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Article Summary: Marvin F Kivett, Director of the Nebraska State Historical Society, presented this summary as part of the Annual Meeting in Lincoln, September 8, 1979. The Society was in its 101st year and had just acquired the old Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 building at 15th and P for its museum. There are sections about the Library, the Archives, the Lincoln Museum, branch museums, historic preservation, archeology, and foundation.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Robert W Furnas, Samuel Aughey [other names included in photographic listing below]

Photographs / Images: Lincoln Elks Club; Flag raising in Fort Robinson School Field Day activities; historical marker at Central High School, Omaha; General James A Wier at Spring meeting in North Platte. Mrs Otto Kotouc Jr and Charles Osborne also in photo; Edwin J Faulkner presentation to Anne Polk Diffendal; Also in photo J D Kilgore and Mrs Kilgore; Vladimir Kucera, Josephine Wibble, Ruth Sheldon; J D Kilgore, Arthur Carmody, Virginia Coffee, Mrs Nellie Snyder Yost, M S Hevelone; Executive Board members at Fall Meeting; April 26 symposium at Chadron State College, Dr Gene Hamaker; Microfilm readers in Society Microfilm Library; Lincoln Museum Curator Wendell Frantz and Curator of Education Dick Spencer; Artists Herb Thomas and Curt Peacock; Bobby Bridger entertains at August 5 Neihardt Day in Bancroft; Mrs Rudie Sobotka and Ann Reinert; Cultural Historian Janet Jeffries Spencer; New Lincoln doll exhibit; craft sample activities – quilting and rug braiding Mary Crawford; Indian gallery and Museum doll house with child visitors; hoop rolling demonstration by JoAnne Kissel at Kennard House; Raymond Central High student Stephanie Watson at George Rogers Clark Symposium, Vincennes, Indiana; Fort Atkinson archeological excavation; Museum Christmas displays being prepared by Alice McElhose, Mrs L Dwight Pinky Cherry, Sally Raglin and Bernice Underdahl

THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1979

By Marvin F. Kivett, Director

Presented in part at the Annual Meeting in Lincoln, September 8, 1979.

Last year with our Centennial observance, the Society achieved maturity. Now in our 101st year, we are able to look back and make comparisons of "One Hundred Years Ago Today."

At the January 23, 1879, meeting of the Board there were several items of concern. Elected president was Robert W. Furnas of Brownville with Samuel Aughey serving as Secretary. A committee was appointed to "lobby" the Legislature for the restoration of the Historical Block which had been assigned to the City of Lincoln for a building. A major step was taken when the membership approved a \$16 appropriation for a "case" or "cabinet" to be used for the storage of the collections. The Secretary also presented a budget request in the amount of \$20 for postage during the year. Professor Aughey indicated that there were other "grave wants" including that of a "Secretary's Record Book." It seems that our "grave wants" have remained with us during the last century.

Actually this want list seems to increase each year as we strive to aid in the preservation and interpretation of Nebraska history. I would hope that the 1878 founders of the Society would feel that some progress has been made toward this goal.

I'm sure that all of you know that our greatest need during the last decade has been for an increase in our physical space. Your Society Executive Board and staff have devoted a great deal of effort toward the concept of placing the museum in a separate building with the present building being utilized for Archives and Library functions. The last Legislature, after much discussion, appropriated \$950,000 for the purchase of the Lincoln Elks Lodge 80 building at 15th and P Streets. The Society acquired the building on July 10 of this year.

While the Elks building is not the Heritage Center that was planned, it can be adapted for museum use. It has more than twice the space assigned to museum purposes in the present



Lincoln Elks Club, 15th and P—LB 594, approved by Governor Charles Thone on May 23, provided \$950,000 for the Society to purchase the building for use as a museum. . . .(Below) Flag raising ceremonies were observed by a portion of the more than 800 pupils and teachers who participated in Fort Robinson School Field Day activities October 15.



building. Preliminary architectural studies indicate that about 1.8 million dollars will be required for the renovation and modification to a modern museum. We will need your help and support to make this a reality. The projected cost for the proposed Heritage Center was about six million dollars.

One area of the Society functions that deserves greater attention is that of increasing our membership. It remained about stable during the past year at 5,000 members despite the increased fee for membership. We welcome your help in recruiting new members. Statistics indicate that staff attended 150 meetings or speaking assignments in 1971 as compared to 1,043 such meetings the past year. During the same period letters processed increased from 12,750 to 29,657. Similar increases are recorded in almost all measurable areas of Society work. I'm sure you are aware of the current and increasing interest in genealogy. Our Library and Archives staff is particularly busy in this area.

As Director of your Society I have continued to serve on various boards ranging from the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission to the State Records Board. The most demanding of my assignments is to serve as State Historic Preservation Officer which requires not less than 40 percent of my time.

The Editorial staff headed by Leigh DeLay with the assistance of Mrs. Pat Gaster has worked on a variety of publications in addition to *Nebraska History* and the monthly *Historical News Letter*. These include the weekly press feature, "Out of Old Nebraska," now in its 31st year. They have also edited two technical archeological reports. One, by Society Archeologist Gayle Carlson, is the report of six seasons of archeological work at the site of Fort Atkinson, and was published during the year. The other, now in press, is by former staff member Dr. Roger T. Grange, Jr., and reports on Society excavations in the Red Willow Reservoir north of McCook. The award winning publication *The Great Platte River Road* by Merrill J. Mattes was reprinted in paperback to meet public demand. Other definitive studies in history are now in progress.

Each division head in the Society provided a detailed report. They follow:

LIBRARY

The 1978-1979 reference activity in the Library reflected current interest in historical research, according to Librarian Ann Reinert. Nearly two-thirds of the visitors and one-half of the persons requesting information by telephone and correspondence were looking for information about their families. Daily activity records indicated over 5,000 visitors used the book, pamphlet and map collections while advice was given to nearly 9,000 queries for assistance. Visitors to the Library represented 37 other states and nine foreign countries. Special topics of interest included the Capitol, Mormon history, trolleys, Quaker Indian agents, women doctors, cattle trails, Niobrara River, and Pawnee mythology.

Curator of Photographs John Carter recorded 661 patrons or a 13 percent increase over last year of people who came to see the photo collection. Along with requests by telephone and correspondence, a total of 2,048 photographs were sold to individuals and publishers throughout the U.S. as well as in several foreign countries. Requests for photographs of Indians of the Great Plains seemed to be the greatest interest, but other topics of interest included football, Spanish-American War, railroad depots, radio, women's suffrage, the State Fair, court-houses, and steamboats.

Donations were received from 308 individuals and organizations during the year. A major collection of genealogical books was presented to the Library by Jean Cabney Skinner. Forty-six maps and atlases were also added along with 70 family histories, and 20 Nebraska county, community, church, and organizational histories. Perhaps the most dramatic increase was the numerous cemetery enumerations which have been recorded and presented to the Library by genealogical societies throughout the state. Nine organizations and two individuals also donated \$750 for the purchase of genealogical reference materials.

Donations of photographs increased by 26 percent with 5,919 images added to the Society's extensive collection. Notable among the many fine donations was a large collection of postcards and other photographs donated by Otto Klima. Alan McClurg also presented the Society with a number of Solomon D. Butcher postcards and some glass plate negatives from a



The Society dedicated on May 19 a historical marker at Central High School, first public high school in Omaha. Courtesy of Omaha Sun. (Below) General James A. Wier of Tabernash, Colorado, addresses the June 2 Spring Meeting in North Platte. At right are Mrs. Otto Kotouc, Jr. of Humboldt and Executive Board member Charles Osborne of Hastings.





Edwin J. Faulkner of Lincoln, Foundation President, presents the James L. Sellers Memorial Award to Manuscripts Curator Anne Polk Diffendal at the September 8 Fall Meeting, Lincoln. In foreground is meeting speaker J. D. Kilgore and Mrs. Kilgore. . . (Below) Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award winner Vladimir Kucera with Josephine Wibble (left) and Ruth Sheldon, all of Lincoln.





J. D. Kilgore, director of National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, addresses the Fall Meeting. At right are Executive Board members Arthur Carmody, Trenton; Mrs. Bill (Virginia) Coffee, Harrison; Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost, North Platte; and M. S. Hevelone, Beatrice. . . (Below) Executive Board members confer during Fall Meeting.



local Nebraska community and Miss Elizabeth Wright presented the Society with her extensive collection of color slides of Nebraska.

Photographs have not only been used for historical research but have also been used by businesses, primarily restaurants, for interior decoration. Some organizations have used copies of our photographs in their training films and slide shows, and many persons have discovered what excellent gifts historical photographs make.

A special effort was made this year to acquire photographs related to our Branch Museums. John Carter traveled to the Neihardt Center and the Neligh Mills to copy original photographs brought in by the public. It proved to be a very successful project.

Two touring exhibits have been developed using the Society's photographs. "A Second Chance," the photographs of Solomon D. Butcher, is being displayed by the Mid-America Arts Alliance throughout its member states. These prints were made from the original glass plate negatives in an antique process much like the one that Butcher would have used. With a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, the Society developed the touring exhibit "Progress in the West: The Trans-Mississippi Exposition." This exhibit was produced from the glass plate negatives of F. A. Rhinehart, official photographer for the 1899 Worlds Fair. These negatives were purchased earlier by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. Again, the prints produced were made using an antique process; this time it was the beautiful process of platinum printing.

John Carter, Research Associate Paul Riley, and Ann Reinert presented 24 special programs and consultation sessions. Twelve touring groups were given orientations to reference materials in the library.

In order to reach groups interested in our genealogical resources, the slide-tape, "Historical and Genealogical Resources at the Nebraska State Historical Society," was mailed to ten Nebraska communities and shown to four other groups during this past year. The Nebraska State Genealogical Society held its winter meeting in our building on February 17 to learn more about our resources. In spite of a blizzard, 252 persons attended this daylong workshop.

The Fort Robinson Branch Museum and the Neihardt Center Branch Museum continued their increase of reference materials. A unique addition to the Neihardt Center Library was a copy of *Book World Comments and Reviews from the Kansas City Journal-Post, March 7, 1926-October 24, 1926* by John G. Neihardt compiled by Florence Boring. Another unique collection was acquired when the Willa Cather Center at Red Cloud became a Branch Museum of the Society.

The 17 members of the Library staff, including the nine part-time members and two volunteer typists, have spent a busy and productive year cataloging, indexing, typing, filing, and assisting patrons.

Volunteer typists, Mrs. Olive Moore and Mrs. Violet Gulley, donated approximately 550 hours of their time, which is especially appreciated.

Other activities of the Library staff include active participation in professional organizations. John Carter is chairman of the Long Term Planning Committee of the Nebraska Museums Conference, Paul Riley is Nebraska membership chairman of the Western History Association, and Ann Reinert is a member of the Nebraska Library Commission Clearinghouse Advisory Committee, president of the Nebraska Library Association, and member of the State Advisory Board on Libraries. She is also a member of the American Library Association Genealogy Committee.

ARCHIVES

Under State Archivist Jim Potter certain archival staff functions were reorganized to provide better service. The microfilm cameras and filming staff were removed from the room housing the microfilm collection to provide more space for public use. An area was provided in the same room for researchers to use original public records and manuscript collections. Now persons wishing to study any microfilmed or original holdings need go only to a single location. Manuscripts Curator Anne Diffendal was assigned to supervise Archives reference functions, including mail and telephone inquiries and service to patrons. During the year nearly 6,000 people used Society services available in the Archives reference division. These included assistance with the use of the microfilm collection, providing access to public records or manuscripts, ordering filmed census

records, and giving school and group tours of the Archives. The staff received and wrote nearly 4,000 letters involving research by mail.

Technical and service functions of the State Archives, including accessioning, processing, and storage of public records and manuscripts, are under the supervision of Assistant State Archivist Donald Snoddy. He is responsible for coordinating archival services to state and local government and works closely with officials and the public. In September, 1978, Manuscripts Curator David Hooper became archivist at the Arizona Historical Society and Andrea Friedman joined the staff as replacement in January of this year. Her primary duties are accessioning and processing donated manuscript collections.

Lack of space has forced the Archives to limit acquisitions but several significant accessions were received in 1978-1979: the 1977 Legislative journals; official files of Governor J. James Exon, 1970-1978; naturalization records from Platte and Lincoln counties; and marriage records from Boone County. Major manuscript collections received were the papers of former US Senators Carl T. Curtis and Robert B. Howell; the research files of anthropologist John L. Champe; and records of the Lincoln League of Women Voters. Oral history tapes with such subjects as early Nebraska radio, and John G. Neihardt, were acquired. Hundreds of small manuscript collections were received. The 1900 Nebraska Census on microfilm was purchased from the National Archives.

The State Archives microfilming program, directed by Joleen Smith, continued to film Nebraska newspapers as well as an increasing amount of documentary material. Included in the 687 reels of new film produced were the Lancaster and Douglas county marriage indexes; Burlington Railroad land sales records; Omaha cemetery records; and numerous church records. As space becomes increasingly scarce, more county records now within the Archives will be microfilmed. In cooperation with the State Records Management Division, Library, Museum, and Archives donor files and catalogs were microfilmed for security.

In 1977 the Society signed agreements with Kearney and Chadron State Colleges to establish Centers for Archives and History on each campus to provide research facilities and collections in cooperation with the Society. During 1978-1979 several



Participants in the April 26 symposium "Historians and Genealogists: An Examination of Mutual Concerns" at Chadron State College include Reta King (right foreground), director of Chadron Center for Archives and History, and Dr. Gene Hamaker (left foreground), director of Kearney Center. . . .(Below) Patrons read microfilmed newspapers in Society Microfilm Library.



important collections on microfilm, including the U.S. Government Land Records, naturalization indexes, Civil War burial records, and selected newspapers, were deposited for use at the Centers. The Centers at Kearney and Chadron are open to the public during limited hours and use of the collections there is increasing. Dr. Gene Hamaker, Director of the Kearney Center, visited communities and individuals in 13 central Nebraska counties to distribute publicity, initiate personal contacts, and solicit donations for the Center. During the fall and spring semesters, 1978-1979, some 40 persons used the Kearney Center collections and four tours were provided to genealogical classes. Accessions of the Kearney Center have included the legislative files of State Senator Leslie Robinson of Kearney, 1966-1970.

In April, 1979, the Society and the Centers at the Kearney and Chadron campuses sponsored one-day seminars entitled "Historians and Genealogists: An Examination of Mutual Concerns." These programs were funded in part by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities and were attended by nearly 200 persons. Directors of the Kearney and Chadron Centers for Archives and History, Dr. Gene Hamaker and Reta King, coordinated local arrangements. In the coming year the research collections at the Centers will be expanded to make more archival sources available to the public.

Conservation of the Society's priceless archival and library collections has been of increasing concern over the years. In 1978 the Society applied to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a grant to fund a one-year project to prepare a conservation plan for the Society. In February, 1979, the Commission awarded the amount of \$14,588 to fund this project. For three months Conservation Specialist Judith Fortson-Jones was trained at the National Archives in Washington. She will prepare a paper, conservation and disaster plan, for Society archival and library collections as well as consult with local groups on preservation problems. Most of the sessions and workshops presented at the Society's 1979 fall meeting represented part of the Society's contribution to the project, one goal of which is to make available information regarding the care of paper and photographs.

To accomplish the enormous task of preserving the documentary record of Nebraska history, the archival staff will continue to rely on the support and assistance of all Nebraskans.

LINCOLN MUSEUM

The Lincoln Museum has had a year of increased activity, new projects, and good news. Attendance for fiscal year 1978-1979 was 55,431, up approximately 2,000 over last year. The entire increase is due to museum tours by the Education Department, indicating traffic by the general public is not increasing at our present location.

The Education Department provided 287 tours to 11,150 people. Approximately 400 pieces of free educational literature and 500 packets for Nebraska teachers were distributed this year. With increased publication and mailing costs the Society no longer nationally advertises its educational materials. We have been concentrating on upgrading our educational program and making material available to Nebraska students and teachers.

Curator of Education Dick Spencer has been publicizing museum events. This year he produced public service announcements and news releases and scheduled TV and radio interviews by Society staff. More than \$7,000 worth of radio and TV air time was given to the Society. Spencer also produced a slide tape show "The Nebraska State Historical Society: Past, Present, and Future."

The Student Historian program increased in size with 17 active chapters and a membership of 331 students. Awards for projects were presented at the Spring Meeting: first places to the Plains Culture Society, Neligh-Oakdale Schools, in the senior division, and to Sandhills Student Historians, District 5, Angora, in the junior division; honorable mention awards to Raymond Central Historical Society, Raymond Central School, in the senior division and Garrison Explorers, Garrison Public School, in the junior division. A state meeting of Student Historians was held in conjunction with the Spring Meeting at North Platte. A group from the Raymond Central Historical Society helped host the "Sampler of Traditional Nebraska Arts and Crafts."

The Art Department produced 90 exhibit units varying widely in size and format. A photo display, "Commerce in the Capitol City," was shown at the September, 1978, Lincolnfest. It was financed in part by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities. A second grant provided partial support for a photo exhibit of platinum prints of views of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. This exhibit, "Progress in the West,"



Lincoln Museum Curator Wendell Frantz (right) and Curator of Education Dick Spencer examine educational slides. . . .(Below) Society Artists Herb Thomas (right) and Curt Peacock construct Museum exhibits.





Bobby Bridger, descendant of mountain man Jim Bridger, entertains at August 5 Neihardt Day festivities at Bancroft. . . .(Below) Mrs. Rudie Sobotka (left), Omaha, explains to Librarian Ann Reinert her translation of listings of Czech settlers in Nebraska and Kansas from Hospodar, Czech newspaper in Omaha during the 1890s.



has been shown in Lincoln, Kearney, North Platte, and Hastings and is now at the Phelps County Historical Museum, Holdrege. Exhibits used in Lincoln totaled 21 while 31 were built for use at branch museums, and 16 others were made for special events such as the Annual Statehood Day celebration. Nineteen exhibits were built for the State Game and Parks Commission at Ash Hollow and Champion Mill State Historical Parks. Building of small furniture for Society offices, art work for *Nebraska History* and other Society publications, and assistance to organizations were examples of other work done.

Robert Pettit, Curator of Collections, has logged 192 donations from 138 donors and cataloged about 2,000 items. Items continue to be loaned from the collections on a limited basis. Twenty-three loans included 170 artifacts. A majority were paintings loaned to state offices. The painting "Homestead of Ellsworth L. Ball" (Garfield County) by Sally Cover was loaned to the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City for its exhibition "The Woman Folk Artist In America," shown also at the Albany Institute of History and Art. Prints by Karl Bodmer and Alfred E. Mathews were loaned to Kearney State College for its "Survey of Nebraska Art" exhibit. The Collections staff helped in researching Ash Hollow exhibits; restoring of the Ferguson House, and the Governor's suite at the Capitol; rewriting a pamphlet on Nebraska Governors' wives for distribution at the Governor's Mansion, where Museum personnel provide guide service; and researching information requests. We reached a milestone when museum items stored at Mead (UNL Agricultural Experimental Station) were moved to Lincoln.

Attendance at the Kennard House, July, 1978, to June, 1979, was 12,351. Special exhibits included "Christmas in the 1870s," November and December; "Victorian Parlor Concert," April, May, June; and a "Wedding" at the Kennard House, July and August. Printed handouts, taped narration, and a Christmas-ornaments-to-make leaflet were developed.

In April Curator JoAnne Kissel taught touring school children Victorian games in conjunction with "Sampler of Traditional Nebraska Arts and Crafts" sessions at the Ferguson House. This was the first event sponsored by the Society's Center for Nebraska Folklife. The Center went into operation in January, 1979, partially funded by the National Endowment

for the Arts. Coordinator Lynne Ireland of the folklife program has been developing a series of public presentations. The "Sampler of Traditional Nebraska Arts and Crafts" included blacksmithing, broom making, rug braiding, quilting, and Ukrainian egg decorating. A demonstration of spinning and weaving was held in cooperation with the Lincoln Hand Spinners, the Nebraska Hand Weavers, and the Plainsman Spinners. In July a music festival was held which included Serbo-Croatian, German-Russian, Czech, and American country traditions. Planned for autumn, 1979, was a quilt show by the Lincoln Quilters Guild, a fall festival, and a Christmas event.

The Center is also developing an index of Nebraska folk artists and craftsmen. A survey of the North Platte Valley and brief surveys elsewhere were made in conjunction with local festivals. The Lincoln Junior League has helped in programing and in research. Future plans call for emphasis on contacting folk artists and craftsmen, working with branch museums in providing folklife elements at established events, and promoting awareness of folk traditions.

Museum staff continued to provide information by phone, mail, and personal contact. Over 400 letters came to the Museum, exclusive of mail to the Education Department and miscellaneous circulars. More than 10,000 phone calls came to museum staff during the year. Museum groups at Holdrege, Orleans, Kearney, Verdigre, Bellevue, Red Cloud, Fairbury, and Omaha were assisted. The Museum hosted the north-central region seminar "Interpreting the Humanities Through Museum Exhibits" of the American Association for State and Local History in June. Museum Curator Wendell Frantz, Curator of Collections Gail Potter, and Neihardt Center Curator John Lindahl attended the Mountain Plains Museums Conference at Oklahoma City in October, 1978. Wendell Frantz attended the AASLH seminar "Current Trends in Interpreting American History" at Nashville in July.

The year closed on a high note with the purchase by the Society of the Lincoln Elks Club Building as future home for the Lincoln Museum.

BRANCH MUSEUMS

Neihardt Center, Bancroft—The subject of the 1978 Neihardt Day was *Black Elk Speaks*, a play dramatizing poet John G. Neihardt's work. Speakers were playwright Christopher Sergel and actor Clayton Corbin. Nearly 100 paintings by area artists were displayed in a September show. Curator John Lindahl attended the Oklahoma City Mountain-Plains Museums Conference in October, 1978. Curator of Photographs John Carter assisted in a May photo day. Over 200 old photos were copied for Society collections. The Wayne State poetry team gave readings of Neihardt's work to local school children at the Center in October.

John Lindahl and Tom Buecker continue their monthly radio program on WJAG (Norfolk), which won a state travel award for public service. The Neihardt Foundation also won a state travel award for its activities, including Neihardt Day. Attendance was 4,805, no change.

Neligh Mills, Neligh—On July 4 as part of Old Mill Days a Neligh youth group helped sponsor an ice cream social. The event marked a closer involvement of the site with this annual celebration.

The contract was awarded for planning the reconstruction of the mill dam on the Elkhorn River.

An Upper Republican site was dug within the Neligh city limits by Society archeologists in October. Curator Tom Buecker and local volunteers participated.

Research continued on the history of Neligh Mills and the Nebraska milling industry. Buecker authored articles on Nebraska flour mills for *Nebraskaland* magazine and *Old Mill News*. Numerous sites throughout the state were surveyed by Buecker in his inventory of existing mill structures.

Attendance was 5,785, up 21 percent.

Fort Robinson, Crawford, Vance Nelson, Curator—The Western Art Show was held over the Fourth of July holiday in the Veterinary Hospital. School Field Day was October 9, 1978, with Curators Tom Buecker and John Lindahl assisting. The Fort Robinson Museum hosted the Nebraska Museums Conference and a Soldiers' Reunion in late June.

Restoration work continued on the Bandmaster's Quarters



Cultural Historian Janet Jeffries Spencer with Historic Preservation display at June 2 Spring Meeting, North Platte. . . (Below) New Lincoln Museum displays during 1979 included doll exhibits.



and was nearly completed on the 1895 Brick Granary. The installation of steam heating in the Veterinary Hospital has begun.

Attendance at the main museum was 33,981; other buildings and tours 28,258. The total of 62,239 was up 9 percent.

Captain Meriwether Lewis, Brownville—The *Lewis* was acquired by the Society in 1976 with the cooperation of the Brownville Historical Society and the State Game and Parks Commission. Construction of the drydock cradle was completed. Painting of the *Lewis* is continuing and display cases have been built. Funding for displays came from grants from the National Trust for Historical Preservation and the Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. Matching grants for the restoration of the dredge came from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of the Interior.

The boat was the site for a 1978 summer program "Arts Aboard the Meriwether Lewis," sponsored by the Brownville Fine Arts Association. An open house was held in August, 1978. Reassembly of the engines began in preparation for later painting on the boiler deck.

Attendance was 10,865, down 1 percent.

Willa Cather Historical Center, Red Cloud—The Nebraska State Historical Society took control of Cather properties on November 1, 1978. Staff was assembled, including full-time Curator Ann Billesbach.

The theme of this year's Cather Day, an annual May event, was *Shadows on the Rock* (a Cather novel). A display of Butcher photographs was shown at the Burlington Depot. Three displays on Cather's life were constructed for the Garber Bank headquarters.

The Center, the Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, and Kearney State College sponsored a Prairie Workshop in June. A program statement was developed for the Pavelka Farmhouse. The brick cellars at the Garber Bank were repaired. The photograph collection accumulated by the Foundation was catalogued.

Attendance was 2,388 since November 1, 1978.

Norris Home, McCook—Materials were purchased for roof repair on the home. The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service conducted a study of the Norris Home for possible in-

clusion in its parks system. Attendance was 2,116, up 31 percent.

Mobile Museums—Grand Island No. 1: An estimated 16,000 State Fair visitors went through this unit at Heritage Village. Attendance was 10,383, down 26 percent. Maxwell-Brady No. 2: Attendance was 7,376, down 14 percent.

Court House and Jail Rocks No. 3: Improvements were made to the road leading from Nebraska Highway 88 to the rocks. The mobile museum, which had been at Chimney Rock, was transferred to Court House Rock. Displays were adapted to emphasize the history of Court House Rock. Attendance was 2,482, up 24 percent with the newer unit.

Chimney Rock No. 4: A new trailer was installed for the 1979 season. Besides new displays it features a concrete entry ramp to aid the physically handicapped. Both the ramp and the trailer can handle wheelchairs.

The HCRS Chimney Rock brochure was updated after consultation with the Society. Court House and Chimney rocks were the scenes for filming portions of CBS' *The Chisholms*. Attendance was 17,361, down 14 percent.

Branch Museum Office, Lincoln—Curator of Branch Museums Carl H. Jones participated in the Chicago meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He spoke about the restoration of the *Meriwether Lewis*. The second annual branch museums curators' meeting was held at Lincoln in March.

The visitor center at Ash Hollow State Historical Park was dedicated August 6, 1978. Displays were finished and installed in the spring of 1979. Cooperative projects between the Society and State Game and Parks Commission continued with the construction and installation of displays at Champion Mill State Historical Park.

Plans were drawn up and display cases built for the Senator Carl T. Curtis exhibit in the Shops and Homes Building at Pioneer Village, Minden. Furniture from Senator Curtis' Washington office was acquired, as was his collection of papers, photographs, and artifacts. The building of a replica of his office is in process.



April 19-22 craft sampler activities at the Center for Nebraska Folklife, located in the Ferguson House, Lincoln, included a quilting demonstration by Bryan Memorial Kensington members and rug braiding by Mary Crawford (below) of York.





Stromsburg District 10 fourth graders tour the Indian Gallery in Lincoln Museum. . . (Below) Children from Rosemont Alliance Day Care Center, Lincoln, enjoy the Museum doll house.





Kennard House Curator JoAnne Kissel instructs children in hoop rolling and other Victorian games during April craft sampler activities at the Kennard and Ferguson houses, Lincoln.



Raymond Central High student Stephanie Watson represented Nebraska Student Historians at the June 19-22 George Rogers Clark Symposium, Vincennes, Indiana.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The State Historic Preservation Office is charged by the Nebraska Legislature (1967) with carrying out provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These responsibilities consist of (1) surveying the state to compile an inventory of historic resources; (2) nominating certain resources to the National Register of Historic Places; (3) administration of federal Historic Preservation funds used in the preservation/restoration of properties listed in the National Register; and (4) review of all other federally funded or licensed projects proposed within the state. Following is a summary of activities:

Survey—Due to re-assessment of priorities, a decision was made not to do field survey during the summer of 1978, except on a limited basis. Instead, efforts were devoted to intensive work on sites previously recognized to complete National Register nominations for those sites. This resulted in an increase in the nominations submitted. Additional survey was begun near the end of the fiscal year in Seward, Dodge, Pawnee, and Johnson counties. Archeological survey was extended to the Panhandle area and will follow in southeastern Nebraska. Thematic survey is also being accomplished by using an outside contractor to survey railroad depots throughout the state.

Nominations—We increased the rate of submission of nominations this year: Forty-one nominations were submitted and 39 enrolled in the Register. Included were sizable Historic Districts in Ponca and in Omaha (Old Market). Historic District nominations often involve as much research and writing as would be required for several individual property nominations. Among the new listings are the Chautauqua pavilions in Hastings and Beatrice, the Liederkrantz building in Grand Island, the unique Keystone Community Church which served both Catholics and Protestants, the baled-hay church in Arthur, and the ruins of the Antioch potash plants. The increase in nominations was aided by a new addition to our staff. In October we were required by federal regulations to add an architectural historian, and Dan Kidd, who had worked in the Kentucky preservation office, has become a valuable member of the team.

Grants-in-aid—As in the previous year, we received an increased allocation, from \$561,000 to \$686,000. For the first time we were able to offer funding to all who applied. As of June 30,

1979, grants had been awarded for projects in Crete, Omaha, Brownville, Wilber, Comstock, and Red Cloud. Notable among these is the Starke Round Barn near Red Cloud. Property owner Percy Rasser is the first individual owner to receive such a grant since enabling legislation was passed in 1978. Additional projects will be funded in Nebraska City, Filley, Humboldt, Genoa, and Lincoln.

Environmental Review—The State Historic Preservation Office, in its review of federally funded or licensed projects within the state, processed 600 applications during the year. Many required considerable research to determine whether or not historic resources will be affected. During the year we noted increased public awareness of preservation activities. We welcome public participation in our planning. By increasing public contact with our office, we should be better able to know of needs for assistance and become better able to serve those needs.

ARCHEOLOGY

Archeologists accomplished much field research and laboratory work during the year. Research Archeologist Gayle Carlson and Terry Mahlman completed the final two-thirds of a 300-mile long walking survey to identify cultural resources in nine counties of western and central Nebraska. The work was conducted by contract between the Society and the Nebraska Public Power District along the right-of-way of a 345 KV transmission line to be built through Cheyenne, Deuel, Keith, Lincoln, Frontier, Red Willow, Custer, Sherman and Buffalo counties. Thirty locations were identified where significant cultural resources were present. Appropriate mitigatory measures were recommended, and in partial fulfillment of these recommendations, testing was conducted at two sites where transmission line structures would damage subsurface remains.

Terry Mahlman conducted excavations at a Central Plains Tradition village site at Neligh which was being destroyed by a housing subdivision. John Ludwickson replaced Highway Salvage Archeologist Terry Steinacher at the beginning of the fiscal year. Salvage excavations were carried out at the Monroe Site (25PT1) in western Platte County. Several buried storage pits were excavated at this site, an example of the protohistoric



The Society, in cooperation with the State Game and Parks Commission, resumed archeological excavations at Fort Atkinson, Washington County. (Inset) Society Archeologist Gayle Carlson (left) and Highway Salvage Archeologist Steve Holen. . . .(Below) Preparing Museum Christmas displays are Society activities committee members Alice McElhose (left), Mrs. L. Dwight "Pinky" Cherry, Sally Raglin, and Bernice Underdahl.



Lower Loup or Pawnee village culture. The site, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was also monitored during construction phases of the project.

Over 50 highway projects were surveyed for cultural resources. Three hundred miles of highway right-of-way were examined which resulted in the discovery of 24 new archeological sites in all parts of the state. A second highway salvage archeologist was authorized by the Department of Roads in order to efficiently conduct the Highway Salvage program. Steven Holen assumed this position in June of 1979.

A number of projects were completed in the archeology laboratory. The backlog of collections was catalogued and processed by Tim Hajek with the help of Alan Thompson and Liz Warner. Gayle Carlson spent October through December preparing a comprehensive final report of the transmission line survey he had conducted, and upon completion of this began the analysis of a historic trading post in Ash Hollow (25GD21) which he had excavated the previous year. Ludwickson spent the winter months analyzing lithic artifacts from the Schuyler Site (25CX1) which was salvaged during a 1971 highway project.

Finally, Carlson and Hajek are conducting a project at Fort Atkinson State Historical Park which will result in the complete excavation of the north barracks line of the west wall of the fort.

FOUNDATION

And now a word about the support provided by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation headed by E. J. Faulkner, President. Many of the activities reported for the Society would not have been possible without the financial support of the Foundation. State funds are not available for many important projects that should be carried out if we are to preserve and interpret Nebraska history. The support of the Foundation is particularly important to our special publications program. This need has been recognized by the Woods Charitable Fund, Inc., which had earlier set up a Publication Trust in the amount of \$25,000 for a revolving publication fund.

The Foundation has been the recipient of a number of bequests which have greatly increased the ability of the Society to expand its work. Recently the Foundation provided funds to aid

in the restoration of the Ferguson and Syford historic houses. They have purchased works of Nebraska art. It is doubtful that the *Lewis* dredge could have been accepted without a \$20,000 grant from the Foundation. These funds were matched with a \$17,000 grant from the Bicentennial Commission. A \$10,000 donation to the Foundation from the Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. was matched with a grant of \$10,000 from the National Trust for exhibit work on the *Lewis* dredge.

The Foundation has acquired a 1929 Arrow Sport plane manufactured at Havelock here in Lincoln. The Foundation also has a metal warehouse here in Lincoln which it rents to the State for \$1.00 a year. The Foundation has provided \$10,000 to be used with a grant of \$30,000 to the Society from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the support of a project entitled *Platte River Road Journals: A Comprehensive, Annotated Bibliography* to be directed by Merrill Mattes. The Foundation is fully recognized by the IRS as a public foundation with full benefits to donors. It is a flexible body which is providing increasing support to your Society. Its assets are audited annually and a detailed financial report is available for any who might be considering donations or bequests for the benefit of the Society and Nebraska history. There are many areas of financial need, and we urge your consideration when you are considering bequests or donations.

Progress in our goals to preserve and interpret Nebraska history would not be possible without the guidance of an outstanding Executive Board headed by Otto Kotouc Jr. A dedicated staff has worked to implement the policies set by the Board.