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Historical Notes and News

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 1, 1945

Since our last meeting the Legislature has acted upon the biennial requests prepared and approved a year ago. In view of the care with which the Board's requests were formulated and presented the Governor and Legislature gave very careful consideration to the Society's needs. The Board's estimates were accepted and enacted into law. The appropriated funds for the biennium include: Salary and Wages \$36,032.75; Maintenance Fund \$12,388.20; and Museum Fund \$2,750, total \$51,170.95. This places the Society on a more adequate financial base, and as war conditions subside its work can be advanced.

The Miscellaneous Cash Fund, which is in the hands of the treasurer of the Society, Mr. Nathan Gold, has increased over the last three years. This accumulation is, in large part, due to restrictions upon printing materials and supplies that would otherwise have been purchased. This fund includes the receipts from memberships and some miscellaneous collection of fees by the Society, along with receipts from the sale of past publications. The funds on hand as of October 1, 1945, totaled \$4,832.75.

The membership of the Society has shown an increase during the past year. Fifty-seven new members have been added to the Society. The paid up annual memberships as of October 1, 1945, were 512; library memberships were 102; and the Society carries on its exchange membership 511 newspapers and periodical publications. We now have nine life members and ten honorary members. The total number of magazines regularly distributed at present stands at 1,144. New memberships not previously listed in our magazine include the following:

Bunch, D. J., Supt., Red Cloud
Burke, Miss Marguerette R., Omaha
Cornelius, Lee H., Beatrice
Denver Public Library, Denver, Colo.

Harlan, Billy, Lincoln
 Kohel, Miss Nina, Wilber
 Rathbun, Miss Edgitha F., Harrison
 Sanderson, Charles J., Mitchell
 Tate, Miss Zetta C., Valentine
 Tucker, F. H., Lincoln
 Turner, Glenn E., Lincoln
 Woods, Ralph Emerson, San Jose, Calif.

Our records indicate a loss of eleven members who have died during the year. They are:

Brenan, Sister Mary Angela, Omaha
 Douglas, J. B., Tecumseh
 Figge, Theo, Minneapolis, Minn.
 Hinman, Mrs. Daisy, North Platte
 Irion, Charles H., Scottsbluff
 Jackson, George, Nelson
 Munroe, John A., Omaha
 Murtey, Mrs. Eva Worrell, Lincoln
 Reuter, F. A., Syracuse
 Rine, John A., Omaha
 Wood, A. B., Gering

THE MUSEUM continues to attract the greatest public attention. The registered visitors during the year ending October 1, 1945, numbered 33,332. By sample counts, it is evident that less than one-third of the visitors enter their names on the register. Therefore, the estimated number of persons visiting the museum during the year exceeds 100,000.

Registrations indicate that visitors came from every state in the Union and sixteen foreign countries. Naturally, the neighboring states of Iowa, Kansas, and Illinois (followed by California and Texas) send us the largest number of registered visitors.

The museum continues to receive numerous valuable gifts and donations from our many patrons. During the year 1,936 items were received from 82 donors. These gifts represent a great variety of materials. Included are:

Pictures--framed and unframed.

Household articles--beds, sewing machines, washing machines, churn, desks, cradles, and kitchen utensils of numerous types.

Musical instruments--pianos, organs, melodeons, player organ, phonographs, and the first radio broadcasting set used in Lincoln.

Costumes--numerous varieties representing many periods.

War materials--flags, relics, guns, shells, foreign money, and unique items of equipment.

Office equipment--early typewriters, printing presses, mimeograph machines, and other office devices.

Farm implements and miscellaneous equipment which illustrates various processes in farm activity.

A collection of Nebraska archeological specimens; also some from Egypt.

A number of collections of badges, political mementos and emblems.

Recent gifts not previously mentioned in the magazine include:

British War Relief--Lincoln Committee: A Red Cross cape worn by Alice E. Howell while a worker overseas during World War I.

Henry Carlstedt, Duluth, Minnesota: A large collection of 228 articles, consisting of furniture, farm implements, kitchen utensils, clothing, children's toys, etc. From the Gertrude Eaton estate at North Bend, Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Carnahan, Lincoln: A cross bow made by their son, John E. Carnahan, in 1941.

Mrs. Aileen Cochran, Washington, D. C.: A number of pieces of clothing to be added to her collection which the Society now has.

Mrs. Walter L. Dawson, Lincoln: Kit with knife and fork and spoon, used by Mrs. Dawson's brother in the Spanish-American War. Also some scales which were taken from Auginaldo's castle in Manila.

Marie P. Esch, Mason City: Two hats made of braided corn husks from the farm at Mason City.

Edward M. Garry, Lincoln: Certificate showing the promotion of Emory Gary to Second Lieutenant in 1864.

Alva Gaylord, Lincoln: Radio and equipment used in the old capitol building.

Mrs. Ray Gloeckler, Lincoln: Striped serape, about 200

years old, from the interior of Mexico. It was brought to her as a gift by her husband.

Jack Griffith, Lincoln: Pair of wooden shoes worn by the donor's great-great-grandfather. Brought to this country from Holland.

Frank Groumos, Lincoln: One cent copper coin and an Australian penny.

Brooks Harding, Washington, D. C.: Two United Nations flags. This honor flag of the United Nations was designed by Mr. Harding and has won wide acceptance.

William Jurgensen, Lincoln: A cap and ball Colt's revolver, bullet mould and an old coffee mill which belonged to the Riddell family of Lincoln.

Oscar Kayser, Bellevue: Desk used during the first Territorial election at Bellevue.

Miss Ivy Kirby, Lincoln: Pair of pillow shams and a collection of clothing.

Otto Klima, Pilger: A collection of 200 archeological specimens and a number of articles of historical interest from Pilger.

Lewis A. Kuhne, Lincoln: A crucifix made from a shell. Brought back from France during World War I.

Frank Leger, Lincoln: Railroad coupling.

Mrs. Fred Mapes, Lincoln: Old cheese box, an interesting item.

Gregg McBride, Lincoln: An old Smith Premier No. 2 typewriter, used by the donor for a number of years. Also an old Edison Standard phonograph, Model D, Serial No. 66817, with ten records.

Mrs. Richard Newman, Hastings: A diamond willow cane.

George Ringrose, Minneapolis, Minnesota: A Treet single-edge razor.

Mrs. Wayne Stoddard, Auburn: Hand-made coverlet woven by her grandmother, Mrs. Smally.

THE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS continue to constitute a major responsibility of the Society. Within the year, the Society has succeeded in bringing together its book collection, part of which was housed in the University of Nebraska library. This has involved considerable expense for the construction of new shelving and

the cost of transportation and labor. The transfer was completed in August, and as yet all the books are not systematically shelved and arranged. Nevertheless, the accessibility of the collection is already a great advantage to the staff in the handling of its work.

The library continues to purchase books dealing especially with Nebraska and the plains area. It also attempts to acquire a minimum reference library. During the past year, we have purchased 136 volumes at a cost of \$342.

The library profits especially by gifts and donations, some 210 volumes having come from 45 donors. The exchange of periodicals with other historical societies and universities has added more than 100 volumes.

By all odds the most important addition to the research collection of the Society is the transfer by Governor Griswold of executive correspondence and letter books formerly housed in the governor's vault. These included 50 letter books of executive correspondence covering the period 1871-1901; 107 boxes of correspondence extending from 1867-1918; 12 bound manuscript volumes containing executive journals, records, and lists of delegates. In addition, there are 17 boxes of institutional materials. These manuscripts and papers contain a wealth of material on the political and institutional history of Nebraska. Many of the papers are in fragile condition and will require careful attention for safe preservation. No previous donation has added so much valuable material to the manuscript collection of the Society.

OUR NEWSPAPER COLLECTION continues to grow. The Society receives an almost complete list of Nebraska newspapers and periodical publications. At present, we are receiving 333 weeklies and semi-weeklies, 25 dailies and, in addition, 8 publications from outside the state. The binding has kept up with the accumulation of papers and 455 newspaper volumes have been added to the files. We now have one of the most complete newspaper libraries for any state.

Within the year six papers have discontinued publication. They are:

Gwinda Uachodu (Western Star), Polish publication of

Omaha, established 1905 and discontinued June 20, 1945.

Merna Messenger ceased publication October 12, 1944, with Vol. 40, No. 37.

Polk County Democrat, Osceola, established by E. A. Walrath in 1888. Ceased publication December 21, 1944.

Bushnell Record ceased publication November 22, 1944.

Burwell Tribune sold to Chas. Dunham of Beloit, Kansas, July, 1945.

Rosalie Rip-Saw ceased publication April 27, 1945, subscription list having been purchased by the publisher of the *Walthill Citizen*.

Half of this list has been replaced by new publications. These include:

Campbell News, established November 24, 1944 by Robert E. Hartman.

Lincoln Carrier, published by Western Electric Company, began publication of its Lincoln section with the November, 1944, issue.

W O W News Tower, Omaha, is now coming to the department as a regular exchange.

In addition the Society has received:

The North-Western Journal of Education, Lincoln, Vol. 5 to 8, (1894-1898).

Nebraska Teacher, Lincoln, Vol 1 to Vol. 5, (1898 to 1903), presented by Mrs. Celia M. Boyington. All were neatly bound.

Nebraska State Library gave the Society on March 28, 1945, *The Nebraska Teacher*, Vol. VI (July 1903-1904).

The Peru Pedagogian, Peru State Teachers College Publication, September, 1941 to May 22, 1945, presented by Billy Woods.

Files of the *Wayne Democrat* and the *Wayne News* were sent to the Society August, 1945, by S. E. Samuelson of Wayne. They include *Wayne Democrat*, 1912-25 and 1933; *Wayne News*, 1940. The file begins with March 21, 1912. The entire lot will be bound in 14 books.

The Society is constantly adding to its photograph and picture collection. The indexed and filed collection now numbers 47,300. In addition we have a considerable holding of lantern

slides. Within the summer, N. C. Abbott donated his collection of Philippine and Asiatic colored slides.

The publication of historical materials has been impeded by the war. The Society has published four numbers of the quarterly magazine since our last report. We still have two issues to complete Volume XXVI for the current year. Part of the material for No. 3 is already in the printer's hands, and we expect to finish the year with the volume completed.

The staff has assisted a number of organizations with historical material for publications, and continues to supply information to many authors and editors, as well as to students and the general public.

COUNTY HISTORICAL AND PIONEER SOCIETIES

ADAMS COUNTY Old Settlers Association held its 63rd annual meeting on September 27 at Hanover Presbyterian Church near Hastings. A program of talks and round table discussion of Adams County pioneer history featured a program rounded out with a chicken dinner and musical numbers. Officers elected for 1946 were: George Bivens, Hastings, president; Dan Snyder, Holstein, vice-president; Mrs. Gene Pratt, Juniata; secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. James Woolworth, Hastings, necrologist.

MADISON COUNTY Historical Society and the Old Schoolmates gathered for their annual joint meeting at Madison, September 2. The observance took the form of a picnic dinner with W. H. Field as chief speaker. His subject was "United Nations Charter and International Court of Justice."

Election of officers was held by both organizations. The County Historical Society elected Ira Chittenden, president; Mrs. Mae Reed, vice-president; Mrs. Mary Matthews, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Florence Kortman, custodian. The Old Schoolmates chose Charles Farage as president, Mrs. Frances Mattison as secretary, and Ira Chittenden as treasurer.

PLATTE COUNTY Pioneers Association held their annual meeting October 12 at Columbus with 102 members and friends

present. Senator Walter Ræcke of Central City was the featured speaker and gave an interesting talk on early counties and town-sites; traced the development of government from early forms, and told of some famous political figures from Nebraska who had helped in its growth.

Following the program, election of officers for 1946 was held. Mrs. Wade Pruitt of Humphrey was chosen president. The other officers elected, all of Columbus, were: Albert D. Becher, vice-president; Margaret Curry, historian; Mrs. Gus Becher, memorialist; and Mrs. A. J. Galley, permanent secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Harold Kramer is assistant secretary-treasurer.

KEARNEY COUNTY Historical Society held its annual session October 30 in Minden. A detailed report on the progress of the museum project was given and Dr. Lyle E. Manton, professor of history at Kearney State Teachers College, delivered an interesting address on "Highlights of Fort Kearney." Election of officers resulted in the following selections: Mrs. J. S. Canaday, president; C. E. Frank, first vice-president; L. E. Newbold, second vice-president; B. F. Darnell, secretary and Mrs. Mary D. Anderson, treasurer.

CASS COUNTY Historical Society turned its October 30th meeting into a tour of historical sites in the eastern part of the county. Cass County is particularly rich in ghost towns and several of these sites were visited; namely, Factoryville, Stringtown, Mt. Pleasant and Cassville. Other historical points of interest covered by the tour included the old home near Platts-mouth, of Judge Samuel Maxwell, early supreme court justice.

RICHARDSON COUNTY Historical Society held a meeting November 5 in Falls City. The program was featured by a talk by Mrs. A. G. Wanner on "Indians in Richardson County." At the business meeting plans were made for the dedication of two Lewis and Clark Trail plaques which are to be placed at points in Richardson County where the famous explorers camped in their historic trip up the Missouri River in 1804.