



Nebraska History posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: Postscript: A Western Nebraska Road Trip

Full Citation: David L Bristow, "Postscript: A Western Nebraska Road Trip," *Nebraska History* 90 (2009): 232

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH2009RoadTrip.pdf>

Date: 2/20/2015

Cataloging Information:

Names: Margaret "Maggie" Gehrke, Ken Burns

Nebraska Place Names: Ainsworth

Photographs / Images: "Maggie" Gehrke standing at the edge of a road in early autumn snow during a motor trip across western Nebraska, October 24, 1916

P.S.

A Western Nebraska Road Trip



Thanks to Ken Burns's recent documentary film, *The National Parks*, Edward and Margaret "Maggie" Gehrke of Lincoln are known for their nationwide travels. However, before attempting to visit national parks by automobile, in 1916 Ed, Maggie, and their dog Pike set out on a thirteen-day motor trip across western Nebraska. (Maggie's 1916 travel diary appears in the Spring 1997 issue of *Nebraska History*.) Along the way they traveled treacherous roads and followed vague, "kinda-keep-to-the-north" directions from local residents. They replaced their Buick's broken springs, spent a fair amount of time cold, wet, and tired, and generally enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

On October 24, coming home from Ainworth in a "slushy, warm snow," they made barely five miles an hour. "It was an awful day to travel," Maggie wrote. "Ye-gods!" But they stopped to admire the beauty of frosted trees. "And the poorest twig on the elm tree was ridged inch deep with pearls," she wrote in her photo album.

Another photo shows Maggie digging the Buick out of a snowdrift. "Pretty bad," she wrote, "but beats staying at home!" ❏

DAVID L. BRISTOW