a southern exposure and a long room with wood stove.²⁰ The Jenners thus utilized modern heating methods—earth shelter, with solar and wood heat—to warm their animals.

Henry Jenner made the zoo cages works of art. The monkey cage, built in 1924, was a 30x40 foot re-creation of a Chinese pagoda. Many were set into banks on the north and south edges of the park. Others had stonework matching the park entrance and wood carvings framing the fronts.²¹

Of the amusements, games and rides were popular. The ocean wave or circle swing, added in 1906, could seat 40 people as it revolved and dipped. It was decorated with colorful carvings of dolphins, mermaids, and other deep sea life. Others were the pony ride and snake swings. The athletic grounds contained a giant's stride, horizontal bars, quoits and croquet grounds, box-ball alley, and shooting galleries. A Plaza de Toros game consisted of tossing a rope over a bull's large, movable horns.²² Several ball-throwing games

displayed both the comic and artistic sides of the Jenners. Figures were carved out of wood and given colorful faces. The object was to hit the mouth with a ball.²³

Between 1905 and the early 1930s the park was a growing, vital segment of the life of the Loup City area. The auto era had dawned, and travel was faster and easier. In central Nebraska, Jenner's Park was the place to go.

Time for other activities became possible when animals were provided for in winter quarters and amusements were disassembled and stored. The Jenners then did much of their traveling and collecting for the museum. Several trips were made by Henry to England, the last in 1928 netting "three large trunks filled with rare curios," for the museum. Some items were expensive. In one year (1910) \$3,000 worth of curios were added to the park.²⁴

Although Henry traveled occasionally the adventurer of the family was Bob. In 1908 he took the long road, via California and across Panama, to return to England for the Olympics.²⁵ Around 1911 he held a homestead for several years in South Dakota, returning occasionally to help with the park. In other years Bob traveled to Louisiana, Texas, Mexico, and Central America. He also took time to visit vineyard-owning friends in California. Never manager of the park, Bob assisted Henry whenever he was in Loup City. His help grew in frequency and importance as the brothers aged.

Most animals for the museum arrived in the fall or spring and were front-page news. In 1913 Bob was bitten by the Guatemalan rattlesnake during feeding. He received no permanent injuries but probably was not sorry when the snakes failed to survive the winter.²⁶ On New Year's Day, 1923, a sun bear arrived from the Malay Peninsula. Bob Jenner told the paper that the bear was "inclined to be rather too friendly." A month later the bear again made the front page. After slipping his collar in the winter quarters he killed a macaw parrot, a silver-crested cockatoo, and the Java monkey. The bear then grabbed Bob and had him on the ground when Henry rescued his brother, who fortunately escaped with scratches and bruises.²⁷

In 1928 the town mourned when King, the museum's 36-year-old white pony, which had been a children's favorite, died of old age. The newspaper headlined the story, "King Is

Dead.”²⁸ Animal news always made good copy. In February of 1932, a groundhog story was reported by the *Sherman County Times*:

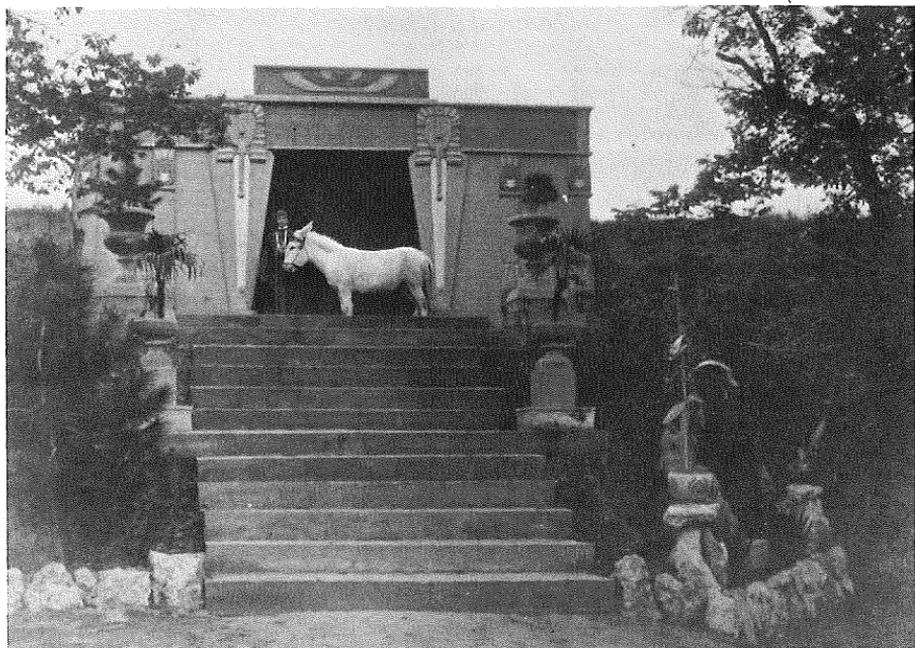
Tuesday was groundhog day and while he had a chance to see his shadow, we know of one who passed out on that day. At the winter quarters of the Jenner’s Zoological park, they had a fine groundhog. He came out and walked around that day and in the afternoon he passed out of existence and keeled over and died. What the cause of his death was no one seems to know.²⁹

Winter renovations and improvements were mainly the work of Henry Jenner, the creator. Robert Jenner said, “We had an extra bedroom, and out would go the bed and in went his work table.”³⁰ Some years additions were minor, merely items to lend color and uniqueness to otherwise mundane objects. Carvings for cages or new fountains of abalone shells are such examples. In other years plans were elaborate. The monkey cage was added in 1924 and topped with lavish carvings. A large structure, it was planned as a stage from which to shoot fireworks. In 1926 an Alaskan Indian hut was built to complement the Alaskan totem poles. The front of the cedar log hut was decorated with carved figures and a working fireplace added in the rear.³¹

In 1909 the Jenners finished a major project. When the old Loup City baseball diamond reverted to farm ground, they decided to add a ballpark to their operation. A tract of land atop the bank and south of the pavilion was cleared and a grandstand built. The *Sherman County Times-Independent* was an excited booster, suggesting that out-of-town tournament fans would leave “lots of coin” and admonishing local merchants to get behind the idea.³²

The ballpark opened that fall but without a tournament and without baseball. A football game was planned between the high school and a local town team, to be followed by a masquerade ball. Rain forced cancellation of all events, and Henry Jenner’s expenditure of approximately \$1,000 brought in nothing that fall. But the newspaper editor suggested the people should pay Jenner as a rainmaker.³³

In the spring newspapers described Jenner’s Park preparations and carried advertisements for its opening day. In the 1920s and early 1930s there appeared publication of handbooks about the park and its services. *The Official Guide, Jen-*



The Jenner's Park mummy house, built in 1909. . . . (Below) Fountain and water garden.



ner's *Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park* was published as early as 1920, and in 1926 5,000 copies of the book were circulated.³⁴ An 88-page guide book in 1929 contained 34 pages describing the park, the mummy house, and museum, and included 29 pictures. It also carried advertising by local merchants.³⁵

Opening day at Jenner's Park was a gala celebration, often a morning-to-midnight occasion. In 1916 the formal program began at 11:30 a.m. with Mayor Mathew's address, "Parks and Their Benefits." In 1918 Ross Hammond of the *Fremont Tribune* spoke on his experiences in the European war zone. Noon picknickers surged into the park, after which there was usually a concert, most frequently by the Loup City Silver Cornet Band. There were baseball games or competitive sports. Special attractions for casual participants were comic races, shoe races, duck races, and fat men's races.³⁶

Night-time and afternoon programs might be presented. In 1914 Montague R. Worlock, formerly of the Italian opera, sang, accompanied by Florence and Mabel Depew of Loup City. Contortionists, acrobats, and dancers were on a 1921 vaudeville program. Trapeze stunts and frog imitations by La Reno, the human frog, delighted small children in 1923.³⁷

A second band concert preceded supper. In 1915, 75 couples danced in the pavilion until "early morn." In 1920 the *Times* had decried the fact that the pavilion floor could not hold all who wished to dance.³⁸

Opening days between 1914 and the late 1920s drew the largest crowds. In 1914 the crowd was estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000. In 1916, 300 people came from Arcadia, many by train. The big year was 1926. The *Standard* reported a crowd of 2,000-3,000, but its rival, the *Times*, estimated the crowd at 5,000-6,000. Loup City at the time had approximately 1,900 residents. In the 1920s rain fell so frequently on opening day that a 1926 newspaper headlined its story, "Opening Day at Park Failed to Bring Rain."³⁹

By the early 1930s opening day was no longer the celebration it had once been, though still anticipated by the community. In 1935 Jenner planned to open later than usual, but he received many telephone pleas that he open earlier, and he did.⁴⁰

Starting early in the century Jenner's Fourth of July celebra-

tion was a big event. The program, announcements, and banner headlines appeared in the area papers advertising the celebration.⁴¹

In 1912 the Independence Day activities program started informally at 8 a.m. with park amusements open for business. In World War I years orators made patriotic speeches in the afternoon, and in 1919 the county's soldiers and sailors were welcomed back. A baseball game was usually in progress, and in 1907 the first Loup City girls' basketball team was invited to play. Other regular attractions were the rooster and balloon races and tilting at the ring while on horseback. Others were tug-of-war, foot races, and jumping contests. The horseshoe courts and the box ball alley were generally occupied. The popular ocean-wave ride splashed merrily throughout the day.⁴²

The park theatre, added in 1912 for the Fourth of July celebration, provided vaudeville acts, many of them by local talent. Flora Bell Buton of nearby Ansley danced the Charleston and a Mr. Miller, a ventriloquist of Mason City, performed in 1926.⁴³ In 1911 the Jenners promised the largest display of fireworks that Loup City had ever seen. In 1912 five men were kept busy for an hour setting off the display, which came after dark to close the evening—except for the dancing.

When electricity came to Loup City, Jenner's Park was one of the first places wired. Lights added to the park's night appearance, and visitors now lingered into the evening and night hours. Regardless of competition from other towns, Jenner's Fourth of July celebration drew large crowds. In 1927 6,000-7,000 attended, and 670 cars representing six states were parked around the entrance. In 1928 there were an estimated 5,000-6,000 paid admissions to the park for the one-day celebration.⁴⁴

Jenner's Fourth of July celebration always conflicted with those of other towns, and those whose loyalties kept them tied to their local festivals missed the Loup City-Jenner programs. Hence, in 1915 the Jenners decided to create another special day later in the year. Loup City as a community was pleased with the Jenner-sponsored July 4th celebration, but at times leaders felt the need for a city-sponsored day. In 1914 the *Northwestern* commented, "As usual Loup City turned over its celebration to the management of Jenner's Park." The mat-

ter was apparently dropped, but 16 years later in 1930 a committee representing service organizations canvassed the business community to determine its sentiment for a city-sponsored day. At least \$1,000 was needed for such an event, and the money could not be raised. In 1931 a full-page advertisement in the *Times* announced a picnic to be held July 4 in down-town Loup City. A modest program of sports was organized by the business people and prizes given. Jenner's countered with advertisements offering five free acts and a free dance.⁴⁵

In 1932 the affair was moved back to Jenner's Park but at reduced admission rates of 25 cents and 15 cents. The *Times* reported, "Jenner's Park can always be depended upon to stage a Fourth of July celebration, and this year is no exception." In 1933, feeling that there should also be free entertainment, the business people organized a program. Although the park's attractions were still available each year, the last three years of the decade saw the Fredrick's Carnival a big attraction in the business district.⁴⁶

The last big event of the year at Jenner's Park was the fall Harvest Festival (Carnival). When held, it replaced the county fair, which had a ragged history in the early years of the county.

The first Sherman County Fair was held in 1879 but operated only sporadically for the next 30 years. By 1909 the Fair Association was making no progress on reducing its indebtedness, and the fairgrounds were sold.⁴⁷ In 1910 Henry Jenner announced his first Harvest Festival, which by 1913 became known as the Sherman County Fair and Stock Show.⁴⁸

Stalls for the livestock were set up to the left of the park gate. The fowl display was arranged nearby, and the pavilion held the needlework. The attendance one day reached 5,000. The *Northwestern* felt that the park could have held many more and expressed the opinion that land elsewhere need not be purchased for a fairgrounds. In 1914, 8,000 people attended in a single day, and the same newspaper then lamented the lack of space for exhibits.

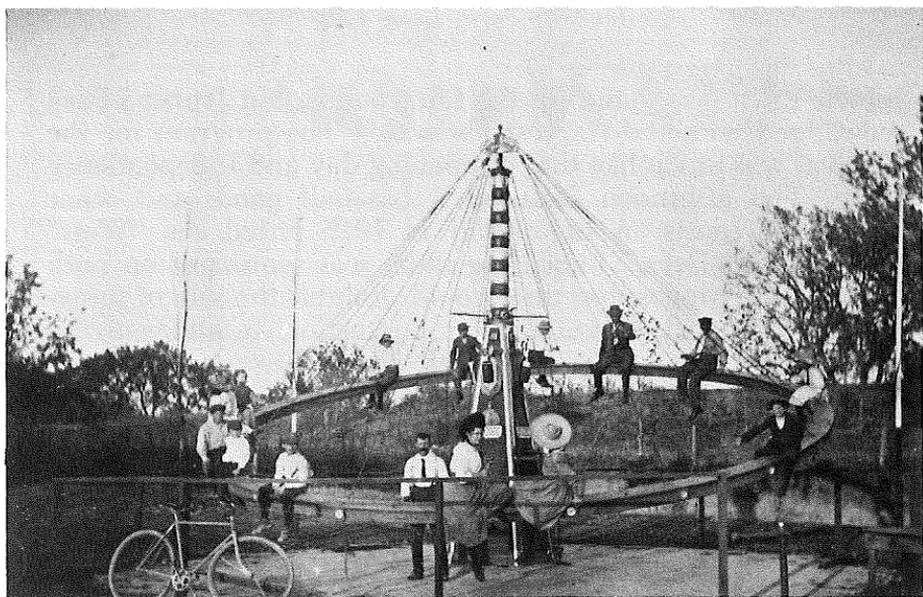
In March, 1916, the fair board appointed officers with instructions to locate and rent a larger location for the fair. Agricultural exhibitions continued to overflow the display space at Jenner's Park through 1918.⁴⁹ In 1922 new land west

of the town was found for the fairgrounds, but Jenner's Park continued with the Harvest Festival.⁵⁰ The program for the festival was much like that of opening day and Independence Day. The afternoon featured a baseball game and other organized sports. A tug-of-war in 1915 pitted the "Wets" against the "Drys," indicating there was sentiment on both sides of the proposition that would prohibit the sale of intoxicants. Vaudeville acts of jugglers, contortionists, and ventriloquists were provided. Music was always provided. In 1925 there were concerts by three bands, one from Sod Town, one from Elm Creek High School, and one by the Loup City Silver Cornet band. The Aubly Brothers Orchestra of Ord played for dancing.

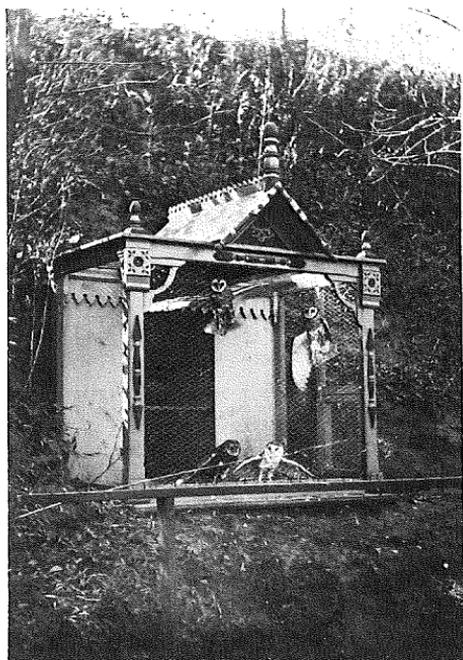
The fall festival continued at Jenner's Park through the 1920s. Although the park usually remained open for a few more weeks, the event marked the close of the "summer" season. During summer the park was open seven days a week. Midweek outings were favored by many groups because congestion was not usually a problem. In August, 1916, 12 automobile loads of Ansley residents brought their midweek picnic lunches. In 1926 car loads came from Boelus and Dannebrog for a Wednesday noon lunch. September of 1928 saw Boone County Day at the park. Over 400 former Boone County residents living in the Loup City area spent a day there. In 1929 the Burlington Railroad sponsored one of several picnics along its routes. A ticket on the train also bought a free park ticket. Nearly 3,000 people along the Aurora-to-Sargent branch of the Burlington route once came to Jenner's in special trains.⁵¹

School children were the principal beneficiaries of the park's educational features. When Dr. E. H. Barbour, professor at the University of Nebraska, visited the museum during the 1930s he asserted, probably with some hyperbole, that it was worth \$500 a year to each school child of the community. Area school officials and teachers were quick to agree with the assessment. In 1925 several automobile loads of school children were driven 32 miles from Cairo to hear Henry Jenner explain the exhibits. County school teachers north of Burwell once brought their students for a visit. Contingents from schools closer to Loup City were routine.⁵²

Pioneers themselves in Loup City, the Jenners appreciated



Bob Jenner stands inside the park's ocean wave amusement ride.



Monkey-faced owls in park animal cage.

the history of the community. At times displays were enriched by local gifts. Jock Jewett gave guns, bullet molds, and other items that had belonged to his family. A prize acquisition was the bell used at Fort Hartsuff near Ord.⁵³ Indian relics complemented the pioneer items. Of special note was a large collection of spears suspended from the ceiling.

When Henry and Bob Jenner served as tour guides, a visit to the park was a unique experience. Their listeners reported that when the Jenners lectured, history came alive.⁵⁴

It should be noted that while the Jenners ran their enterprise as a business, they nevertheless provided the community a service it was not able to finance alone. Many times their civic-mindedness took a more direct route. In 1916 and 1917 the Jenners donated a day's receipts to the library fund. They had previously donated nearly all the money needed for a public fountain on the courthouse square.⁵⁵

A newspaper article about the park's final days appeared in the June 24, 1942, *Sherman County Times*. Henry Jenner had used a day's receipts to purchase WW II War stamps. Rain dampened the occasion as several carloads of visitors arrived from Grand Island and Kearney. Jenner's Park had finally given up in the face of societal changes making it obsolescent.⁵⁶

Henry Jenner's concern was now his failing eyesight. An artist and lover of nature, Henry fought against blindness for half his life. He had returned to England in 1911 for four operations. Home town newspapers had then despaired of his condition, but he returned much improved. A footnote to history is that he had planned to return on the *Titanic* but decided at the last moment to join friends on another ship.⁵⁷

The park had survived other problems. In 1915 flooding along Dead Horse Creek had nearly destroyed the park. Its bridges and plants were washed away and many of the animals killed. That fall the Jenners spent time and much money building a large ditch and two dams to change the course of the creek.⁵⁸ In 1922 a similar problem nearly resulted in the park's closing. Although the three main days were celebrated in good style, Robert Jenner recalled in an interview that poor weather conditions and advancing age forced his father to consider selling the park then. He planned to move to the more agreeable weather of California and start

another amusement park. The pleas of his friends persuaded him to continue the operation.⁵⁹

In the winter of 1929 the park faced another huge financial loss. The severe winter killed animals worth \$3,000. The Jenners somehow managed to obtain replacements for most of them before the park opened as usual in the spring.⁶⁰ In the late 1930s park attendance dwindled. Uncharacteristically, opening day was not planned as a major celebration and the Fourth of July festival was moved uptown. There had been financial setbacks over the years, but somehow the Jenners had overcome them. Now the Great Depression came to the Plains. Entrance fees were reduced and the park did not suffer financially as much as expected.

In the 1930s the new state park at Bowman Lake on the west edge of Loup City did, however, provide competition. In July of 1931 the *Times* estimated 300-500 cars at the Lake on one day.⁶¹

The primary reason for the decline and eventual closing of the park appears to have been the Jenners themselves. They had grown old building the area into a center for community activities. When they curtailed their activities, the park business declined. On December 30, 1940, Robert Bond Jenner died.⁶² Henry still kept the park open, but it was physically difficult for him. One day while working in the deer pen, one of the animals knocked him down. The quick action of a visitor saved him from serious injury, but he summarily decided to close the park. He was then 81 years old.

Henry lost his eyesight completely after closing the park. His son recalled his father saying in later years, "I've been busy all afternoon making things [for the park]." Actually it was only the fantasy of an old man who had once built a central Nebraska institution. Henry Jenner died in 1955 at the age of 93.⁶³

The history of Jenner's Park after its closing in 1942 is not a happy one. Shortly after the park was closed vandals destroyed virtually everything. The amusements, cages, fountains, Henry Jenner's carefully made carvings—everything was knocked down and ruined. Thefts from the museum left it gutted. The destruction so depressed Henry's son Robert that he did not return to the park for more than seven years. By 1950 many of the remaining items had been sold privately.⁶⁴

In 1951 the Jenner family offered the park land and what remained of the installations to Loup City for \$5,000. Voters turned down the offer in a special election.

In the mid-1950s the park lands were sold to William and Myrtle Schnase, who pastured the area.⁶⁵

In 1972 City Councilman Don Schwaderer introduced an ordinance calling for the annexation of the Jenner's Park area to Loup City. After the ordinance was passed, Loup City residents Jim Grapes, Dave Hendricks, and Bob Glinsmann cooperated with the State Game and Parks Commission to gain improvement money for the area. The city worked through a fund project called SCORP (State Conservation Outdoor Recreation Plan), which determines what facilities are available and how they are utilized. In 1974, \$46,568.12 was obtained to provide recreational facilities, but there was no provision for retaining original installations.⁶⁶

Today at Jenner's Park there are swings and slides for children and picnic shelters for families. The snake swing and cages lining the banks are curiosities for park visitors to speculate upon as they eat picnic lunches. Occasionally some oldster will tell them about the little amusement-educational park which once was there—and of the Jenners whose desire was to give their neighbors a window on a larger world.

NOTES

1. Henry Jenner (1861-1955) and Robert Jenner (1863-1940) are listed in *Who's Who in Nebraska* (Lincoln: Nebraska Press Association, 1940), 1,054; *Sherman County Times* (Loup City, Nebraska), January 1, 1941.
2. Interview with Robert Jenner, son of Henry Jenner, Loup City, Nebraska, April 12, 1982.
3. Meroe J. Owens *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska* (Norfolk, Nebraska: *Norfolk Daily News*, 1952), 42, 106.
4. *Sherman County Times*, January 1, 1941.
5. Jenner, April 12, 1982.
6. *Ibid.*
7. *Sherman County Times*, June 23, 1904.
8. Jenner, April 12, 1982.
9. *Ibid.*
10. *Sherman County Times*, March 7, 1936.
11. *Official Guide to Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park*, 1931, 3, 71.
12. *Sherman County Times*, June 24, 1909.
13. Interview with Robert Jenner, Loup City, Nebraska, May 17, 1982.
14. *Official Guide Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park* (Loup Ci-

- ty, Nebraska: *People's Standard*, 1929), 36, 39. *Sherman County Times*, May 6, 1940.
15. *Sherman County Times*, June 23, 1904; *Official Guide Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park*, 1927, 44-66.
 16. *Grand Island Daily Independent* (Grand Island, Nebraska), June 25, 1924.
 17. Jenner, April 12, 1982; *Official Guide Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park*, 1927, 42.
 18. *Sherman County Times*, June 14, 1935; *Official Guide Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park* (Loup City, Nebr.: n. p., 1931), 36-71.
 19. Jenner, April 12, 1982; *Loup City Northwestern* (Loup City, Nebraska), March 4, 1909; *Loup City Northwestern*, May 28, 1914.
 20. *People's Standard*, December 16, 1927.
 21. *Sherman County Times*, June 6, 1924, 1; Jenner, April 12, 1982.
 22. *Loup City Northwestern*, June 7, 1906; *Official Guide Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park*, 1931, 40, 42; 1929, 37.
 23. Jenner, April 12, 1982.
 24. *Sherman County Times-Independent* (Loup City, Nebraska), August 10, 1911; *Sherman County Times*, January, 1941; Jenner, April 12, 1982; *Loup City Northwestern*, May 19, 1910.
 25. *Sherman County Times*, December 21, 1928; *Loup City Northwestern*, May 28, 1908.
 26. *Loup City Northwestern*, September 25, 1913; *Loup City Northwestern*, May 28, 1914.
 27. *Sherman County Times*, January 5, 1923; *Sherman County Times*, February 9, 1923; Jenner, April 12, 1982.
 28. *People's Standard*, March 23, 1928.
 29. *Sherman County Times*, February 5, 1932.
 30. Jenner, April 12, 1982.
 31. *Sherman County Times*, June 4, 1935; June 6, 1924; May 14, 1926.
 32. *Sherman County Times-Independent*, July 1, 1909; *Sherman County Times-Independent*, July 23, 1909.
 33. *Loup City Northwestern*; September 30, 1909, *Loup City Northwestern*, October 14, 1909.
 34. *People's Standard*, May 9, 1929; *Sherman County Times*, May 13, 1921; *Sherman County Times*, May 21, 1926.
 35. *Official Guide, Jenner's Zoological, Educational and Amusement Park*, 1929, 1-88.
 36. *Sherman County Times*, June 1, 1916; June 13, 1918, 1; *People's Standard*, May 23, 1929.
 37. *Sherman County Times Independent*, June 4, 1914; *Sherman County Times*, June 3, 1921; *Sherman County Times*, June 22, 1923.
 38. *Sherman County Times*, June 1, 1916; *Loup City Northwestern*, June 10, 1915; *Sherman County Times*, June 11, 1920.
 39. *Sherman County Times*, June 11, 1914; *Sherman County Times*, June 22, 1916; *People's Standard*, May 28, 1926; *Sherman County Times*, May 28, 1926; *Nebraska Blue Book* (Lincoln: Nebraska Legislature, 1926), 400.
 40. *Loup City Northwestern*, June 13, 1935.
 41. *Sherman County Times-Independent*, June 16, 1910. Each of the Loup City newspapers would have the same banner advertisements and park program published.
 42. *Sherman County Times-Independent*, June 27, 1912; *Sherman County Times*, July 2, 1914; June 20, 1918; July 11, 1918; July 20, 1919; June 20, 1922; *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska*, 81.
 43. *People's Standard*, July 8, 1926.
 44. *Sherman County Times-Independent*, June 29, 1911; July 11, 1912; June 24, 1915; *Sherman County Times*, July 8, 1927; July 6, 1928; *Loup City Northwestern*, July 27, 1912.

45. *Loup City Northwestern*, July 9, 1914; *Sherman County Times*, May 23, 1930; *Sherman County Times*, June 26, 1931; *Sherman County Times*, July 3, 1931.
46. *Sherman County Times*, June 24, 1932; *Sherman County Times*, July 9, 1937; *Sherman County Times*, June 30, 1938; *Sherman County Times*, July 5, 1939.
47. Owens, *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska*, 162-163.
48. *Sherman County Times-Independent*, September 8, 1910; *Loup City Northwestern*, August 21, 1913.
49. *Loup City Northwestern*, September 25, 1913; October 1, 1914; March 23, 1916; *Sherman County Times*, September 19, 1918.
50. Owens, *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska*, 163.
51. *Sherman County Times*, August 14, 1925; August 31, 1916; September 21, 1928; *Sherman County Times Independent*, July 22, 1915; *People's Standard*, August 28, 1925; August 20, 1926; September 23, 1926; August 1, 1929.
52. Owens, *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska*, 103; *Sherman County Times*, May 29, 1925; Interview with Gerald Chaffin, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, May 3, 1982; Jenner, April 12, 1982.
53. *Loup City Leader*, May 13, 1937; Owens, *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska*, 103.
54. *People's Standard*, June 22, 1933; *Sherman County Times*, June 28, 1935.
55. Owens, *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska*, 103; *Sherman County Times*, May 11, 1916; *Loup City Northwestern*, August 21, 1917.
56. *Sherman County Times*, June 24, 1942.
57. *Loup City Northwestern*, February 5, 1912.
58. *Loup City Northwestern*, June 24, 1915; *Sherman County Times*, March 16, 1916.
59. Jenner, April 12, 1982. There is some confusion on this point. Newspapers for 1922 do not report disastrous weather or any other major park problems. However, Robert Jenner is certain that his father wanted to close because of poor conditions.
60. *Sherman County Times*, April 26, 1929.
61. Jenner, April 12, 1982; *Sherman County Times*, June 17, 1932; *Sherman County Times*, July 24, 1931.
62. *Sherman County Times*, January 1, 1941.
63. Jenner, May 17, 1982; *Sherman County Times*, January 27, 1955.
64. Owens, *A Brief History of Sherman County Nebraska*, 103; Jenner, April 12, 1982.
65. Jenner, April 12, 1982. Interview with Blanche Pifer, wife of former Bowman Lake State Park supervisor, Loup City, Nebraska, April 12, 1982.
66. Loup City, Nebraska, *Ordinance Record Number 223*, 1972. Interview with Jim Fuller, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, May 3, 1982.