

RG4592.MI - New Pioneers

Produced by Chenoweth of Omaha
Presented by Radio Station KFAB
In Collaboration with Nebraska Industry

Background music: Carillon at the University of Nebraska playing "There is No Place Like Nebraska."

Editorial Counselors:

Merle G. Jones, President
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Dr. James C. Olson, Secretary
State Historical Society

L.G. Bible, Editor
"Nebraska on the March"

The sponsors and many others

[The film presents an overview of the commercial and economic vitality of the state of Nebraska as seen in a virtual tour of facilities, programs, and industries across the state.]

Plaza surrounding the carillon at the University of Nebraska: A procession of faculty members and students in graduation gowns makes its way across the campus to the Coliseum.

Fraternity house: A group of people are gathering for lunch. The narrator of the film thanks the students for inviting him to the University Commencement exercises and to the lunch. He notes that there have been many changes at the University since his own graduation 20 years earlier, and he offers to tell the students what he has observed in Nebraska over the past year.

The narrator leads a 1500-mile bus tour around the state for Nebraska teachers, a program sponsored by Doane College and the Professional and Business Women's Association of Nebraska.

The narration begins with views of an Indian tribal dance, a bison herd, and longhorn cattle.

Railroad depot in Ogallala: Ogallala was the end of the Texas cattle trail, where the cattle rested before being shipped to the East on the Union Pacific Railroad.

The raising and marketing of livestock remains a major industry in the region.

Workers leaving the Goodall Electric Manufacturing Co. in Ogallala, a major producer of electronic parts with customers all over the country.

The Homestead National Monument of America: This facility is being developed by the Federal government near Beatrice (Gage County) on the land where Daniel Freeman filed the first homestead claim on January 1, 1863. Other pioneers followed, building flourishing farmsteads and towns across the state.

Arbor Lodge, in Nebraska City: This was the home of J. Sterling Morton, another Nebraska pioneer who was the Secretary of Agriculture in the Cabinet of President Cleveland. He saw the need for trees across the state and planted one of Nebraska's first orchards. He also established Arbor Day.

An hour south of Nebraska City, we see Nebraska's first producing oil well. Oil wells also exist in western Nebraska.

Aerial view of the Omaha stock yards: The Union Stockyards Co. is one of the largest livestock markets in the world. Omaha is a leading railroad hub and a junction for the ranches of the west and the feedlots of eastern Nebraska and Iowa. The Cudahy packing plant was established here in 1887. Other packers include Swift & Company and Armour. The Union Stockyards Co. was the first to install automatic water monitors to prevent and control fires, a major hazard in all stockyards.

Agricultural enterprises in Nebraska -- in addition to cattle raising, feedlots, and marketing — also include hogs, sheep, grain production, and hybrid seed corn research and development. The production of corn hybrids is described in detail.

Aerial view of the Sand Hills, "the finest cattle country in the whole wide world." The nutrients in the native grasses are supplemented by "range cubes" which are rich in vitamins.

Ranch children on horses: they become real cowboys by necessity.

The raising of hogs has also become big business in Nebraska. Hogs are now carefully fed with vitamin-enriched feed. One of the main producers of supplemental livestock feed is a mill in Crete, Nebraska.

Aksarben Baby Beef Show: A showcase for the prize animals raised all across the state. The winner and runner-up are pictured with their owners.

Dairy cattle on lush grass: The milk and dairy business is another major agricultural enterprise in Nebraska. Creameries in Fairmont and Beatrice (Beatrice Foods Co.) were the Nebraska pioneers in this industry.

Louis Pasteur, a French chemist, developed a process to protect and guarantee the quality of milk (and other) products. The Roberts Sanitary Dairy Company was Lincoln's first milk pasteurization plant.

Archives of the state of Nebraska in the basement of the Capitol: Dr. James C. Olson, Secretary of the State Historical Society, along with State Archivist Donald Danker, are seen searching the files of the Lincoln newspapers for reports on the typhoid fever epidemic in the summer and fall of 1911. The investigation which followed traced the disease to a contaminated city water well. The city's milk supplies were declared safe, however; and a newspaper advertisement highlights the pasteurization process used by the Roberts Sanitary Dairy Co. The Roberts Co. expanded to Sioux City, Omaha, and other locations in Nebraska. The improvement in the quality of milk was also a priority of the company.

The owner of the Roberts Sanitary Dairy Co. lives on a dairy farm where he uses a number of Nebraska-made farm tools and equipment – such as the rotary hay rake made in Blair, Nebraska.

Another Nebraska pioneer is Kelly Ryan, whose company developed a number of products that have had a major impact on the agricultural community. The same company also builds refrigerator boats for the government on the banks of the Missouri River. The touring school teachers are seen visiting the plant.

Other industrial enterprises in Nebraska include the Havelock railroad shops, the Goodyear plant, the Cushman Motor Works, and the Elgin Watch Co. in Lincoln.

Industrial developments in Omaha, Columbus, Seward, Hastings, Nebraska City, Deshler, and Beatrice are highlighted as additional evidence of Nebraska creativity and initiative.

Kentucky blue grass seed is produced in the upper Elkhorn Valley and is shipped all across the country.

Cozad, Nebraska: the world's largest alfalfa plant.

The varied scenery of Nebraska is reflected in Pine Creek Canyon near Long Pine and in sunset over Elkhorn Valley hay – and in agricultural enterprises all across the state. The sand hills and the ridges along the Niobrara River in Cherry County are also highlighted.

The narrator describes revolutionary developments in farm equipment (combines, for example) that have forever changed the work of the harvesting and threshing of wheat.

The State Fair: additional evidence of the progress and prosperity of Nebraska.

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KFAB radio transmitter: The narrator tours the new KFAB facilities near Papillion, Nebraska. KFAB is the most powerful radio station in the state with a signal that reaches all 48 states.

Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, on a day which features high school marching bands from all across Nebraska, is a venue which reflects the vitality and unity of the state.

Lakes in the Platte Valley: Dams and flood control efforts, the dedication of the Harlan County dam on the Republican River (1952). The original town of Republican City would soon be submerged by the lake behind the dam. A new town is being built on higher land.

Harvesting of potatoes in the North Loup valley.

Lake McConaughy in Keith County is a welcome sight to travelers, sportsmen, and ranchers, but especially to farmers whose lands are irrigated by water from the lake. Other sights in western Nebraska are described, including the city of Scottsbluff, the Wildcat Hills, and Mitchell Pass.

The varied sights and developments included in this tour of the state demonstrate that Nebraska is a place where new pioneers can “match toil with opportunity.” The film ends at the lunch table at the fraternity house in Lincoln where the narrator began his tour of the state.