



The Nebraska State Historical Society in 1955

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THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN 1955

BY JAMES C. OLSON

THERE is evidence on every hand that Nebraskans are becoming more conscious of their heritage and more appreciative of its impact upon their daily lives. The Nebraska State Historical Society during 1955 was, in part, a beneficiary of that development, and, in part, responsible for it. The year has seen the Society assume an ever-widening role in the cultural life of the state, and I consider it a high privilege to be able to report to you upon the Society's wide-ranging activities. I trust that this report will attest, as it should, to the leadership furnished by the Executive Board, and particularly by Mr. James E. Lawrence, its president, and to the industry, imagination, and ability of my loyal and capable staff.

The Society's new building continues to be the center of our activities. Various aspects of the way in which the building has been utilized will be treated in those parts of this report which deal with the activities of the Museum, the Library, and the Division of Education. I wish to say here, however, that during the year beginning September 1, 1954 and ending August 31, 1955, by actual count, a total of 93,193 persons visited the building. During the year, also, all contracts on the building were closed at a total cost for construction and equipment of \$598,538.65. Having completed all payments, the Society turned back to the state general fund a total of \$7,117.02.

Dr. James C. Olson is Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society. This report was presented in part at the 77th annual meeting of the Society at Lincoln, 1 October 1955.

For the biennium beginning July 1, 1955 and ending June 30, 1957, the State Legislature appropriated \$245,000 for our use. An unexpended balance of \$12,822.68, reappropriated, made the total appropriation for the Society \$257,822.68. In addition, the Legislature authorized the Society to develop a museum at Fort Robinson and appropriated the sum of \$36,644 for that purpose. The Society has entered into an agreement with the Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, whereby the old post headquarters building will be converted into a museum, and certain historically significant sites on the reservation will be preserved for historical purposes, notably the site of the Red Cloud Agency and the spot where Crazy Horse was killed. This program, as you are aware, is part of an over-all state program for the development of Fort Robinson as a state park and historical center.

For the first time this year, too, the Society had an exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair. The exhibit constructed in the auditorium of the Women's Building was devoted to the theme "Yesterday at the Fair." It was visited by a total of 17,902 persons.

One of the Society's far-ranging activities during the year has been an active television program carried on in co-operation with University of Nebraska Television. Work was completed on a series of half-hour programs devoted to an interpretation of the Plains under the title "Great Plains Trilogy." These programs were telecast live over station KOLN-TV in Lincoln, and then under a grant from the Educational Television and Radio Center were placed on film. The series has been telecast or is being shown on television stations in the following seventeen cities:

Boston, Massachusetts
Lansing, Michigan
Seattle, Washington
Cheyenne, Wyoming
Madison, Wisconsin
St. Joseph, Missouri
Cincinnati, Ohio
Munford, Alabama
St. Louis, Missouri

Holdrege, Nebraska
Omaha, Nebraska
Sioux City, Iowa
Houston, Texas
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Urbana, Illinois
Kalamazoo, Michigan
San Francisco, California

Thus the work of the Historical Society has attained a nation-wide audience.

In addition to the "Great Plains Trilogy," the Historical Society presented a regular half-hour television program each week on KUON-TV under the title "Yesterday in Nebraska." This program, given by various members of the staff, interpreted aspects of Nebraska history to the Lincoln television audience. Finally, the Superintendent conducted a course for credit at the University of Nebraska in the history of Nebraska on station KUON-TV. This course, offered during the second semester of last year, was an experiment in presenting the history of a state through the means of television.

The Society continued and enlarged its use of radio as a medium for telling Nebraska's story. Through the cooperation of the Radio and Television Section of the University of Nebraska's Department of Speech and the University's Bureau of Audio-Visual Instruction, thirteen programs designed to tell the history of Nebraska Territory in dramatic form were produced and taped. Mrs. Phyllis Winkelman, Director of Education, wrote the scripts for the programs and handled production for the Society. The programs were broadcast by eleven radio stations in various parts of the state. To provide a continuing audio resource in the history of Nebraska Territory, master tapes of the programs are maintained by the University's Bureau of Audio-Visual Instruction, and any of the programs may be obtained by sending a tape to the Bureau and paying a nominal fee for the transferring of the program from the master tape to the individual tape. A teaching manual, prepared by Mrs. Winkelman, is available for use with the taped programs.

While making full use of the newer media available for the dissemination of historical information, the Society did not neglect the traditional printed page and, indeed, its activities throughout the year attest to our belief that the printed page still is the most effective instrument of education available to us. The Superintendent's one volume *History of Nebraska* was published in January by the University of Nebraska Press, and the favorable reception accorded that book will, I know, be gratifying to you as it has been to the author. The publication of the book was made possible by the University of Nebraska Foundation,

the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, and the Executive Board of the Nebraska State Historical Society. All royalty interest in the book resides in the Society.

Work has progressed during the year on Number 2 of our new series, *Publications in Anthropology*. Presently in press, this volume, *The Northwest Gun*, by Charles E. Hanson, Jr., will be published sometime this fall. In addition, I am most happy to report that we are reviving the Society's initial series, the *Publications*, the last volume of which appeared in 1936. Volume XXIII, shortly to be published, is entitled *A Bibliography of Published Sources on Nebraska Territory*. It is the work of Dr. John B. White, our librarian, and will be an invaluable guide to students and teachers whose work takes them into the field of Nebraska's territorial history.

Nebraska History, now in its 36th year, continues to publish a variety of articles relating to Nebraska's past. During the past year the magazine has contained contributions from members of our staff, members of the Society, and persons from the following institutions: Central Washington State College, Connecticut College, Doane College, The Iowa State Historical Society, Indiana University, Michigan State Normal College, Mount Union College, Murray (Kentucky) State College, Oberlin College, Syracuse University, The United States National Museum, The United States National Park Service, the Universities of Colorado, Omaha, Nebraska, and South Dakota, and Wayne State Teachers College. The *Historical News Letter*, now in its eighth year, continues to be published monthly. "Out of Old Nebraska," the Superintendent's weekly column, continues to appear regularly in the press of the state. As of August 31 these columns had been issued for 476 consecutive weeks. Miss Myrtle D. Berry, photo librarian, has been publishing a series of articles on Nebraska's forts in *Nebraska on the March*, the publication of the Nebraska Resources Division. Mrs. Elizabeth Radtke, newspaper librarian, has a series on Nebraska newspapers, appearing regularly in *The Nebraska Newspaper*, the publication of the Nebraska Press Association.

Acknowledgement of the assistance rendered by the

Society staff and use made of its resources continued to appear in books published during the year. I wish to pass on the most recent statement to come to my attention, that which appeared in Martin F. Schmitt and Dee Brown, *The Settlers West* (Charles Scribners, 1955). The authors say, "One of the finest collections in the West is fortunately administered by one of the finest persons, Myrtle D. Berry of the Nebraska State Historical Society." Extensive use is made of the Society's photo collection in this new book.

In addition to their other duties, members of the Society's staff have continued to carry forward an intensive program of research. Marvin F. Kivett, Director of the Museum, spent the summer conducting archeological investigations in the Fort Randall Reservoir area near Chamberlain, South Dakota. Dr. John B. White, Librarian, has completed his *Bibliography of Published Sources on Nebraska Territory*. Dr. Donald F. Danker, Archivist, has completed a monograph on some aspects of the social and economic history of Nebraska Territory. The Superintendent has been at work on a life of the noted Oglala chieftain Red Cloud, making use of rich sources in the Society's library and, in addition, those of the National Archives in Washington, D. C. He spent the month of August doing research in the National Archives.

We have received substantial financial support from outside sources for our research activities during the past year. Mr. Kivett's archeological investigations were financed in part by a grant of \$4,500 from the National Park Service. The Norden Club of Lincoln, Nebraska, has provided a fund of \$1,000 to make possible the collection of materials relating to the history of Scandinavian settlements in Nebraska. Both Dr. White and Dr. Danker have spent time out in the state collecting materials under that grant, and when the project is completed we should have a substantial collection of material relating to the history of our Scandinavian settlements. A grant of \$500 from Mr. Wayland Magee of Bennington, a member of the Executive Board, will enable the Society to assist a graduate student at the University of Nebraska to prepare a study of the career of Colonel James H. Pratt, noted western cattleman.

Members of the staff have given unstintingly of their

time in other activities designed to promote the interests of the Society and the cause of Nebraska's history. Altogether, staff members made a total of eighty-nine historical addresses during the year, of which fifty-two were given by the Superintendent, nineteen by the Director of Education, eleven by the Archivist, five by the Director of the Museum, and one each by the Librarian and the Curator of History. Thirty-eight of these addresses were given in Lincoln, although a number of them were before the meetings of state and regional organizations. In addition, other parts of the state were reached by addresses as follows: five in Hastings, four in Omaha, three in Crete, two each in Campbell, Chadron, Nebraska City, and Tecumseh, and one each in Alliance, Auburn, Aurora, Avoca, Blue Springs, Columbus, Decatur, Douglas, Fairbury, Falls City, Fremont, Geneva, Hardy, Hay Springs, Henderson, Kearney, Kimball, Leigh, Lexington, Martell, Osceola, Oshkosh, Papillion, Pawnee City, Petersburg, Plattsmouth, Princeton, Wahoo, Waverly, Wayne, and Wisner.

The Society has been represented during the year at the following national and regional meetings: American Historical Association, New York; Mississippi Valley Historical Association, St. Louis; American Association for State and Local History, Madison, Wisconsin; Society of American Archivists, Williamsburg, Virginia; and Plains Conference for Archeology, Lincoln.

The Archivist served as a member of the membership committee for the Society of American Archivists; the Librarian served as chairman of the constitution committee of the Nebraska Library Association; and the Superintendent, as secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, a member of the Council of American Association for State and Local History, and an elector of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, New York University.

At present, the staff of the Society consists of twenty-six permanent members and eight part-time temporary employees.

The Society continues to attract new members. A total of 296 persons joined the Society during the year. As of August 31 the membership was 2,283.



The field party's camp and view of excavation of a prehistoric Indian house floor near Chamberlain, South Dakota.

THE SOCIETY IN THE FIELD—SUMMER, 1955

Close-up showing a prehistoric Indian house floor with storage pits.

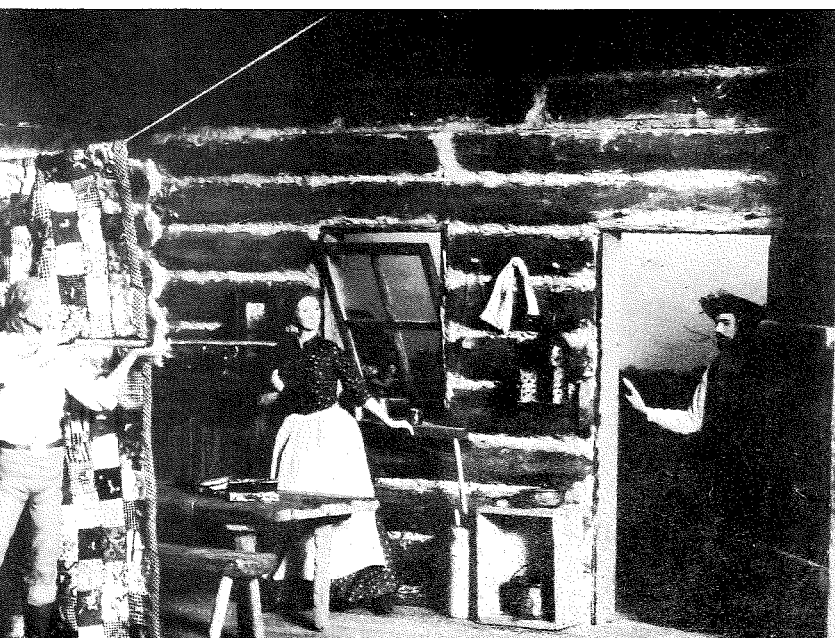




Scandinavian items, collected through the Norden Club grant, emphasize the contribution made by Scandinavian immigrants to Nebraska's heritage.

THE SOCIETY'S MUSEUM CONSTANTLY ADDS NEW DISPLAYS

"How Legends Begin"—diorama depicting the shooting of David McCandles by Wild Bill Hickok at the Rock Creek Pony Express Station, July 12, 1861.



The spring meeting this past year was held in Grand Island, May 15. Louis A. Holmes of Grand Island was general chairman of the meeting, and J. Frank Dobie, of Austin, Texas, delivered the principal address. The meeting continued the successful tradition of an out-state spring meeting.

The activities of the Museum, the Library, and the Division of Education will be reported upon in separate sections of this report, to follow immediately. Before presenting those aspects of the report, however, I wish at this time to pay particular tribute to the work of the three members of our staff who have direct responsibilities for them—Marvin F. Kivett, Director of the Museum; John B. White, Librarian; and Mrs. Phyllis Winkelman, Director of Education.

THE MUSEUM

The Museum has continued its program of preserving the material objects used by the people of Nebraska and the Central Plains. These objects have provided an ever increasing reservoir from which items may be drawn to provide interesting and educational displays dealing with some part of the story of people in the area. Only a relatively small part of the collections are on exhibit at one time. This policy makes for an ever changing story and for a display pattern which is never finished.

The preservation and documentation of the collections are as much a part of the Museum's work as the displays. The past year has permitted a somewhat greater emphasis on these aspects of the Museum. Considerable time has been spent in arranging the storage area to make the items more accessible for display and available to certain persons who may be interested in materials not on display. This is particularly true of the archeological collections which are of interest to many students. Storage facilities have been also greatly improved in the area devoted to materials of pioneer history.

More than 150 separate collections were received by the Museum during the past year. These collections varied from a single item to several hundred specimens. There

were many outstanding gifts, such as the Don E. Hanna collection of saddles and other cowboy equipment; the more than two hundred articles of clothing, jewelry, furniture, and other household articles covering a period of more than one hundred years from the estate of Electa Morse Kidder; items brought from Sweden in the 1880's by the parents of Henry and Rosie Peterson of Inavale, and a large collection of clothing and furniture from the estate of Mrs. J. C. Seacrest of Lincoln.

As evidence that the Museum is not static, but is ever changing, more than fifty new displays were prepared by the staff during the year. The present displays within the building consist of 147 separate display units, four period settings of various subjects, and four period room settings. Four displays dealing with the Civil War and the Spanish American War were also completed for display in the Capitol. Other displays were prepared with seasonal themes for exhibit in the Student Union of the University of Nebraska.

Displays entitled "Yesterday at the Fair" were also prepared for the 1955 State Fair. Period settings representing a sod house interior, agricultural implements, a late Victorian bedroom, Indian clothing and boats, and weaving equipment were on display in the Women's Building. Through the co-operation of the Lincoln Weaver's Guild a representative was available to operate the old style carpet weaving loom. Other displays of interest were a series of photographic murals showing scenes at the Fair in earlier years. Some of the handmade objects which received prizes at the Fair years ago were also displayed.

The Society's staff members have also drawn on the Museum collections for illustrated lectures during the year. The collections have been used extensively in the educational programs for school children. Such collections were used in Series II and III of the television programs, "The Great Plains Trilogy." Various presentations of the television series on KUON-TV, "Yesterday in Nebraska" featured articles from both the pioneer collections as well as the ethnological and archeological collections representing the Indians of the Central Plains.

Archeological research has continued to be conducted

by the staff in the Central Plains area. Much of the attention has been directed toward the salvage of sites which will be destroyed or damaged as a result of the many dams and reservoirs being constructed as a part of the Missouri River Basin Project.

Since 1950, except for the year 1953, the Society has carried on archeological field investigations sponsored jointly with the U. S. National Park Service. Prior to that period in 1948, co-operative excavations were carried on with the Smithsonian Institution in the Medicine Creek Reservoir, and in 1949 at the proposed Mullen Reservoir in Nebraska. Excavations in 1950, with the National Park Service, were in the Trenton Reservoir of southwestern Nebraska. In an attempt to keep ahead of the rising reservoir waters we shifted our attention in 1951 to the Missouri Valley area of the Fort Randall Reservoir in South Dakota. Many of these sites were in danger of destruction because of the limited number of institutions available to carry on the archeological salvage work. In 1951 and 1952 the Society and the National Park Service carried on excavations in a large village of circular earthlodges near Oacoma, South Dakota. Ten complete house floors with associated storage pits, burials, and trash areas were uncovered in this village during the two seasons. It is believed that these remains may represent a group of people culturally related to the early Pawnee of Nebraska during the period of 1600 to 1700 A.D.

In 1954 a grant of funds from the National Park Service permitted the Society to resume investigations in this area. A large prehistoric fortified village on the east bank of the Missouri River, some fourteen miles north of Chamberlain, South Dakota, was selected for excavation. As the work progressed it became obvious that the Crow Creek site presented many complex problems with at least two prehistoric groups of farming Indians having occupied the site during different periods of time. In 1955, a grant of \$4,500 was made available by the National Park Service for a field party sponsored by the two institutions to resume work at this interesting village area. Field work by the Society was carried on during the field period of June 14 to August 26 at the Crow Creek Site. Comprehensive excava-

tions were completed in the two areas representing the two periods of occupation in the immediate area of the site. Tests in an adjacent area revealed evidence of two other periods of occupation. The sequence as revealed indicates four periods of pottery making groups. The oldest is a variation of the Woodland period; the second is a prehistoric farming group culturally related to the Upper Republican period of Nebraska which is attributable to the Over focus; the third is a farming group who apparently feared an unknown enemy since they erected an elaborate fortification system consisting of a deep ditch with a fence on the inner side constructed of cedar poles; the fourth group lived in circular earthlodges and were in possession of some European goods such as iron and brass. It seems likely this later period may have been from 1600 to 1700. Their pottery and other cultural items suggest a relationship to the site at Oacoma, excavated in 1951 and 1952. Today, the Dakota-Sioux Indians occupy the area. Thus, within the limits of the area examined, we have five Indian groups with sufficient variation in their cultural remains to indicate great differences in their way of life.

Various archeological sites in Nebraska also have been examined during the past year. Limited excavations were carried on in the remains of a prehistoric Indian cemetery on the Martin Corliss farm southeast of Hebron. These remains were covered with limestone slabs and were believed to be more than five hundred years old.

THE LIBRARY

The Library, like the Museum, continued to improve its services to the people of Nebraska. Altogether, 3,125 volumes were catalogued during the year and seventeen maps were added. The photograph collection was augmented by the largest addition in recent years, the total amounting to 20,350 photographs. These consisted principally of two large collections, the Nathaniel L. Dewell collection of approximately 9,000 items, and the collection of Dr. George E. Condra, consisting of approximately 11,000 items. As of August 31, 312 Nebraska newspapers were being regularly received, of which 23 were dailies, 261 weeklies, and 28 of other frequency. Also, as of August 31, 462 period-

icals were being regularly received, of which 218 were published in Nebraska. In the bindery, 528 volumes were bound and 120 repaired. Two thousand six hundred fourteen reels of microfilm were added. In summary, the following inventory of the library's holdings as of August 31 is presented:

Volumes	30,815
Bound volumes, newspapers	20,514
Maps	738
Microfilm, reels	2,614
Genealogical charts	8
Broadsides	29
Motion picture films	7
Photographs	75,351

In the manuscript division, the following collections were processed:

1. Daniel Bowers, family Bible record
2. Julius Sterling Morton, letters, papers and diaries
3. Daughters of American Revolution, Crete Chapter, records
4. Daniel Benjamin Cleghorn, diary and papers
5. William George Langworthy Taylor, letters and papers
6. John F. Streng, manuscript of a sermon
7. Charles Henry Dietrich, papers
8. Edward S. Chadwick, war scrapbook and photo album
9. Ellen Smith, biographical material
10. Hudson Bruner, diary
11. Joseph Warren Wood, clippings
12. Benjamin Harris, Civil War letters
13. Nonpartisan League, scrapbook
14. Florence, Nebraska, records, papers and clippings
15. Louise Wilhelmina Mears, papers
16. Adams County Old Settlers Association, papers
17. Taylor Asher, scrapbooks
18. Alice Ann Minick, papers
19. Lillian A. Elliot, reminiscences
20. J. C. Bruce, letters
21. J. Nielsen Barry, letters
22. Hiram Winnett Orr, scrapbook and papers
23. Mari Sandoz, letters, notes and clippings
24. Willford Isbell King, manuscripts
25. Edward P. Holmes, deeds and warrants
26. Lars A. Bruce, autobiography
27. E. D. Linderman, family histories
28. Ira D. Bishop, land certificate
29. Florence Ferry Company, map of reserve
30. Elizabeth Bratt Baldwin, obituary
31. N. C. Thompson, warrant as sergeant in New York Riflemen 1848

32. Trumbull, Nebraska, Methodist Church, history and programs
33. Samuel Aughey, biographical material and account book
34. Nellie B. Hulshizer, letters and papers
35. Will Owens Jones, papers
36. Mother Mathilde Hirsch, biographical sketch
37. Hallam, Nebraska, records
38. Nebraska Governor's committee, appointed to investigate the penal institutions, reports, correspondence and clippings
39. S. J. White, letters
40. Benkelman, Nebraska, Methodist Church, history
41. Rock Bluffs, Nebraska, records
42. Margaret Davis, minutes of British War Relief, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska, Chapter
43. Butler County, Nebraska, Justice of Peace Docket
44. Sherman County, Nebraska, School District #1, records
45. Auburn Ministerial Association, minutes
46. Shaw Family Collection, letters, diaries and papers
47. Richard Dibble, letters and papers
48. Frederick Shepherd, papers
49. Edward Wesley Minkell, memoirs
50. Frank L. Williams, papers
51. Prosper Moor, diary
52. Frederick L. Teal, scrapbook
53. Hugh Alfred Butler, papers

During the year 1,126 persons were assisted in the library, and fifty-two telephone inquiries were answered. Most of the persons assisted required search necessitating the expenditure of a quarter-hour or longer by some member of the Library staff. The newspaper room counted 823 visitors for whom 501 simple directing questions were answered and sixty-two search questions. Telephone reference questions numbered twenty-seven. A total of 451 inquiries were received and answered by mail. Twenty-eight volumes and 230 photographs were loaned during the year. A total of 370 persons gave materials to the Library during the year.

THE DIVISION OF EDUCATION

The educational program in 1954-55 was directed toward providing educational services which would coordinate more closely with the curriculum of the schools and the programs of such organizations as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and the 4-H. To encourage schools to make maximum use of the Historical Society's educational resources, special auditorium programs were offered. These programs stressed specific topics especially

selected to tie in with the work of the schools, and teachers were encouraged to use these programs as a source of enrichment for the classroom work. Programs on ten topics were offered: (Grades 1-6) "How the Indians of Nebraska Lived," "Indian Crafts," "Indian and Pioneer Homes," "Life in a Covered Wagon," "Life in a Sod House," "Highway to the West—Early Transportation;" (Grades 7-12) "Fashion is a Mirror of History," "Recipes from a Sod House Kitchen," "Exploring the Past with Shovel and Trowel" and "Life in Pioneer Nebraska." The programs, given in the Society's auditorium, included a fifteen minute lecture and the showing of an appropriate film or filmstrip. Also included in the program was a period when relevant items from the Museum collections were demonstrated, and the children were encouraged to handle and examine the specimens. This was followed by a tour of those sections of the galleries which pertained to the topic under discussion. The programs were also adapted and presented to adult groups. A total of forty-seven programs were given throughout the year. Plans call for continuing the auditorium programs, with the addition of two new programs—"Guns That Won the West," of special interest to Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and "The Story of Our Flag," of special interest to Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, and Boy Scouts.

We continued to offer three types of guided tours: the General Tour, the Indian Gallery Tour, and the Pioneer Gallery Tour. A total of 197 groups were given guided tours.

To encourage schools and other organizations to utilize these educational services, a special brochure was prepared which described the **educational services of the Nebraska State Historical Society** and which included a reservation blank for a guided tour or auditorium program. Approximately 9,700 of these brochures were sent to teachers, school officials, and group leaders.

We were greatly assisted in the educational program by the Lincoln Junior League which provided twelve volunteer workers who gave guided tours, developed and presented the auditorium programs, and assisted in the museum in cataloguing specimens, restoring pottery, and renovating and restoring museum materials. During the coming year we

expect to have sixteen Junior League volunteer workers to assist us in our expanded educational services.

We are also indebted to members of the Horizon Club, the teen age club of the Camp Fire Girls, who contributed volunteer service in the Museum, the Library, and the Administrative Office on Saturday mornings. The girls cleaned and catalogued museum specimens, restored pottery, did filing and typing, and assisted in the preparation of the *News Letter* for mailing.

The new educational project for the coming year is a puppet theatre, designed to interest younger children in Nebraska history. Plays based on pioneer and Indian life will be presented, and an effort will be made to present the pioneers and Indians in an entertaining and sympathetic manner. Hand puppets, constructed by Junior League volunteer workers, will be used in the plays, and the Junior League workers will participate in the writing and production of the plays. The puppet productions will be given in the Society's auditorium and, to a limited extent, by means of a portable stage, they can be taken out to schools and groups within the Lincoln area.

Numerous organizations made use of our auditorium and other facilities for holding meetings, institutes, and discussion groups. One of the major meetings held in the auditorium was the Second Annual Law Enforcement Institute which met at the Society during the week of June 19-24. This year we again co-operated with the Lincoln City Library in the presentation of the annual recognition programs for those children who completed the Library's summer reading program. Approximately five hundred children attended these programs, which were held in our auditorium.

Supplementary materials were also provided for teachers. Approximately seven thousand educational leaflets were sent out to teachers and others, and the Director of Education answered approximately 243 letters asking for specific information about Nebraska.

A project for the coming year is the preparation of a series of filmstrips on the Society's museum. The series will be produced by the University of Nebraska Photographic

Productions and distributed by the University of Nebraska Bureau of Audio-Visual Instruction. Six film-strips are planned, each with an accompanying teaching manual. Sale on a national basis is planned for the series, which is intended to bring the resources of the Society's museum to schools and other institutions which are unable to visit Lincoln. The first strip in the series, intended primarily for teacher training, demonstrates how an effective field trip is planned and executed. An actual school group is taken on a guided tour of the museum, and the purpose and functioning of a modern museum are explained. Production of this filmstrip will begin very shortly.

A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

Operating on the principle that growth is essential to life, the Society will continue to expand its services and to improve the quality as well as the quantity of its work during the coming year. The new museum at Fort Robinson will offer us an unprecedented opportunity to establish a specialized museum in a most interesting area of Nebraska and to contribute to the historical consciousness of the historically rich western section of the state as well as to the tourist attractions of the state. We hope to continue exhibiting at the Nebraska State Fair and to work with the State Fair Board toward increasing the historical richness of that great Nebraska exhibition. The Executive Board is deeply conscious of an improvement that must be made in calling attention of travelers and others to significant and interesting historical sites in the state. The Nebraska Territorial Centennial Commission, upon its dissolution, turned over to the Society the balance remaining in its fund, a balance amounting to \$1,389.24. This money, collected from private sources in Nebraska, was earmarked by the Territorial Centennial Commission and the Executive Board for use in the erection of historical markers in Nebraska. I sincerely hope that this next year will see long strides taken toward the development of a historical marking program in the state that will do justice to the rich heritage in historical sites which we have. I needn't add that such a program will greatly increase the interest which tourists who cross Nebraska by the thousands each year will have in their trips across the state. More important, it will serve

to deepen the appreciation of our own people for our great heritage.

We need to continue to build up our collections, both Museum and Library. In particular, we need to build up our collections of documents relating to Nebraska's past. The failure of the legislature to appropriate sufficient funds to enable us to employ a full-time field man will greatly curtail our projected activities toward this end, but funds such as the gift provided by the Norden Club of Lincoln, Nebraska, can help us collect materials in certain specific areas. The interest of individual Nebraskans who may have materials or may know where they exist can be of inestimable help. Another possibility for enriching our collections may be found in the securing of microfilm copies of documentary sources for the history of Nebraska reposing in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and other out of state depositories. We are well equipped to administer and use microfilm, and the purchase of considerable quantities of microfilm would greatly augment our resources and make it much more feasible for Nebraskans to study their own history here at home. The possibilities for such a program are large indeed. Unfortunately, the cost is also large. I should like to suggest this as a most worthy project for any person or organization who wishes to add to the cultural resources of the state.

And so we look forward to the future with confidence and with a determination to conduct the affairs of your Society in a way that will continue to merit your approbation and the support of the people of Nebraska.