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BUILDING NEBRASKA'S CAPITOL
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4/26/30 S. J.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL.
 4-26-30 37
 The members of the capitol commission are greatly concerned lest all of these insults should cause Mr. Goodhue to resign as architect. They could not blame him if he did. Then, they frankly admit, they would be in serious difficulties. No other architect big enough to finish the job could be secured. It is true that the main plans are virtually complete, but not the art work, the finishing touches that are to give the building distinction. Mr. Goodhue is the only man who can bring the conception to perfect realization.

Some other difficulties are also certain to be encountered. Let the state get a reputation for unfairness, and no contractor will bid on the remaining sections of the building without adding a big enough margin to cover all danger of trouble. It is notorious in the stone trade that Henry Struble was "nicked," as he said, for \$14,666 on the stone settlement just to avoid a row. The stone he furnished was up to specifications, as the tests have shown, but he figured that it was cheaper to settle and get his money than to fight. The state can't do a thing like that, the contractors suggest, without taking the wire edge off from all bidding on the remaining sections of the building.

THEATRES
RADIO AND
MOVIES

THE LINCOLN

Nebraska's Be

TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

LINCOLN, NEB., SEPT 11

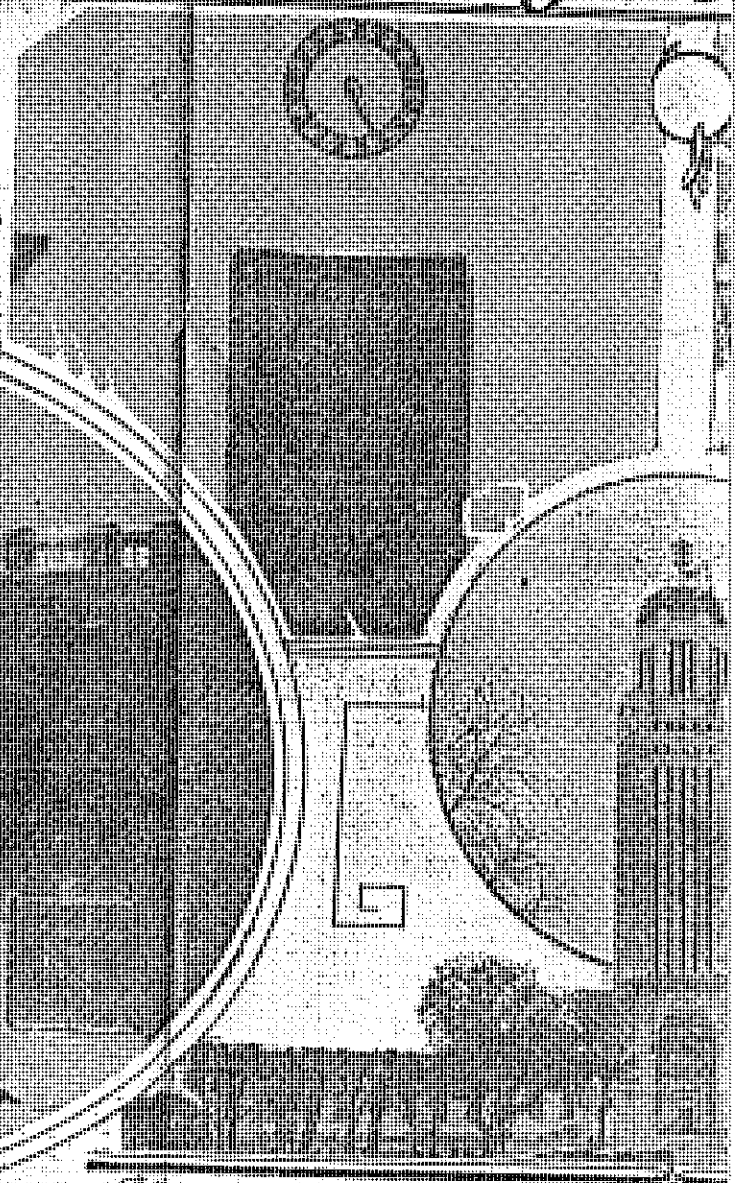
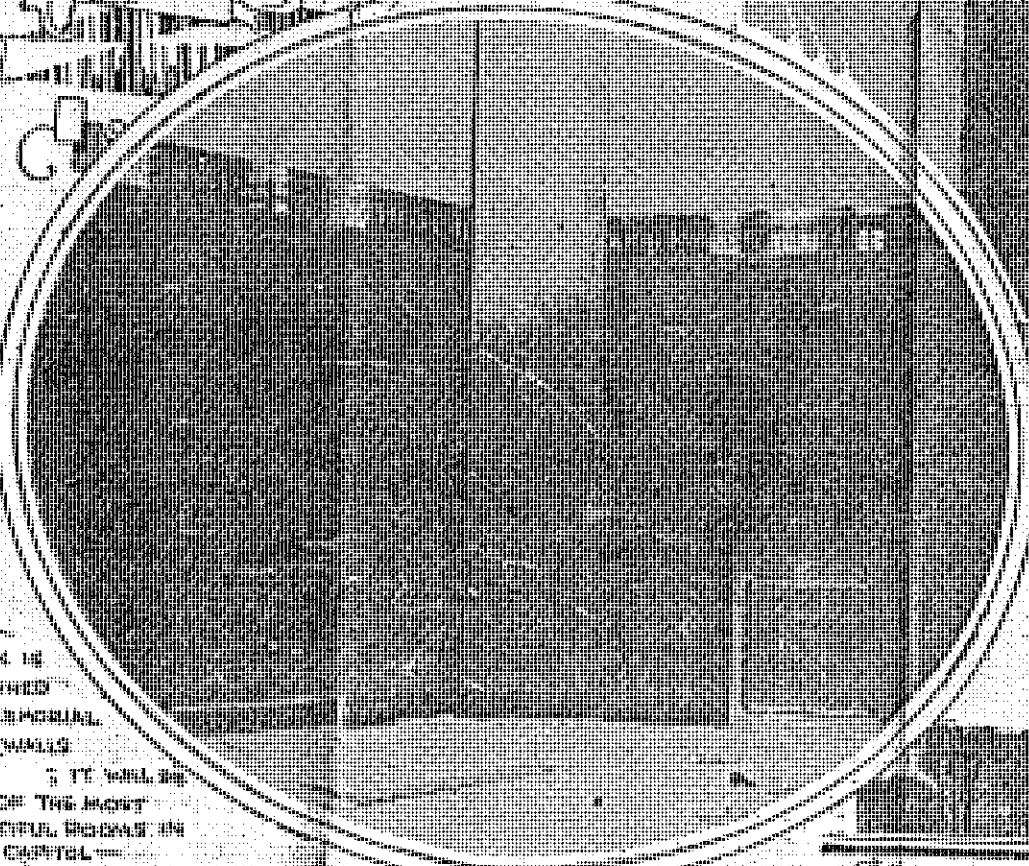
Memorial Hall Of Nebraska Cap

Center To House Trophies Of S But Enough Has Been Accompli Octagonal

THE STYLISH STUDDY
WHO LEFT THE MAIN
FLOOR



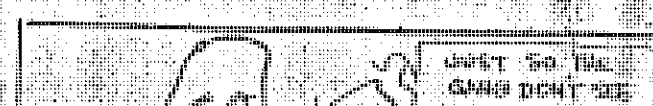
By
LAST TOUCHES REMAIN
TO BE DONE ON ELEVATOR
INSTALLATION AND IN THE
ELEVATOR WEST HALL



WORK IS
FINISHED
ON MEMORIAL
HALL WALLS
IT WILL BE
ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL ROOMS IN
THE CAPITAL

MEMORIAL HALL LEVEL IN THE TOWER OF THE

BY LINDA STAR COE
NOTHING definite bit
toward the ultimate
completion of Nebraska's cap-
ital is accomplished with the



LAST TO THE
GANG DON'T SEE

SUNDAY STAR

City Newspaper

FEATURES
AND
EDITORIAL

APRIL 27, 1930.

SECTION D

EIGHT PAGES

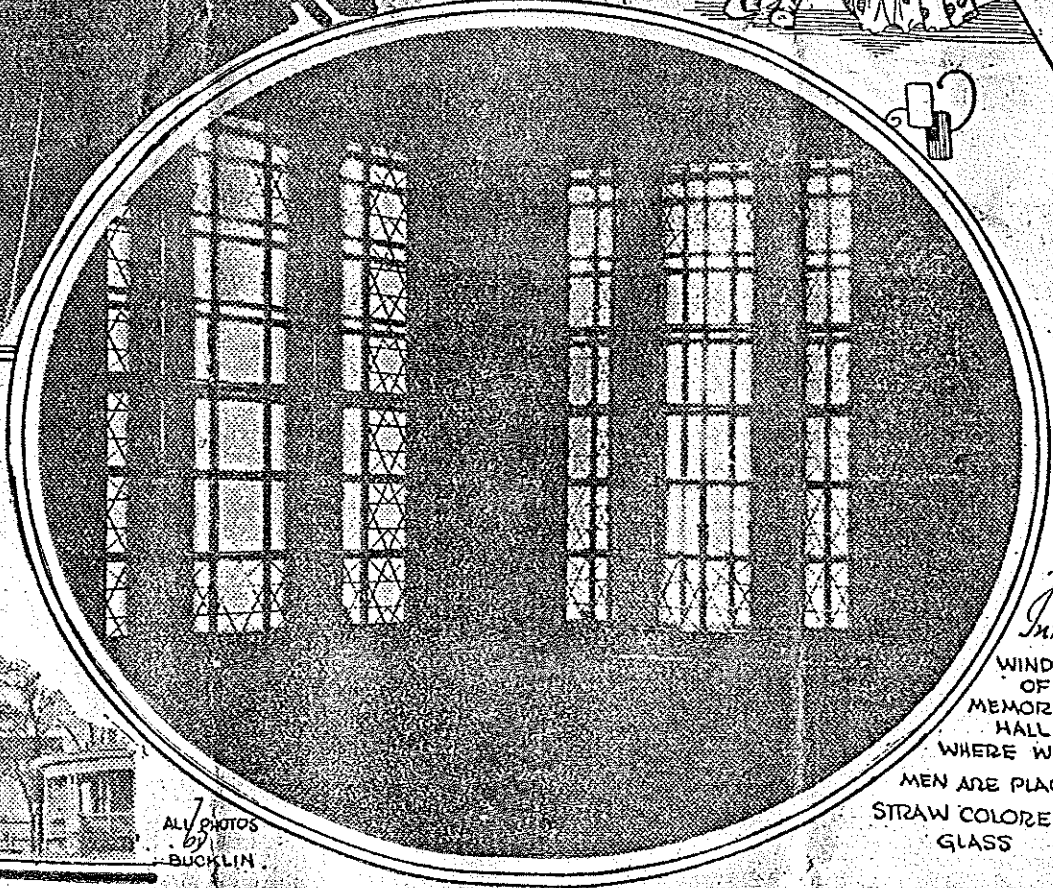
Most Distinctive Room Several Wars Not Quite Completed, Planned To Show Beauty Of Tower Hall

"--WOULD BE A SPEECHLESS
SYLPH BY THE TIME SHE
REACHED THE MARBLE-
COATED ROOM ABOVE."



DOWN

Left MEMORIAL
HALL DOME, WHICH
WILL BE COMPLETED
WITHIN A FEW
WEEKS.



Inner
WINDOWS
OF
MEMORIAL
HALL
WHERE WORK
MEN ARE PLACING
STRAW COLORED
GLASS

ALL PHOTOS
by
BUCKLIN

AT OF THE LOWER PROMENADES

with its mosaic dome, and it has never lost, and never will, the charm of its glistening and resplendent colors. Leading off from the rotunda is the foyer where the tiled

Memorial hall, which isn't so far below the point where "The Sower" is to find permanent home.

It was quite a sight for Lincolnish eyes when the long-anticipated tower finally appeared out of the great square. But so tall the tower and so high the windows that any work achieved within that spire has been but a matter of public conjecture. As far as Lincoln knew, it was but a hollow pinnacle, but as Lincoln trusted, with other wings and porticos achieved as a basis of belief, workmen labored industriously far above the thrown-back heads of the sightseers.

And labored they have. For the last six or seven months, workmen have gone high into the tower to attain results that the public soon may view.

No invitations have yet been issued for the opening of the Memorial room. Walls must be washed, coverings removed from the floors, gratings put in place, and a dozen workmen take up other corners of the great building before the passing public can view the beauties of the Memorial room. It is done, in the sense that the major part of actual construction is over, quite as a housewife considers her spring cleaning done even though the drapes haven't come back from the cleaners and the front porch is yet to scrub.

Fourteen Stories Up.

Nebraska might pay for its tower, if not for the entire structure, by offering the ascent as an excellent reducing cure, and charging for the privilege of climbing fourteen flights of stairs to the Memorial room. The stylish stout who left the main floor would be a speechless sylph by the time she had reached the marble-coated room above.

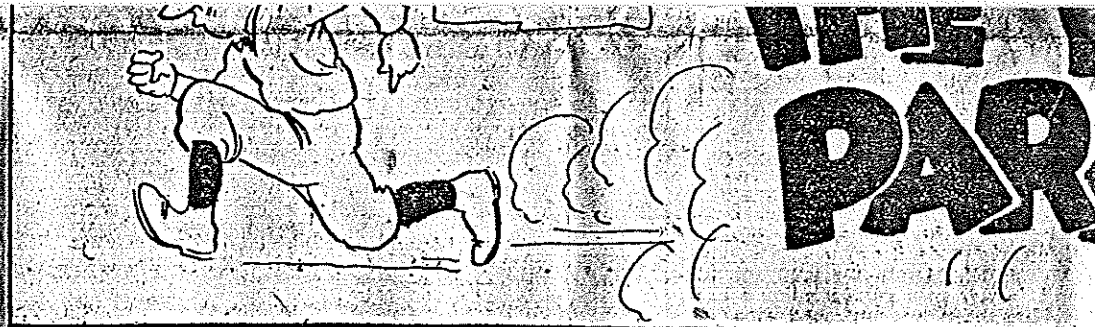
However, there are elevators for those who wouldn't climb fourteen flights, even to meet Lindbergh. Very nice elevators that run in excellent fashion, once they are started. However, installation ceremonies for the lifts aren't yet finished, and they must be coaxed just a trifle in the beginning. As neither stairs nor elevators are admitting the public today, all the little gadgets will be quite perfect when Lincoln enters.

Shot upward at a gratifying rate by a suddenly obliging elevator, passengers alight on the fourteenth floor, counting tower floors. From the basement, it ranks as the seventeenth layer of floor, and it is really the topmost floor for sightseers, although the tank room lies between this trophy room and the dome. A short corridor leads from the elevator vestibule to the Memorial room.

Many Beautiful Rooms.

Nebraska's capitol has several beautifully decorated rooms. The governor's suite, with its brilliant-hued murals in the reception room, and known as "the most beautiful room in America," and in the governor's private office, is a high note in the gorgeousness of the state house. The Supreme court room has a rich beauty, with its heavily beamed ceilings, and the legislative chamber in the east wing, depicting Indian life in Nebraska, is a handsome room of subdued harmonies.

Among the earliest beauties of the interior capitol was the rotunda,



THE LINCOLN SUNDAY STAR

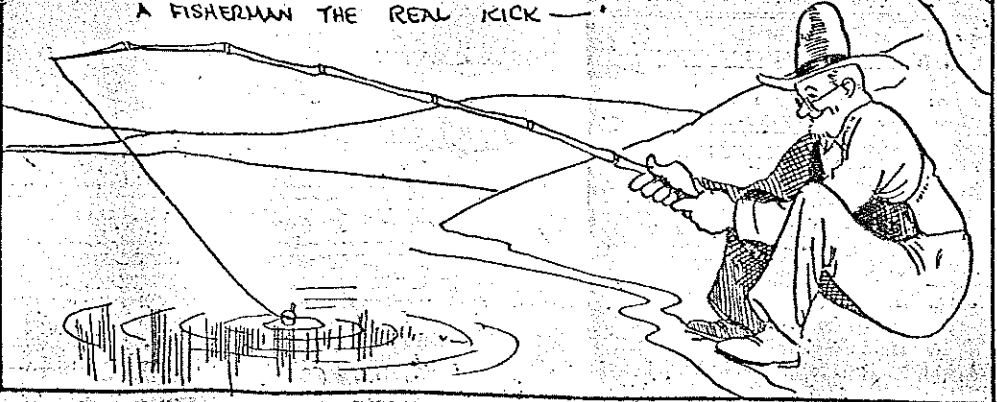


"PARADISE LOST - AND REGAINED"

UNCLE NAB

NEBRASKA SAYS

"IT AIN'T SO MUCH JUST FISHIN' - IT'S TELLIN' ABOUT THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY THAT GIVES A FISHERMAN THE REAL KICK -"



NEXT

DON'T FORGET TO BUY AT LEAST ONE POPP

Y.M. C.A. CIR. THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

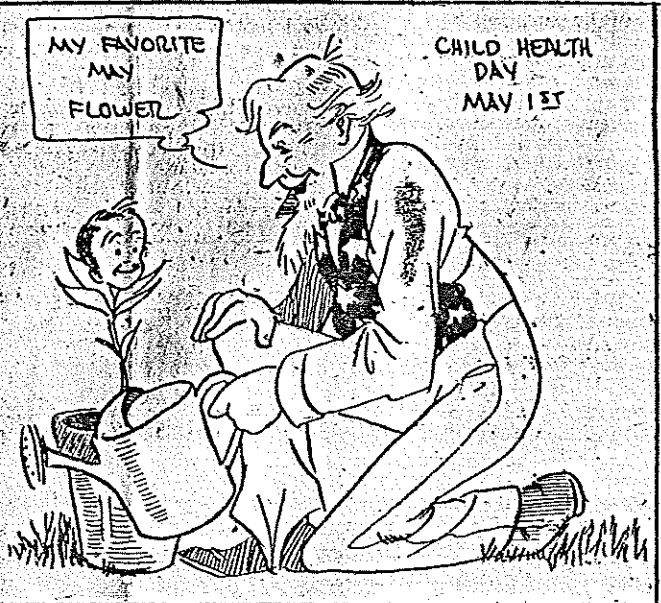
MADE

GAY WILLIAMS

APRIL 27, 1930



SATURDAY IS — POPPY DAY



MY FAVORITE MAY FLOWER

CHILD HEALTH DAY MAY 1ST



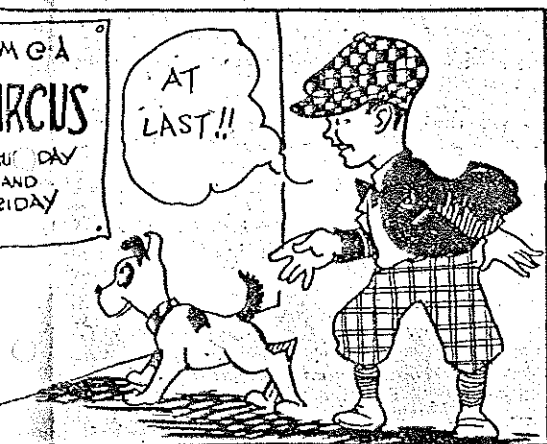
E.J.B. SAW A MAN AT TENTH AND "O" WEARING TWO HEAVY OVERCOATS AND A STRAW HAT

THAT'S VARIETY FOR YOU!!

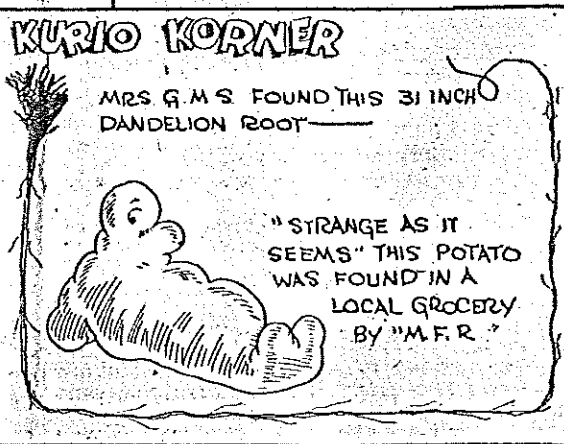


HONEST TO GOODNESS, MYRTLE, WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU COULD "VE KNOCKED ME OVER WITH A FEATHER!

"H.L.E." OVERHEARD THIS ON THIRTEENTH AND "O" FRIDAY



AT LAST!!



KURIO KORNER

MRS G.M.S. FOUND THIS 31 INCH DANDELION ROOT

"STRANGE AS IT SEEMS" THIS POTATO WAS FOUND IN A LOCAL GROCERY BY "M.F.R."

into the great central rotunda and huge dome provide a promenade of rare splendor.

Essentially different is the appearance of Memorial hall. In comparison with some of the completed rooms, it has an austerity, a restraint, a lack of color that is mentally startling. Where others glisten, this room quietly gleams. Where others keep one alert to avoid missing a curve or a color, this one soothes and allays strain.

Has True Beauty.

Yet, it has a true beauty, equal, certainly, to the others of special decoration, and to some it might be a superior beauty. To all, the Memorial room, high in the tower and designed for the trophies and mementoes of Nebraska men who have fought for their country and their state, reaches a height of loveliness fitting for its position in the structure. It is up a considerable distance, but he who stops with the more easily accessible rooms will miss one of great architectural fineness.

The Memorial room is like a great goblet, with its eight sides, paneled about one-third in dark marble, and the sun pouring in above through soft-colored glass. It is high, very high, as the viewer tips back his head to see the apex of the neutral dome, and rather aweing, as perhaps is fitting for the room where the relics of Nebraska's fighting men will be. The casual visitor feels rather insignificant as he stands on the floor of the goblet-room, but it is a friendly place, bright, and cheery, and pleasant.

Special Relic Cases.

The Memorial room has a diameter of 42 feet 6 inches and from the floor to the apex measures 71 feet. In reality, it is an octagonal room, but the corners have been cut so that it has sixteen sides, the eight wide panels and the eight of narrower width, pilasters. When the room is completely finished, it will be equipped with specially-designed cases, fitting to the room's background, where the relics can be displayed as there has never before been opportunity.

The wide panels are done in Verde marble, bordered with shining Belgian black, about 14 feet from the floor. The pilasters, reaching to the dome, have Italian pororo marble, called "black and gold" in everyday parlance. Between the 14 foot marble panels and the windows frescoing will be done. The designs for this art work have not yet been completed.

Cut into the border above the panels in gold leaf letters are the well known words from Lincoln's second inaugural: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, see the right: Let us strive to finish the work we are in: To bind up the nation's wounds; To care for him who shall have borne the battle for his widow and his orphan: To do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

May Climb Higher.

Each of the eight sides is marked by a large interior window, 12 by 18 feet in size, just below the dome. The very fine bronze grilling is fitted with straw-colored Cathedral glass. Less elaborate windows of similar size with milk-colored glass lighten the exterior walls. To gain access to the tank room, "a walk-up apartment," winding stairs have been placed between the exterior and interior walls and between the two windows just described are glass landings, so that the height of the windows are unbroken by dark dividing strips. To reach the tank room is to walk one and one-half times around the elevation of the Memorial room. An excellent over-

101

head view of the room is obtained from the landings.

At the base of the dome is a black and gray marble frieze, with the marbled design uneven enough to suggest the waves of the sea. The dome proper is of acoustic tile in a blue field, the simulated panels of graduated with supplemented by a formal border of glazed decorative tile in yellow, blue and black, and outlined in gold enamel tile in a fancy design. The apex is marked with a sunburst of crimson and orange tile, in the center of which is to be a special chandelier in a geometric pattern, which is now being fabricated.

Leading off from the Memorial room on diagonal axis are four turrets, two as elevator vestibules and one as the stairway. The corridors opening from the Memorial room are done in gray and have Kasota, a pale cream-colored marble, ceilings, and the doors of the room are finished in Belgian black, carved in a geometric design.

The vestibules are paneled and ceilingd in Kasota marble, with a border of Hautville, which is slightly darker than the Kasota. The base frieze is of gray mole. The elevator cabs are in Honduras mahogany, and two serve the fourteenth floor, and two others operate to the twelfth floor, one of these elevators being automatic.

Fine View of City.

Heavy bronze doors lead to the promenade, where Lincoln on a reduced scale is shown to those who don't mind looking down. Even more interesting than the top of Lincoln's head is the treatment of the building, by which it is architectually changed from a square to a point, and visible from this level. The terraces of the future give place to the large square of the building, which is changed into a small square by transeptal treatment, and then into an octagon by the addition of the promenades at the corners, and with buttresses into a circle, and finally pointed with "The Sower."

Six of the tower floors are designed for offices and above them is the Memorial room and below, another, which serves as a sort of mezzanine. The six rooms of the eighth floor are typical of all the floors, although the partitioning of each one differs to fit the needs of

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Web,
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Star, August 17, 1930

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE

Artist Achieves Splendid Conception of Pioneer Woman in State Capitol Mural



| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>It is a magnificent piece of work that Elizabeth Dolan has done in the mural, "Spirit of the Prairie," which decorates one of the walls of the library at the state capitol. Her</p> | <p>portrayal of the courage of the pioneer woman, and of her splendid faith in the future of the prairies is remarkable. The coloring is rather subdued, and gives the effect of a</p> | <p>—Photo by Bucklin. glow over the woman and her little family as she stands on a high knoll and looks into the distance.</p> |
|---|--|--|

Star, Aug 24, 1930

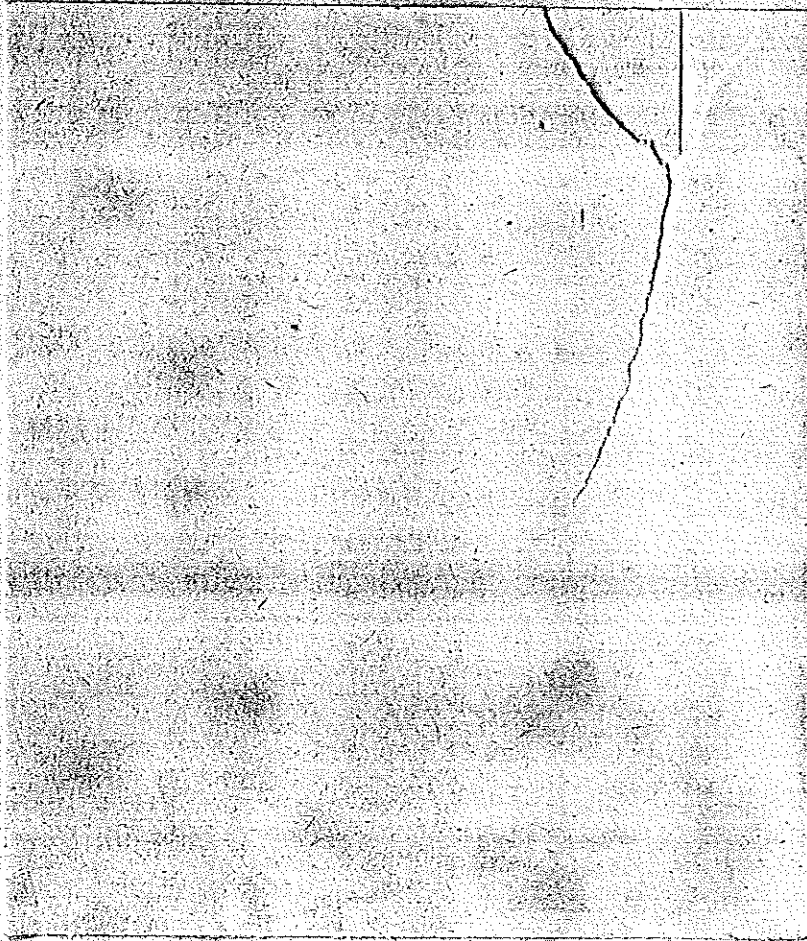
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Neb,

#274

Tower of Capitol.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE L-7E 4W



Completed Tower and Other Progress on New Capitol to Greet State Fair Visitors

Star City, Aug. 24, 30
"Sower" is Visible Atop Gold and Blue Tiled Dome; Memorial Hall Near Top To Be Open To Public In Few Weeks.

The tower of Nebraska's state capitol, which rises with simple but proud dignity above Lincoln's skyline, will present a different picture to state fair visitors next week than it did last year, when scarcely more than the outer walls were complete. The tower will not be opened to public inspection, but the scaffolds at its top will be cleared away to permit visitors to see the recently-completed gold-tiled dome.

A corps of guides will be on hand during the fair to conduct parties through the building. Last year it was estimated that 42,000 persons visited the building, about one-seventh of the number, or approximately 6,000, registering in the capitol's guest book. From this list it was revealed that 467 Nebraska towns, almost every town in the state, were represented during the week. These were from ninety-two of Nebraska's ninety-three counties. There were thirty-five other states, the District of Columbia, and six foreign points represented, with fourteen visitors from the six foreign cities.

Open Tower in Few Weeks.

The last twelve months have seen the completion of Memorial hall and the interior office floors of the tower, the hoisting of the huge bronze statue of "The Sower" to its pinnacle atop the monument, and subsequent completion of the gold-tiled dome. Only a few weeks remain before it is expected the tower will be opened to the public.

Memorial hall is the decorative hall in the octagon at the top of the tower. With marble floors and walls, huge windows of frosted amber glass on each of its eight sides, which bring a pale yellow light into the room, and a colored-tile dome, the apex of which is seventy feet above the floor, Memorial hall affords the visitor one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the building.

Colorings are subdued. The dome depicts a sun-burst, with the sun in the apex and its yellow rays extending out over the blue sky to the dome's springline, where they are reflected on the horizon.

Eight Varieties of Marble.

Eight varieties of marble from as many quarries in America and Europe are in the room, although but three varieties are used in prominence in the walls. These are the famous Porto Oro marble (popularly known as Black and Gold), which is quarried in Italy; American Verde antique, a variegated dark green marble, quarried in Vermont, and Belgian Black, quarried near Namur, Belgium. Belgian Black is the only jet black marble in the world, and was used in the mosaic panels in the main foyer and rotunda floors below. The black marble in the corridor floors has a dull or sanded finish, but in the tower it has been polished until it has the lustre of a patent leather shoe.

Beneath the eight windows about the room are eight plaster panels,

fourteenth floor usually is referred to as the "top of the tower," actually it is but 248 feet above the ground and 152 feet remain between this level and the top of "The Sower's" head, which is exactly 400 feet and 10 inches from the ground. Above Memorial hall is a fifty-foot engine room which is located within the dome. The engine room floor, approximately 320 feet above the ground, leads out to the highest promenade of the tower, where some day visitors will be allowed to view the city. To reach this promenade, a stairway which winds around the outside walls of Memorial hall but within the octagon walls of the upper tower must be climbed. These stairs are of glass, this making no obstruction for the light which may shine into the room.

The gold-colored tiles in the dome, thousands of which were used in its construction, are about four and a one-half inches square and one inch in thickness. It is estimated that their cost is 80 cents each. Their resistance against the sun and other elements of nature was tested a year ago on top of a New York skyscraper. The careful observer today may also view on several of the eight sides of the drum below the dome an American eagle in gold, red and blue tile.

"Sower" Hoisted to Place.

"The Sower" was hoisted after painstaking effort to its position on the tower last April. It pictures the grain sower of Biblical times, and with one arm outstretched is shown scattering his seeds to the four winds, depicting not only the foundation of man's life in agriculture, but also the fact that societies and governments are formed to sow the nobler seeds of life. Since the tower in its general relationship to the architectural symbolism is emblematic of the ideals and aspirations of mankind rising out of the level plains and pointing finger-like towards the heavens, "The Sower" has special significance. Incidentally, the figure is turned to the northwest, facing the broadest expanse of Nebraska and also the western plains where decades ago pioneering home-seekers first broke trails to civilization.

Although the complete statue is thirty-two feet in height, the figure alone is nineteen feet high. Seven months were required to cast it by the General Bronze works, Long Island, N. Y., after Lee Lawrie, sculptor, had submitted his model. The model, 10 feet and 8 inches in height, was one-third the statue's size and had to be proportionally scaled up to its correct size.

It was cast in several pieces and welded together at the factory. The bronze varies in thickness from two to four or five inches and is reinforced inside with heavy steel bars. In each leg are about 1,000 pounds of lead.

To Light Outside of Tower.

Another duty which must be performed in the near future is to light the outside of the tower. Plans have been to light it indirectly by large arc lights located at strategic points on the basic square of the building. This, when completed, will send a

and the interior office floors of the tower, the hoisting of the huge bronze statue of "The Sower" to its pinnacle atop the monument, and subsequent completion of the gold-tiled dome. Only a few weeks remain before it is expected the tower will be opened to the public.

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Beneath the eight windows about the room are eight plaster panels, where mural paintings will be placed later picturing episodes in Nebraska's history. Beneath the panels is an inscription which extends around the entire room. Carved into the highly-polished Belgian Black marble in gilt letters is the following extract from Lincoln's second inaugural address:

"With malice towards none; with charity for all: with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in: to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan: to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

The floor is a pattern of Belgian Black and Monte Azuro marble. The latter, quarried in Spain, sometimes is known as Greymol and is of a light bluish gray color.

Two Elevators to Fourteenth.

At the four corners of the tower off from Memorial hall are the four turret chambers, the tiny windows of which may be seen at the tops of the four turrets of the building. The two north chambers act as elevator vestibules, since two of the capitol's four elevators go to the fourteenth floor, which is Memorial hall. The other two reach only to the twelfth floor. The southeast vestibule is broken by a stairway, which extends all the way down the building.

Ceilings and walls of the four chambers are of Kasota Fleuri, a yellowish brown marble, which is quarried in Minnesota. Styles are of Hauteville, a French marble.

Although Memorial hall on the

panstaking effort to its position on the tower last April. It pictures the grain sower of Biblical times, and with one arm outstretched is shown scattering his seeds to the four winds, depicting not only the foundation of man's life in agriculture, but also the fact that societies and governments are formed to sow the nobler seeds of life. Since the tower in its general relationship to the architectural symbolism is emblematic of the ideals and aspirations of mankind rising out of the level plains and pointing finger-like towards the heavens, "The Sower" has special significance. Incidentally, the figure is turned to the north-west, facing the broadest expanse of Nebraska and also the western plains where decades ago pioneering home-seekers first broke trails to civilization.

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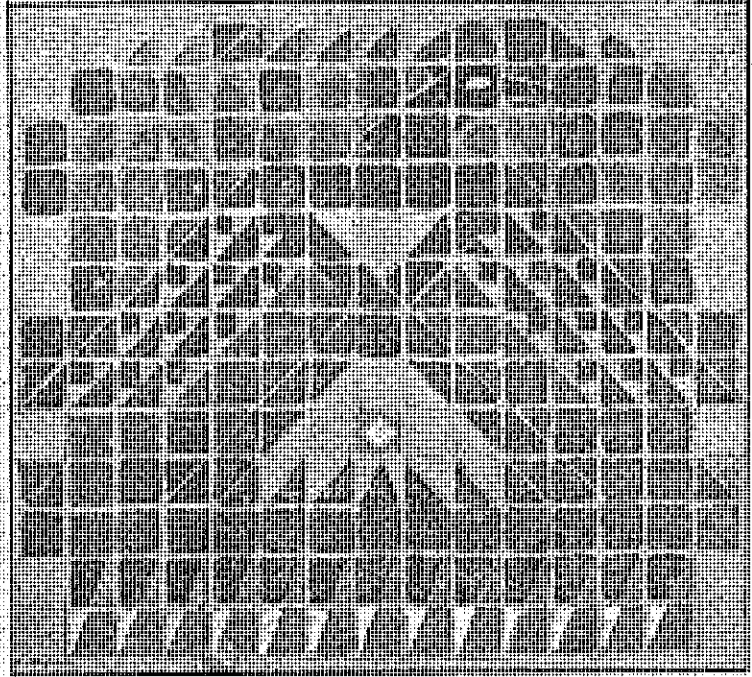
Another step toward completion of the building was made June 20 last when contracts were let for the fourth section or west wing of the building, where the house of representatives chamber will be located. Contracts also were let for landscaping, for replacement of the terrace roof about the building and for furnishing the judges' suites and the supreme court room.

Work on the terrace already has begun at the southwest corner of the building. Landscaping probably will be started in the spring.

Among additions to the capitol's art during the year has been Elizabeth Dolan's mural "The Spirit of the Prairie," located in the north lunette of the state capitol library. Still another addition and one which is attracting unusual attention and interest is the decorative scheme recently completed on the huge Indian doors which lead into the senate chamber. These doors of Honduras mahogany weigh 750 pounds apiece and are the only set of doors of their kind in the world. They were designed by Lee Lawrie and carved by Keats Lorenz of Lincoln. Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, who was in charge of the symbolism and inscriptions in the building, passed on the Indian symbols used and also the brilliant coloring design. The decoration was designed by Harry F. Cunningham, formerly head draftsman of the Goodhue associates, capitol architects, who is the new head of the school of architecture at the University of Nebraska.

336.45
Neb.
#275

Legendary Thunderbird Is Pictured on Dome of Nebraska State Capitol



Adorning each side of the cylindrical drum beneath the dome of Nebraska's capital tower, which now is nearing completion, is a brilliantly colored mosaic of the Thunderbird.

Considerable attention has been attracted to the mosaic, painted above and the bird immediately has been spoken of as written of by an American artist. The body of the bird, which is on a high blue background, is of dark blue, red and gold.

Incarnations of Nature.

Much of the decoration of Nebraska's capital appropriately has been of Indian design, especially the red man's weapons carried

the great points and who were shaped the Great Spirit and the bowman of nature in his own way.

To the Indians, Thunderbird is the voice of the Great Spirit speaking from the clouds. The well-known universal American conception was that the Thunder was caused by a bird or birds of birds—the Great Spirit, on the plains where the phenomena of Thunderstorms are very striking, the Thunderbirds were supposed to be of enormous size.

Thunder From Wings.

The Indians believed the bird caused Thunder by the flapping of

(Continued on Page Five.)

His wings and lightning by the
 spreading and closing of the wings. It
 also was thought that lightning
 bolts were loosed from his breast,
 which also the back arrows cut over
 the sides. The danger which nat-
 urally accompanies lightning was in-
 creased by supposing that the
 bird carried a fresh water hole on
 his back.

There were many variations in
 the myth. The mythical account of
 distant thunder frequently was
 thought caused by lightning bolts
 from the young thunderbirds. The
 great idea made the first account of
 the great thunder reported in
 the first of the accounts.

Thus in Indian myth, legend and
 ceremony the bird was worshipped.
 The thunderbird in the west
 meant the war of the first
 great war for the first crop and,
 accordingly, kept for the celebra-
 tion of human life.

The white man has worked the
 Indian spirit into the decoration
 of his buildings, a totem on each
 side and each and the inherent
 power of Wabunaka, the
 which the white building is dedi-
 cated.

The totem is about five or six
 feet in height. The individual
 pieces of the are about the Indian
 square and are built by the Indian.
 The last which could have been
 used for such a purpose, each piece
 of the in each set to each side of
 the set.

An interesting feature of the to-
 tem has been mentioned by the
 Indian. It is an example of building
 the for the William Jackson
 Co. of New York City. When the
 the totem was, according to the
 totem, the dark line and red and
 in the body of the bird will show
 up even more distinctly than it
 does when the man is standing, when
 the sky is a background will re-
 main the same color.

Thus when dark clouds pass over
 Wabunaka's picture and the thunder
 and roar of thunder is heard, one
 might think the thunderbird flap-
 ping his wings and landing light-
 ning from his eyes and heart. When
 then the rain falls and the sun
 sets the capital tower becomes and
 the bird will stand and very dis-
 tinctly, a symbol of the totem
 spirit belonging to the Wabunaka's
 totem.

336.45

Neb.

#276

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Tower Shrinks Lower
at Onrush of Winter

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 29.—When Nebraskans are stretching themselves under the warming rays of a summer sun or are pulling their wind-bitten ears down behind protecting coat collars, the lofty tower of the new state capitol is doing much the same thing.

William Younkin, capitol commission architect, is authority for the statement that the tower is taller in the summer time by at least five inches than it is in winter. The variation, he explains, is the result of expansion and contraction of steel and stone, caused by changing temperatures.

Insignificant as the few inches are as compared with the four hundred foot height of the tower, nevertheless they were a matter of considerable importance to the architects and engineers who were charged with the task of planning and erecting a structure that would stand for years to come.

The change which takes place in steel under varying temperatures is minutely greater than that in stone. The problem which had to be met was that of equalizing these differences to prevent too much strain being placed on either part of the structure. For example, if the steel structure could be expected to shrink six inches and the stone structure only four, something had to be done to take up the difference and prevent either from being weakened. This was accomplished by placing a thin corrugated sheet of lead between the layers of stone at the base of each of the 12 stories above the building proper. These sheets of lead contract and expand under varying pressures sufficiently to equalize the steel and stone differences.

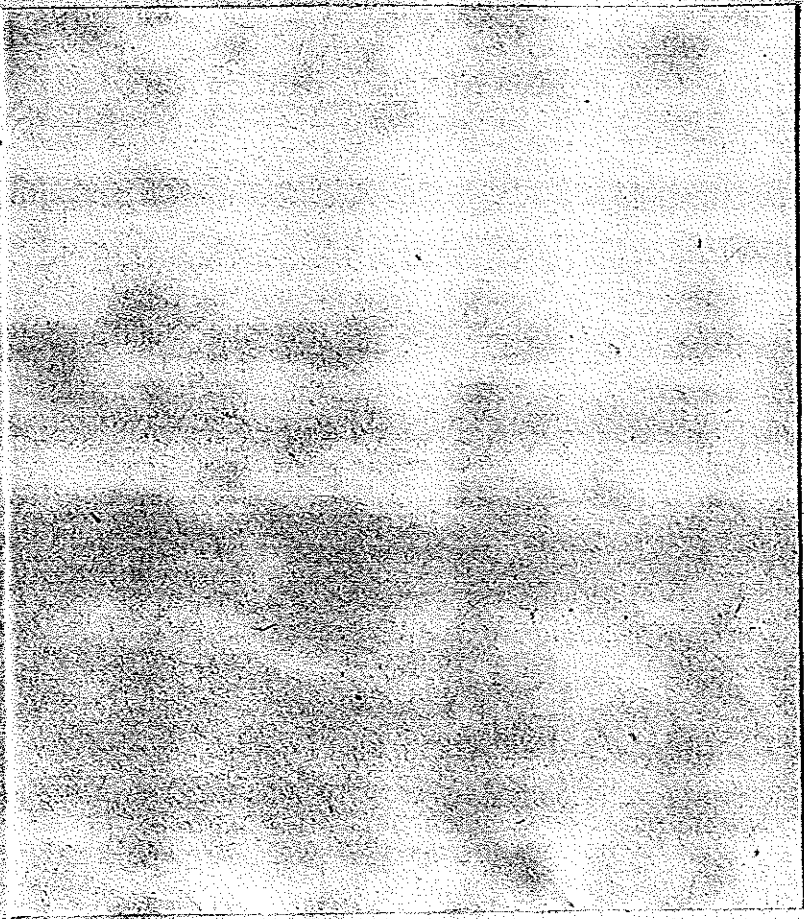
World-Herald, Dec. 21, '30

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#277

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Cost of New Capitol



TEN MILLION THE COST OF THE NEW CAPITOL

Whether Full Levy, Over
One-Fifth of a Mill, Shall
Be Made Is Question.

SAY CONDTIT TO GO

BY MARR M'GAFFIN.

(Staff Correspondent of The World-Herald.)
Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 20.—The total cost of Nebraska's new capitol has been finally and definitely fixed at \$10,072,140, as a result of the filing of the capitol commission's request for appropriations to complete the building during the coming biennium.

This request calls for \$710,510 and includes the following estimated items of expenditure: Architects, 18 thousand dollars; commission expenses, five thousand dollars; inspectors salaries and expenses, 25 thousand dollars; miscellaneous construction, five thousand dollars; railroad operation and maintenance, 22 thousand dollars; furniture, 250 thousand dollars; extras, 28 thousand dollars; landscaping, 250 thousand dollars; murals, 100 thousand dollars; office expenses, \$7,500.

The total cost of the building, not including work under contract but uncompleted is \$8,223,668. Work now under contract but not completed will cost \$1,137,962. This latter figure includes chiefly the construction of the west wing in which the house of representatives will be located. Work on this last section of the building was begun about two months ago and a fair beginning has been made on the lower steel and stone structure.

Just Continue Levy or Another Year.

In order to provide funds for the final completion of the building it will be necessary for the legislature to continue the special levy of .22 of a mill for another year. This levy yields annually in the neighborhood of 700 thousand dollars. One question to be decided by the coming legislature is whether the full levy shall be made for one year, thus cleaning up the entire amount immediately, or shall be spread over the biennium by levying .11 of a mill during each of the two years.

Immediate levy of the full tax might facilitate the completion of the remaining work, particularly that of landscaping the grounds. The present setting of the building is not wholly in keeping with the splendor of the building, to say the least. During the 10 years the building has been under construction, it has been impossible and impracticable to keep the grounds manic and span, but now that it is to near completion landscaping becomes vitally important. The commission has recognized this need and called for bids some months ago on the grading work. The contract was not let, however, because of the lack of sufficient funds

which has been before congress during the past week.

The minimum allotment to Nebraska is expected to be not less than \$1,800,000. However, it is not at all improbable that as much as three million dollars or more may be made available to this state by reason of the fact that some states are able to take care of all their federal allotments under the dollar matching plan. The money which otherwise might be allotted to those states under the new enactment is apt to be distributed among states like Nebraska which are behind in dollar matching.

Should this occur it will undoubtedly mean that Nebraska will be in a position to add between 250 and three hundred miles of paving to the present hard surfaced system together with some additional gravel mileage. Owing to the fact that the provisions of the bill require that the construction work for which this money will be available must be completed by September 1 of next year. Any work placed under contract and not completed within the specified time will have to be paid for with the state funds, it is explained.

Such a greatly increased program together with the limited time for completing it would tax the public works department to the utmost and would demand smooth and immediate functioning almost from the very day that definite information is received from Washington. In order to permit the earliest possible start on actual construction work, it would probably be necessary that all preliminary work be completed and the projects placed under contract by the first of March at the latest. If such a situation arises, and it is expected within the next week or two, Governor Bryan will find it necessary to act with promptness and precision in naming the head of the public works department.

Sheriff Condit Is Slated to Go.

Vigorous efforts on the part of a certain group of county sheriffs to

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Suggest Bryan Rent Tower Rooms.

It is purely coincidental that the capitol commission is planning to open 12 floors in the tower for use about January 6, when Bryan takes office, but nevertheless it is providing material for considerable joking comment by republican employes who are grasping at straws to find something humorous in an otherwise gloomy outlook.

Many mock arguments are staged in the corridors and offices as to just how many "for rent" signs Dan Swanson, building superintendent and land commissioner, will need when Governor Bryan gets his economy program up to full steam.

Naming of Smith Comes as Surprise.

Announcement by Governor Bryan Wednesday of his appointment of W. H. Smith of Seward as tax commissioner was received with considerable surprise, coming as it did so close on the heels of a previous statement that no appointments would be apt to be announced before he took office. However, it is now reliably reported that Bryan will probably announce the names of those who will head the trade and commerce, law enforcement, and agricultural departments before he is formally sworn into office.

Smith's appointment was even more of a surprise since some of his fellow townsmen had been quite sure that he would not accept the office even though it was offered to him. Governor Bryan explained, however, that the appointment of a tax commissioner was more or less of an emergency owing to the fact that the office is now vacant and is an important cog in the presentation of the state's financial problems to the legislature. Harry Scott, tax commissioner under Governor Weaver, resigned a month ago.

See Emergency in Highway Department.

Similar need of an emergency decision in the selection of a head of the highway department is seen in the probable allotment of additional federal aid to this state under the unemployment relief act

program together with the limited time for completing it would tax the public works department to the utmost and would demand smooth and immediate functioning almost from the very day that definite information is received from Washington. In order to permit the earliest possible start on actual construction work, it would probably be necessary that all preliminary work be completed and the projects placed under contract by the first of March at the latest. If such a situation arises, and it is expected within the next week or two, Governor Bryan will find it necessary to act with promptness and precision in naming the head of the public works department.

Sheriff Condit Is Slated to Go.

Vigorous efforts on the part of a certain group of county sheriffs to bring about the reappointment of State Sheriff W. C. Condit apparently have come to naught. During the past several weeks every county sheriff in the state has been called upon by letter or phone to exert any effort possible in Condit's behalf. The movement apparently did not receive unanimous endorsement, and when the county officers met in convention here Thursday and Friday it was being generally assumed that there is not the slightest chance of Condit being reappointed.

The presence of Tom Carroll, who was state sheriff under Bryan six years ago, caused some speculation as to whether he is the man who will get the job. It is known that Carroll can have it if he so desires, but he gave several of those who attended the meeting to clearly understand that he is perfectly satisfied with his present insurance company connection.

Speculation then shifted to Carroll's son Ray, who has been engaged in some form of law enforcement work since he was discharged from the army following the world war. He is now employed as a special agent for the Burlington. Several weeks ago it was quite generally assumed that Mike Endres, former Douglas county sheriff, was slated for the place, but Endres is apparently out of the picture now so far as current speculation is concerned.

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#278

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

HEAD RESIGNS POST,
CAPITOL COMMISSION

W. H. Head, Dec. 30 '30
Tells Weaver Work Nearly Done, Business Demands His Time.

DELAY ACCEPTANCE

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 29 (AP).—Walter W. Head, Chicago and Omaha banker, today sent his resignation from the Nebraska capitol commission to Governor Arthur J. Weaver. The governor intimated the resignation would be accepted and a new member appointed, but said the action would wait until the commission met again.

Mr. Head's letter, written in Omaha, follows:

"December 26, 1930. Governor Arthur J. Weaver, State House, Lincoln, Neb. My dear governor: Early in 1929, at which time I accepted the presidency of a Chicago bank, I expressed a desire to retire from membership on the Nebraska state capitol commission. After having discussed the matter with you, as chief executive of the state and as chairman of the capitol commission, and the other members of the commission with whom I had long served, I was convinced that I should complete the major activities to which I had committed myself when I originally accepted appointment as a member of this important commission. Subsequent to that time on two separate occasions I have asked to be relieved of the duties incumbent upon me, but in each case, as you know, good and sufficient reasons were presented to me for delaying my retirement.

Capitol Source of Joy.

"Arrangements have now been made for the completion of the building in accordance with the plans and specifications originally decided upon. It seems that the continuity of the commission's activities will not be disturbed by the retirement of one of its members. Therefore, at this time, I have the honor to submit to you herewith my resignation as a member of the commission.

"My association with the individual members of the capitol commission—each and every one of them, including both the permanent members and those who have served as ex-officio members by virtue of their official positions with the state—has been most pleasant and cordial. More than that, the development of plans and the construction of this beautiful and monumental structure has been a source of joy, pride and satisfaction to me as a citizen of Nebraska. I appreciate the opportunity that I have had to participate in this glorious undertaking.

"In offering my resignation I seize the opportunity to express to Messrs. Thompson and Hardy, my co-workers during the same period, to each governor of the state during the life of the commission and to the two secretaries of the commission, my grateful appreciation for their cooperation during the entire period in which the building was designed and erected.

"My retirement at this time is in no wise to be construed as due to the forthcoming change in the state administration. I recall with a full degree of happiness and with a full measure of appreciation the two-year period during which time Governor Charles W. Bryan was chairman of the commission. I regret that my business responsibilities are such that I must be deprived of the pleasure of again serving the state under Governor Bryan's leadership.

"Yours very truly,
"WALTER W. HEAD."

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Star-Journal, January 3, 1931

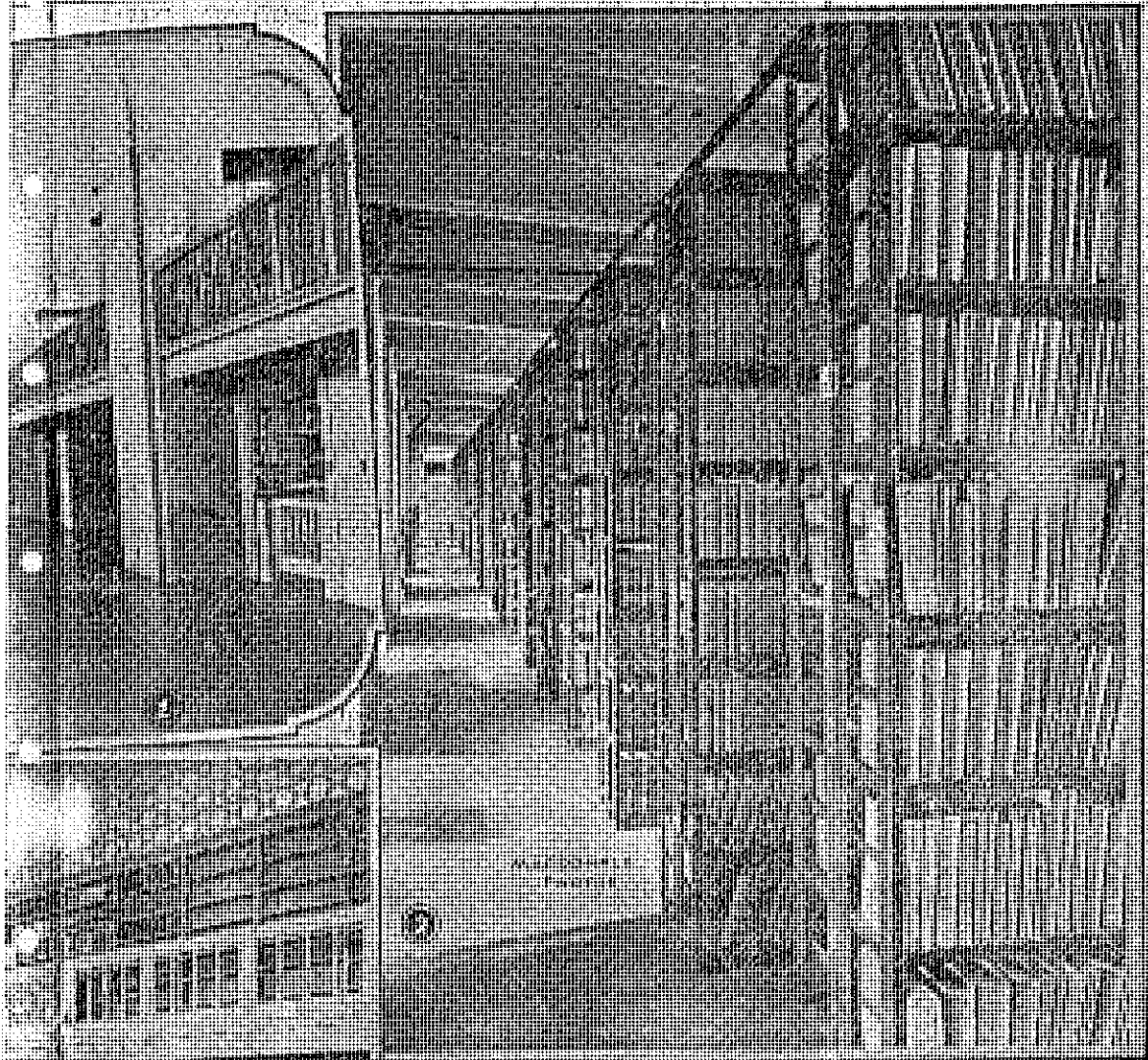
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#279

Oldest Public Library in State, located in Capitol

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

ed in Capitol, Contains 90,000 Volumes



1. The main room, showing reading tables and open stacks of the books.
 2. A view showing the length of the main stack rooms in the library.
 3. The reading room, a quiet room for study work.

cluded in this is an unusually complete collection of early colonial news and histories, as well as early journals and general history of the various states, which are of much historical interest as well as being of value in tracing the development and history of law and institutions in this country. A number of these volumes are rare and in all probability could not be replaced.

There are also about 5000 volumes of British reports and statistics. The library is particularly rich in reports of the decisions of the Courts of England from the earliest reported cases to the present time. Many of these are original copies, summaries and there is also a complete set of the decisions of the courts of Scotland, Ireland,

Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, and in fact of every English speaking commonwealth, except the reports of the courts of a part of South Africa.

With best books of the law, both ancient and modern, the library is well supplied, having over 4,000 volumes, some published as early as 1600. Among these are the original copies of books that are frequently mentioned in stating the precedents of the common law—Parsone's "In praise of Laws of England," issued in 1616, and "Coke's and Maitland," printed in 1677.

Many Government publications.

There is a large stock of publications of the United States government on the subject. There are about 10,000 bound volumes, includ-

ing over 1,000 bound volumes of reports of the United States patent office and several hundred reports which are in part unbound. The preparation here may find much valuable information by looking through these books. There is also a large number of pamphlets issued by the United States government upon almost every conceivable subject. This library, as well as the library of the state university, is a depository for United States documents. Before the war all of the publications of the United States were sent to the State library, but now those only are retained which the library requests. These publications contain a wealth of information.

There are about 1,000 volumes containing letters and arguments of various cases in the Supreme court of this state. These are often referred to by the lawyers of this state.

Many years ago, in connection with the state, a miscellaneous library was accumulated as a result of various purchases made for the purpose of the state in new books but for the reason that the state is now being well equipped with public libraries and the early need for a library of miscellaneous books has been supplied, the funds expended there and supplied by the legislature have for a long time been insufficient to maintain a miscellaneous library of any value in addition to keeping up the necessary publications for the law library and the additions have been made except by gifts for a number of years.

General Literature On Hand.

There are over five thousand over 1,000 volumes of miscellaneous books. In addition to the miscellaneous books the library contains hundreds of bound volumes of standard literature. These are in constant use the circulation being made available by many volumes of reference by current literature. This is perhaps the most useful portion of the miscellaneous library, being consulted more frequently by students than any other department except the law library.

Over a few public documents of the Government of Canada and the Canadian provinces, including of Canadian statistics and reports of the various departments of the Canadian government and on the subject. Many of these are exceedingly valuable as scientific publications.

The library also contains nearly 1,000 volumes of family histories, laws records of Massachusetts, laws records of other colonies, and much other information of value of a genealogical nature. This room is in constant use by persons seeking to ascertain their descent from the early colonists. These volumes have almost all been donated to the library or obtained by exchange of books published by this state, with other libraries.

We have been assured by scholars and publishers of law books that the Massachusetts state library is one of the best law libraries in the country.

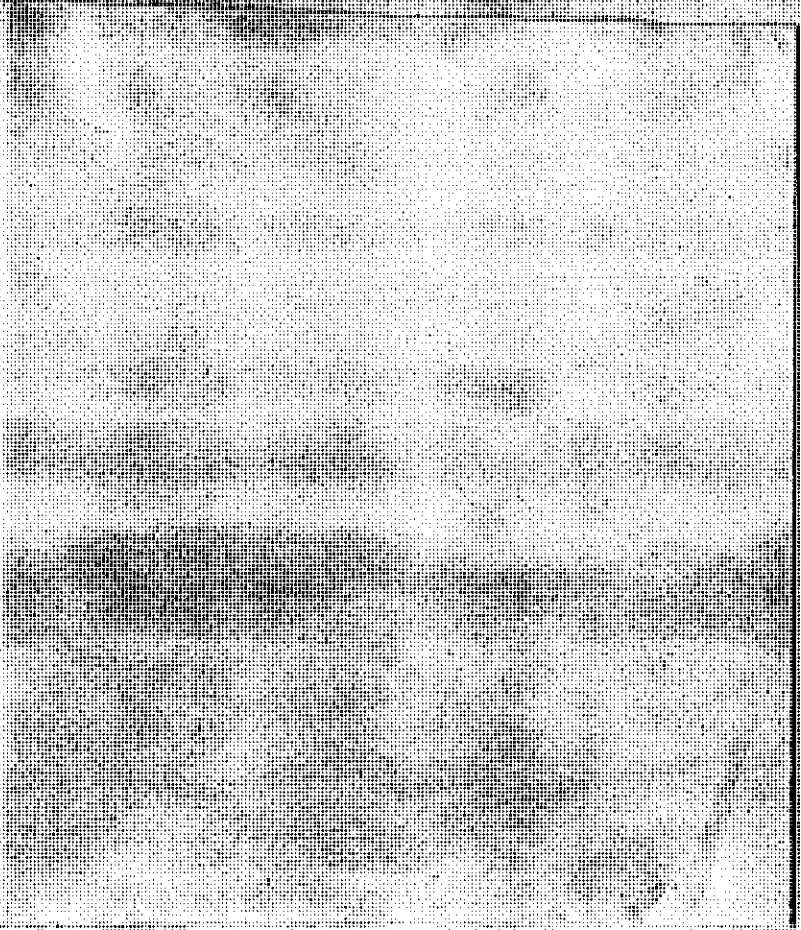
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Star, Febr. 7, 1931

#288

New Sculpture in Capitol



New Sculptures By Lee Lawrie Portraying

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

THE Nebraska-Kansas bill, chiefly significant in American history because it precipitated the organization and rapid growth of the republican party and renewed the contest between the north and south over the slavery question, has been commemorated in sculpture at the Nebraska state capitol.

Cresting the parapet above the east window of the governor's office at the northeast corner of the capitol, the panel, carved in low relief, may be seen by the visitor to the building. It was completed several days ago. Just around the corner, above the north window of the governor's office, work is now under way on a bas-relief to represent the admission of Nebraska as a state to the union.

Panels Show Development of Law.

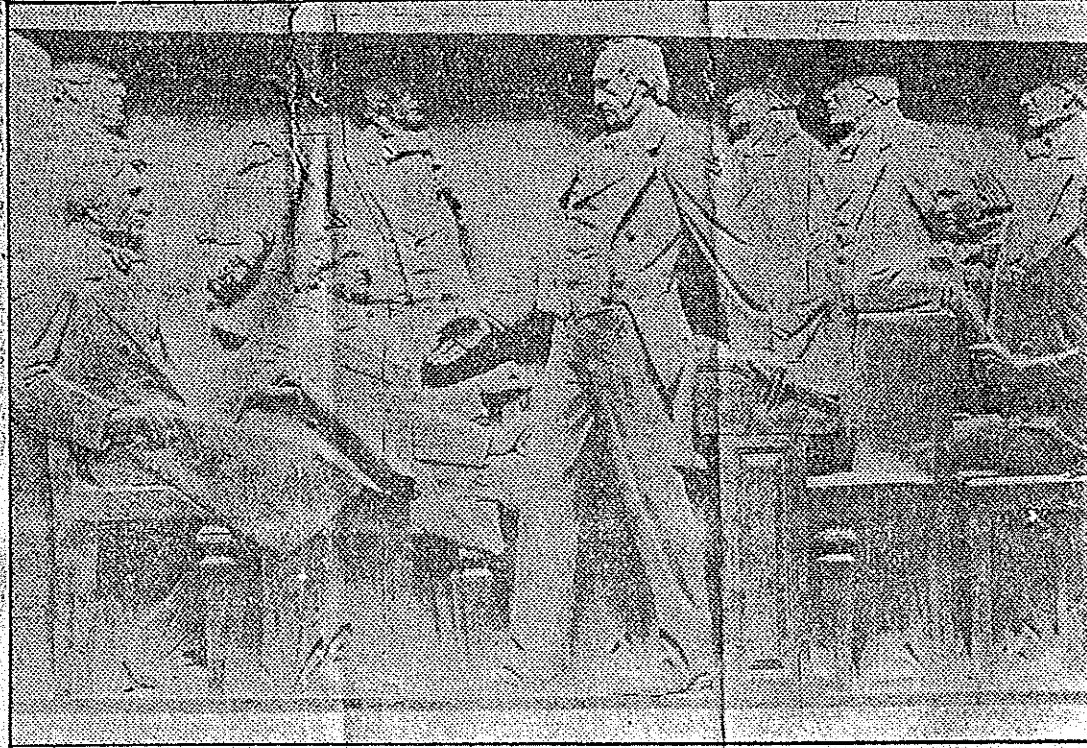
These panels of Nebraska as a territory and as a state are seventeenth and eighteenth in the series of eighteen bas-reliefs circuiting the terrace of the building, which portray "The Development of the Law." They constitute the seventh and eighth of the group completed by Lee Lawrie, whose excellent work and particular achievement in the sculpture for the Nebraska capitol won for him the gold medal in fine arts awarded by the American Institute of Architects in 1927. Mr. Lawrie had previously received this honor in 1921.

Carving of the Nebraska-Kansas panel required ten weeks. The panel of Nebraska's admission to the union, begun last Tuesday, will require nine weeks. They are 9 feet 2 inches in length by 5 feet 2 inches in height, but to the observer on the ground or terrace below they will appear much smaller.

The Nebraska-Kansas panel represents a cross-section of the senate of the thirty-third congress during the prolonged and heated debates over the bill. It should be mentioned that the bill was then known as the "Nebraska-Kansas bill" and not the "Kansas-Nebraska bill" as termed by most historians. This point is emphasized by Addison E. Sheldon, superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical society.

Nebraska-Kansas Panel.

At the extreme left in the panel is Senator Charles E. Stuart of Michigan, who is presiding. Stuart, one of the noted parliamentarians in the senate, was a supporter of the bill and a close friend of Stephen A. Douglas, its author. At the desk beside him is the recorder, who Mrs. Clara S. Paine, librarian of the State Historical society, believes



There is rugged strength and grave simplicity expressed in the models of these two sculptures, new corner pavilion, are Numbers 17 and 18 in the series of eighteen panels around the terrace circuit which senate facade on the east and five the house facade on the west. The sculpture pictured at the left was which was hailed at the time as a victory for advocates of slavery, since it permitted the two states to Nebraska as a State to the Union." Work on this panel commenced last week. The Nebraska-Kansas panel is 2 inches in height. Their symbolism is explained in the accompanying article.

other prominent opponent of the bill is seated behind Sumner with his arm over the latter's desk. Chase was secretary of the treasury in Lincoln's cabinet and later became chief justice of the United States Supreme court.

The three men standing at the

right are Senators Andrew P. Butler of South Carolina, James M. Mason of Virginia, and Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio. Butler and Mason both voted for the bill, but Wade was one of its conspicuous opponents. A gifted speaker, he was a prominent senator of the day.

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Sculpture Was Delayed.

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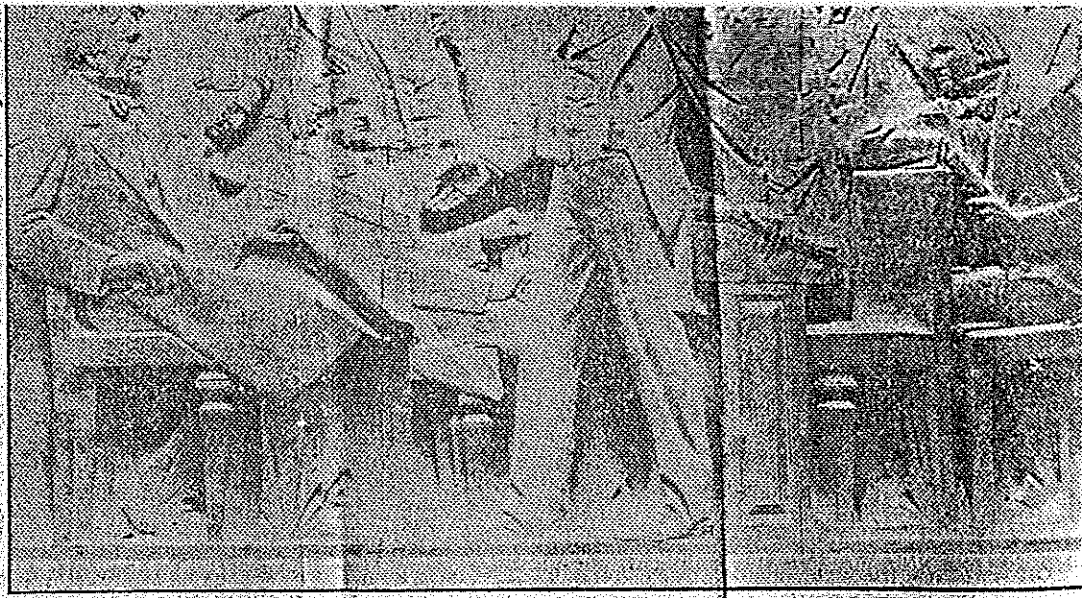
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Nebraska-Kansas Panel.

At the extreme left in the panel is Senator Charles E. Stuart of Michigan, who is presiding. Stuart, one of the noted parliamentarians in the senate, was a supporter of the bill and a close friend of Stephen A. Douglas, its author. At the desk beside him is the recorder, Mrs. Clara S. Paine, librarian of the State Historical society, believed to be Asbury Dickens of North Carolina, then secretary of the senate. Seated at the left with the map in his hands is William H. Seward of New York, an opponent of the bill, who later became secretary of state under President Abraham Lincoln. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois is the next figure to the right. Behind Douglas is Franklin Pierce, fourteenth president of the United States, who signed the bill, making it a law, on May 30, 1854.

Charles Sumner of Massachusetts, a prominent orator and bitter opponent of the bill, is the speaker in the center of the panel. This possibly represents Sumner's denunciation of the bill during the third week of the debates in congress. Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, an-



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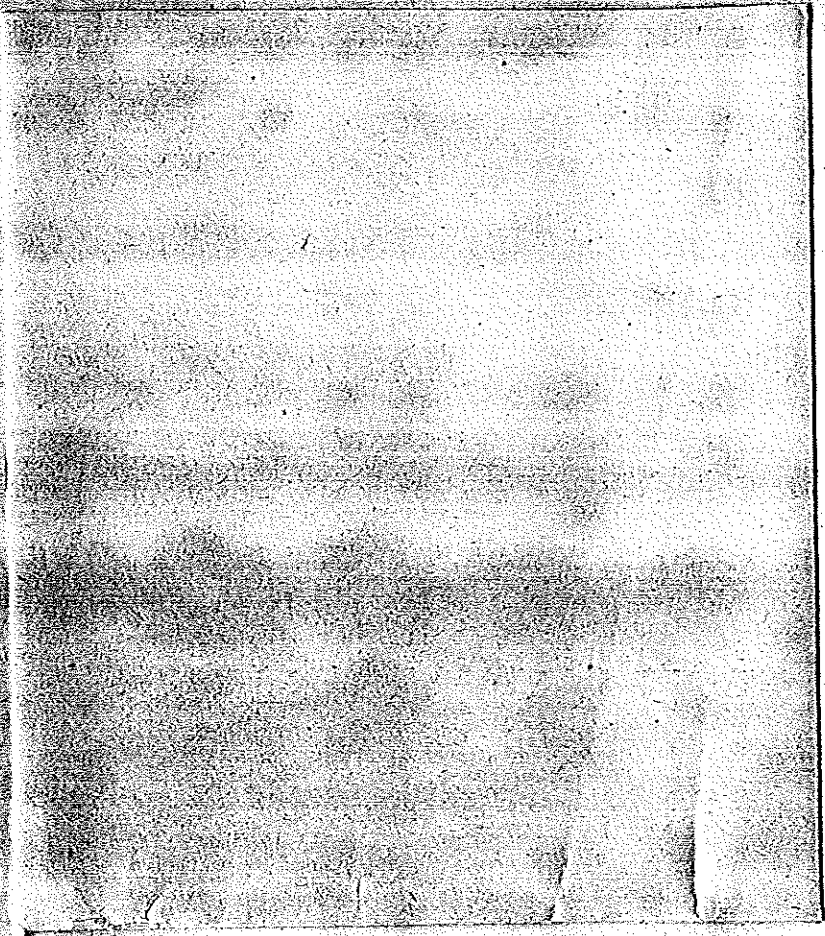
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Figure of Lincoln on Capitol

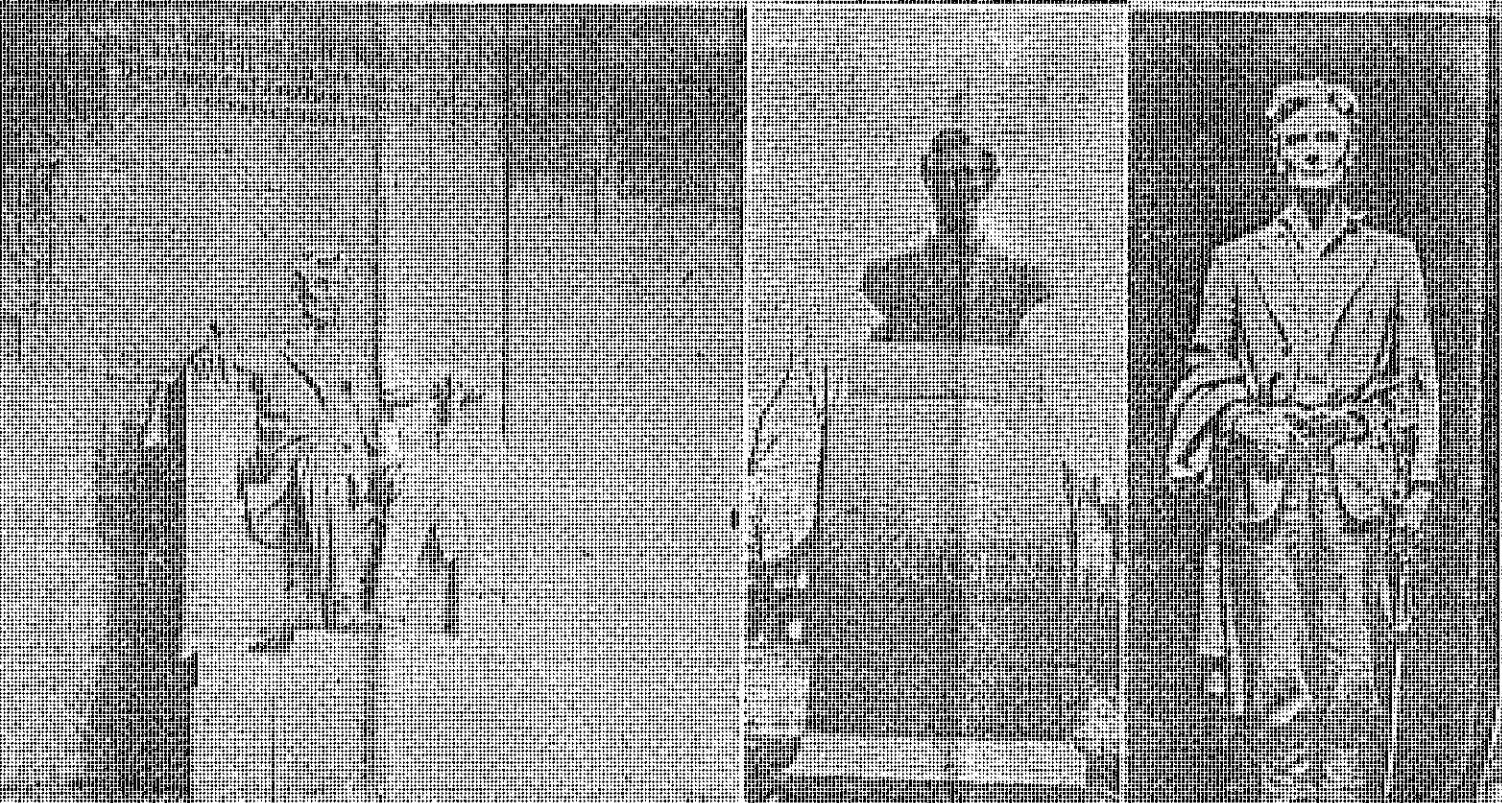
Star, Febr. 6, 1931

#281



NEW LINCOLN SCULPTURE

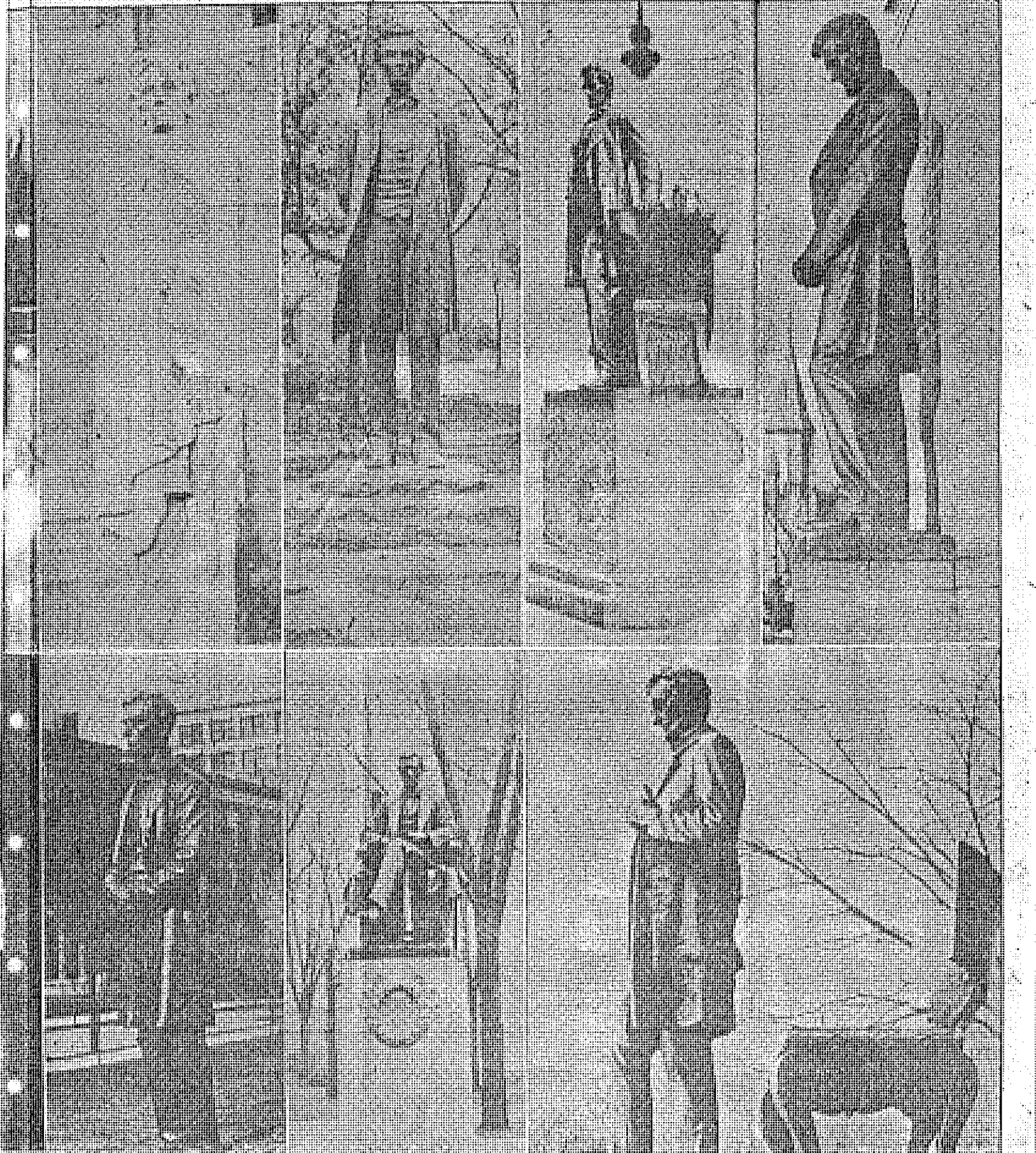
LEE LAWRIE'S FIGURE OF YOUNG RAIL-SPLITTER PRAISED AS OUTSTANDING

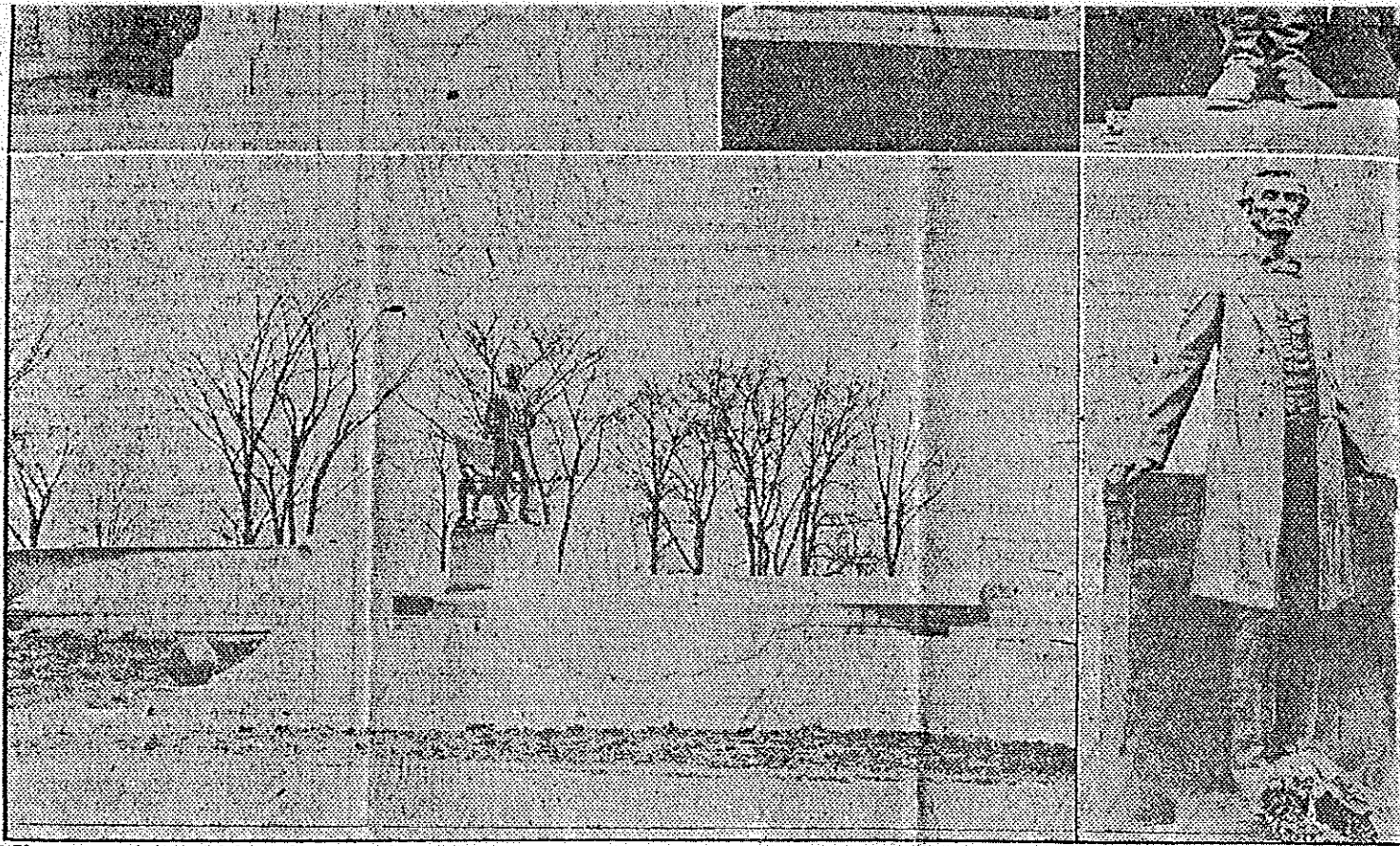


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1901.

URE NEBRASKA CAPITOL

STANDING AMONG MANY MONUMENTS TO MARTYRED PRESIDENT





Upper row, left to right: Lincoln sculptures in national capitol, by Vinne Rheam Hoxie, Gutzon Borglum and Sarah Fisher Ames (courtesy Lincoln-Douglas society, Freeport); A. A. Weinman's Lincoln, Kentucky state capitol, Frankfort (courtesy Kentucky Society of Fine Arts); French's colossal statue, Lincoln memorial, Washington, D. C. (courtesy Commission of Fine Arts); typical Lincoln memorial of Emancipator, Cincinnati (Cincinnati chamber of commerce photo); seated Lincoln at Muskegon, Mich., by Charles Neihaus (Radium Institute photo); Lorado Taft's Lincoln, Urbana, Ill., statue, Spokane, Wash., at unveiling (courtesy Spokane chamber of commerce).

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

JUST 100 years after Abraham Lincoln, as a sturdy, long-legged, long-armed youth of 21 years, split rails and worked at "odd jobs" during his first winter in central Illinois, a sculptured representation of the young Lincoln has been carved in the stone of the Nebraska state capitol.

Looking down on the city that bears his name from a height of about 150 feet, the huge engaged figure of Lincoln adorns a buttress at the northeast corner of the base of the 400-foot tower. The sculpture, designed by Lee Lawrie, is the first of eight historic personages to be placed on the four walls of the tower at this level.

Monuments to Lincoln outnumber those of any other national hero. Not even Washington, "the father of his country," can approach the Great Emancipator in the number of memorials erected in his honor. Practically ever noted sculptor of the last half-century has essayed a Lincoln, and the Lawrie representation is a notable and unique addition to the ever-increasing list.

William L. Younkin, superintendent of construction of the capitol and president of the Nebraska chapter of the American Institute of Architects, refers to the carving as a masterpiece and says: "I think it is one of the finest jobs Lawrie has ever done."

That's saying a great deal, for Lee

Lawrie was awarded the gold medal in fine arts by the American Institute of Architects in 1927 for his "excellent work and particular achievement in the sculpture for the Nebraska capitol." He had previously won the honor in 1921. And among other noted structures, upon which he has worked, are: the Los Angeles public library, the University of Chicago chapel, the Bok Singing tower of Mountain Lake, Fla., the National Academy of Arts and Sciences in Washington, D. C., the Harkness Memorial tower of Yale university and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City—to mention a few.

Harry F. Cunningham, head of the department of architecture of the University of Nebraska, who, as it is known, formerly was associated with Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, architect of the capitol, declares: "Having seen many other figures of Lincoln and admired most of them, I feel that I am perhaps somewhat qualified to say that the Lawrie figure of the young Lincoln is as fine as any one of them. The town that bears the great man's name should be especially proud of this most distinguished representation of Lincoln."

Although the Emancipator was probably one of the most photographed men of his day, there are no existing photographs of the young Lincoln. But it was this Lincoln that Lawrie wished to portray and he necessarily had to work backward from the mature depictions of his subject.

He secured all the photographs available and also a copy of the famous life mask of Lincoln, executed over the martyred president's features in 1860 by Leonard W. Volk. This mask, one of two life masks made of him by Volk (there is no death mask), is the most authentic representation of Lincoln's face, and upon this most of the re-

liable Lincoln portraiture in sculpture is founded.

Lawrie carefully studied the bone structure of Lincoln's head, which had changed little or none from the time of his early manhood which the artist wanted to portray. To use Lawrie's own expression, "it was principally a matter of removing the wrinkles that came with age and worry." As a result Lawrie "created" a face of such depth and feeling that the whole story of the great man's character is reflected in it.

Emerson said that a poet is entitled to credit for anything that anyone finds in his poetry. Certainly it is true that Lawrie, the sculptor, is entitled to credit for any emotions this impressive figure may arouse in its beholder.

Symbolism of the Carving.

"The symbolism of the axe and book—both of which the young Lincoln holds in the Lawrie figure—is significant and appropriate," explains Professor Cunningham in his notes on Lawrie's Lincoln. Lincoln was known as the rail-splitter—hence the axe. More broadly the axe is a symbol of labor, for Lincoln worked with his hands while cultivating his mind during his spare hours. He even took his books into the fields with him, which accounts for the combination of the axe and book.

Lincoln had little schooling, his great store of knowledge having been acquired solely through his own personal efforts. This lends added significance to the combination of the axe and book, symbols of labor and learning. They went hand in hand in Lincoln's development, and therefore according to Professor Cunningham, "are most appropriately shown in his hand in the figure."

Stone from Boyhood Home. Carving of the Lincoln figure required nine weeks, the work having

been done by Alessandro Beretta, skilled Italian artist, who has executed nearly all of the Lawrie sculptures at the capitol. Since the sculpture was completed last November 29, considerable attention and praise has been directed towards it.

It might be mentioned here that the stone of which the capitol is constructed and in which the figure was carved, is Bedford limestone quarried in the southern hills of Indiana where Lincoln spent fourteen of the formative years of his life.

Sculptures Form Symbolic Story

The eight engaged figures on the tower transepts will form a circuit around the base of the tower, representing the genius of human civilizations as embodied in typical heroes of its great epochs. This will follow parallel to the theme of the terrace circuit below, "The Development of the Law." And like this the tower carvings also are emblematic of the course of human experience, although more abstractly.

The Lincoln figure falls under the title "The Liberation of Peoples and an accompanying inscription which may be carved later will read: "Strong in the love of liberty he demanded freedom for all men that humanity might reign in the souls."

The other seven representations in the series will be as follows:

"The Dawn of History"—Pentateuch the poet of Egypt.

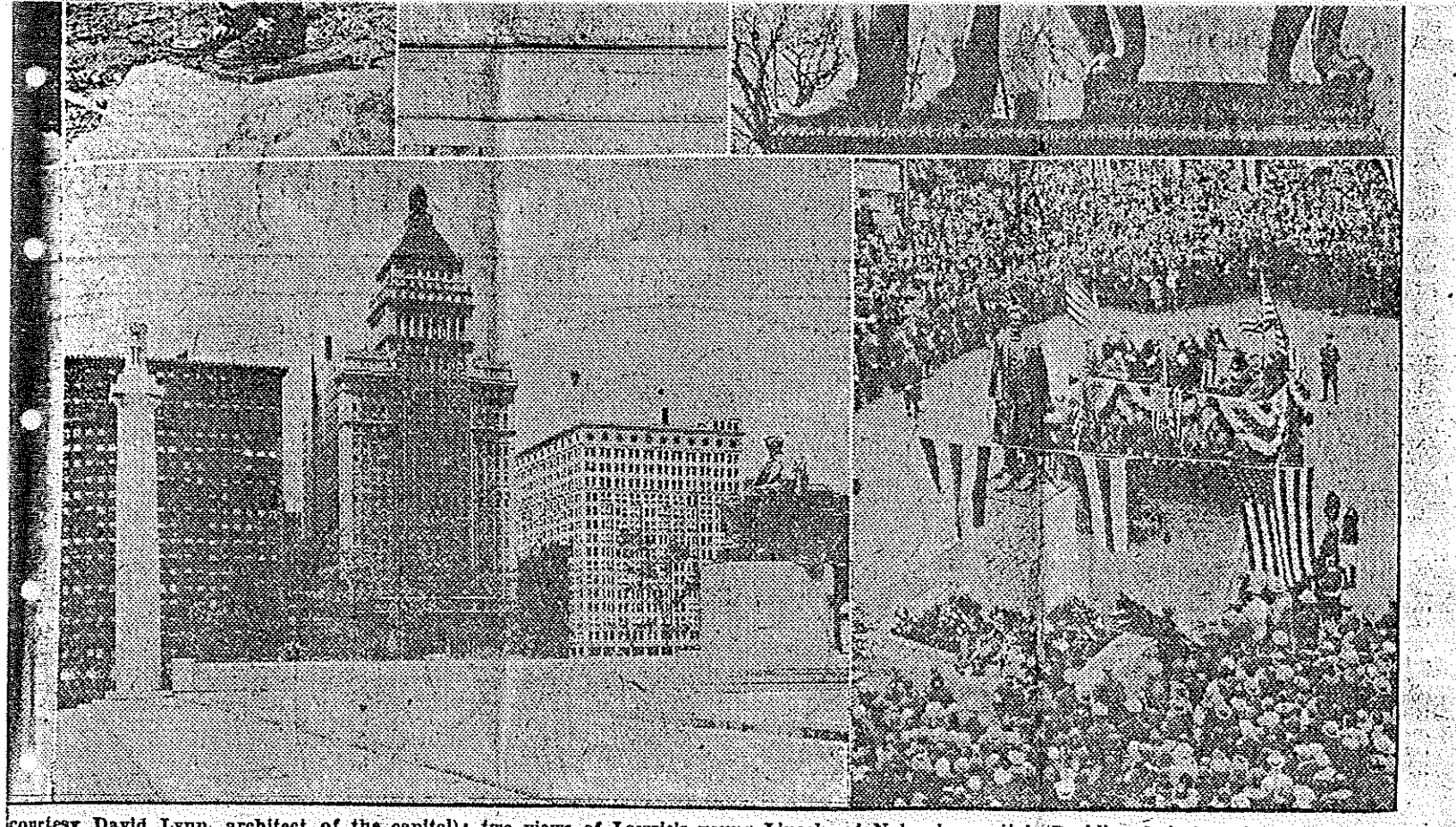
"Cosmic Tradition"—a Semitic seer, gifted with the Apocalyptic vision, perhaps the prophet Ezekiel.

"The Birth of Reason"—Socratic Greek philosopher.

"The Reign of Law"—Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor-philosopher.

"The Glorification of Faith"—the Apostle John, emblematic of Christianity.

"The Age of Chivalry"—Louis I.



(courtesy David Lynn, architect of the capitol); two views of Lawrie's young Lincoln at Nebraska capitol (Bucklin photos); "Lincoln, the debater," Progress commission); Lincoln monument, by Daniel Chester French, at Nebraska capitol grounds (MacDonald photo).
 (Hillsboro, N. D. (courtesy Hillsboro Civic club); "Lincoln, the soldier," Dixon, Ill. (courtesy Dixon chamber of commerce); Barnard's conception photo, courtesy Greater Muskegon chamber of commerce); Saint-Gaudens' seated Lincoln, Grant park, Chicago (courtesy Chicago association of commerce); Lincoln

(St. Louis) in the armour of a mediaeval knight, emblematic of the chivalric virtues.

"The Discovery of Nature"—Isaac Newton, the Renaissance scientist who set the form of modern scientific thought.

Lincoln's Birthday Thursday.

Next Thursday, February 12, is the one hundred and twenty-second anniversary of Lincoln's birth. On that day the entire United States and many parts of the civilized world will pay tribute to him. It is the purpose here to describe briefly some of the sculptures that have been raised to the memory of this beloved man, to which the Lincoln of Lawrie's conception is a distinctive addition.

Most notable among Lincoln shrines is the Lincoln memorial in Potomac park, Washington, D. C., erected by the United States at a cost of \$3,000,000 and dedicated May 30, 1922. This classic temple, designed by the late Henry Bacon, is of white Colorado Yule marble. The colonnade, 188 feet long and 118 feet wide, of thirty-six columns, represents the thirty-six states existing at the time of Lincoln's death.

At the heart of the memorial is Daniel Chester French's world-famous statue of Lincoln. This colossal figure, cut from twenty pieces of Georgia marble, weighs 200 tons and is thirty-five feet in height. It was three or four years in the process of construction, and taxed the skill and endurance of more than a score of highly trained men.

Shows Emancipator's Strength.

What Mr. French sought to convey is the mental and physical strength of the Civil war president, and his confidence to carry his task through to a successful finish. These ideas are suggested in the whole pose of the figure, and particularly in the action of hands and

the expression of the face. Above it this inscription is engraved:

In this temple
 As in the hearts of the people
 For whom he saved the union
 The memory of Abraham Lincoln
 Is enshrined forever.

The ideal of Lincoln that lived in the heart and mind of Daniel Chester French also was expressed in the impressive Lincoln statue at the west approach to the Nebraska capitol grounds. This figure, erected by citizens of Lincoln and Nebraska at a cost of \$40,000, represents the great president, in meditation, standing on a pedestal before a granite screen containing his famous Gettysburg address. Henry Bacon collaborated with French to design the setting for the memorial. W. J. Bryan Principal Speaker.

Some 10,000 persons braved a drenching rain on the afternoon of September 2, 1912, when the monument was unveiled, participants in the dedicatory exercises including William Jennings Bryan, Governor Chester H. Aldrich, Alderman Thomas Pratt, Secretary of State Addison Wait and many others. A replica of this statue is in the Chicago museum, and its original model soon will occupy a niche in Lincoln's tomb at Springfield, Ill.

Augustus Saint-Gaudens, regarded by many as America's greatest sculptor, executed two Lincoln statues of outstanding importance. Both are in Chicago, where Lincoln was nominated for the presidency. The earlier, unveiled in Lincoln park in 1887 at a cost of \$40,000, shows Lincoln risen from a chair about to address a multitude.

"Portrays" Soul of Lincoln.

There has been some criticism of the statue because of its lack of realism, but it was meant to be more than a photographic study of the man. According to Professor Rexford Newcomb of the University

of Illinois in his recent work, "In the Lincoln Country," it is the "enshrining of a great soul, interpreted through the medium of another great soul. It is in short, Saint-Gaudens' Lincoln; not the plainsman Lincoln, not the lawyer, not the politician, but the majestic soul of Lincoln the emancipator. I am not sure that it is materially, anatomically the Lincoln of reality any more than the Lincoln of Sandburg's writing is the Lincoln of 'scientific' history. But it is Saint-Gaudens' conception of what the great Lincoln must have been in those supreme moments of his life when he arose to the great situations of that life."

The second Saint-Gaudens' Lincoln, a colossal seated figure, was put in place in Grant park in 1926 after twenty-five years storage in the art institute. This statue was provided by the late John C. Gerar at a cost of \$100,000.

Charles J. Mulligan's "Lincoln, the rail-splitter," erected in Garfield park in 1911, is another Chicago statue that attracts attention. It is one of the few figures showing Lincoln as a youth. Another monument, in the stock yards, was purchased largely from funds given by schoolchildren.

Three Weinman Statues.

Adolph A. Weinman, favored pupil of Saint-Gaudens, is the author of three likenesses of Lincoln. One is a seated figure in the memorial at Hodgenville, Ky., near Lincoln's birthplace, and was greatly admired by Robert T. Lincoln and his family. The other two are in the rotunda of the Kentucky state capitol at Frankfort and on the campus of the University of Wisconsin. Weinman also designed a statuette of Lincoln in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Just as Lincoln in life was the

subject of continual criticism, so have many of his statues continued to invite caustic comments. This is particularly true of the heroic bronze by George Grey Barnard, which stands in a square in Cincinnati known as Lytle park. Its cost was \$50,000, and it was a gift to the city from Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft. This gaunt and rugged conception of Lincoln as a raw-boned westerner excited bitter criticism when it was unveiled in 1917.

Objected To Replicas In Europe.

Robert T. Lincoln objected to the placing of replicas in London and Paris, and the National Academy of Design, New York, issued a formal protest. On the other hand, such Lincoln admirers as Ida Tarbell, his biographer, and Theodore Roosevelt, warmly praised it.

Louisville, Ky., has a replica of the Barnard figure. London was to have a copy, but preferred a replica of Saint-Gaudens' famous Lincoln, which now stands in the shadow of Westminster abbey. Manchester, England, took the Barnard figure. Among other Lincoln sculptures in the British Isles are a figure in Edinburgh, Scotland, and a huge limestone bust in London. The bust was designed by Andrew O'Connor and presented to the British Lincoln committee on Lincoln's birthday last year.

O'Connor is the author of the fine bronze Lincoln on the state house grounds at Springfield, Ill., which is one of the few beardless Lincolns that have been done. The Springfield memorial, where Lincoln is buried, is an imposing monument atop a knoll in Oak Ridge cemetery. A white obelisk is its outstanding feature, although there also are decorative and symbolic bronzes. The memorial was designed by Lincoln G. Mead and

(Continued on Page Five.)

(Continued From Page Two.)

dedicated in 1871, and is now being remodeled by the state of Illinois at a cost of \$175,000.

Crunelle's Distinctive Works.

Special mention should be given the interesting statues of "Lincoln, the debater" at Freeport, Ill., and "Lincoln, the soldier" at Dixon, Ill., executed by Leonard Crunelle of Chicago.

The Freeport figure, situated in a natural setting of trees in Taylor park, commemorates the scene of his memorable debate there with Stephen A. Douglas on August 27, 1858. It represents Lincoln in the early period of his life, in mid-manhood, before the cares and responsibilities of the presidency had sobered his spirit and countenance. It portrays him as he was at that time, a keen logician and debater, but a very human and natural being. The statue was dedicated on the seventy-first anniversary of the debate, August 27, 1929, with Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska delivering the dedicatory address.

The Dixon statue, erected on the site of the old Dixon blockhouse last September 24, depicts Lincoln at the age of 23, a volunteer in the Black Hawk war of 1832. He stands strong and erect, with a face untroubled by the perils ahead of him. His left hand rests on the hilt of his sword, while the right hand grips his belt.

Splendid Bronze At Urbana.

A splendid bronze of Lincoln as he must have looked during his circuit days was unveiled in June, 1927, at Urbana, Ill., in an attractive park facing the high school. It was conceived by Lorado Taft, who graduated from the University of Illinois there in 1878.

Gutzon Borglum's unconventional figure of Lincoln, erected in a park in Newark, N. J., in 1911, is much admired. It shows the president seated on a bench, his tall hat beside him. The memorial is especially loved by children, and it is not infrequent that a visitor to the park will see some child sitting in the bronze Emancipator's lap.

The former Nebraska sculptor was engaged in 1927 to carve the gigantic heads of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt in Mt. Rushmore in the Black hills of South Dakota. This memorial was dedicated by ex-President Coolidge August 10, 1927. Borglum is the author of a Lincoln head in the national capitol, and back in 1919 exhibited another Lincoln head, which was cut from a block weighing six tons.

Two Others In Capitol.

The national capitol has two other Lincoln sculptures. One, a statue by

Mrs. Vinne Rheam Hoxie, is in statuary hall. The other is a little known bust of Lincoln, although it has been in the capitol for years. It was essayed by Sarah Fisher Ames, who knew President Lincoln and who was a nurse in the capitol when it was used as a hospital.

Another interesting statue, the work of James Earl Fraser, was unveiled recently at Jersey City, N. J., at the eastern outpost of the Lincoln highway. It is said that Lincoln, after long cabinet meetings, slipped out of the White house at dusk through a back door and walked into the hills, where he sat concentrating on his problems under the stars. The sculptor sought to portray this mood.

One of the newest Lincoln statues was dedicated at Spokane, Wash., last November 11, when President Hoover, through telegraphic connections, pressed a button in the White house and liberated the flags that covered the figure. It is an original interpretation of Lincoln as commander-in-chief of the union forces, and was designed by Alonzo Victor Lewis, who is said to have spent two years making the original clay model.

Innumerable Sculptures.

This memorializing of Lincoln goes on. Throughout the length and breadth of this land, and other lands, people want a representation of his face and figure. Among other places where Lincoln sculptures are located are: New York City, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Rochester, N. Y.; Boston, Mass.; Hartford, Conn.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Gettysburg, Pa.; Columbus, O.; Cleveland, O.; Muskegon, Mich.; Topeka, Kas.; Webster City, Ia.; Hillsboro, N. D.; Takoma, Wash.; Berkeley, Cal., and San Francisco, Cal. There also is a marble figure in Omaha, Neb.

Hundreds of thousands visit these shrines annually. Men and women will travel far to see and admire the monuments erected to the memory of this "man of the people," of whom Edwin Markham wrote:

The color of the ground was in him, the
red earth;
The smell and smack of elemental things;
The rectitude and patience of the cliff;
The good-will of the rain that loves all
leaves;
The friendly welcome of the wayside well;
The courage of the bird that dares the
sea;
The gladness of the wind that shakes the
corn;
The mercy of the snow that hides all
scars;
The secrecy of the streams that make
their way.
Beneath the mountain to the rifted rock;
That gives as freely to the shrinking
flower
As to the great oak flaring to the wind,
To the grave's low hill as to the Matter-
horn
That shoulders out the sky.

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Neb

#282

Journal April 22, 1931

Journal, April 17, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

LINCOLN MUST GIVE CAPITOL A SETTING

April 17, 1931
Pennsylvania Expert Says
Big Man Should be Hired
to Plan Four Ap-
proaches.

J. Horace McFarland, chairman of the Pennsylvania art commission, looking for the first time Thursday on the nearly completed Nebraska capitol, found it difficult to find words to express his admiration. Mr. McFarland, who has devoted his mature life to beautification projects connected with city and state planning, saw the plans soon after Architect Goodhue drew them, but he found realization of them into brick, stone and mortar beyond all expectation.

"Your next step," he said, "is to plan your approaches so as to give this magnificent capitol the proper setting. Get the biggest man in the country to do your landscaping. There are only three or four of them, but so important is this part of the work of the completed enterprise that you should not hesitate to procure the services of a man who can do justice to the task.

"The Nebraska capitol stands alone among the states as a new thought on how a state may express itself. Forty-seven other states have capitol buildings; most of them are purely conventional designs, while yours is a wide departure, the first important one to be taken away from old forms. Having taken this step you should not fail to give it a proper setting. Costly? Surely, but it will be the best sort of investment you can make. If you want to have it as something apart from your city, purely a monument to state pride, that is one thing, but as a city you should capitalize your opportunity. Each approach ought to give the right perspective. I am not saying what these should be; just go up on the top of the tower and look, and the answer will suggest itself."

The city, he said, should not content itself with making one ornamental approach, that of Fifteenth street. Each approach needs to be made beautiful. To the suggestion that two blocks had been talked of for Fifteenth street, he said he thought it would take more than that to do the work well. He insists that Lincoln must live up to the capitol now that the people of the state have spent 10 millions in constructing it. As things now are the capitol is far ahead of the city itself. The great need is for a well-considered Lincoln plan, towards which future development should conform. It is not necessary, he said, that all of the approaches be built at once, but plans should be adopted soon that look to the construction of these in the future.

Mr. McFarland said that Americans are peripatetics. They are always going somewhere. Whether they realized it or not their journeyings are in search of beauty. The new capitol is an answer to this quest. Not only will it, when in its proper setting, build up patriotism but it will build up business. Tourists spend 50 millions at Niagara Falls every year. They will spend liberally to see so magnificent a building as the Nebraska statehouse.

The position Mr. McFarland holds in Pennsylvania is a combination of the artistic and utilitarian in its inception. No public building, school, bridge, or other structure paid for out of public moneys in any political subdivision of the state can be constructed unless its design and location are approved by the commission. It draws no plans of its own, but it insists that those submitted must conform to the general plan of beautification. His activities are also tied up with roadside work, and in Pennsylvania the billboard is being banished and trees and shrubs are taking its place.

Mr. McFarland was in Lincoln twenty years ago, brought here by the pioneers in the city planning work. He was the guest of J. E. Miller while here this time.

Journal April 22, 1931

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
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"THE SOWER" BRINGS LOWRIE HIGH AWARD

Given April 22, 1931

Statue Topping New Ne-
braska Capitol Wins
Medal of Architec-
tural League.

NEW YORK. (UP). The A. Gold medal for sculpture, awarded by the Architectural League of New York, has been awarded to Lee Lowrie for his work for the Nebraska state capitol, which includes his piece, "The Sower."

"The Sower" is the thirty-two foot bronze figure atop the gilded dome of the capitol and looking off to the northwest. He stands in the attitude of one planting grain, with one foot forward and the one arm extended backward, a sack of grain at his belt.

The statue was shipped to Lincoln last summer and was inspected by thousands of visitors as it lay in a freight car at the northwest corner of the building. Raising it into place was a complicated piece of work, and the town took an unofficial holiday to watch the process.

The top of the sower's head is 413 feet above ground, and the figure has come to be a landmark, being visible miles away. The classic features with which Mr. Lowrie chose to endow the statue aren't distinguishable from its great height but the figure is characteristic and striking.

It is the climax of a rich variety of architectural and other beauties that have made the capitol noteworthy wherever art is known. Visitors from many lands have inspected the building, which, tho still uncompleted, has become a monument to its designer, the late Bertram Goodhue, to all the men concerned in its building, and to the Nebraska pioneers whose spirit it commemorates.

Journal, April 26, 1931

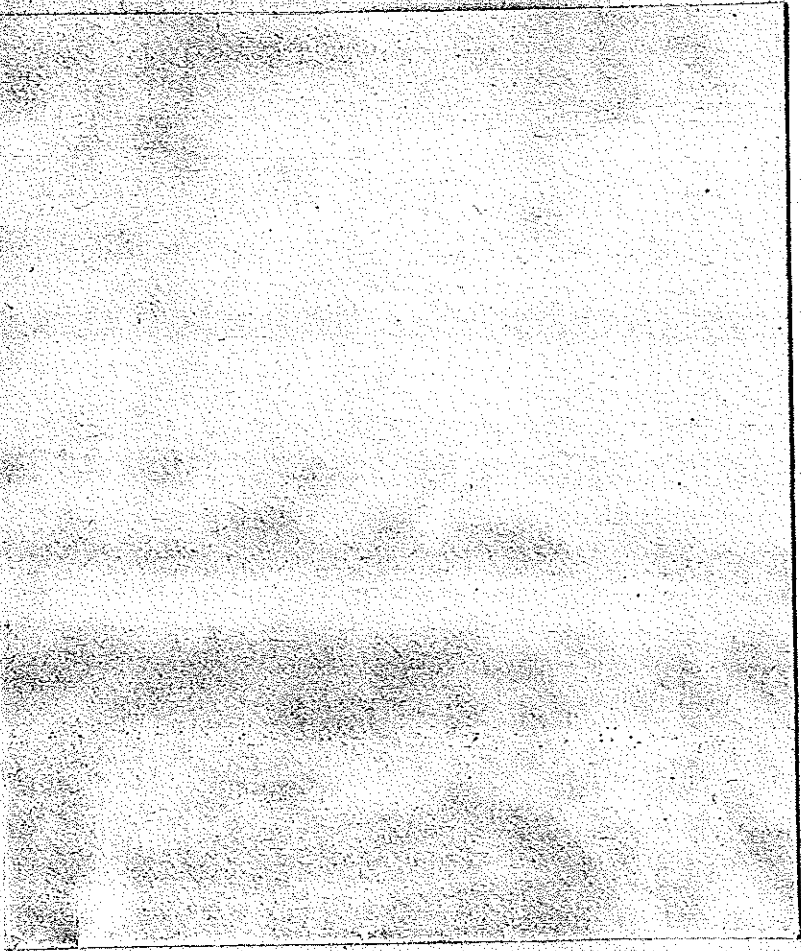
Nebr. State Capitals Have Measured
State's Growth

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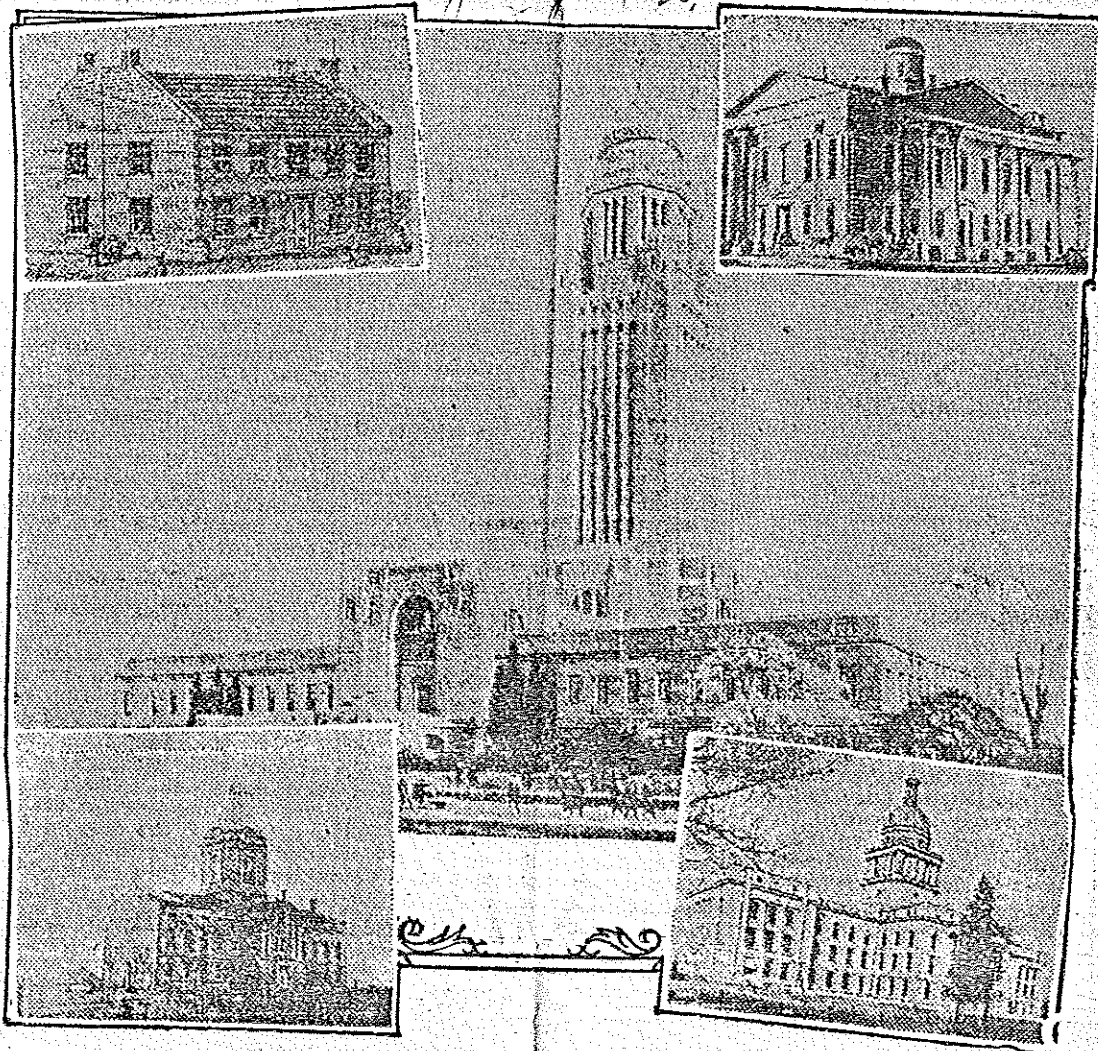
#284

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



Nebraska State Capitols Have Measured State's Growth

Jan. April 26, '31



Nebraska has had two capital cities and five capitol buildings. The structures that have housed territorial and state government, ranging from a crude pile of brick erected in 1854 at a cost of \$3,000, to the magnificent structure now being finished, which has an international fame and will cost about \$10,000,000, have measured the growth of the state. Their advancing size and dignity evidence the progress of a great state.

The first capitol was erected in Omaha by citizens of that town as a bait to get the territorial capitol located there. It was the free gift of that ambitious town. Bellevue had dreams of being the capital and had Gov. Francis Burt, the first territorial executive, not died two days after his inauguration, allowing the reins of government to fall into the hands of Thomas B. Cuming, secretary of state, who became acting governor, the trend of events might have been different and the state capitol might now be located on the beautiful hills overlooking the Missouri seven miles below the site of the first building erected in Nebraska to house the territorial government.

The second capitol building was erected in Omaha in 1864-5. It was a commodious and ornate structure for its day and sat lordly upon a hill that has since been known as Capitol Hill. It is now occupied by Omaha high school. For many years after the capital

moved away, the old capitol building, remodeled, was used as a high school. The erection of the second capitol building, aimed to attach the capital forever, failed of its principal mission. The battle between the south Platte and the north Platte sections grew hot and bitter. Nebraska City was as determined to have the capital as Omaha was to retain it. Nebraska City's bid was stronger because the south Platte country had a larger population and the votes to back up the claim of the south Platte to have the capital. In the long struggle for possession of the prize neither of the ambitious towns won. When the territory became a state and it became the duty of the legislature to locate the state capitol, a new site was decided upon. Gov. David Butler, Secretary of State Thomas P. Kennard and Auditor John J. Gillespie were commissioned to locate the capital somewhere within the boundaries of Saunders, Butler, Seward and Lancaster counties. On July 29, 1867, they chose the present site between Salt and Antelope creeks, which was then naked prairie—and mighty nude at that. By previous choice of the legislature the new capital city was to be called Lincoln. And so in 1867 Bellevue saw its rival's hopes fall in the dust and Omaha sat down in the ashes to mourn the loss of its most prized possession.

With the location of the capital city at Lincoln a state house became an immediate necessity. The first state capitol building was erected in 1868. This crude appearing structure, standing stark and lone on the prairie, was erected at a cost of \$75,817.59.

In 1884 the demand for a bigger and better capitol building was so insistent that the legislature acted. In that year the second state capitol was erected at a cost of \$600,000. It was considered in its day a masterpiece of capitol construction. It became obsolete when the increasing activities of state government outgrew it.

The bill for the new present structure was signed Feb. 20, 1919, by Gov. Samuel R. McKelvie. Ground was broken April 15, 1922. The first construction began in July of that year. The design of the new building is such that it was built around the old one and the old one was used until office space in the new one was available. Then the old building was removed piecemeal.

The new building, symbolizing in its low walls the substantiality of the basic industries of the state and the permanence of its prosperity, and expressing in its lofty tower the vaunting hopes of its people, is a history in stone, relating the progress of a state. The other capitols are tintypes and snapshots picturing the developing stages of growth.

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#285

Star, June 19, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Lee Lawrie Completes Model Of Isaac Newton Sculpture Which Is to Adorn Capitol

This model of a sculpture of Sir Isaac Newton, the Renaissance scientist, which is to adorn the Nebraska state capitol, was received last week by the capitol commission. It is the work of Lee Lawrie, whose sculpture for the capitol has won him world-wide praise.

The carving is the seventh in a series of eight figures to adorn buttresses on the tower transepts. It is to be placed on the east face of the tower, just around the corner from the Abraham Lincoln figure. The eight sculptures, which form a circuit around the tower about 130 feet above the ground, represent the genius of human civilization as embodied in typical heroes of its great epochs. These carvings and their positions on the tower follow:

1. "The Dawn of History"—Pentaour, the poet of Egypt (north face, west buttress).
2. "Cosmic Tradition"—Ezekiel, the prophet (west face, south buttress).
3. "The Birth of Reason"—Socrates, Greek philosopher (west face, south buttress).
4. "The Reign of Law"—Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor-philosopher (south face, west buttress).
5. "The Glorification of Faith"—Apostle John, emblematic of Christianity (south face, east buttress).
6. "The Age of Chivalry"—Louis IX (St. Louis), emblematic of the chivalric virtues (east face, south buttress).
7. "The Discovery of Nature"—Sir Isaac Newton, the Renaissance scientist (east face, north buttress).
8. "The Liberation of Peoples"—Abraham Lincoln, shown as the young rail-splitter (north face, east buttress).

Now Carving Pentaour.

The Abraham Lincoln sculpture was finished last November, while the Pentaour carving is being chiseled at the present time. Work on the latter is progressing inside the scaffold which may be seen on the north face of the tower. Seven weeks more work will be required to complete the Pentaour figure. Work then will be commenced upon the St. Louis figure on the east face, where a scaffold already has been erected. The Isaac Newton sculpture will be begun after this.

Sir Isaac Newton, who lived from 1642 to 1727, was one of the world's greatest mathematicians and physicists. Inventor of fluxional calculus and discoverer of the laws of gravitation, he typifies the culmination of the rising intellect of the middle ages.



(over)

#286

The drawing on the scroll which he holds in the Lawrie sculpture represents the basic design for his studies of the solar system. It indicates that he already has proved that the earth revolves on an ellipse about the sun, and is now showing the disturbance caused by the third body, the moon.

From Newton's Principia.

Professor T. T. Smith of the physics department of the University of Nebraska identified the drawing for The Star. It may be found in Newton's Mathematical Principals of Natural Philosophy, repeated six times between pages 203 and 215. This famous work is

one of the most treasured volumes in the world. It formally introduced Newton's ideas of mass and force, and established the science of theoretical mathematics as it exists today. As Professor Smith explained, probably no single contribution of scientific history has been more important than this.

Although the Lawrie representation of Newton is meant to be a symbol rather than an actual likeness of the great scientist, it nevertheless does bear a striking resemblance to him. It is not known from where Mr. Lawrie secured data on the physical features of Newton, but there are several fine portraits of the scientist in existence. There also is a full length statue of him in Trinity college at Cambridge university, England, while the University library of Cambridge has a cast of his face made after his death.

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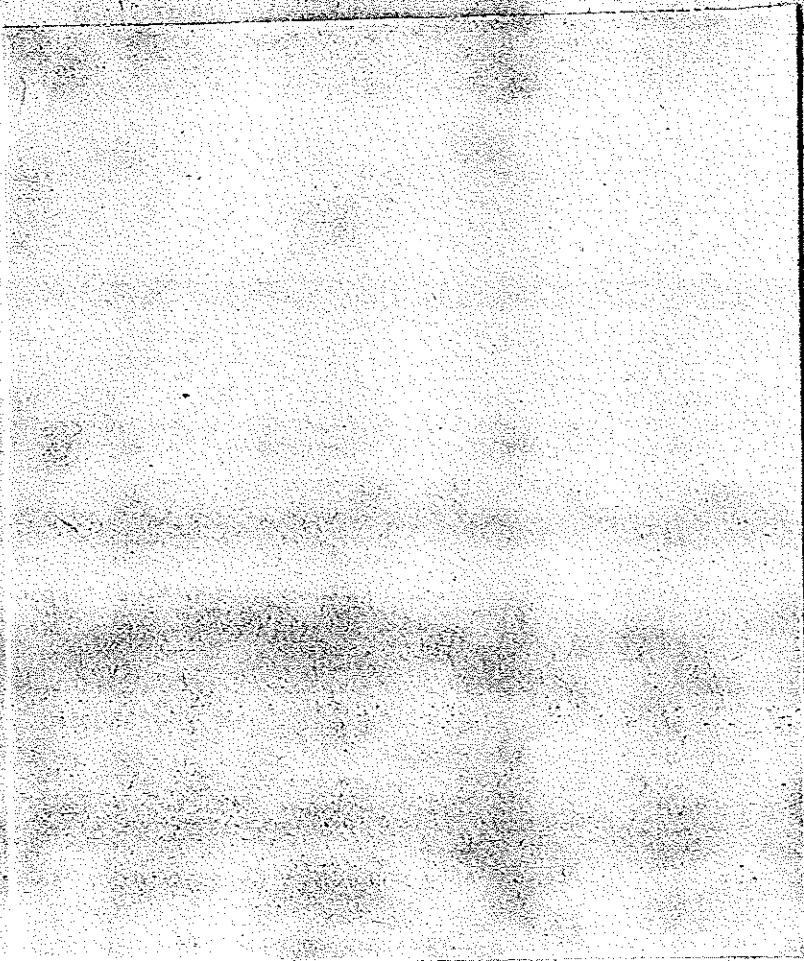
Nebr. #287

Journal, June 28, 1931

Mosaics at the Capitol -

How the Idea Originated -

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



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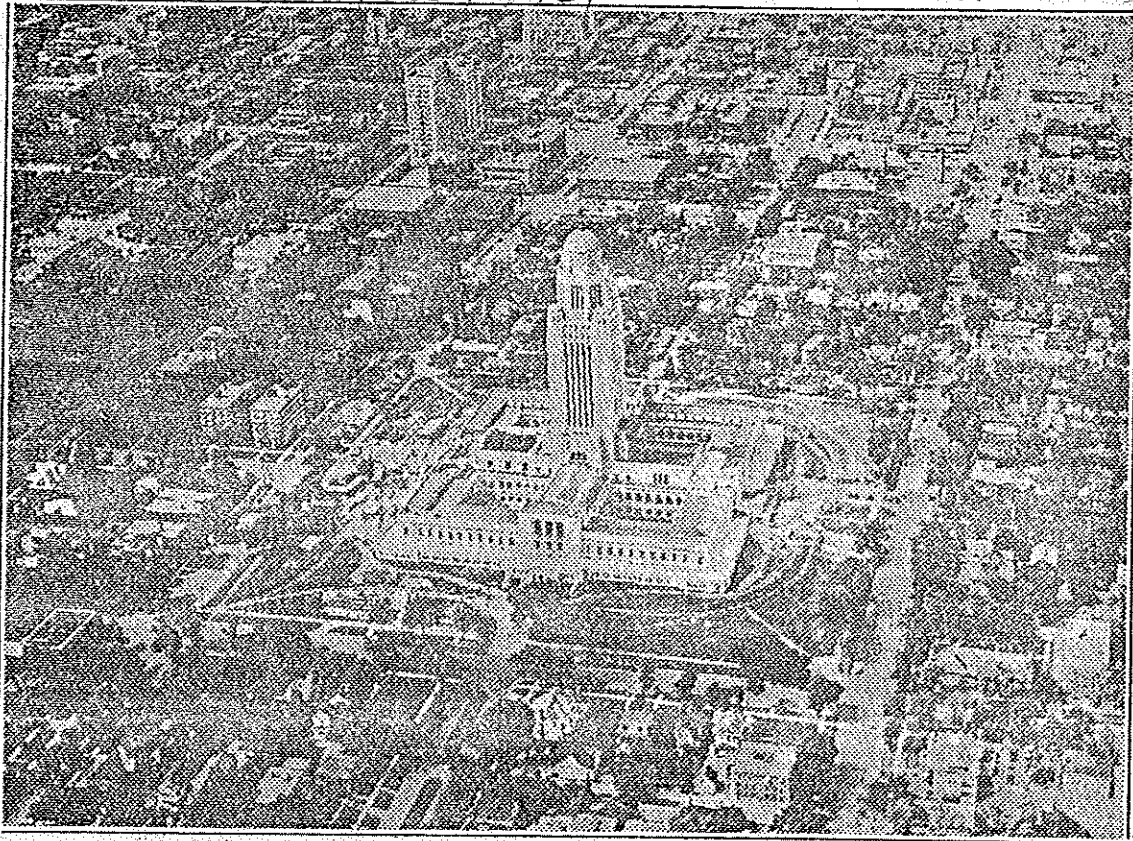
#288

Star, July 22, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

View of Capitol Taken From Giro Piloted by Yancey

Star Bulletin, 1931



—Lincoln Star Photo.
The Nebraska state capitol, as it appears from the air, was photographed Tuesday afternoon by a Star staff cameraman from the Champion Spark Plug company's autogiro, which accompanied the national air tour to Lincoln. Piloted by Captain Lewis A. Yancey, famous trans-Atlantic flier, who was co-pilot and navigator of the New York to Rome flight with Roger Q. Williams in 1928, the "windmill" plane circled the capitol tower twice, stopping in air at intervals to "shoot" the tower. The autogiro, when stalled, was traveling only about ten miles an hour, although it dropped from 100 to 150 feet each time. The above photo, taken from south of the capitol, shows the west wing of the building which is nearing completion and the Lincoln business district in the background.

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Nebr.

#289

Star, Aug. 30, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Nebraska's New Capital

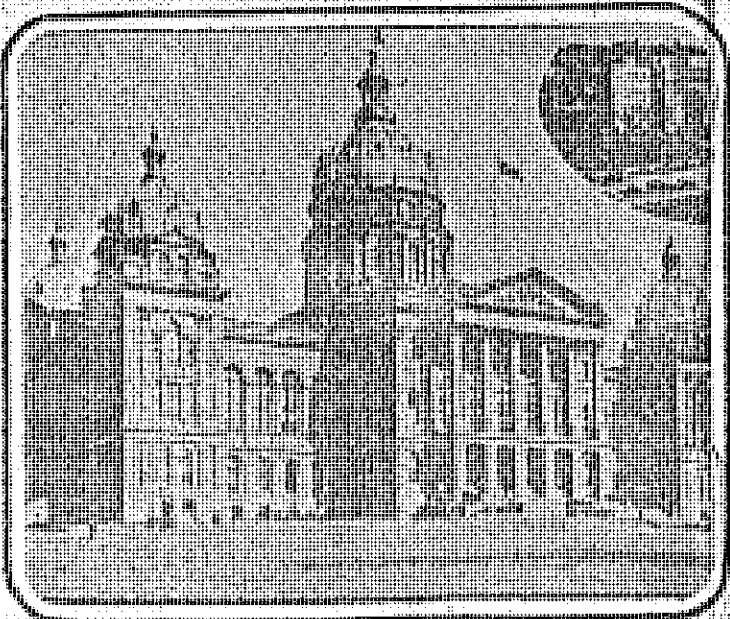
Nebraska's New Capitol State Building in



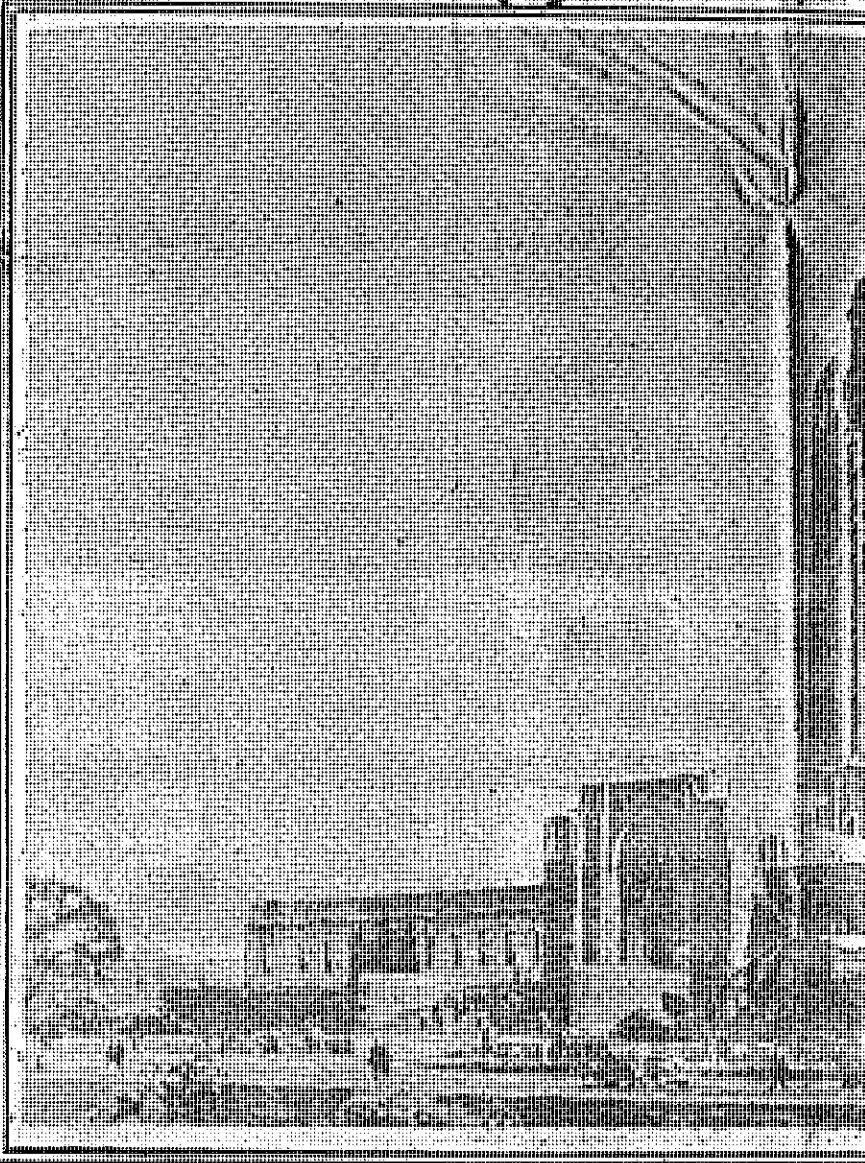
UTAH



ILLINOIS



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NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL



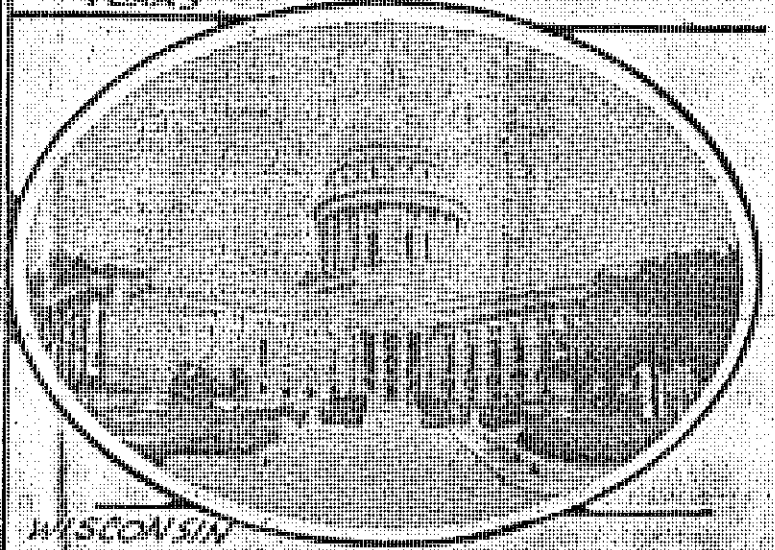
Most Magnificent America



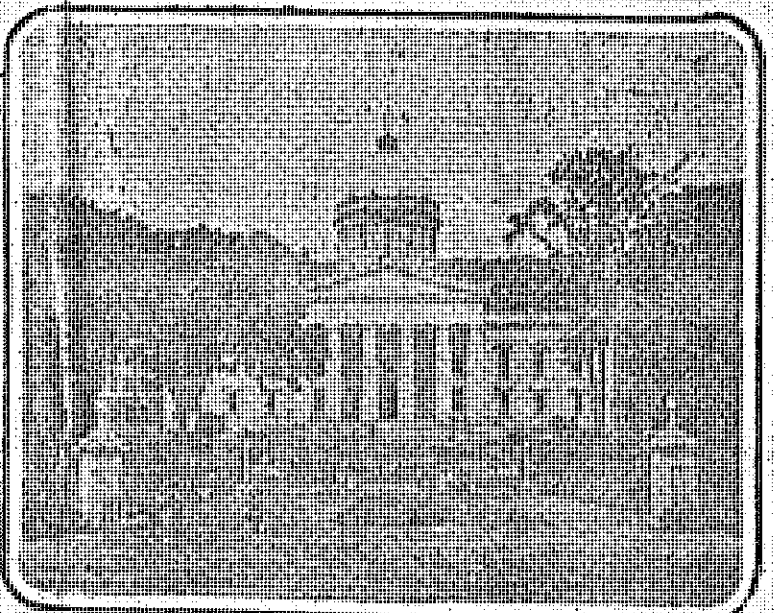
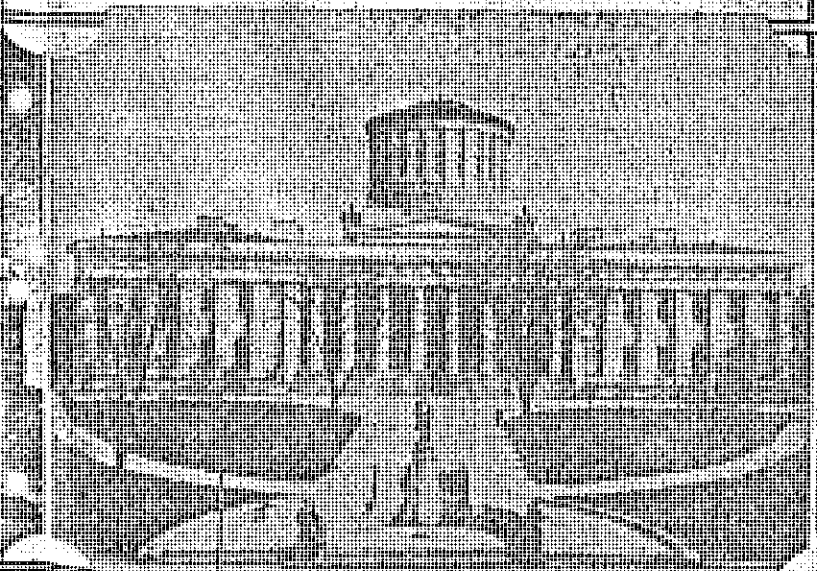
CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL



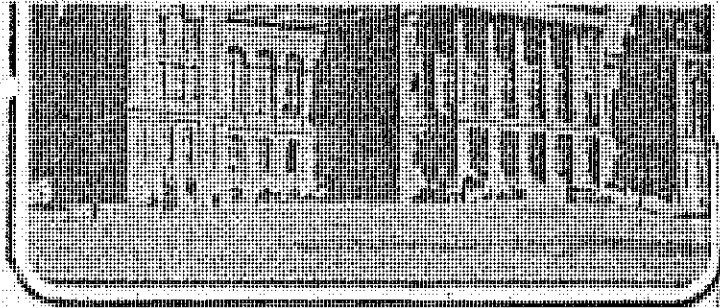
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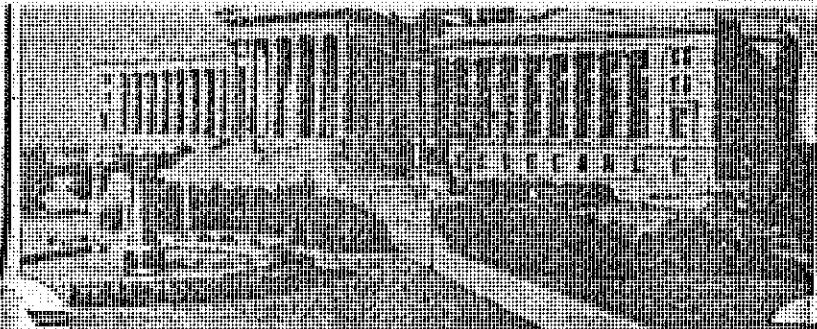
WISCONSIN



NEW YORK



IOWA



MISSOURI



RHODE ISLAND



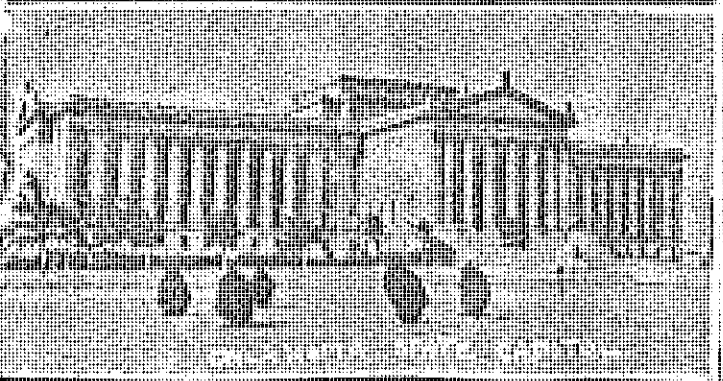
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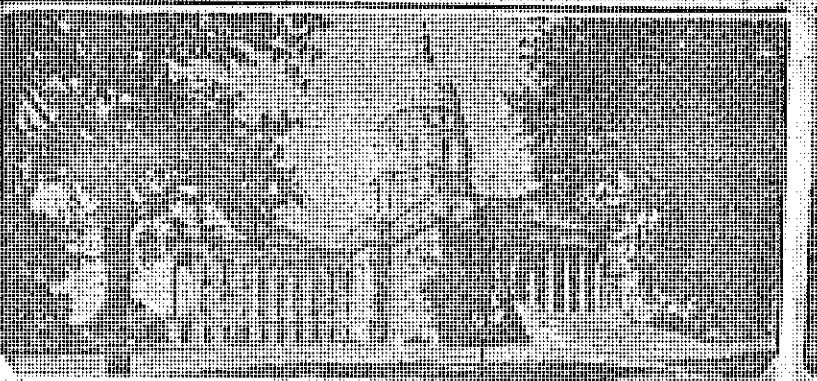
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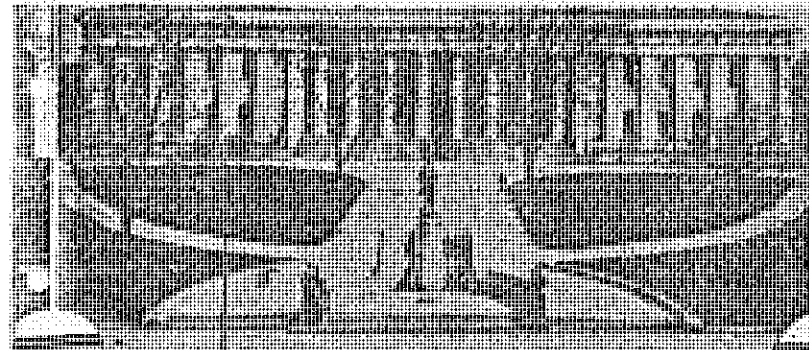
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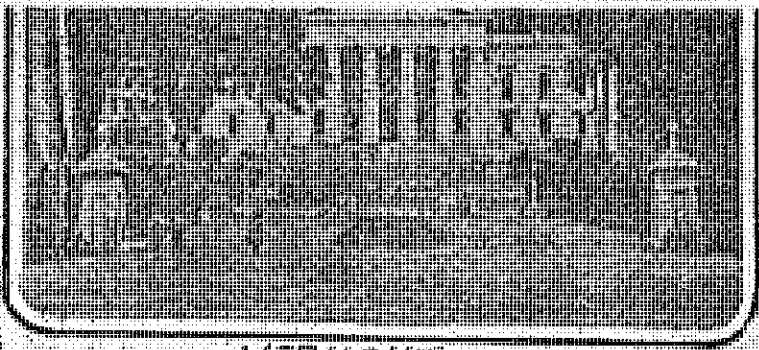
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KANSAS



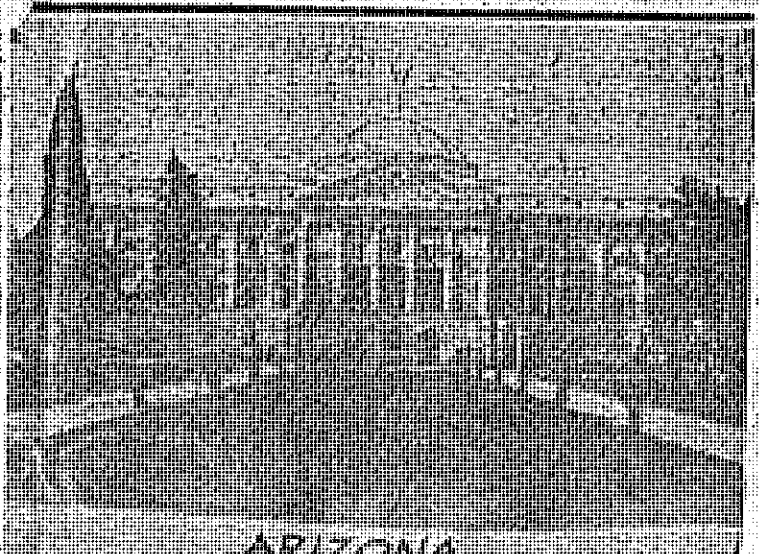
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VERMONT



KENTUCKY



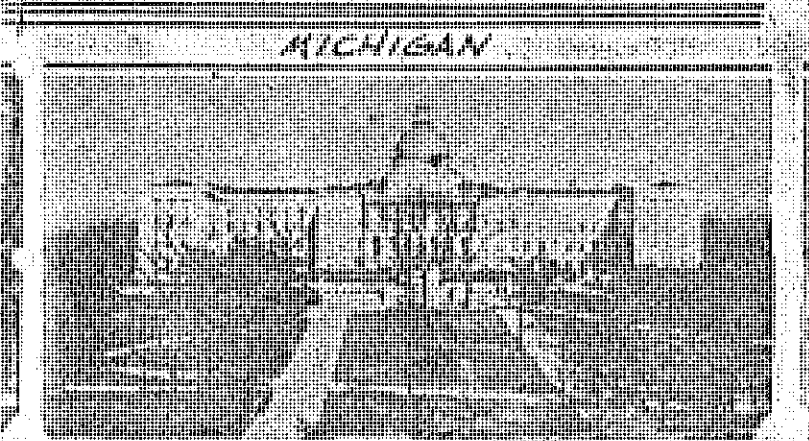
ARIZONA



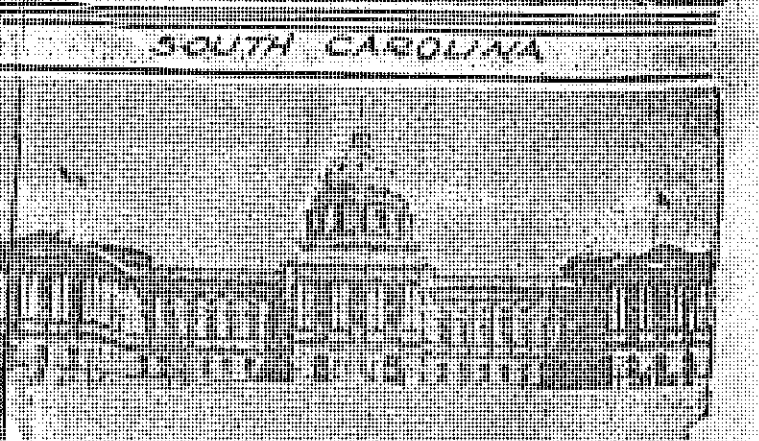
MICHIGAN



SOUTH CAROLINA



MASSACHUSETTS



PENNSYLVANIA

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#290

Star, October 8, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Capitol Portal Symbolical

Star-10-8-31

North Entrance Is Memorial to Birth of State on Indian and Buffalo Prairies of West.



The irresistible movement of the Pioneers toward the plains is represented in the huge bas-relief in the main entrance arch of the capitol. Above it is a portion of the decorative frieze of buffalo skulls and corn and below is the inscription above the main doorway.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 14. The North Entrance.

On approaching the north portal of Nebraska's capitol, the visitor is attracted by figures of a buffalo bull and a buffalo cow and calf, with accompanying symbols of maize, cut in the cheeks of the balustrades flanking the main entrance steps. These bison are memorials to the tribes who ruled the plains before the coming of the white man. The bison and corn were the chief sources of food for the plains Indians.

Inscribed on the bodies of these bison are passages from Indian ritual. On the two outer panels are passages from the Pawnee ritual called the Hako, representing the gift of life through corn and children. The buffalo bull on the west balustrade bears this tribute to the maize:

Born of the earth
And touched by the deep blue sky
Out of the distant past I come unto you
Your mother corn.

From the rite of the calumets in the ritual comes this inscription on the east balustrade:

As onward we wend
Thinking of our children
Many trails of buffalo we behold
Many trails of life.

On the inner cheeks above the buffalo are inscribed names of Indian tribes that lived and hunted on the plains: Omaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Arapahoe, Kiowa, Sioux, Cheyenne, Winnebago, Ponca and Arizara.

"Spirit of the Pioneers."

This Indian theme, which introduces the symbolism of the capitol, will be continued in the bronze doors to be placed in the huge entrance arch within a few months. The next chapter in the story is the pioneer theme, represented by the bas-relief, "The Spirit of the Pioneers," a panel twenty-five feet wide and seven feet six inches in height above the doorway.

Here is pictured a pioneer party crossing the plains, led by a scout, a portrait of Colonel William F. Cody. The prairie schooner is drawn by two oxen.

The pioneer family on foot represents the coming of four ages of life to the plains. There is an old man with a water-finders' wand, a young man with a basket of seed, and the young parents with a babe in arms. The dog leading the party, the eagle of destiny flying above and the rising sun are other symbols.

Below the bas-relief is an inscription seen by all who enter the capitol: "The salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen." Above is a frieze of buffalo skulls and baskets of maize. Within the arch are alternating rosettes of corn and wheat, symbolizing the union of gifts of the old and new worlds.

(Wednesday: The Terrace Circuit.)

336.45

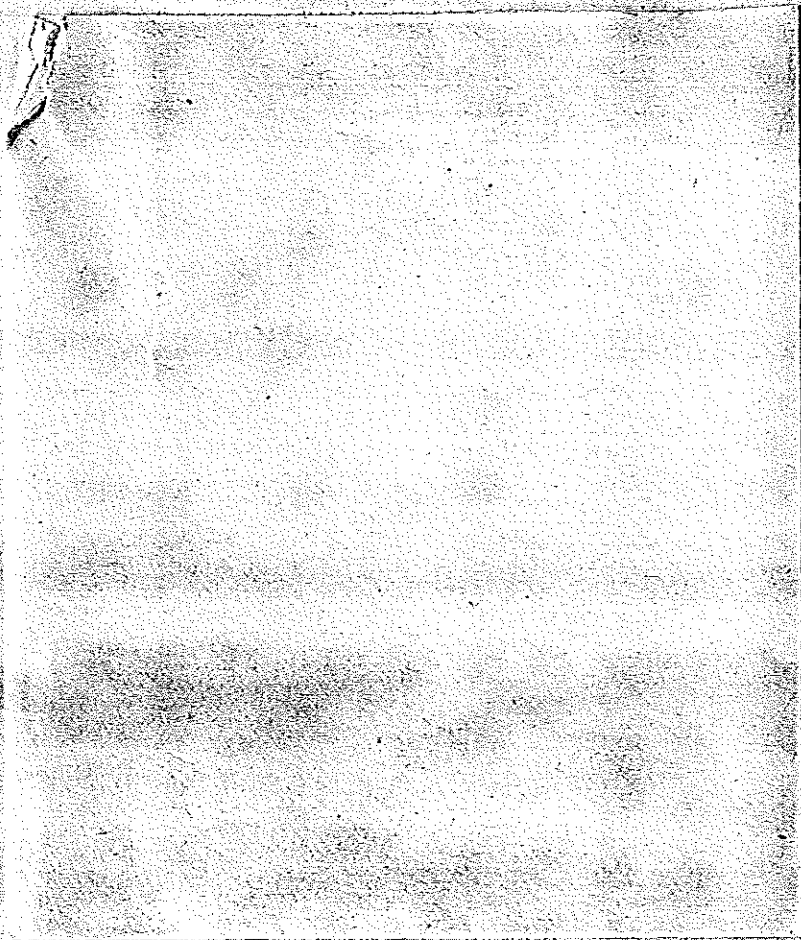
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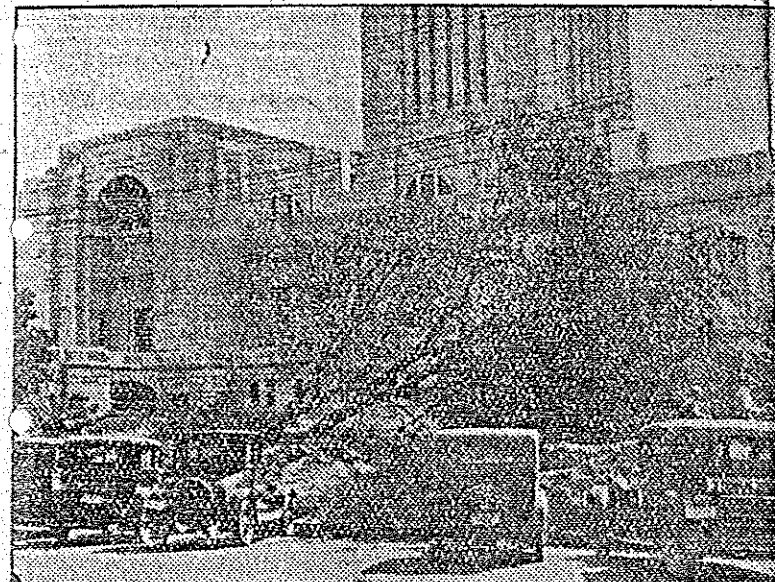
#291

Star, October 11, 1931

Landscaping State Capitol Grounds.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU





LAST vestiges of Nebraska's old capitol began to fade during the past week as removal of trees preparatory to grading and landscaping the grounds for the new building started.

To lovers of trees, it was a sad moment as the stately boxelder and elms that shaded the capitol's walks began to come out. To lovers of the capitol and the prairie idealism that it symbolizes, it was a necessary step to enhancing the beauty of the Goddard structure.

Many of the trees put in years ago about the old capitol building had been removed previously, but eighty-eight fine trees surround the present building, all of which must be removed to permit grading of the new capitol grounds.

It will be a very different scene when the landscaping is completed.

Cut to Street Level.

Instead of the high area which is now capitol square, visitors to the grounds will come off the streets from any direction onto wide sidewalks at the usual level from the street. The high banks will be cut away during the next few weeks, as rapidly as possible, to permit laying of as much sidewalk as possible before winter weather calls a halt.

Grading of the grounds and masonry construction can proceed this fall upon all except the west side, where work on the building proper is still under way. As soon as this work is finished next spring, the grading will be completed.

Trees Are Only Loss.

Changes in the capitol grounds will bring little sorrow except for the loss of the trees. They have to be removed principally because of the lowering of the capitol walks and changes in grade. Architects also feel that removal of the trees will add to the beauty of the building by permitting it to be observed more easily.

A few trees will probably be placed on the grounds later although no definite decision has been

plaints led to their removal and substitution of the trees now being cut down.

Old Picture Shows Trees.

The cornerstone of the old capitol was laid in 1897 and it is presumed at the historical society that the present trees were probably planted in the early eighties. A picture taken in the late eighties shows the trees, apparently substantiating this view.

Removal of the trees is only the first stage in a long process of putting the capitol grounds in shape. Grading, which has been started on one side of the building, will follow cutting of the trees around the rest of the structure.

When the grading is completed, a gentle slope will be seen from the capitol outward, sweeping downward more abruptly in terraces, whose width from top to bottom will be nine feet. It will be but a short distance then from the bottom of the terrace to the sidewalks at the usual curb level.

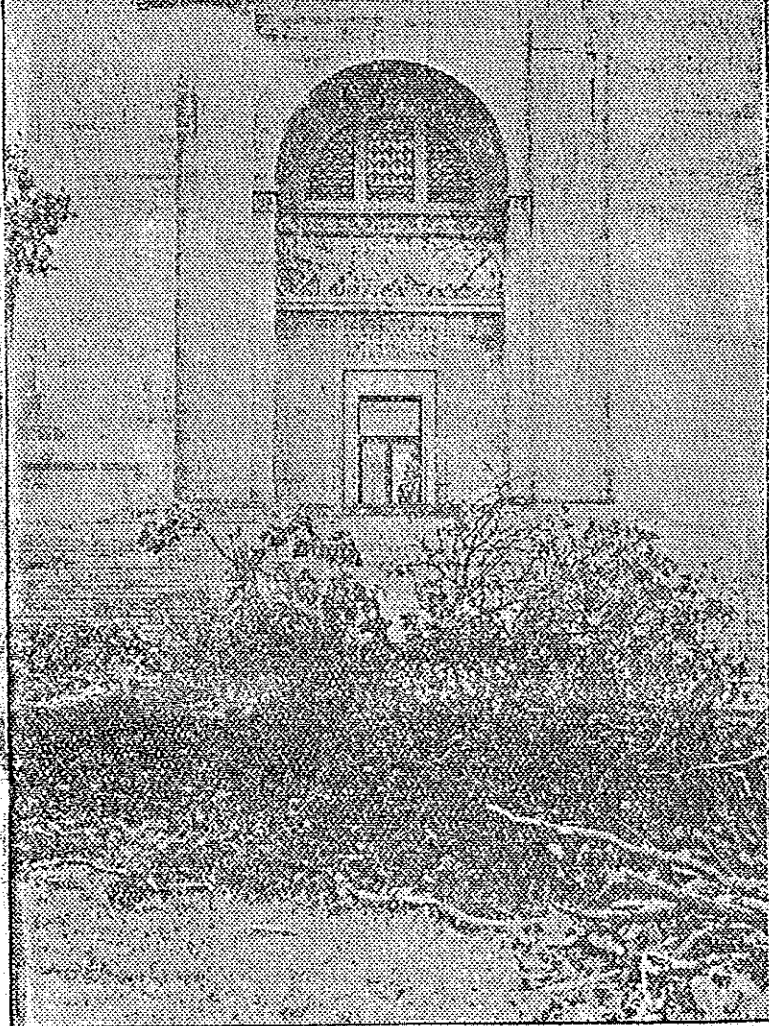
Erecting Lamp Posts.

Lamp posts will be erected between the sidewalk and curb around the entire capitol square. Inside the terraced area, a sprinkler system will be provided.

That is as far as definite plans for the landscaping have progressed. It will take well into next spring to complete the grading, put the broad sidewalks and drives into place, and install lamp posts and sprinklers.

There will be two automobile drives into the building, one at the north and one at the south entrance. A wide horseshoe drive at the north will permit cars or trucks to swing up under the steps leading to the capitol main floor. At the south, a narrower horseshoe drive will permit machines to drive directly down to the basement entrance of the building.

The Daniel French statue of Lincoln at the west entrance makes two problems for supervising architects. When the grading is done on that side, the statue will have to be lowered, which may necessitate reconstruction of some of the steps. It is considered likely that the statue may eventually be removed and placed in some form of a civic center on Fifteenth street so as to avoid the necessity of having a statue blocking one of the entrances to the capitol.



Removal of trees from in front of the Nebraska capitol, preparatory to landscaping the grounds is graphically shown in the pictures above. In the upper row, at the left is seen one of the most beautiful trees shortly after it had been cut. The picture reveals how much more of the capitol will be seen by removal of the trees. In the center is a close-up of one of the trees after it had been cut down. The upper

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A few trees will probably be placed on the grounds later although no definite decision has been made. If they are, they will be smaller and will be so distributed as not to obscure the view of the building from the various walks and approaches.

Before the trees were removed during the past week, much of the building could not be seen from the walk. The pictures above show how removal of the trees has brought the beauty of the building out in startling relief.

Trees Half Century Old.

Age of the trees is not known at the capitol. Addison Sheldon of the state historical society and his staff made an effort during the week to ascertain the age of the trees but found no definite information on the matter. They believe them to be between forty and fifty years old and probably nearer fifty.

An appropriation was made in 1879 for grading and improving the grounds. Mr. Sheldon is under the impression that cottonwoods were placed on the grounds at that time but that a few years later com-

plaints led to their removal and substitution of the trees now being cut down.

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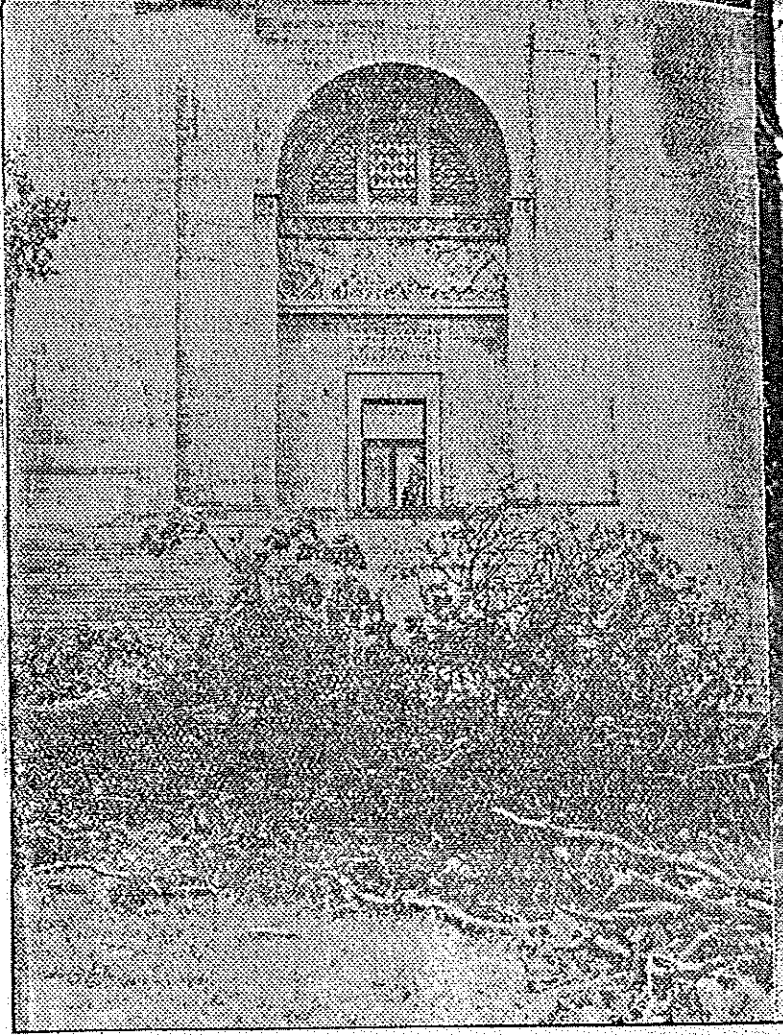
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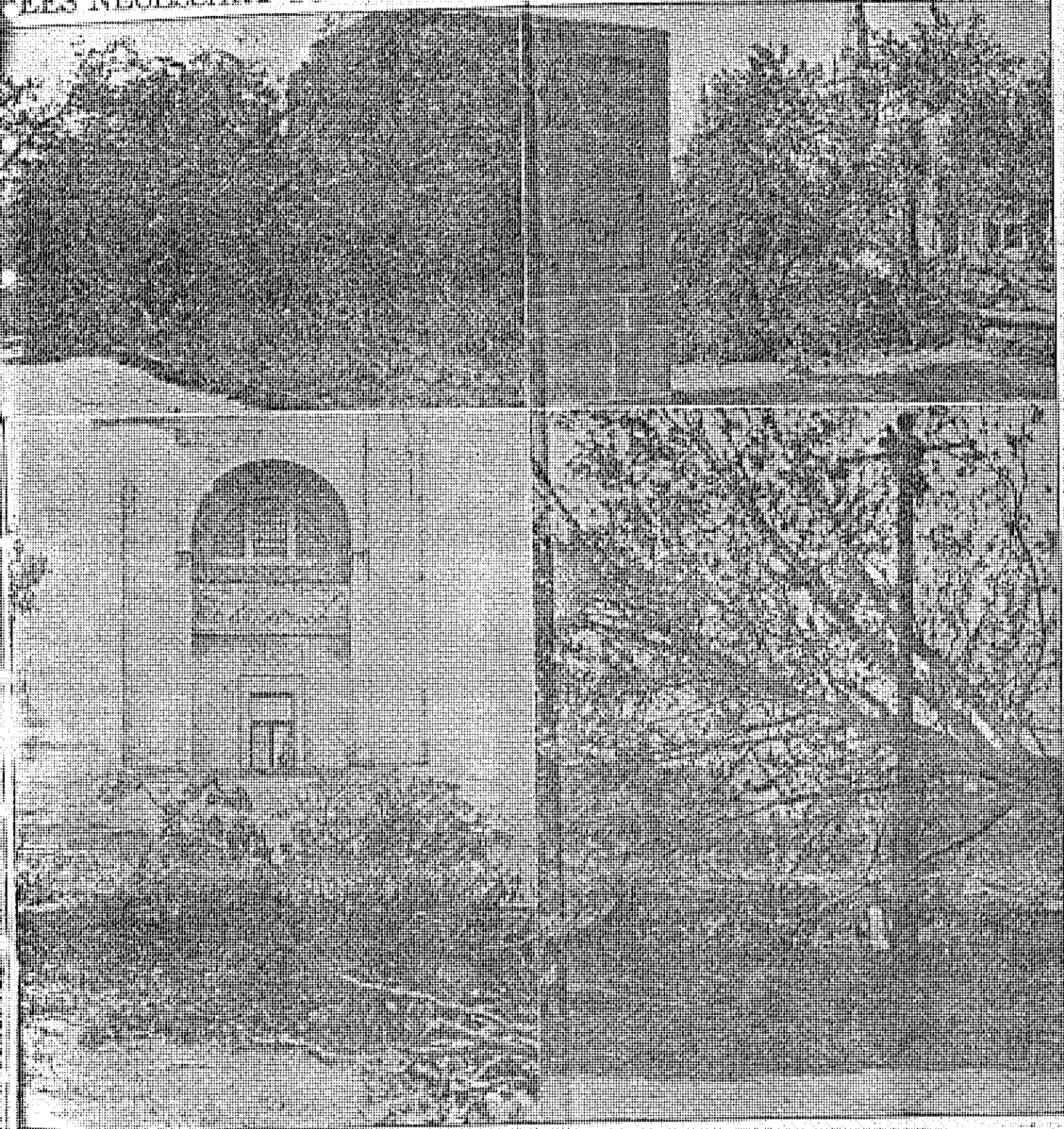
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NEES NECESSARY TO ENHANCE GOODHUE STRUCTURE; SIDEWALKS



Star Photo

Several of trees felled in front of the Nebraska capitol, preparatory to landscaping the grounds is graphically shown in the pictures above. In the upper row, on the left is seen one of the most beautiful trees which after it had been cut. The picture would have shown many of the capitol will be seen by removal of the trees. In the center is a close-up of one of the trees after it had been cut down. The upper

right view shows one of the fallen trees from the capitol steps looking in the northwest. At the left below can be seen part of the wood-cutting work, directly in front of the main entrance to the statehouse. At the right, one of the two large ponds near the main entrance to the capitol can be seen emerging from the trees.

336.45
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#292

Journal, October 13, 1931

IF THE CAPITOL TREES COULD TALK.

Journal 10-13-31

The bodies of two large elm trees, estimated to be more than fifty years old are among those that now lie prone on the north side of the capitol grounds, felled by a none too skilled woodsman's ax. They have gone to make way for a new form of landscaping for a newly built capitol, by order of the capitol commission. The trees mark the passing of an era when the settler in Nebraska desired nothing more than to surround his cabin or his sod house with a forest such as he had been used to in Indiana, Ohio or Pennsylvania. The old capitol was surrounded by trees, a veritable forest, due to diligent if not intelligent planting and observance of the motto "plant trees," which animated J. Sterling Morton and resulted in his inauguration of Arbor day as a holiday. Nebraska took the lead, its example being followed largely in America and a great part of the world.

Now a new style of architecture has sprung up on the capitol grounds, a combination of original and ancient styles, which has attracted world wide attention and whose originators decree that it should not be hidden or obscured by remnants of a forest. The new landscaping will in time be accomplished but it will permit a full view of the building by nearby beholders. Already the removal of the last of the old trees is hailed by many as an improvement rather than as a desecration. A view from the height of the capitol tower discloses the city of Lincoln still green with shade and forest trees, except for the stone and brick business district, but the capitol grounds are to be cleared of all trees.

The large elms on the north side of the capitol grounds, may have served their time. Some of their companions long ago died from a pest or disease or unintelligent care. The two in question were young when William McKinley, later president stood on a platform nearby and preached as the apostle of the protective tariff, and deftly answered all hecklers in a great audience. They were not much older when William Jennings Bryan was officially notified of his nomination by the then populist party, following his nomination by an older party. The trees were hale and hearty when Mr. Bryan spoke to an unprecedented crowd upon his return from triumphal journey around the world. Bryan set the people wild under the capitol trees with his sixteen to one, "regardless of any other nations on earth, more than once.

Daniel Chester French, sculptor, recently deceased, walked under all the trees in the capitol looking for a suitable site, one where there would be proper lighting for the bronze statue which he later designed and which was erected on the west side of the grounds where it now stands with a granite tablet as a background.

Roosevelt, young and vigorous, set the people wilder under the elms now felled, at a time when wildness was the vogue. Under the spell of his gleaming teeth, when he was not yet president, at every crack of his army hat rolled in one hand and struck against the other they roared while he stood in a small band stand in sight of a surging crowd.

Years later, grey and portly, "Teddy" again won hearts of the people when he spoke near the elm trees and told a vast audience how to win the war which be-reaved him personally, the old fire still glancing from his dimmed eyes.

If trees laugh those in the capitol grounds must have done so on an occasion when the kindly mayor of Lincoln took fifteen minutes under their branches to welcome President Harrison of "Grand father's hat" fame when the president on his tour of the country had only five minutes time to respond to the welcome. Also they may have smiled when Uncle Jake Wolf, state land commissioner, allowed the blue grass to grow up tall and when Secretary of State Charles W. Pool, State Auditor W. H. Smith and State Treasurer George E. Hall made hay shocks of the blue grass under their branches and had it hauled away upon a regular hay wagon.

An army of state officers have marched under the capitol trees, some to fame and glory and some to disgrace and despair. Peace to their ashes and the skeletons of the trees that watched over them. Nebraska is still the tree planters state.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Star, October 18, 1981

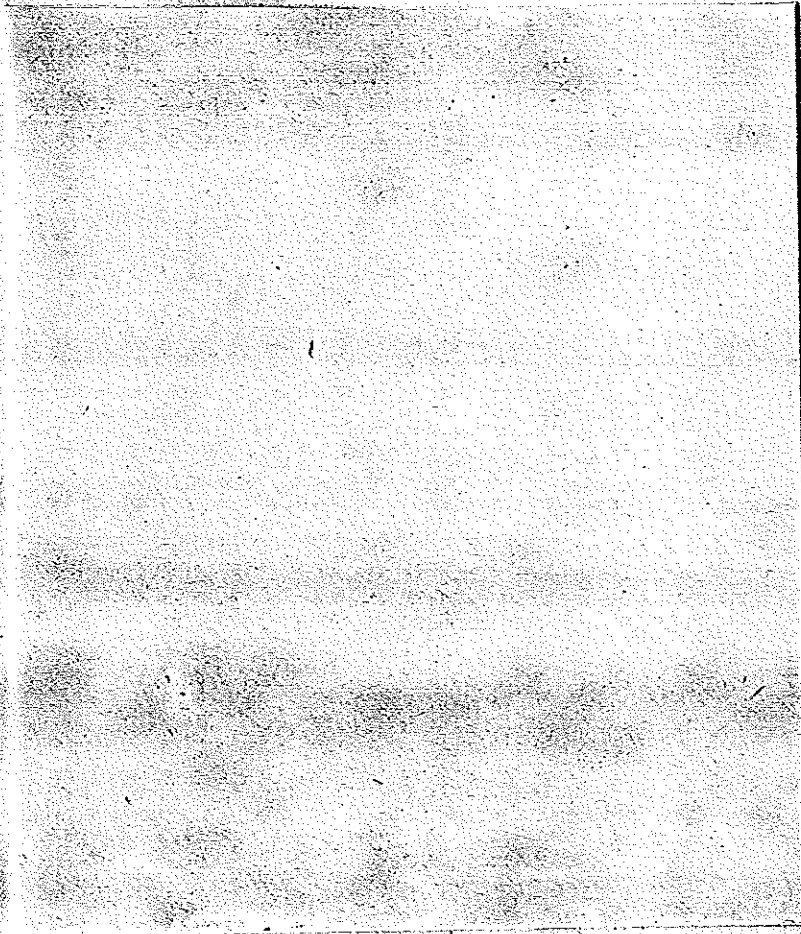
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#293

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Sculpture for Nebraska Capitol



Marcus Aurelius Sculpture To Adorn Nebraska Capitol Received from Lee Lawrie

Star 10-18-31



This model for a sculpture of and the Renaissance scientist, Sir
Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor-philosopher, representing the theme, "The
Reign of Law" is to adorn the Nebraska Capitol. The sculpture, by Lee Lawrie, is
Two Already Finished.



This model for a sculpture of Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor-philosopher, representing the theme, "The Reign of Law," is to adorn the Nebraska state capitol. It has just been received by the capitol commission from Lee Lawrie, whose sculptural decorations on the capitol have brought the building as well as himself world-wide fame. It is to be carved on the south face of the capitol tower, as one in a series of eight engaged figures on the tower transepts. These sculptures represent the genius of human civilizations as embodied in typical heroes of their great epochs. Marcus Aurelius is the fourth carving of the series. Next to it is to be placed the fifth in the series, Apostle John, emblematic of Christianity and representing "The Glorification of Faith."

The sixth and seventh of the group are now being completed on the east face of the tower, and scaffolds about them soon are to be cleared away. They are St. Louis, representing "The Age of Chivalry," and the Renaissance scientist, Sir Isaac Newton, representing "The Discovery of Nature."

Two Already Finished.

A sculpture of Pentaour, the poet of Egypt, representing "The Dawn of History," and one of Abraham Lincoln, representing "The Liberation of Peoples," the first and eighth carvings of the series, already adorn the north face of the tower.

Following completion of the Marcus Aurelius and Apostle John carvings on the south face of the tower, work will be commenced on the two to go on the west side. These are to be of the prophet Ezekiel, representing "Cosmic Tradition," and the Greek philosopher Socrates, representing "The Birth of Reason." They are the second and third carvings of the tower series.

Each of the figures are to be twenty-four feet in height, and require from nine to ten weeks to carve. They are executed into the building by Alessandro Beretta, skilled Italian carver who has essayed nearly all of Lawrie's sculptures on the buildings.

336.45
Nebr.
#294

HOW MUCH HAVE YOU INVESTED IN CAPITOL

**COST TO TAXPAYER IS
\$3.15 PER \$1,000.**

Owner of 160 Acres at Average Valuation of \$37 Has Paid \$18.64 in 12 Years.

"How much have I invested in the capitol of Nebraska?" is a question some visitors ask themselves when they are escorted thru its wondrous halls and rotundas or view its gold tipped tower from afar as they approach the city of Lincoln. It is a building that is foremost in America and has attracted attention of architects the world over.

If the visitors are from outside the state, they have nothing invested in it as they have contributed nothing toward its cost. If they are residents of Nebraska and not taxed, they have paid nothing. If they are newcomers in the state, they may have contributed a few cents or a few dollars, depending upon how long they have paid taxes.

The building has been built under the pay-as-you-go plan. Visitors from over the state realize that it is their building, built by their money and that it bears inscriptions in their honor, such as "Honor to Citizens who Build an House of State," and other inscriptions upon its walls honor the pioneer who broke the sod and made such a building possible.

Total Tax \$9,400,000.

The building is nearing completion and it is estimated that the total collection of taxes thus far has been \$9,400,000. The legislature of 1929 increased the maximum cost to \$9,500,000. The first which enacted the law authorizing the building limited the cost to \$5,000,000. The last legislature is extending a levy of eleven hundredths of 1 mill to be collected for the years 1931 and 1932, placed no maximum upon the cost, which has always included the cost of furnishing and equipment, landscaping of grounds and construction of heating and power plant and acquiring a site and right-of-way for such plant.

If the capitol with extras which can be added whenever the capitol commission deems proper, costs \$10,000,000, then each man, woman and child making up the 1,377,963 inhabitants of the state will have contributed \$7.18.

But only the taxpayer has contributed and some of these have only paid a few cents or dollars.

The first tax levy for the capitol was made in 1918. Payments began to come in the following year, so for twelve years taxpayers have contributed to build up the capitol.

\$3.15 for Each \$1,000.

Including this year's levy, which will not be collected until next year, records at the capitol show that the combined levies from 1919 to and including 1931, mean that each taxpayer has paid \$3.15 on each \$1,000 worth of property taxed.

The annual levies have been small. It started in 1919 with a levy of 1.5 mills on the dollar valuation. Property then was taxed on a one-fifth value, so this levy meant a tax of 30 cents on \$1,000 worth of property assessed. The following year, under the same system of assessment, the levy was 1.1 mill, or 22 cents on the \$1,000.

In 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924, property was assessed on its full value and the levy for the capitol was lowered to three-tenths of a mill, or 30 cents a \$1,000. In 1925 up to and including 1930, the capitol levy has been twenty-two hundredths of one mill, or a tax of 22 cents per \$1,000 of property assessed. In 1931 this was cut in two, the levy being made by the legislature at eleven hundredths of one mill for 1931 and the same for 1932, when it is to cease. These two levies will be eleven hundredths of a mill or 11 cents per \$1,000. These levies not including the one for 1932, total \$3.15 per \$1,000.

So the taxpayer who has been a stayer and who has paid twelve annual levies on a \$2,000 valuation and who will pay the one for 1931 has paid a total of \$6.20 toward the building of the capitol.

Total of Farmer \$18.64.

The farmer who owns 160 acres of land, providing it is assessed at the present average value of land in the state, \$37 an acre, has paid taxes on a total assessed valuation of \$5,920 all these years to build the capitol, and has paid a total of \$18.64.

The taxes from 1919 to and including 1931, at \$3.15 per \$1,000 valuation for the entire time, would mean the payment of the following sums upon different valuations:

| | |
|----------|--------|
| \$ 2,000 | 6.30 |
| 5,000 | 15.75 |
| 10,000 | 31.50 |
| 15,000 | 47.25 |
| 20,000 | 63.00 |
| 40,000 | 126.00 |
| 50,000 | 157.50 |
| 100,000 | 315.00 |
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336.45
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#295

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11-1-31

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.457

Nebr.

#296

Journal, November 3, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**CAPITOL COMMISSION
OPENS BIDS ON STONE**

7-11-3-31

**Kiewits Sons Company of
Omaha Is the Lowest
With Basic Bid of
\$64,426.**

The commission late in the afternoon decided to award the contract for stone to Kiewitz, but whether or not to use cement or granite was not determined. Probably granite on the north entrance will be used.

The commission opened bids and awarded a contract for decorations for the new house of representatives and lounge to Rambusch Decorative Co., N. Y., whose bid was \$7,787. Orchard & Wilhelm of Omaha bid \$7,862. The firm of Mack, Tyler and Jenny of New York bid \$10,000. Walter Hase of New York bid \$8,700. The commission has \$14,000 set aside for this work, which is represented in the contract on the building held by Assenmacher Co., of Lincoln.

The capitol commission opened bids Tuesday on stone work for four entrances to the capitol grounds which will form a part of the landscaping plan. The base bids were for granite for four entrances, including granite for a part of the service entrance which extends from the street to the basement on the south side of the capitol, and curbing for walks from the four entrances.

Two alternate proposals were asked for by the commission, one to omit granite at all four entrances and the other to omit

granite only at the south side entrance.

The bids received were:

Assenmacher Co., Lincoln, \$66,433; first alternate, deduct \$40,327; second alternate, deduct \$44,598.

Parsons Construction Co., Springfield, \$67,235; first alternate, deduct \$38,011; second alternate, deduct \$12,112.

W. Boyd Jones, Omaha, \$71,000; first alternate, deduct \$45,000; second alternate, deduct \$20,000.

Peter Kiewitz Sons, Omaha, \$64,426; first alternate, deduct \$38,392; second alternate, deduct \$14,069.

While Kiewitz was lowest with a base bid of \$64,426, Jones of Omaha had the lowest in the event the commission desired to omit granite and use limestone at all entrances.

Governor Bryan and members of the capitol commission considered the opened bids in executive session.

Mrs. H. G. Wellensiek of Grand Island, president of the women's legislative league, appeared before the capitol commission with a request for a large room on the first floor of the capitol for a weekly meeting place for members of the league during legislative sessions. Last winter the league was assigned to one floor of the tower, but on account of the smallness of the elevator the room could not be equipped with a piano.

Star, November 9, 1931

336.45

Nebr.

#297

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Nebraska Still Fails to Realize
Capitol's Value Says Alexander

Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, formerly of the University of Nebraska and now Scripps college, Claremont, Calif., visited in Lincoln Monday and saw for the first time since the completion of the tower, the Nebraska state capitol, the building in which his contribution has played a major part in its development.

Dr. Alexander collaborated with Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, architect, in planning the symbolical treatment of the building. Under his direction the capitol came to possess one of its two most important features, unity. It is called the first building since the middle ages wherein a complete, consistent and comprehensive symbolism is represented.

Recently appointed to serve in a similar advisory capacity for the new Rockefeller \$250,000,000 "radio city" now being constructed in New York, Dr. Alexander is enroute to California on his way from the Atlantic coast where he conferred with architects for a week. The "radio city" is one of the most colossal engineering and architectural undertakings in history, and is designed to be the future entertainment of the world.

Dr. Alexander visited the new Joslyn memorial in Omaha Sunday. This unusual building, together with the Los Angeles public library, are two other noted structures in which he has directed the symbolical treatment.

Speaking of the Nebraska capitol, Dr. Alexander told The Star that "Nebraskans still do not realize that in the heart of Lincoln is one of the great masterpieces of the world." Its full appreciation must be left for future generations, he said. His travels of recent years have re-

vealed to him more and more the "economic value of the building" to Nebraska as well, he said.

Dr. Alexander's most recent work in connection with the capitol has been his work with Miss Hildreth Meiere in designing the new decorative frieze to be installed in the house of representatives chamber in the west wing of the capitol. Miss Meiere, who designed all the marble mosaic floors and the mosaic ceilings in the capitol, has completed sketches for a frieze about the room, which will tell the story of the coming of the white man to the western prairies.

"Architects in New York with whom I have come in contact these last few days say that this is the finest work of modern art now being worked out in America," he said.

Dr. Alexander was the guest of W. E. Hardy of the capitol commission, several members of the University of Nebraska faculty and a few Lincoln business men at a dinner at the University club Monday noon. He leaves for California Monday evening.

Star, November 11, 1931

336.45

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**Granite To Be Used
On North Approach
And Capitol Steps**

Definite decision to use granite instead of concrete for both walks and drives on the north approach to the capitol was made Wednesday morning at a meeting of the capitol commission, Governor Bryan announced at the close of the session.

8-11-11-31
The commission also authorized a call for bids for purchase of new furniture for the building for the constitutional officers and major administrative officials. Bids will be received December 16.

The granite on the front approaches will make the walks and drives conform to the steps on the building proper and will make a more harmonious approach, Governor Bryan said. On the three other approaches, concrete walks will be used as an economy measure.

Granite More Permanent.

Alternate bids were taken recently on the concrete and granite. The governor said that use of the granite in front would cost about \$2,000 more than the concrete, but that it would have cost about \$40,000 more if granite had been used for all approaches.

Besides furnishing a more suitable approach, the granite at the main entrance will be much more permanent than concrete, the governor declared.

It had been originally estimated that the new furniture which would be required would cost about \$150,000, Governor Bryan said. An examination of funds available during the biennium and needs to be met, revealed, he said, that this figure would have to be reduced.

As a result, the governor said that the commission had agreed not to purchase new furniture for work rooms in the building but only for rooms where the public is received, for constitutional officers and heads of administrative departments where the public frequently will come. Quarters not visited by the public, the governor said, will be furnished with furniture now in use in the building. The furniture to be purchased will include permanent furniture for the house and senate chambers.

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#299

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

ASHLAND HAD CHANCE
OF BEING CAPITAL

WH-11-22-31

Lost by Single Vote
to Lancaster as
State Formed.

By a Staff Correspondent.

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 21.—Few Nebraskans know that Ashland came within one vote of being the site of the state's capital. All that prevented was the fact that there were only three votes, and two of them were for Lancaster.

Lincoln was never selected as the state capital. The site selected was named Lancaster, and the name Lincoln later substituted.

Lancaster county was organized in 1859, and was enlarged to its present size by addition of a portion of Clay county. When the legislature of 1866-67 met, anticipating the granting of statehood, it designated Governor David Butler, Secretary of State Thomas P. Kennard and Auditor John Giespie as a commission to locate a new state capital, the territorial capital being at Omaha. They were to locate it somewhere within the boundaries of Lancaster or Seward counties, or certain portions of Butler, Saunders and Saline. After more or less careful inspection the commission met and voted. Lancaster received two votes and Ashland one.

The first capitol building cost 49 thousand dollars. Then a wing was constructed on the west side, and still later a wing on the east side. The final cost of the structure was about 400 thousand dollars. The present state capitol building has cost 249 times more than the original capitol building.

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#300

World-Herald, November 22, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Tower Elevators
for New Capitol
Furnish Problem

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

W.H. 11-22-31
Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 21.—When the capitol commission accepted the Goodhue plans for the new capitol building, members entertained the notion that the two main floors would provide ample room for practically all state house employes, and that the four hundred feet tower would be largely ornamental.

If additional room above the two main floors were needed, the first three or four stories of the tower would easily take care of the overflow.

Acting on that idea the present elevator system was adopted—and it fits about like a sock on a hen's nose. There is no freight elevator in the tower, and the passenger elevators are about the size of a telephone booth. And already the tower is pretty well occupied. The State Historical society occupies the sixteenth floor, and that is one of the favorite visiting points.

When office furniture is needed for a tower floor it has to be knocked down and hoisted piecemeal. And when desks are furnished by the state, officials are not inclined to select small ones.

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#301

Capitol Nears Completion

Nebraskans Watch With Pride as Architectural Masterpiece Approaches Final Form.

S-11-23-31

Editor's Note: This is first of a series of articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, one of the guides in the capitol and a member of The Star's reportorial staff. The articles will appear daily and contain much previously unpublished material.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.
No. 1. "Introduction."

The 400-foot tower of Nebraska's capitol, designed to symbolize the ideals of state rising to the noblest and highest in civilization, stands today above a building nearly complete.

For ten years citizens of Lincoln and Nebraska have watched the steady growth of the statehouse which has cost them \$10,000,000 of their tax money. Like residents of an old world town where the construction of a cathedral has been the community lifespring for scores or even hundreds of years, they have developed real affection for the structure which dominates Lincoln as cathedrals loom over some cities abroad.

And they have seen this architectural masterpiece of the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue — which has been termed the "most vivid and original conception ever thought out in the field of American art" — set a style for scores of buildings all over the United States.

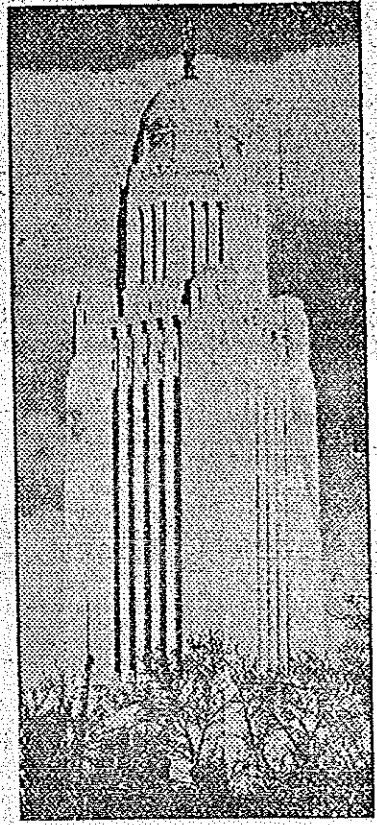
House Chamber Nears Completion.

The last section, including the house of representatives chamber in the west wing, is almost finished. Builders will complete their work probably next June. Workmen on the grounds have begun to clear away the debris of a decade of construction and to grade the grounds for landscaping. After an interlude of two or three months during the winter, this work on the grounds will be actively resumed.

Since its great north portal opened several years ago, enabling visitors to see a small portion of the vaulted passages within, the state house has been a "loadstone" for sightseers. Guides have shown nearly 200,000 of them through each year.

As the main foyer and central rotunda, the various chambers and the tower were thrown open in succession, the stream of visitors increased. Besides Nebraskans the tourists have included thousands from every American state and many foreign lands. From artists and experts among them, without exception, have come comments of praise. An example is that supplied recently by Robert D. Kohn, New York, president of the American Institute of Architects. He said:

"This capitol is the outstanding



Dominating the skyline of Lincoln like cathedrals loom over some cities abroad, the slim-domed tower of Nebraska's capitol rises above the prairies to a height of 400 feet. This is a view from the southeast.

statehouse in the nation. It is only fitting that on this broad expanse of prairie it should have a soaring tower instead of the orthodox type of dome."

Sighted Thirty Miles Away.

The "soaring tower" of Indiana limestone is a landmark already. It has been sighted thirty miles away. Any general view of Lincoln shows it a central figure against the skyline, and in almost any part of the city a resident may catch sight of it.

Crowning the gold-tiled dome of the tower is the huge bronze statue of the Sower—thirty-two feet in height and weighing 15,000 pounds—casting grain on the broad plains below. It is a symbol of hope for the future and a reminder of the simple life close to the soil against which the capitol has been reared.

(Tuesday "The Conception of Nebraska's Capitol.")

Capitol Unity Emphasized

Star - 11-25-31

Thorough Symbolical Scheme Governs Decorative Features in Nebraska Statehouse.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is third of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, one of the capitol guides.

BY JOHN EDWARDS

No. 3 "Unity of the Capitol."

Bertram Grosvernor Goodhue, who conceived Nebraska's capitol as a symbol of the ideals and achievements of the state, proposed a beautiful symbolism for the building to govern all its decorative elements. Now in a large part executed, this symbolical scheme is so complete and consistent that the capitol is ranked as the only building since the middle ages wherein such a unique treatment is represented.

All the sculptures, paintings and mosaics, in fact, is like a book, with an introduction, body and conclusion. No chapter is omitted or misplaced.

The dedication of the story is stated by the two inscriptions cut deeply in the balustrades flanking the main entrance stairs: "Honour to pioneers who broke the sods that men to come might live" and "Honour to citizens who build an house of state where men live well."

The decorative design echoes the history and spirit of Nebraska. There are buffalo carved in bas-relief with inscriptions from plains Indian ritual. A carved panel of a prairie schooner drawn by oxen adorns the main entrance arch above the north doorway, and on the pinnacle of the tower strides the sower.

Native, Flora, Fauna Used

Maize has replaced the classical acanthus. In fact, wherever plant or animal forms are used, they are from the native flora and fauna of Nebraska.

In tile and marble mosaic, mural painting, and other mediums of artistic expression, the ideals, activities and history of the state and its citizens are represented.

But the story is by no means confined to the physical limits of Nebraska. It is world-wide in its conception. Concrete episodes in the development of the law from the taking of the ten commandments on Mount Sinai to the admission of Nebraska to statehood are perpetuated in tablets forming a circuit around the exterior walls. Great lawgivers and typical heroes of great epochs in the development of the law emerge from the stone to survey the prairies.

It was Bertram Goodhue's inspiration that child as well as adult, and layman as well as artist, should know and love the capitol. The amazing interest already manifest in it by thousands promises fulfillment of this desire.

(Thursday: "The Utility of the Capitol.")



The Apostle John, emblematic of Christianity, is one of the heroes of great epochs in the history of civilization whose sculptural representation is to adorn the Nebraska capitol as a part of the building's unique symbolical scheme. The above model, designed by Lee Lawrie, sculptor for the capitol, recently was received by the capitol commission. It is now being carved in a buttress on the south face of the tower. Its height will be twenty feet.

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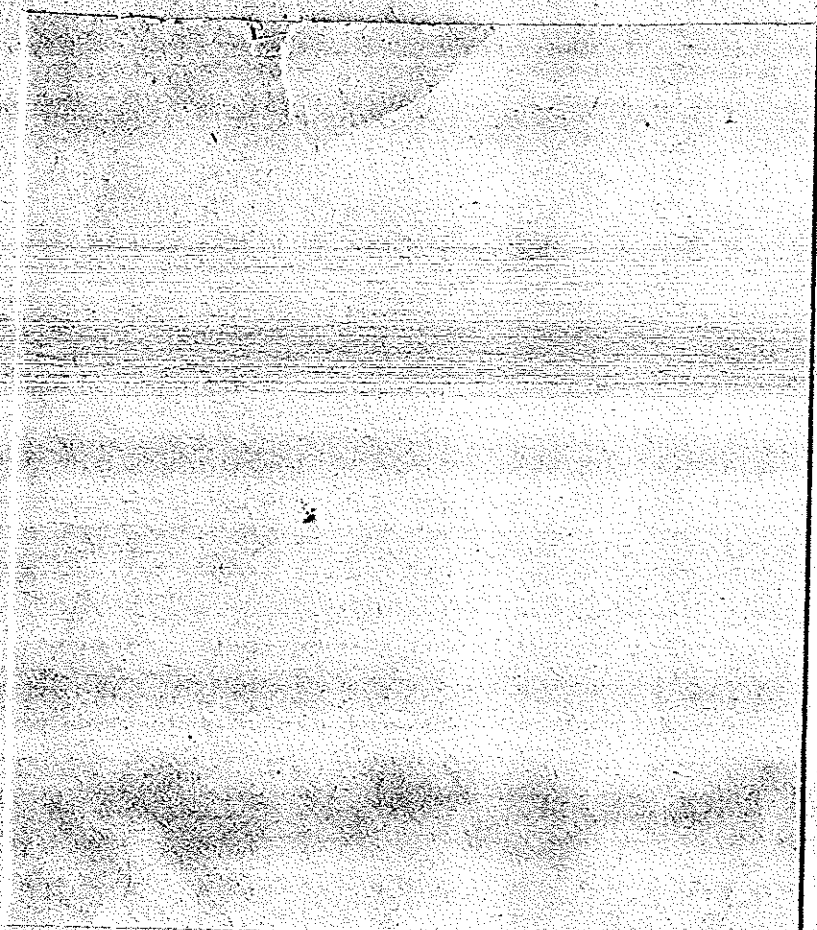
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Star, November 26, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

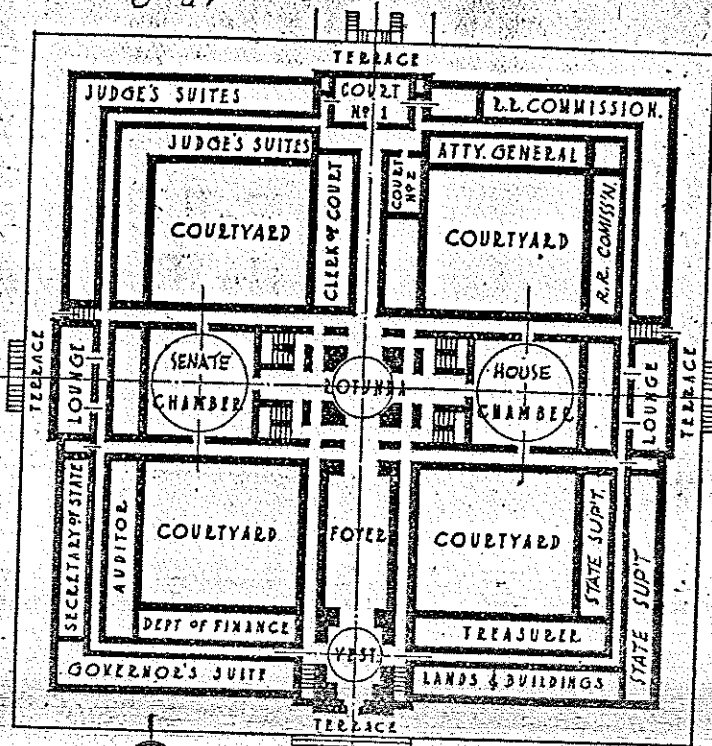
Nebraska Capitol a Masterpiece of Usefulness



Masterpiece of Usefulness

Capitol Acclaimed the Best Adaptation of Business Architecture in Government Building.

Star, 11-26-31



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

This simplified plan for the second and main floor of the capitol shows the general arrangement of the state departments, the corridors, inner courts and axial entrances.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is fourth of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 4. "Utility of the Capitol."

Utility was not sacrificed for the sake of beauty in Nebraska's capitol. Bertram Goodhue, architect, gave Nebraska a masterpiece on the utilitarian side as well.

The simplicity of the plan, the effective grouping of state offices and the lack of waste space make the capitol, authorities say, the most successful adaptation of business architecture to public use yet made in a government building.

The building is in the form of a huge rectangle, 437 feet square and two stories high, broken in the center by a Greek cross. This allows four inner courts, eighty-seven by 100 feet in size. From the intersection of the cross rises the tower, eighty feet square, to its height of 400 feet.

Natural Light in All Rooms.

The ground floor of the building is occupied largely by the appointive state officers, and the second main floor by the executive and other elective officers of the state. There are about 340 office rooms on these two floors, and about sixty in the tower. Each is an outside room, receiving natural light. All are ample for future as well as present needs, and are unequaled for convenience and economy.

A glance at the main-floor plan,

shown in the accompanying illustration, reveals the unique arrangement of the building. The arm of the cross running from the main entrance to the south portal contains a stately monumental corridor north of the rotunda and the Supreme court rooms on the south. The Nebraska state law and miscellaneous library occupies the upper part of this south arm on a level with the first rotunda gallery. The lateral arms of the cross contain the two legislative chambers.

Attics of the square are used for storage purposes around the north half of the building. In the south half they are occupied by the library stack rooms.

Two Basements.

Beneath the building are two basements. The first is used for storage purposes, and the second, or sub-basement, situated directly under the tower, contains much of the machinery for the huge governmental structure. Another engine room is in the topmost part of the tower. It occupies the fifty-foot space between the dome of Memorial hall and the exterior dome of the tower.

The \$10,000,000 edifice, as Nebraskans know, has been built entirely on a pay-as-you-go plan, so that the building will be entirely paid for at its completion. It is a little known fact, however, that the capitol has been constructed at a less cost per cubic foot than any other statehouse built in America for many years.

(Friday. "The Earlier Capitols.")

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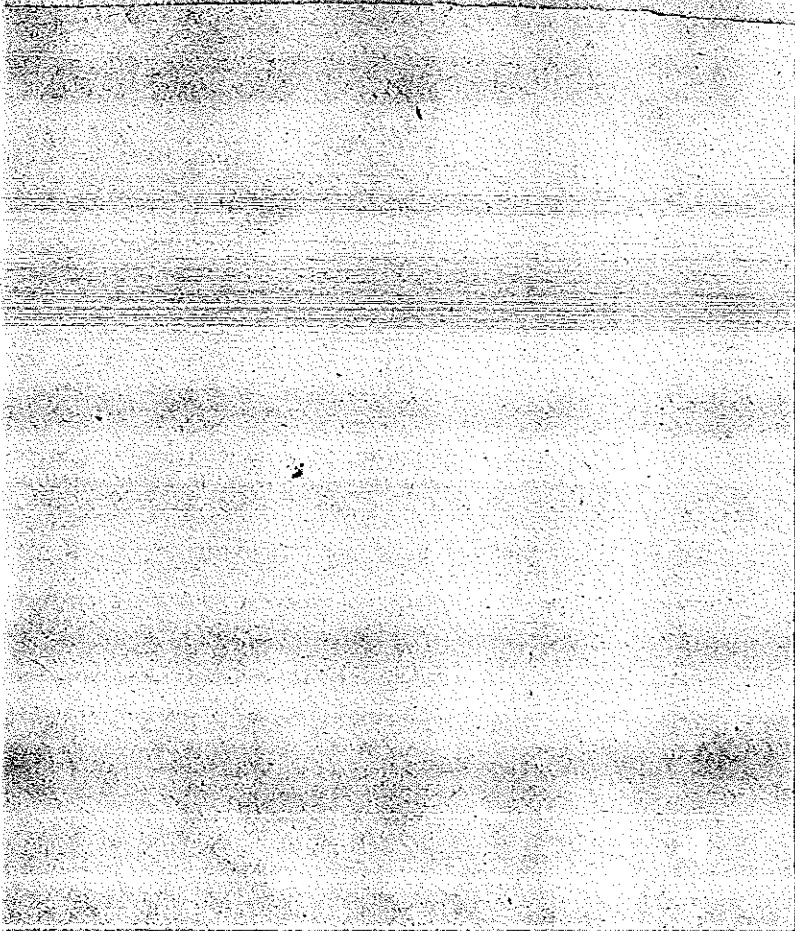
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Star, November 27, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

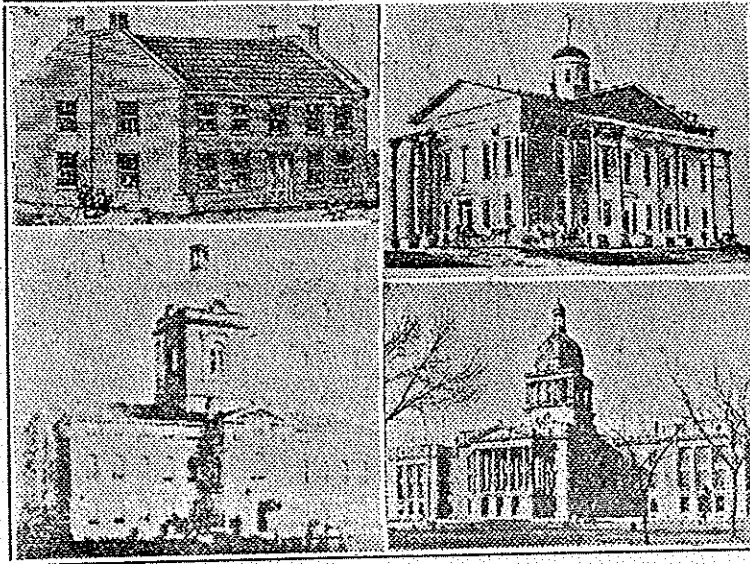
Nebraska's Five Capitols



Nebraska's Five Capitols

Star - 11 - 27 - 31

Two Buildings Served Territorial Government;
Present Structure Third in Lincoln.



—State Historical Society Photos.

When Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming called the first territorial legislature to meet in Omaha in January, 1855, the two-story brick structure shown in the upper left photo was the capitol. At the upper right is the second territorial capitol, which stood on the hill where Omaha Central high school is now located. At the lower left is the first state capitol, which stood on the highest ground in Lincoln. The same site occupied by the two succeeding state capitols. At the lower right is the second state capitol, demolished in 1925.

Editor's Note: This is fifth of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitols by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 5, "The Earlier Capitols."

The new capitol is Nebraska's fifth governmental building. There were two territorial capitols in Omaha. The first was a small brick structure at Tenth and Farnam streets, built in 1854 at a cost of \$3,000. The second was erected in 1864 and 1865 on Capitol hill, the present site of the Omaha Central high school. It was built by a federal appropriation, aided by Omaha, at a cost of \$60,000.

The three capitols since statehood have occupied the same site in the heart of Lincoln. The first, costing \$75,000, was built of funds derived from the sale of lots. It was constructed of native stone from near Plattsmouth and Nebraska City. Transportation of materials was by wagon teams, for the railroad had not then reached Lincoln.

There was some pretense of classic beauty in this capitol; it had a dome, the crown of which was 120 feet above the ground. But like other structures of pioneer days, its construction and materials were poor, and within a decade it was ready for replacement. During a period of nearly ten years between 1879 and 1888, the second statehouse was built. Its cost was \$691,000. Grecian in style, the building compared favorably with many American state capitols still in use today. The crown of its dome was 191 feet above its first floor.

Subject of Long Controversy.

Nebraska's new capitol emerged from a controversy which endured for years in the state legislature. Sentiment which eventually cry-

stallized in the capitol bill began shortly before the turn of the century when, even at that early date, it was realized that Nebraska needed a statehouse befitting its power and dignity as a state.

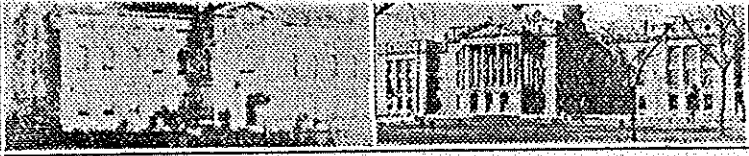
The first concrete step towards this goal was made in 1907. The state legislature appropriated a sum of \$25,000 for the erection of a building to house the Supreme court, the state law library and the Nebraska State Historical society offices and museum. Executive and legislative departments were to occupy the new capitol when it was built.

The basement of this building was constructed at Sixteenth and H streets on land owned by the historical society. It was never completed, for in 1909 a second appropriation for \$25,000 was vetoed. Various trivial reasons arose to prevent the passage of other appropriations.

Sought Removal From Lincoln.

The capitol question might have received consideration in 1911 had it not been blocked by forces in the legislature seeking to remove the capitol from Lincoln. Lincoln was unpopular with some then, for the city had voted prohibition, and this was several years prior to its acceptance by the state and federal governments.

The paramount issue in 1913 was removal of the University of Nebraska, so the capitol project, although popularly approved, was postponed. The legislature of 1915 was for economy and frowned upon unnecessary expenditures. Both houses passed a capitol bill in 1917, but it lost by a narrow margin when the senate added an amendment, which opponents used to force a disagreement over the bill. In its place \$65,000 was appropriated for repair and partial reconstruction of the old capitol, although only \$5,000 was used by state officials, who rea-



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The first concrete step towards this goal was made in 1907. The state legislature appropriated a sum of \$23,000 for the erection of a building to house the Supreme court, the state law library and the Nebraska State Historical society offices and museum. Executive and legislative departments were to occupy the new capitol when it was built.

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Representative George E. Tracewell, of Valentine, was originator of the bill which passed the legislature in 1919 as house roll No. 3, the Mears-Tracewell bill. It provided \$5,000,000 for a new capitol to be paid for by a special levy over a period of six years. (Succeeding legislatures have extended additional levies). Governor Samuel R. McKelvie signed the bill.

(Saturday: "The Capitol Commission").

336.45

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#305

Star, November 28, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL TAXES OVER 9 MILLION

Star-11-28-31

\$384,865 Balance Remains Of Special Levy for Statehouse.

Special taxes collected for construction of the new Nebraska capitol since the first special levy was made in 1919 aggregated \$9,741 up to November 19, last, and expenditures up to the same date totaled a little less than \$9,000,000, leaving a balance of \$384,865 on hand.

The receipts were figured up by years in a checkup which State Accountant E. J. Avery of the state auditor's office has just completed. His resume shows that the largest sum collected for the capitol in any one year ran close to a million dollars in 1923, the first year of Governor Bryan's previous administration. The amount realized in each year (figures for 1931 being only partial) was as follows:

| | |
|------|---------------|
| 1919 | \$ 122,968.65 |
| 1920 | 722,424.40 |
| 1921 | 818,799.93 |
| 1922 | 696,130.95 |
| 1923 | 968,293.10 |
| 1924 | 888,641.39 |
| 1925 | 926,462.34 |
| 1926 | 699,181.61 |
| 1927 | 672,306.73 |
| 1928 | 692,041.73 |
| 1929 | 672,152.22 |
| 1930 | 699,370.08 |
| 1931 | 632,766.67 |

Total \$9,380,740.79

The balance of \$384,000—plus remaining on hand is included in the foregoing total collections.

Expect \$180,000 More.

It is estimated that \$180,000 more will still come in from the capitol levy made in 1930. The 1931 levy, from which no revenue has yet been paid into the treasury will be about \$335,500. Another levy of practically the same amount will be made in 1932. These receipts yet to come will make a grand total of \$10,231,741 raised by special levies to build the capitol and provide its setting.

The original capitol levy was equivalent to .3 of 1 mill on the grand assessment roll of the state. This continued for six years until 1925, when the legislature reduced it to .22 mill, which was the rate up to and including 1930. This year it has been further lowered, to .11 mill, for 1931 and 1932.

Most of the taxes from each year's levy were collected during the following calendar year.

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Nebr.

#306

Journal-Star, November 29, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL TAXES COLLECTED

7-5-11-29-31
Total to Nov. 1, \$9,380,740

Estimated Next Year,
\$10,231,740.

State Accountant Avery, state auditor's office, has compiled a statement showing that the collection of the capitol tax from 1919 to Nov. 1 of this year, amounted to \$9,380,740.79. It is estimated that the amount still due on the 1930 tax is \$180,000. The eleven-hundredths of a mill levy for 1931 will bring in \$335,500 and the levy for 1932, estimated at the same amount, together with the amount due from 1930, makes a total of \$10,231,740.79. The levy of next year is to be the last levy for the construction of the building, furniture, heating plant and landscaping of the grounds.

The balance in the capitol fund, unexpended, Nov. 19, was \$384,865. The first levy in 1919, 1.5 mills on a one-fifth valuation of property, was at the rate of 30 cents per \$1,000 valuation. Later the levy was changed to 1.1 mills, or 22 cents on the \$1,000 valuation, then to three-one hundredths of a mill when property was assessed at full value, or 30 cents on the \$1,000 valuation. Up to recently it was .22 mills, and for this year and next the levy will be .11 of one mill, or 11 cents per \$1,000 valuation.

Goodhue Capitol Plan Wins

T. R. Kimball Retained to Arrange Competition For New Nebraska Statehouse.

Editor's Note: This is the seventh of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 7. "The Capitol Competition."

One of the first acts of the capitol commission in 1919 was to retain as professional adviser Thomas R. Kimball, noted Omaha architect and past president of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Kimball prepared the program for the nationwide competition under which the Nebraska capitol materialized.

Realizing the restraints imposed upon architects in most government buildings projects, because of the interference of politics, personalities and "misguided loyalty," Mr. Kimball planned an entirely new form of competition. He indicated that a modern American design would not receive unwelcome consideration, and drew up the terms of the program sufficiently broad to admit such a design as the Bertram Goodhue plan which won the award.

International recognition was accorded Mr. Kimball for this service to Nebraska, for which his financial remuneration was only \$3,200. Later he drew up similar programs for the Kansas City liberty memorial and Indianapolis war memorial boards. At present, he is

adviser to the capitol commission of North Dakota, where plans for a new statehouse are under consideration.

Designed Many Fine Structures.

As a practicing architect, Mr. Kimball has designed such buildings as St. Cecilia's cathedral, the Fontenelle hotel and the Burlington station, all in Omaha, and the Battle Mountain sanatorium for the United States treasury department at Hot Springs, S. D.

Provisions for the Nebraska competition program were threefold. First, the capitol was to be a practical working home for the governmental machinery of the state, sufficient to fit future as well as present needs.

Secondly, it was to be an inspiring monument, worthy of the state it was to represent. It was to be intelligently designed, durably and conscientiously built and amid beautiful and fitting surroundings.

Finally, the whole was to be accomplished without extravagance or waste.

Three Nebraska Firms Selected.

Two competitions were held to select the architect. The first, in December, 1919, was for Nebraska architects. Three were selected from thirteen competitors to enter the final contest: Eliery Davis, of Lincoln; John Latenser and Sons, of Omaha, and John and Alan MacDonald, of Omaha.

In the final competition seven of America's most prominent architectural firms, to whose credit is an array of notable public buildings, were invited to compete. These included Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, John Russell Pope, H. Van Buren Magonigle, Tracy and Swartout, and McKim, Mead and White, all of New York; Bliss and Faville, of San Francisco, and Cret, Zantzinger, Borie and Medary, of Philadelphia. Each was to be paid \$2,000 to submit a design, while the winning architect was to receive \$12,500 as advance retainer and six per cent of the cost of the structure.

The capitol commission was not bound to accept the winning plan, but was to name its designer as architect of the new capitol.

Notable Jury Named

A jury of three non-competing architects was appointed to select the winning design. They were Waddy B. Wood, prominent architect of Washington, D. C.; James Gamble Rogers, of New York City, who designed the Sterling memorial library and Harkness memorial quadrangle of Yale university, and Willis Polk, of San Francisco, now deceased. Each was paid \$2,000 and traveling expenses to judge the competition in Lincoln.

The jury, together with the commission and Mr. Kimball, gathered June 24, 1920, at the executive mansion at Fifteenth and H streets. The plans had been tacked about the walls of the spacious living room, no form of identification being on them.

Three days later the jury announced its decision, which the capitol commission approved. It was unanimous for the Goodhue building.

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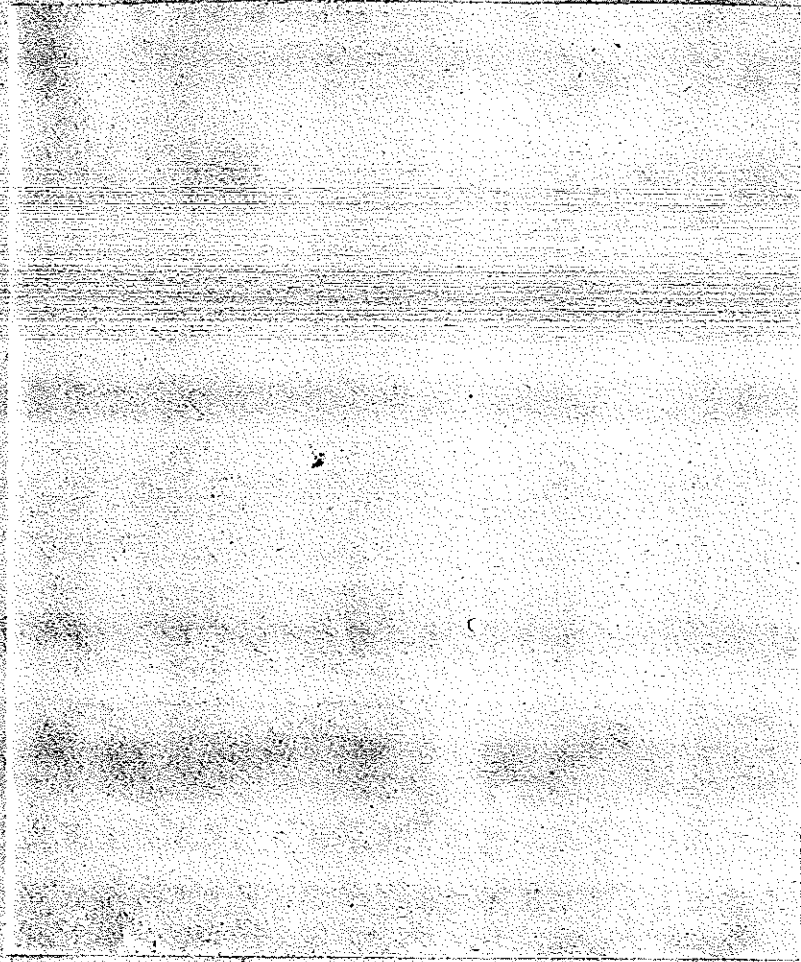
Star, December 1, 1931

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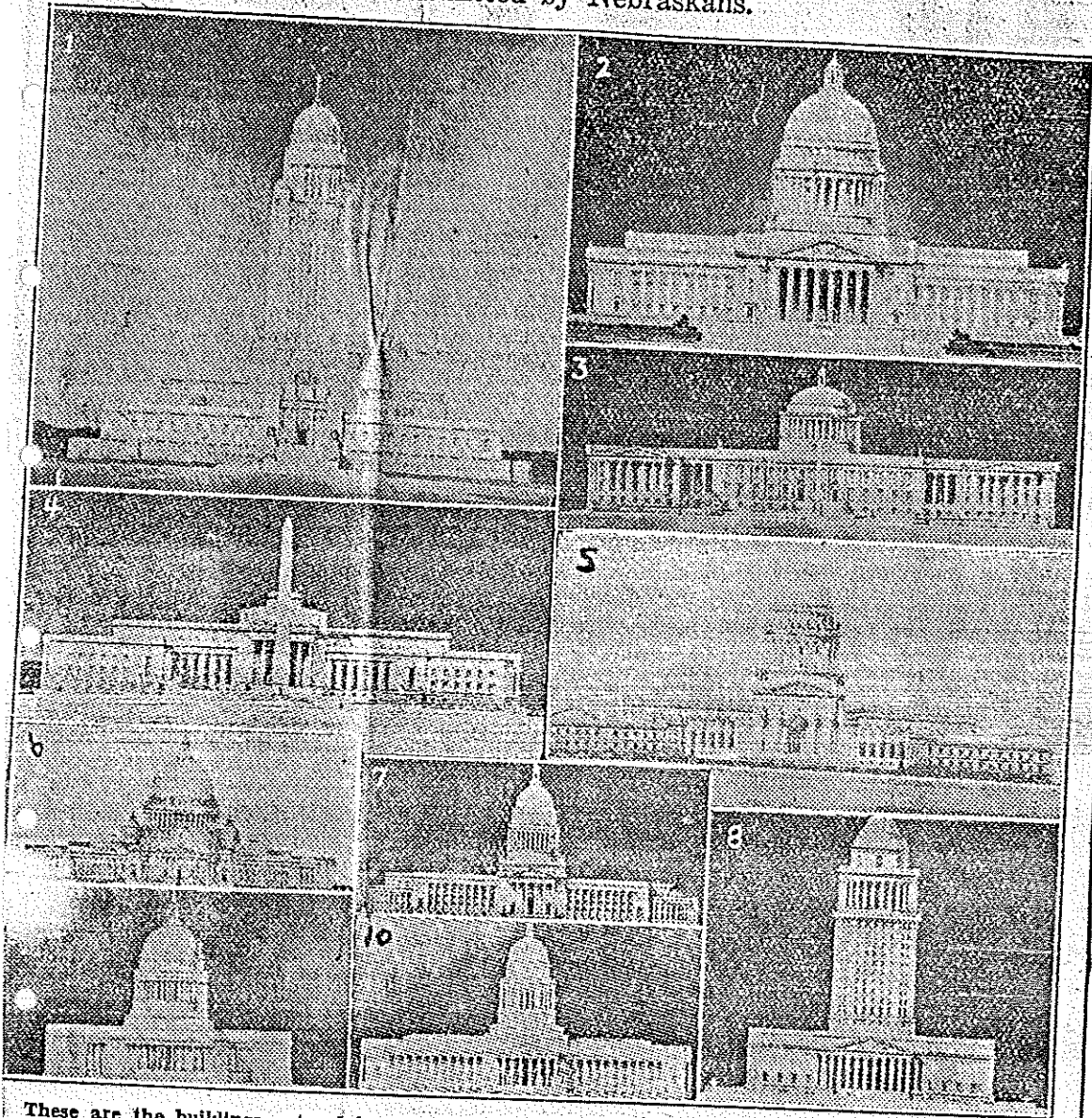
NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Ten Capitol Designs



Jury Reports on Ten Capitol Designs

Goodhue Plan Excels Among Contributions of Foremost Architectural Firms In America; Ellery Davis of Lincoln Draws One of Three Sketches Submitted by Nebraskans.



These are the buildings entered in the final competition for the Nebraska capitol in June, 1920, when Ertram Goodhue with his strikingly original design (No. 1) was selected as the architect. Architects of other plans follow: (2) John Russell Pope, New York, who placed second; (3) McKim, Mead and White, New York, awarded third; (4) Cret, Zantzing, Borie and Medary, Philadelphia, who won fourth; (5) H. Buren Magonigle, New York; (6) Tracy and Swartout, New York; (7) John and Alan MacDonald, Omaha; (8) Ellery Davis, Lincoln; (9) Bliss and Faville, San Francisco, and (10) John Latenser & Sons, Omaha.

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By JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 8. "The Jury's Report." Ertram Goodhue's entry in the Nebraska capitol competition excels all others in utility, reasonableness of cost and beauty of design. The jury of architects reported to the capitol commission.

The jury declared that all ten entries, except two, had produced plans of the highest merit, but only three indicated that they grasped all phases and problems of the ordinary competition. Nebraska would have been fortunate to obtain any of the designs, said.

Second place in the competition was awarded to John Russell Pope, New York, architect of such edifices as the Scottish Rite temple and the Constitution hall in Washington, D. C., and the Lincoln memorial in Lincoln.

was found impractical. The wings were inaccessible from each other on the main floor and an ascent of stairs was required to reach the Supreme court, state library and legislative chambers, although eight elevators were provided.

McKim, Mead and White, of New York, won third with an excellent design. The building, shaped like a letter "H" and with a depressed dome in the center, would have covered nearly the entire capitol square. Too much unused space was its chief defect.

This firm, dating from 1878, is one of the greatest America has produced. Among the notable buildings for which it has been architect are the Boston public library, the Rhode Island state capitol, the old Madison Square Garden, the Columbia library and other buildings of the university, buildings for the College of the City of New York and the University of Virginia, the War college at Washington and the reconstruction of the White House, the Pennsylvania station, and the New York postoffice and municipal buildings.

Zantzing, Borie and Medary, offering a classic design with Greek frontal columns and without a dome, won fourth place. The plan included three connected buildings, shaped in the form of a hollow square, a group which would have fitted better at the end of an avenue than in the capitol square. An Egyptian obelisk at the main entrance was to be a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, and Daniel Chester French's bronze Lincoln on the capitol grounds was to be moved there.

This firm designed the Detroit institute of arts building. Paul P. Cret was architect of the Pan-American union building in Washington, and the late Milton B. Medary designed the Bok singing tower in Mountain Lake, Fla.

Magonigle Draws Design.

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disco, prepared a T-shaped, domed building to house the legislative chambers. State departments were to be in three office buildings, one behind the main structure and two north of the present capitol grounds lining Fifteenth street.

Tracy and Swartout, New York, who designed the Missouri state capitol did not fare so well in the Nebraska competition, although they submitted a plan that was both colossal and majestic. One of its principal features was a huge dome which would have cost \$2,500,000. Four smaller domes helped to swell the outlay for non-utilitarian purposes. The building would have covered the entire square except for a fifty-foot strip all around.

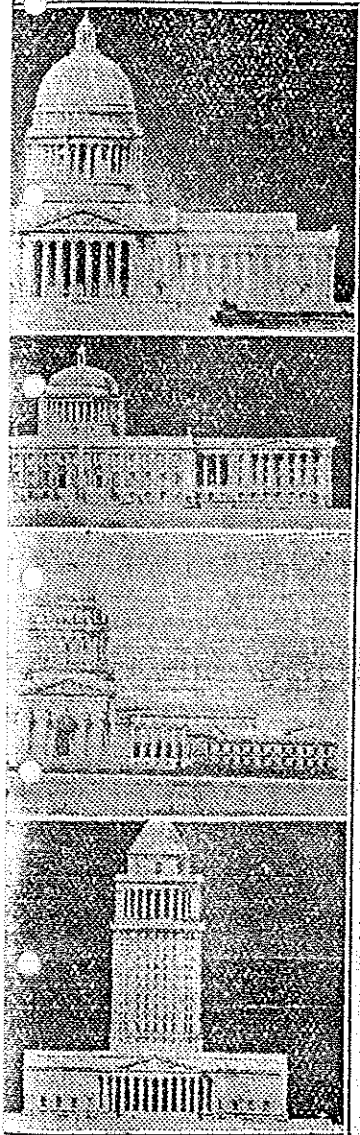
Ellery Davis, of Lincoln, submitted a tower design, one of its defects being the provision for too many offices in the tower. He won the preliminary competition with another tower design, which he later revised with the aid of a New York firm. Both plans won praise, but the first, many believed, was superior to the second.

This firm, now known as Davis

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Capitol Designs

Most Architectural Firms
one of Three Sketches



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This firm, now known as Davis

and Wilson, designed the Lincoln General hospital and new city building, many university and city school buildings including Morrill and Andrews halls, the coliseum and Lincoln high school, and several commercial structures, among them the Stuart and Gold & Co. buildings. The firm collaborated with John Latenser & Sons, of Omaha, in designing the University of Nebraska stadium.

The Latenser firm proposed an edifice with a very high dome, which the jury declared was out of proportion with the remainder of the building. Its interior arrangement, however, was very practical.

MacDonald Firm Contributes.

Somewhat similar, but more impressive, was the plan of John and Alan MacDonald, of Omaha, architects of the new Joslyn memorial there. The interior of their design bore striking resemblance to the Minnesota state capitol.

Both the Latenser and MacDonald studies were T-shaped structures with the dome at the point where the two arms meet, a design inappropriate it was felt for the

square tract of ground. Another defect was the main entrance, in each case rendered insignificant, the jurors said, by the continuance of Greek columns at the entrance along the wings of the front.

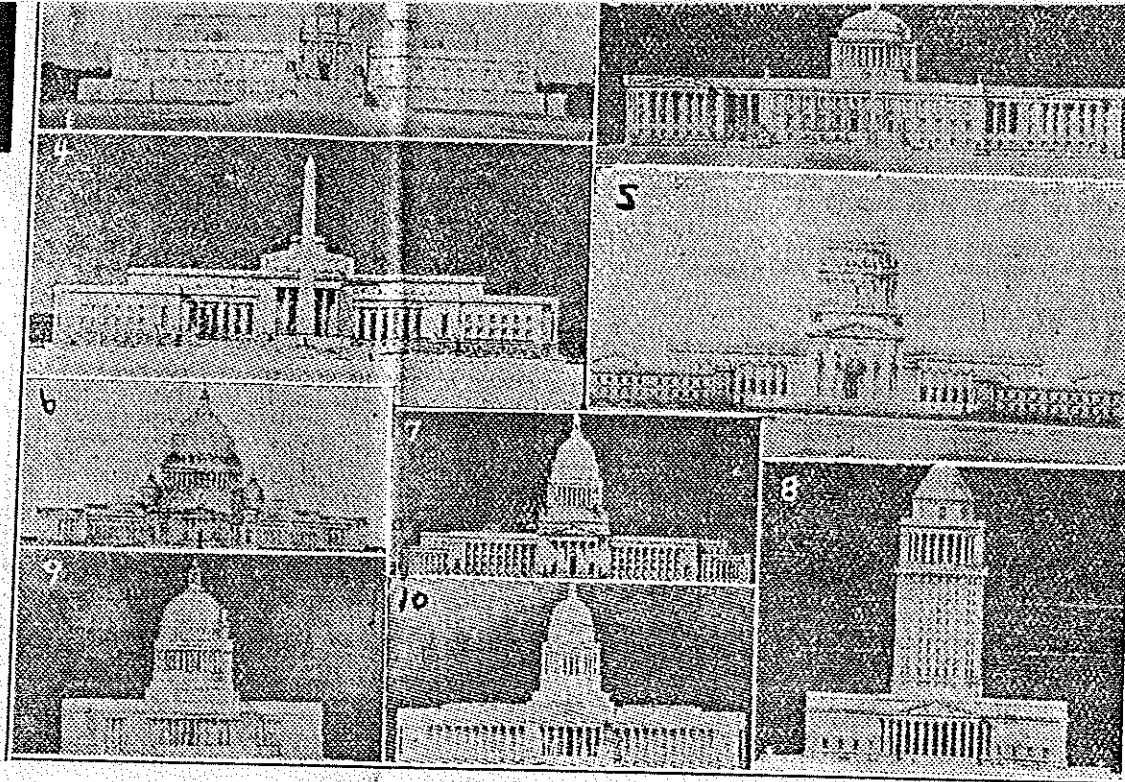
(Wednesday: "Goodhue, the Architect.")

Nebraska capitol in June, 1920, when listed as the architect. Architects of (1) McKim, Mead and White, Philadelphia, who won fourth; (2) H. (3) John and Alan MacDonald, and (10) John Latenser & Sons,

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Second place in the competition was awarded to John Russell Pope, of New York, architect of such edifices as the Scottish Rite temple and Constitution hall in Washington, D. C., and the Lincoln memorial near Abraham Lincoln's birthplace at Hodgenville, Ky. He proposed a beautiful classic structure with a dome even more pretentious than the dome of the national capitol at Washington. The fatal drawback was that the building would have cost \$15,000,000.

Interior Found Impractical.

The interior plan, furthermore,

was found impractical. The wings were inaccessible from each other on the main floor and an ascent of stairs was required to reach the Supreme court, state library and legislative chambers, although eight elevators were provided.

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Mead Prepared Plan.

The Nebraska capitol plan was prepared by William Rutherford Mead, now deceased, for Charles McKim died many years before, and it will be remembered that Stanford White met a tragic death at the hands of Harry K. Thaw a quarter of a century ago.

The Philadelphia firm of Cret,

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Bliss and Faville, of San Fran-

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#309

Star, December 2, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Capitol Architect a Genius

S-12-2-31

Frequently Called Greatest Designer of Modern Times, Goodhue Died at Height of Career.

Editor's Note: This is the ninth of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 9. "Goodhue, the Architect." Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, architect of Nebraska's capitol, was born in Pomfret Hill, Conn., April 23, 1869, the same year the first state house was finished on the site in Lincoln where the new capitol stands.

When 16 years old, Goodhue left school to enter the New York architectural firm of James Renwick. In 1891, at 22, he entered the office of Ralph Adams Cram in Boston, later becoming partner and conducting the New York office. After 1914 he practiced alone.

Goodhue has not infrequently been called the greatest architect of modern times. He was an inventive genius. A student of all styles, he mastered the traditional Gothic and early in life was renowned as a Gothickist. Since the Gothic is adapted to ecclesiastical architecture, he was called upon to design many great churches, among them those four famed edifices in New York: St. Thomas's, the Chapel of the Intercession, St. Bartholomew's and the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer.

Dreamed of Capitol Plans.

Goodhue's earlier work was romantic and ornate, but became simpler as he grew older. He had dreamed of such a building as the Nebraska capitol as early as 1895, it is said, and when opportunity presented itself to him in the form of Nebraska's unusual capitol competition, his dream became a reality.

Charles Harris Whitaker, formerly editor of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, says: "Well do I remember the first



Nebraska capitol's architect, Bertram Goodhue, died April 24, 1924—just four days before his fifty-fifth birthday and at the height of his great career.

time that Goodhue showed me his drawings and sketches. He was exuberant. He had no faith in competitions, and yet this one roused him to a state of exaltation. "Never have I known such a joy and freedom in working out a problem," were his words to me, and I then felt that his full genius was at last to burst into flower."

Among other noted Goodhue buildings are the United States Military academy group at West Point, the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, the University of Chicago chapel and the Los Angeles public library.

A Versatile Genius.

Goodhue was a versatile man.

He could paint and draw as well as design great buildings. At 20 he was said to be one of America's foremost designers of bookplates and initial letters. The Cheltenham type, familiar to all printers, is one of his many creations. He was a writer of talent and played the piano well by ear.

He was widely-traveled and well-read. Somewhat slight of stature, he had bold, handsome features and appeared always dignified and well-groomed.

He died following a sudden heart attack April 24, 1924, when only a fourth of the capitol was complete. His plans were practically finished, however, and construction continued under supervision of the Goodhue associates, now known as Mayers, Murray and Phillip.

Goodhue's ashes rest in a tomb in the Chapel of the Intercession, where his image is carved in bas-relief. He lies in state, his head on an open book and his feet on the winged Pegasus, symbol of inspiration. Great buildings he designed, with the capitol in the center, are

represented above in an arch with an accompanying Latin inscription, which translated reads: "He uplifted his fatherland in loveliness."

(Thursday: "The Collaborating Artists.")

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310

Star, December 4, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Ten Years to Build Capitol

Star-12-4-31

Four Hundred Piers From 40 to 65 Feet Deep Are Foundations of Statehouse Started in 1922.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 11. "A Decade of Construction."

Plans for the construction of Nebraska's capitol went to the bottom of things. During the summer of 1921 a series of tests were made of the clay and sandstone formations underlying the capitol square to determine the weight-resisting powers. More complete tests were carried out in the early winter when a large space east of the old capitol was excavated and hundreds of tons of iron rails were superimposed on the small bases.

These tests revealed that the subsoil was sufficiently compact to bear the contemplated weight of the building. In some instances it withstood pressures up to ninety tons to the square foot, but the load of the building was distributed over the foundations so that the pressure would not exceed fifteen tons per square foot. This provides an unusual factor of safety.

Four hundred piers of depths averaging forty feet with the maximum sixty-five feet serve as foundations to the building. Thirty-six of these are under the tower, nine at each quarter since each quarter is structurally independent of the others. Some of these piers must withstand a terrific pressure of more than 4,000,000 pounds combined dead, live and wind load.

Railroad Spur Built.

In March, 1922, many trees on the capitol square were cut down and the stumps blasted, while a railroad line was built to the grounds to afford transportation of materials at a minimum of freight cost. The saving over the ten-year period of construction, during which an average of three carloads of material a day have been brought to the

grounds, may amount to as much as \$500,000 or \$600,000. On the grounds, cars were distributed over a system of switch tracks, which totaled more than a mile in length.

Ground breaking for the capitol took place April 15, 1922, with impressive ceremonies. The late Marshall Joffre of France, "hero of the Marne," was a participant. Governor McKelvie formally broke the sod when he plowed a furrow across the grounds.

The cornerstone was laid November 11, 1922, the dedication being to Nebraska men and women who had given their lives in service to their country. Alvin M. Owsley, national commander of the Amercian Legion Governor McKelvie and representatives of various organizations were present to place packets in the cornerstone. Commander Owsley spread the mortar on the stone, while McKelvie steered it into place.

Built Around Old Building.

The plan of construction of the capitol was unique. A new building was constructed on the same site as the old one without necessitating the removal of any portion of the latter. This was accomplished by building the new structure around the old and carrying on the work in sections. About \$500,000 in office rentals was saved the state under this plan.

The first section included the exterior square, except for an opening at the west side. In December, 1924 state offices were moved from the old capitol to the completed portions of the new building. The old structure was demolished in seventy-five days. The interior cross, with the exception of the west arm, was built in the second section construction. The third section, the tower, was completed in 1930. The fourth and final section, which includes the west wing, will be finished in June 1932.

(Saturday: "Materials in the Capitol.")

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#311

Capitol Built For Future

5-12-31

Approximately 300,000 Cubic Feet of Limestone in Building, Forty Kinds of Marble Used.

Editor's Note: This is another of a daily series of articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 12 "Materials in the Capitol."

Materials which have gone into the construction of Nebraska's capitol were the best obtainable, for the building has been erected to outlast many generations of Nebraskans whose eyes will see the beauty of the slim, domed tower rising proudly above the prairies.

Such materials as the marble and stone represent many widely separated parts of the world.

Approximately 300,000 cubic feet of buff-colored Indiana limestone has gone into the capitol. The hundreds of thousands of stones which this amount represents are of all sizes, averaging from several hundred pounds to many tons. Each had to be cut and marked for its place in the building.

The limestone, however, plays a minor structural role in the building. This heavy structural duty is done by the steel framework and the brick and concrete masonry.

The ground course of the building is Pink Granite from Cold Springs, Minn.

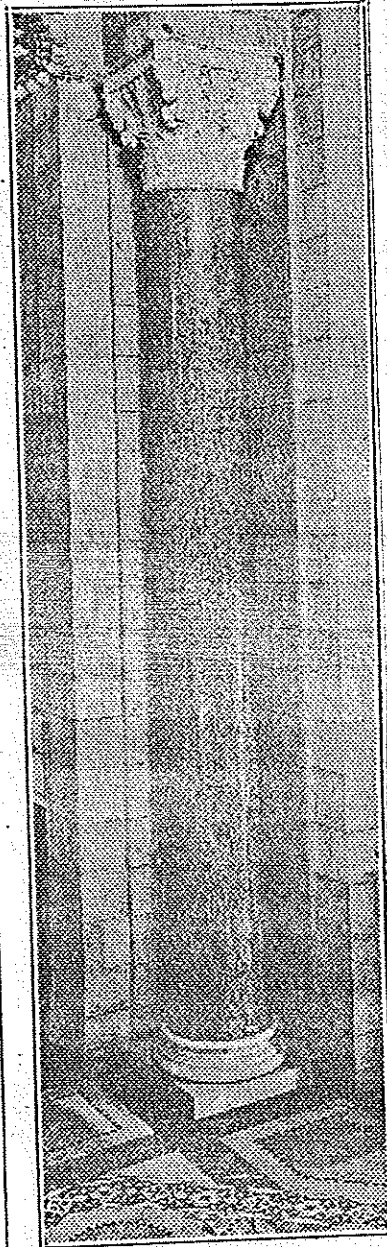
Steps at each of the four entrances are of granite, most of which is Swenson Grey from New Hampshire and Maine. The main approach will be of this same granite, while the remainder will be concrete.

In the heart of the building the steps leading from the first to the third floors are of North River Blue stone from Pennsylvania and New York.

About forty different varieties of marble, representing at least three continents, were specified for possible use in the capitol. It is believed that as many as thirty to thirty-five were used, the exact number not yet having been determined. These marbles, of varying colors and veinings, are probably as notable a display as will be found in any American public building.

Numerous quarries in such foreign lands as Italy, Greece, Spain, France, Belgium, Ireland, Algeria, Tunis and possibly one or two others have contributed fine marble to the building. American marble has come from at least ten states — Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Tennessee, Alabama, Minnesota, Missouri, Colorado, Utah and Arkansas. The onyx grilles on the rotunda balconies are of the White Utah variety.

(Monday: "The Exterior Decoration.")



This is one of the four Red Verona marble columns in the vestibule of the capitol. Believed to be the largest marble monoliths in America, they weigh fifteen tons apiece and, including capital and base, are twenty-nine feet in height. They were taken from the quarry near Verona, Italy, in large blocks weighing twenty-five tons and brought to New York where special machinery was constructed to turn and polish them. They are nearly flawless, almost perfect in their veining, and were selected by Bertram Goodhue, the architect, in a visit to Italy in 1923.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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#312

Star, December 7, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Symbolism Used In Capitol

All of Decoration Significant; Ornament Only
Used Where It Helps Central Theme.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 13. The Exterior Decoration.
Bertram Goodhue had two convictions relative to the employment of decoration which completely governed the Nebraska capitol design.

First, he was determined that all of the decoration should be significant, and that ornament should be used only where it contributed to the central theme of the building. He detested, in particular, conventional ornament, used simply to give an appearance of finish or to satisfy tradition.

Secondly, he demanded that the building should not make a place for the sculpture, such as providing pedestal settings for statuary, but that the sculptural decoration should rest within the walls of the building. The sculpture, he said, should actually be the substance of the building—cut into the walls, not placed upon them as if done as an afterthought.

Meaningless Things Eliminated.

Close co-ordination between architect and sculptor, thus, has eliminated meaningless ornament and makes the sculpture an integral part of the building. Bas-reliefs are set in the stone, the plans of the wall being the highest surface of the relief. Engaged figures seem to grow out of pylon and buttress. Inscriptions replace the ordinary cornice ornament, while the lesser decoration occurs only where some resful interruption to the eye is needed.

Collaborating with Goodhue and Lee Lawrie, the sculptor, was Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, who directed the scheme of the symbolism represented in the decoration. It is the unity of this exterior decoration, as well as the decoration in the public portions of the interior, which makes the capitol the

first building since the middle ages in which a complete symbolical treatment is represented.

Explanation has already been made in this series of how the base of the building represents the material plane of man's activities and experiences, while the tower is a symbol of his thoughts. The logical beginning of the capitol story is in this base.

Two Structural Units.

Structurally it falls into two units. First is the low, flat base, 437 feet square, which constitutes the ground floor. Above this, with large portals at each of the four-entrances is the portion of the square which encloses the second and main story. It is about 400 feet square. A terrace twenty feet wide extends entirely around it and above the first floor.

The theme of the symbols on this terrace level is "The Spirit of the Law As Shown In Its History." These symbols are so arranged that a circuit of the building, proceeding westward from the north entrance, will reveal a history of man's law from the earliest recorded times.

The introduction to this story is at the main entrance. Here Indian and pioneer themes are expressed. The Indian idea is a memorial to the tribes who ruled the plains before the advent of the white man. The pioneer thought represents the coming of the white man to the plains and the breaking of the sods.

The pioneers who settled Nebraska brought not only their tolls with them. They also brought Anglo-Saxon institutions, and, as Dr. Alexander explains, "infused in these the whole tradition of the civilization of Europe as embodied in the law." The story of the development of this law expressed in the capitol walls thus represents the historic background to the political experiences of the pioneer founders of Nebraska.

(Tuesday: The North Entrance.)

Star, December 9, 1931

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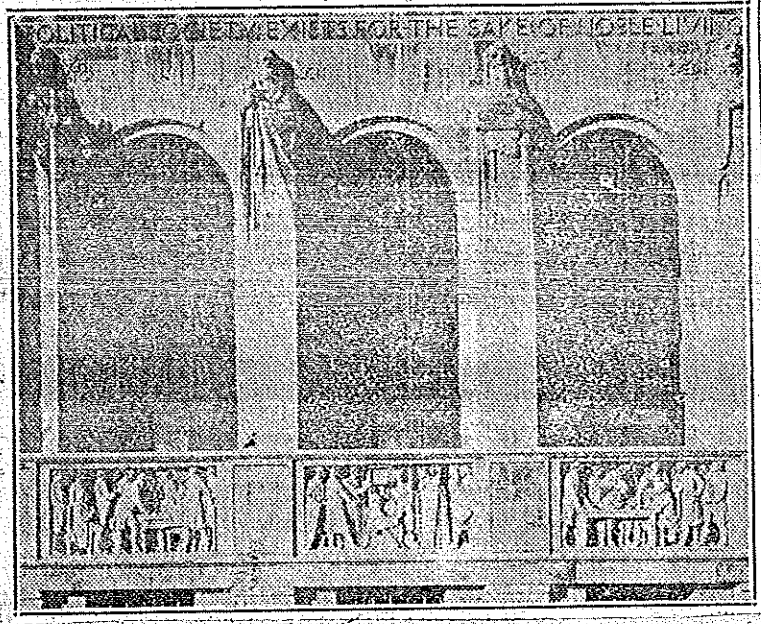
#313

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Majesty of Law Symbolized

Star - 12-9-31

Decoration on Main Entrance, South-Portal, Terrace
Circuit of New Capitol Shows Legal System.



Over

The central portion of the south portal of the capitol, representing written and constitutional law, is shown above. The cornice inscription is from Aristotle's "Politics." The buttress figures of Akhnaton, Solon, Solomon and Julius Caesar are four of the eleven great law-givers of history whose images are carved in the portal. The balcony panels represent the three written charters of our freedom. The center panel is "King John Signing the Magna Charta," while on the left is "Signing the Declaration of Independence" and on the right, "Drafting the Constitution."

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 15. The Terrace Circuit.

The Indian and pioneer themes at the main entrance to the capitol introduce the symbolism of the building. But the full theme is the majesty of the law, and this idea is expressed in the huge images of Wisdom, Justice, Power and Mercy, "constant guardians of the law," as the inscription on the cornice above the entrance arch explains.

This arch is twenty-five feet wide and fifty feet in height. It is flanked on either side by two pylons, the two outermost bearing the arms of the United States and the seal of Nebraska. The two innermost terminate in the four colossal figures, with Wisdom and Justice on the east and Power and Mercy on the west.

These figures represent the sources as well as the virtues of the law. Wisdom, with a lamp-crested crown and the book of law, is the Hebrew conception of wisdom. Justice, with the scales, is a bearded Greek philosopher, not the traditional blinded goddess. Power is Roman, while Mercy is Christian. In one hand Mercy holds a lamb, and with the other is staying the half-drawn sword of Power.

"Spirit of Law" Shown. These virtues represent the title of the story which encircles the capitol, "The Spirit of the Law as Shown in Its History." The story is arranged so that a circuit of the building, reading to the right from the main entrance, will reveal a history of law from earliest recorded times. Now in a large part complete, this story represents the concrete episodes in the development

of social life which served as a background to the political ideals and experiences of the pioneer founders of Nebraska.

It includes a series of eighteen bas-reliefs. Moses taking the tablets of the ten commandments on Mount Sinai is the subject of the first. This and eight other panels on the west facade represent the Hebrew, Greek and Roman contributions to the law—the law of the ancient world.

The nine sculptures on the east facade represent the new world law, expressing the English contributions to law, the development of political freedom in America and the historical events leading up to the establishment of government in Nebraska. The last panel, "Nebraska Being Admitted to Statehood" completes the circuit of the building.

Union of Law Symbolized.

The south portal, which corresponds on the south to the main entrance on the north, represents the written and constitutional law. It is centrally located between the east and west facade carvings, and symbolizes the union of the old and new world law through the institution of written law.

An inscription from Aristotle's "Politics" is on the cornice: "Political society exists for the sake of noble living." The balcony panels represent the three great written charters of our freedom, the Magna Charta, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Terminating buttresses on this portal are the figures of eleven great lawgivers of history, who emerge from the stone to survey the prairies below. They include Minos, Hammurabi, Moses, Akhnaton, Solon, Solomon, Julius and Justinian Caesar, Charlemagne and Napoleon.

(Thursday: The Tower Transcripts.)

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#315

Star, December 10, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Tower Stresses Spiritual

Star 12-10-31
Eight 20-Foot Sculptures Represent Genius of
Human Civilizations as Embodied in Heroes.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS:

No. 16. "The Tower Transepts."

Since the base of the capitol represents the historic course of human experience, and the tower the more abstract conceptions of life derived from this experience, the individual decorative elements rise from the concrete to the abstract in the same manner. In the base where the "Development of the Law" theme is represented, the sculptures belong to history. But in the tower they become less historic and more spiritual in their significance.

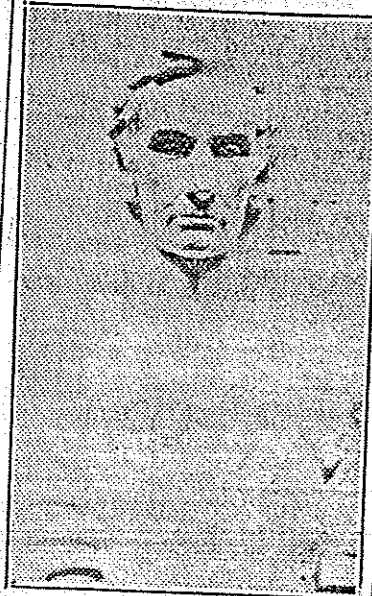
The first decoration on the tower are the sculptures on the tower transepts—the eight huge figures, twenty feet in height, carved in buttresses where the tower rises out of the basic square. Four of the eight are complete, while a fifth is now being executed in the stone. Models for the others are in storage in the capitol.

Represent Various Civilizations.

These eight figures represent the genius of human civilizations as embodied in typical heroes of great epochs. They correspond to the "Development of the Law" panels on the terrace circuit below, and follow around the tower parallel to the terrace story.

The theme of the sculptures, the individuals represented, their positions on the tower, and their date of completion follows:

1. "The Dawn of History"—Pentacour, the poet of Egypt; north face of tower, west sculpture; completed June, 1931.
2. "Cosmic Tradition"—Ezekiel, the Semitic seer gifted with the Apocalyptic vision; west face, north sculpture; carving to be executed next spring.
3. "The Birth of Reason"—Socrates, the Greek philosopher, west face, south sculpture; carving to be executed next spring.
4. "The Reign of Law"—Marcus Aurelius, Roman emperor-philosopher; south face, west sculpture; carving to be begun within a month.
5. "The Glorification of Faith"—the Apostle John, emblematic of Christianity; south face, east sculpture; carving now being executed into the building, to be completed about January 1.
6. "St. Louis Figure Finished." "The Age of Chivalry"—Louis IX (St. Louis), the Medieval knight, emblematic of the chivalric virtues; east face, south sculpture; carving completed September, 1931.
7. "The Discovery of Nature"—Sir Isaac Newton, the Renaissance scientist; east face, north sculpture, carving completed November, 1931.
8. "The Liberation of Peoples"—



Above is the head of the buttress figure of Abraham Lincoln, as the young railsplitter, one of the eight historic personages carved on the tower where it rises out of the basic square. Called a masterpiece by many artists, it is a faithful representation of Lincoln in his younger years. Lee Lawrie, the sculptor, secured the life mask executed over the emancipator's features in 1860 and then worked backward from this mature depiction of his subject. In his own words, "It was principally a matter of removing the wrinkles that came with age and worry."

Abraham Lincoln, the emancipator, in his younger days, represented as the young railsplitter; north face, east sculpture; carving completed November, 1930.

(Friday: "The Sower and Thunderbird.")

336.45
Nebr.
#316

Capitol Crowned by Sower

Dec 12-11-31

Huge Statue Is Symbol of Man's Highest Aspirations;
Thunderbird Mosaic Found Beneath Tower Dome.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 17. The Sower and Thunderbird.

Striding the summit of the gold-tiled dome of the capitol tower is the huge figure of the Sower, for which Lee Lawrie, the sculptor, received the annual award in sculpture of the Architectural League of New York last spring.

The only free image on the capitol, it is the monumental climax to the entire building. It is a sower of a primitive type. He wears an Egyptian hood. From his shoulder hangs a bag of seed. His breeches are rolled above his knees and he stands barefoot on a pedestal composed first of a sheaf of wheat and then a shock of corn. Scattering his seeds to all the winds, he faces the northwest, the broadest expanse of Nebraska and the direction of the pioneer trails that crossed the prairies.

Sow For Nobler Living.

This statue is more than a reminder of the foundations of the state in agriculture, however. It is a symbol of man's highest dreams and aspirations, a recognition of the fact that governments are founded by men to sow for the nobler modes of living.

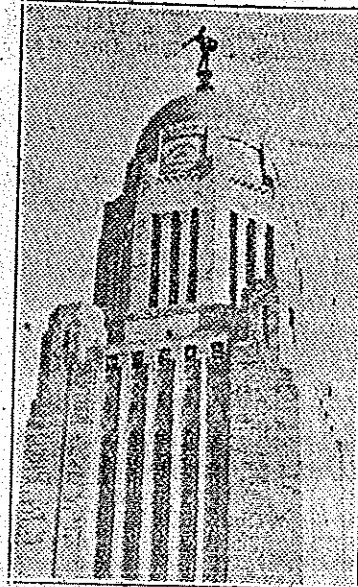
Structurally the Sower is a bronze shell about an inch in thickness, reinforced inside with steel bars. The figure is nineteen feet in height. Including the pedestal it is thirty-two feet tall, six inches of this amount being allowed for shrinkage. The weight of the figure is 15,000 pounds, while the complete monument weighs about nine tons.

The Sower serves an unusual utilitarian purpose. It is a conductor for lightning which might strike within a third of a mile of the tower, the lightning being grounded through the steel framework of the building.

Beneath the dome of the tower is a colored mosaic pattern repeated on each of the eight sides of the octagonal drum. It is the legendary Indian thunderbird, symbol of the heavens and the messenger of the Great Spirit who provided rain for their crops.

The Indian Legend.

On the great plains, where the phenomenon of thunderstorms is so very striking, the Indians associated these storms with the thunderbird.



—Lincoln Star Photo.

This view of the upper part of the Nebraska capitol tower, photographed from the street below, shows the bronze image of the Sower at the pinnacle of the tower and the Indian thunderbird mosaic which is repeated on each face of the octagonal drum beneath the dome.

They believed it caused thunder by the flapping of its wings, lightning by the opening and closing of its eyes, while lightning bolts flashed from its heart, shooting zig-zag across the skies like hot arrows. The rain usually accompanying the thunder in the middle west was accounted for by the supposition that the bird carried a large fresh water lake on its back.

Red, blue and yellow colors predominate in the mosaic which, like the unpolished gold dome, changes colors with the variations of light and humidity.

When the sun shines brightly the glintings of the dome may be caught far away, while in the moonlight, it shines like silver. Aviators flying above Lincoln by night have commented that the dome often appears to be a great silver bowl suspended in mid-air. The thunderbird mosaic is most effective in the rain, since the tiles are treated to stand out in sharp contrast when they become wet.

(Saturday: "The Interior Decoration.")

33645

Nebr.

#317

Star, December 12, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Capitol Interior Elaborate

J-12-31

Story of State Told in Decorations and Designs Grows More Abstract Inside Building.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 18. The Interior Decoration.

Through the main entrance doors of the capitol one enters into the north vestibule where the richness and warmth of the interior color harmony creates a vivid and lasting impression.

Reminiscent of Byzantine domes, vaults and mosaic ornament, the monumental entrance to the capitol runs from the vestibule through a long foyer into the rotunda, the heart of the tower. In ground plan the capitol is a Greek cross within a square, the entrance corridor comprising the north arm, or stem, of the cross.

Sequence in Symbolism.

The symbolical scheme moves from vestibule to foyer to rotunda in regular sequence, the story being carried through the floors, walls and ceilings. And like the exterior

symbolism, it builds up vertically from the concrete to the abstract. The major theme of the vestibule is "The Gifts of Nature;" the foyer, "The Past, Present and Future of the Life of Man on the Prairies," and the rotunda, "The Virtues of the State."

The chief decorative elements employed to tell this story are marble mosaics for the floors, murals, sculptures and inscriptions for the walls, which are of marble and limestone finish, and tile mosaics for the ceilings. The color scheme follows the major symbolism. Brilliant colors mark the vestibule, cooler tones the foyer, while the colors in the rotunda are subdued.

The decorative scheme of this entrance corridor will be complete when the murals are put in place in the walls. Contracts for these will be awarded early in the spring through some form of a competition, details of which have not been completed.

Kimball Suggest Artists.

Thomas R. Kimball, Omaha architect, who was professional advisor for the capitol commission at the time of the competition for the building in 1920, recently has completed a survey of American muralists. He has listed about twenty possible artists for murals in the building. Mr. Kimball, who drew up the program under which the capitol itself materialized, has prepared a similar competition program for the murals.

From the monumental entrance the symbolism of the capitol moves into other portions of the building. The senate chamber in the east wing represents the life of the first dwellers on the plains, the Indians; the house chamber in the west wing, the coming of the white race to the plains in the various periods of settlement, and finally, the library, on a second elevation in the south arm, the gifts of the spirit of man from all continents and in all times.

Other decorative units include the governor's suite in the northeast sector of the square, the law chambers in the south portal and southeast sector of the square, and Memorial hall under the dome at the summit of the tower.

Monday: The Vestibule.

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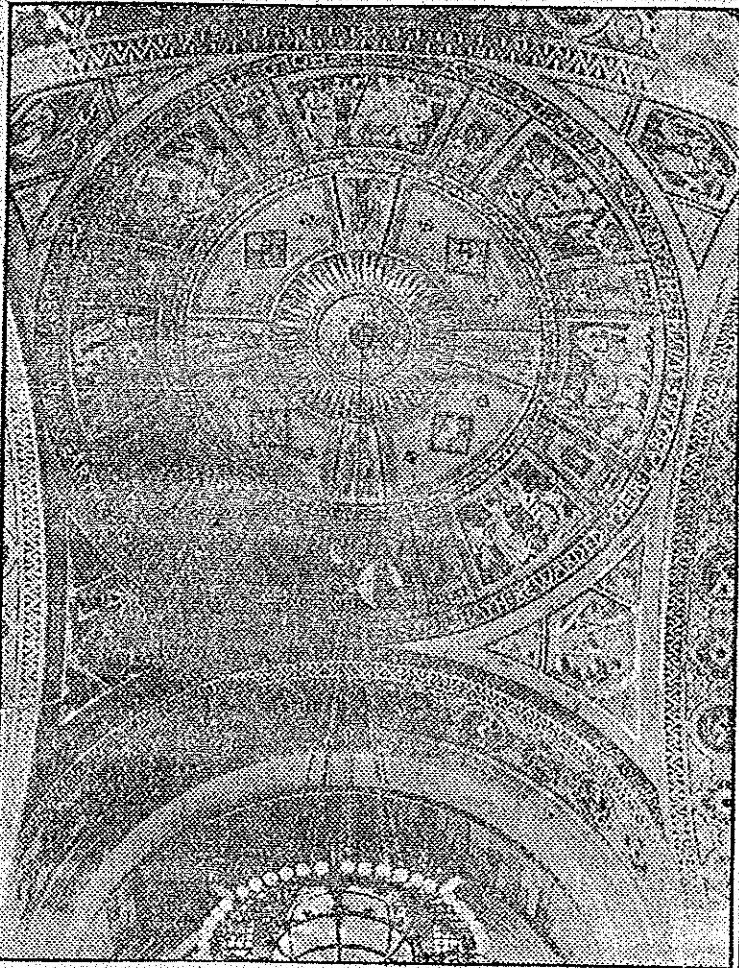
Star, December 14, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Gifts of Nature Portrayed

5-10-14-31

Vestibule of New Statehouse Symbolizes Life on
Prairies and Nebraska's Natural Resources.



Fifty-two feet above the marble floor of the vestibule is this colorful dome representing the natural and agricultural wealth of Nebraska—the gifts of nature to man. It contains 30,000 individual pieces of tile.

over

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 19. The Vestibule.

"The gifts of Nature to man on the Plains of Nebraska" is the general theme of the vestibule of the capitol.

These gifts are represented in its mosaic dome, of fourteen colors and gold, which contains 30,000 individual pieces of tile, at least 5,000 of which are different in shape. It is supported by four colossal marble columns—perhaps the largest in America—which are of Red Verona marble from near Verona, Italy. They are twenty-nine feet in height, including capital and base, and weight fifteen tons.

The crown of the dome, fifty-two feet above the marble floor, is a symbol of the sun, source of light and life. The chandelier, containing symbols of corn, wheat, acorns and Indian arrow shafts, also represents the sun. Radiating from the sun, in the first concentric circle of the dome, are portrayed the four seasons connected by signs of the Zodiac.

Citizens Give to State.

A procession of people, representing the citizenry of the state, are shown bringing the fruits of the soil as a tithe to the state in the second concentric circle. These fruits—cattle, sheep, swine, maize, wheat, grasses, fruits and flowers—are in panels separated by altars and temple doors, symbols of sacrificial and civic duty. The accompanying inscription reads: "Behold they come as householders bringing

earth's first fruits rejoicing that the soil hath awarded thier labours with the abundance of its seasons."

In the pendentives are represented four great events of agriculture—plowing, sowing, cultivating and reaping. The window arches contain circular panels representing native birds and animals of Nebraska, alternating with a conventionalized sunflower pattern.

This mosaic ceiling, executed by the R. Guastavino company of New York from designs of Hildreth Meiere, the artist, represents a successful experimentation with a previously untried decorative medium.

Tile Used Extensively.

Through his travels in Mexico and Asia, Bertram Goodhue, the architect, first became interested in tiles. Believing they could be used in a more extensive way, he decided to use a tile mosaic dome in the vestibule, and later adopted this decorative treatment for the other ceilings. In the capitol, tile has been used for the first time in large figure work.

The life of the homesteader will be portrayed in murals on the east, west and north walls. "The Homesteader's Campfire" will be an evening scene, representing the arrival of the pioneer family. "The First Furrow" will tell of breaking sod in the early morning. "The House Raising" will show the neighbors rearing the log cabin of the settler.

The marble mosaic floor, a geometric pattern containing thirteen varieties of marble, represents a celestial sphere with a central star, which generally is referred to as a cosmic sun. This symbol of creation is the root for the natural and agricultural wealth of the state shown in the dome above.

Tuesday: The Foyer.

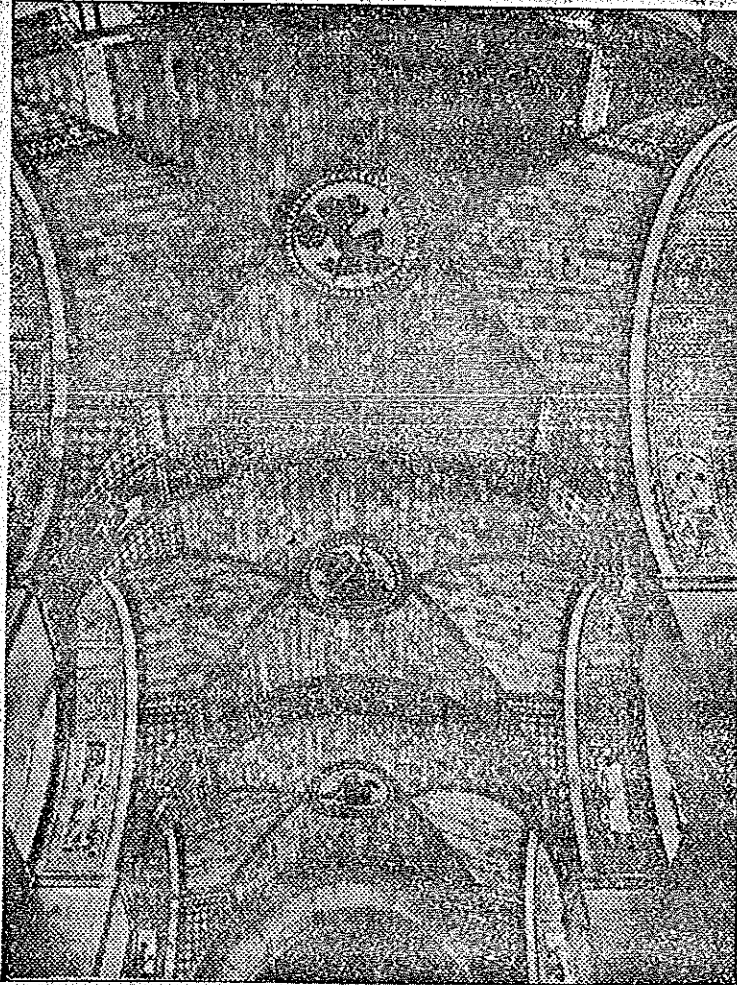
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#320

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Life on Prairie Represented

5-12-15-31

Past, Present and Future of Man in Nebraska Is
Symbolized in Capitol Foyer.



—MacDonald Photo.

This is the vaulted ceiling of the foyer, showing the three central tile mosaic panels, which are nine feet in diameter. They symbolize the past, present and future of the life of man in Nebraska.

over

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

By JOHN EDWARDS.
No. 20. The Foyer.

The general theme of the capitol foyer is "The Past, Present and Future of the Life of Man on the Prairies of Nebraska."

Structurally it is a vaulted chamber leading from the main vestibule into the central rotunda—ninety feet long, thirty feet wide and fifty feet in height. It is subdivided into three sections by piers, each section with lateral arches enclosing semi-circular windows. These windows are of Utah onyx with frames of white marble from Yule Creek, Colo. They admit a subdued yellowish light into the foyer. Beneath the windows are six panels where mural paintings will be placed.

The three sections of the foyer represent in sequence the past, present and future of man's life. Three medallions in the crown of each serve as titles: "Traditions of the Past," "Life of the Present" and "Ideals of the Future." In each medallion are sibyllike figures, prophetesses of the ancient world as represented in classical mythology.

Pioneer Family Memorialized.
The sibyl of the past is writing on a tablet of stone; the sibyl of the present is drawing the thread of time through a distaff, and the sibyl of the future is gazing into a crystal.

In general theme the lateral arches in the first section memorialize the pioneer family and school, and represent the first great conquest of nature for civilization. The central section, with its divisions of "Recreation" and "Reflection," stands for the conditions of wise

and healthful action. In the third section the themes unite to proclaim the higher aims of life, the cultivation of a sense of beauty and reverence for the truth.

Symbols of Story.

In summary the symbols of this story are:

"Traditions of the Past"—East, "The Family;" mosaics, "The Homebuilder" and "The Pioneer Mother;" mural, "The First United States Survey of the Plains." West, "The School;" mosaics, "The Teacher" and "The Student;" mural, "The Blizzard of '28." (This mural will portray the episode in which Minnie Freeman, teaching near Fullerton, Neb., saved her children in the storm of January 12, 1888, by tearing her cloak to shreds and making a rope with which she tied them together and led them to safety.)

"Life and the Present"—East, "Recreation;" mosaics, "The Flower Girl" and "The Basketball Player;" mural, "The Tree Planting." (This recognizes Arbor day as a holiday and commemorates the tree planting activities which followed the breaking of the sods.) West, "Reflection;" mosaics, "The Scholar" and "The Scientist;" mural, "The First Railroad." (This is devoted to the mastery of the plains for civilization brought about by scholarly and scientific thought.)

"Ideals of the Future"—East, "Sense of Beauty;" mosaics, "The Architect" and "The Artist;" mural, "Building the Capitol." (This commemorates the erection of the state house as a symbol of public taste and enthusiasm.) West, "Reverence for the Truth;" mosaics, "The Statesman" and "The Philosopher;" mural, "The Spirit of Nebraska."

Uniting the three sections of the foyer are four mosaics above the lateral piers—"Labor," "Law," "Public Spirit" and "Religion." Above in four rectangular sections are symbols of four trees native to the plains; including cottonwood, hackberry, mountain pine and willow. Below the mosaics in the upper part of the marble piers are carved four bas reliefs, representing "Childhood," "Youth," "Maturity" and "Old Age"—The four ages of the life of man, which in a historical sense is the theme of the foyer.

(Wednesday: The Rotunda.)

336.45

Nebr.

#322

Star, December 16, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Virtues of State Portrayed

J-12-16-31

Winged Figures, Representing Ideals, Decorate Domed Rotunda in New Nebraska Capitol.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.
No. 21. The Rotunda.

With the recognition of "The Gifts of Nature" in the vestibule and "The Life of Man" in the foyer, the symbolism of the capitol moves into the rotunda, the heart of the tower, where the theme is "The Virtues of the State."

These virtues fundamental to civilized society, corresponding to those of Aristotle's system of ethics, are represented in the rotunda dome, the crown of which is 112 feet above the marble mosaic floor. Blue and gold tones predominate in the dome, where, because of its great height, pattern instead of detail is more important.

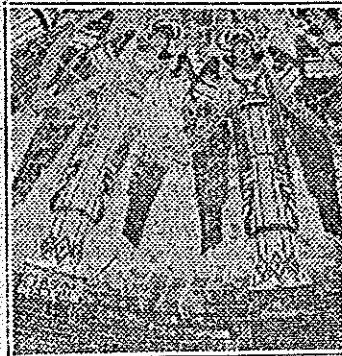
Grouped as "a sort of celestial rose," as Dr. H. B. Alexander terms it, is a repeated form of a winged genius. There are eight of these winged figures, each standing on a pedestal which bears its name: Wisdom, Courage, Temperance, Justice, Magnanimity, Faith, Hope and Charity. They are joining hands, symbolizing that the virtues of the state must stand together.

Giant Dome.

The dome has a tremendous curve and is forty feet in diameter. The individual figures are nearly twenty feet tall. In the tower above are eight floors of office rooms, Memorial hall and a large tank room. The rotunda itself is large enough for a ten-story building to be placed in it.

Around the walls of the rotunda below the clerestory are inscriptions translated from Aristotle's "Politics" and Plato's "Dialogues." They include: "He who would duly enquire about the best form of the state ought first to determine which is the most eligible life.... Men should not think it slavery to live according to the rule of the constitution for it is their salvation.... Laws and constitutions spring from the moral dispositions of the members of the state.... Law and order deliver the soul.... A community like an individual has a work to do."

Below the inscriptions on the east, south and west walls are panels where murals will be placed. These paintings will represent the labors of Mankind, "Labors of the



These are two of the eight winged figures in the rotunda dome, which represent the virtues fundamental to every civilized society. They are about twenty feet tall.

"Hand," emblematic of man's industrial enterprises, will be placed on the east wall. "Labors of the Heart," representing his humanitarian works, will be placed on the south wall, and "Labors of the Mind," representing his intellectual activities, will adorn the west wall.

Floor Represents Soil.

The mosaic floor represents the ancient life of the soil. So the complete theme of the rotunda is the virtues of the state (represented in the dome) being uplifted above the ancient soil (floor) by the labors of mankind (murals).

The huge chandelier in the rotunda—the largest bronze fixture of its particular kind in the world—is all cast in one piece. It weighs 3,500 pounds, and hangs eighty feet from the dome on a chain with a capacity of 6,000 pounds. It contains 136 lights. Signs of the Zodiac around the bell part at the bottom, which is more than seven feet in diameter, and symbols of corn, wheat, sunflowers, acorns and Indian arrow shafts are included in it.

The balustrades on the rotunda balconies are of white Utah onyx and contain small carved panels of buffalo skulls, meadow larks, ears of corn and sunflowers. The support of these balconies is provided by fourteen columns of Breccia Armarante marble from Italy. In the colonnade under the dome the columns are of Jaune Beneau (translated "yellow marble") which is quarried in France.

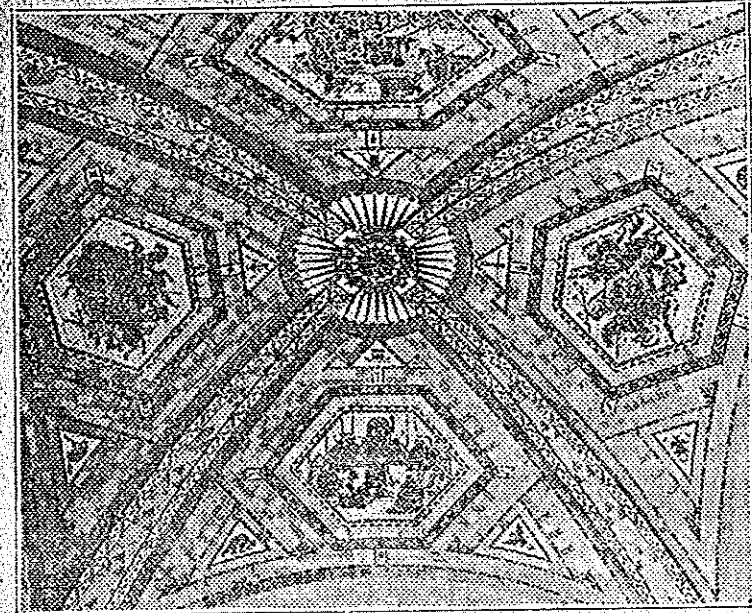
(Thursday: The Mosaic Floor.)

336.45
Neb.
#323

Star, Dec. 18 '31

Symbolism for Legislators

Life of Indians Is Theme in Senate Chamber of Capitol; Coming of White Man Shown in House Quarters.



This colorful dome, a story of the Indians of the plains, is the important decorative feature of the senate chamber in the east wing of the capitol. This chamber, only partially completed, has been used by the house of representatives during the last several sessions.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS. No. 23. The Legislative Chambers.

In the lateral arms of the cruciform plan of the capitol are the two legislative chambers, the senate in the east wing and the house of representatives in the west.

The symbolism of these chambers is historical in character. It represents the two races which have brought their cultures to the plains and developed them here. The aboriginal life of the Indians, in its intimate relationship to the soil, is the theme of the senate chamber. The coming of the white man to the plains in the various periods of settlement is the theme for the house chamber.

Entrance doors leading from the central rotunda into the two halls introduce the two stories, but only the senate doors are in place at the present time. Hand-carved and brilliantly colored, these doors portray one of the great ceremonies of the red man, the worshipping of the thunderbird. The doors weigh 750 pounds, are four inches thick and are of Honduras mahogany from Central America.

Designs from Beadwork.

The most spectacular feature of the senate is its colorful dome, which contains designs from the beadwork of the Nebraska Indians and symbols from his art and myths. Four large panels, ten by fourteen feet in size, represent "The Buffalo Hunt," "Woman Hoeing Corn," "The War Party," and "The Peace Council."

The chamber is seventy by seventy-two feet in size, with a floor space forty-eight feet square for the thirty-three senators. Overhead visitors galleries on the north,

south and west provide a total seating capacity of 150. They are supported by columns of Red Ark Fossil, a marble of a deep red color from Arkansas.

In the east end of the chamber, where the lieutenant governor, as president of the senate, has his desk, is a large niche. It is flanked on either side by pylons which terminate in carvings of an Indian counsellor, representing the wisdom of thought, and an Indian guide, symbolizing the wisdom of action. Above the niche a richly-colored tapestry will be placed.

House Chamber Unfinished.

The house chamber is the same size as the senate, but will have a floor space forty-eight feet wide and seventy-two feet long to accommodate the 100 representatives. Since this chamber will be the scene of many important state functions, such as governor's inaugurals, the balcony seating capacity is larger. Room for 300 visitors has been provided in the overhead balconies on the north, south and east. The galleries will, at completion, be supported by twenty columns, nine feet in height, of marble from Italy, Belgium and France.

The chamber will have a wood-beamed ceiling, running the entire length of the room. From the center beam, about fifty-five feet above the floor, the beams will step down to those on the lateral walls about forty-five feet above the floor. A decorative frieze, with figures in gold leaf on a black walnut background will completely encircle the room. It will tell the story of the coming of the white man to the plains from the Spanish expedition of Coronado to the settlements of the homesteaders.

All the furnishings to be placed in both chambers will harmonize with their respective themes. Both will be completed within the next six months.

(Saturday: The State Library.)

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Neb.

#324

Star, December 19, 1931

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Large Library In Capitol

5-12-19-31

Quarters for 150,000 Volumes Are Located in
South Part of Building; Plans for
Murals Undecided.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 24. The State Library.

On the elevation of the rotunda balconies in the south arm of the capitol is the Nebraska state law and miscellaneous library. It is the oldest public library in the state.

Seventy-seven years ago when the act creating the territories of Kansas and Nebraska was passed, a clause in the act provided for the library. From a small beginning, when only \$100 a year was allowed for the office of librarian, it has grown to one of the best law libraries in the country. It contains today about 150,000 volumes, filling more than six miles of shelves.

The active library of about 100,000 volumes contains all the federal and state statutes and law reports from the earliest decisions to the present time. It has more than 6,000 volumes of constitutional history works, 12,000 volumes of public documents, and an unusually complete collection of early colonial laws. In decisions of the courts of England and other English-speaking countries, the library is particularly rich.

Several Rare Volumes.

Among its rare volumes are two original copies of books that are frequently referred to as stating the fundamentals of the common law—Fortescue's "In Praise of the Laws of England" (1616) and "Doctor and Student" (1687).

The main library room is 104 feet long, twenty feet wide, and has four domed ceilings, the crown of each being thirty-three feet above the floor. At the north and south ends are lunettes for murals. The north lunette, above the entrance door from the rotunda gallery, already has been filled with Elizabeths Dolan's "The Spirit of the Prairies."

Original plans were for this chamber to represent "The Gifts of the Spirit of Man in All Continents and All Times." The crowns of the four domes were to contain maps of Africa, Asia, Europe and North America (with the north portion of South America.) In the Pendentives, supporting these maps, were to be symbolical figures. The lunettes were to be "The Administration of the Law" and "The Philosophy of the Law." Miss Dolan's mural in the north lunette replaces the latter.

Symbolism Undecided.

What the plans for the symbolism are, no one knows. So engrossed has the capitol commission been in other problems of the building that the question of murals has never received serious consideration.

Tables and chairs in the center of the main library room place patrons in convenient proximity to the books most in use, which occupy the shelves in this room. The floors are of battleship linoleum. Wainscoting is of St. Genevieve Rose marble—one of America's most beautiful varieties—which is quarried at St. Genevieve, Mo., about seventy miles south of St. Louis.

South of the main room is the reading room, which is paneled in ash. The upper walls are of decorated gold leaf and the beamed ceiling, twenty-one feet above the floor, of decorated cyprus wood. On either side of this room, on a higher elevation, are two small reading rooms.

Stack rooms extend in the attics around the entire south half of the capitol. It is possible to walk two and a half blocks to get a book and back to a table in the main room to read it. Other stack rooms are in the southeast section of the first basement, made easily accessible by a private elevator, and additional space has been provided in the tower.

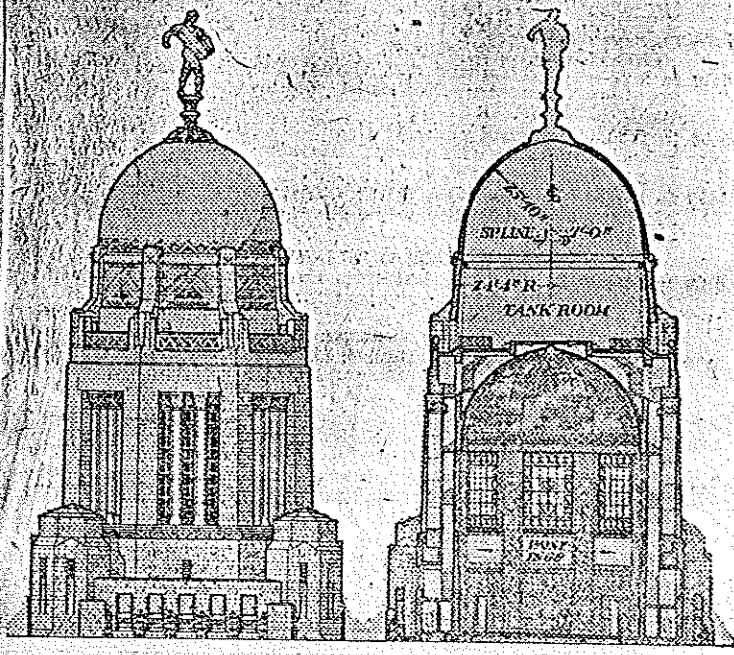
(Monday: The Law Chambers.)

326.45
 Neb.
 #325

Star, December 23
 1931

Memorial Hall Tops Tower

Beautiful Chamber Commemorates Heroism of Nebraskans; Murals to Depict Service in Four Wars



The upper part of the capitol tower is shown at the left. The cross section at the right shows the interior arrangement of Memorial hall and the water tank and storage room above. Notice that Memorial hall is within two sets of walls, between which are two spiral stairways providing access to the tank room and also the highest promenade of the 400-foot tower, 320 feet above the ground. The promenade off Memorial hall, 250 feet high, is the only one open to the public at present. The above drawings are reproduced through the courtesy of Charles Scribner's Sons from "Masterpieces of American Architecture," by Church and Hoak. In this the capitol is ranked first among American public buildings by a jury of noted architects.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.
 No. 27. Memorial Hall.

At the summit of the capitol tower is Memorial hall, a chamber rich in quiet beauty dedicated to men and women of Nebraska for service to the state and to humanity.

It is an octagonal chamber. Its walls and floor are marble, blacks, greens and grays predominating in the color scheme. Sixty-eight feet above the floor, which is a pattern in black and grey marble, is the dome which represents the heavens. In the crown of the dome is the sun, whose rays extend over the sky where they are reflected on the horizon, the springline of the dome. From the dome hangs an unusual lighting fixture in a geometric design, containing symbols of the corn, acorn, sunflower and daisy.

Plan Four Murals.

The upper walls of Memorial hall contain huge windows of frosted amber glass, admitting a subdued yellowish light into the chamber. Under the windows are panels where murals are to be placed commemorating heroic enterprises associated with Nebraska history. The meaning of the various events rather than the historic episodes themselves is to be emphasized.

Four murals will represent wars in which Nebraskans have participated during territorial and state history. Alternating with these are to be murals representing the perils in which men and women must heroically respond — fire, flood, plague and the hardships of nature. The theme and subjects of these murals follows:

1. The Indian Wars. "The Conflict of the Races."
2. The Perils of Fire. "Fighting the Prairie Fire."
3. The Civil war. "Emancipation."
4. The Perils of Flood. "The Missouri River Ice Jam."
5. The Spanish War. "Chivalry for the Oppressed."
6. The Scourge of the Plague.

"Fighting the Pest."
 7. The World War. "The Crusade for Freedom."

8. The Scourge of Famine. "The Grasshopper Plague."

Beneath the panels for murals extending around the entire chamber, is an inscription in gilt letters cut in a black marble band. It is this extract from Lincoln's second inaugural address: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

While Memorial hall and the four adjoining turret chambers or elevator vestibules offer opportunity for free sculpture and trophy displays, it is intended that the room shall be kept as free from this as possible. Much of the beauty of the room comes from its emptiness.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
 REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Journal-Star, January 31, 1932

Neb

326

Appropriate Setting Necessary for Nebraska's Capital

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Lincoln Plans Program of Civic Development With Four Closed Vistas Leading to Capitol

(Continued from Page One.)

out drivers needing to clutch the wheel and passengers hang on for safety.

If this program were carried to a conclusion, all the city would be generally accessible to its artistic center, the capitol, with the exception of the college of agriculture vicinity and large portions of University Place. Cotner boulevard does not serve either of these centers, and the people must use Forty-eighth from University Place and all of them the crowded Holdrege, narrow, uneven, tracked, and bused for a long distance. They can, of course, turn on Twenty-seventh south, but that street at this time does not solve, but rather continues their traffic problem.

All of which does very well for the possible evolution of J street into a boulevard with a fancy name and fancy plantings.

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲
WHEN the legislature created the capital environs committee, it had but one thing in mind, landscaping the state house setting. Because Fifteenth street is the main approach and because that has been finished for so long, greater attention has been given there, although this program is in a state of suggestion and discussion.

The committee to study the surroundings and to approach the development system is composed of representatives from the capitol commission, the Lincoln city council, the university regents, and a few individuals at large. When first organized, J. E. Miller was made chairman and Frank Eager, vice chairman. There are three working committees, the legislative, the appraisals and financing, and the general planning, this latter composed of Professor Evinger, W. L. Younkin, supervising architect for the capitol commission; Ellery L. Davis, Lincoln architect; Roy Cochran, state highway engineer, and D. L. Erickson, city engineer. When he became a member of the university faculty, Harry E. Cunningham, chairman of the department of archi-

ture at the university, was appointed to this committee.

NEEDS APPROPRIATE SETTING.

All of Nebraska as well as the committee agreed that so unusual and beautiful a structure must have space to be appreciated, and that that space must have formal decoration. However, there were about 1,377,963 ideas on this, for every Nebraskan naturally knew the best manner and the most pleasing arrangement for the landscaping.

However, after prolonged study and much consultation, the committee, representing the city and the state always, worked out a dozen and a half or more possible plans, which would give the building its greatest charm. The members were agreed on the general basis, to follow the principal suggestions in the perspective of the capitol, prepared under the direction of the Goodhue offices. This allowed a rather liberal space from facade to facade of 250 feet or more and for a double drive on the north approach, with some sort of formal arrangement between them, something on the plan of the university mall.

ONE SUGGESTED PLAN.

It is Mr. Evinger's wish that the entire state edifice may be seen from a distance of three blocks from the north and from a block's distance on the remaining approaches. In one of the popular progress studies of this situation—the one pictured in the layout, but only a suggested plan—the committee would have the state take over the two blocks immediately north, with a part of each reserved for future state building sites. The city and county would acquire the blocks between L and N from Fourteenth to Fifteenth and the third from Fifteenth to Sixteenth between M and N. The fourth of these blocks, the board of education administration buildings, is public property. At some future day, to give the proper vistas from the capitol steps, Fifteenth will be opened to R street, with a hand-

some university building at that end of the street.

In Mr. Evinger's mind, a possible method of attacking this problem is to acquire 100 feet on each side of the present Fifteenth street, a third of each of the six blocks, for landscaping which would give an effective open space between the building lines. Other properties in the blocks could be acquired when convenient or when needed. Under this suggested plan, the distance from facade to facade would be 320 feet, and two drives in mall design would lead to the north entrance.

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲

IT is the thought that as new city buildings are constructed, they could be placed along Fifteenth on the north, a city and county building, perhaps, a post office, possibly, toward the business side of the city. A building such as a library would be constructed toward the residential district, such as the east side of Fifteenth.

As the state's population grows and progress brings new demands, its responsibilities increase and room to care for them must be provided. Iowa has erected a state historical building and a courts building outside the main building, and a third structure, the home of the state highway commission at Ames. Pennsylvania's beautiful state house, the grounds arranged according to plan, has been inadequate for several departments, and three auxiliary buildings, the fourth is yet to be erected costing from three to five millions have been constructed on sites especially planned for them. Denver has buildings to the north and south of its state house, all for government business, an Missouri's state highway department in a separate structure.

When a plan for the landscaping of the capitol vicinity is finally adopted, Nebraska's future growth will need to be taken into consideration. For that reason, this progress study has put in state building sites immediately to the north, with locations for smaller buildings of a public or semi-public nature on the three remaining sides.

FEATURES OF
NEBRASKA

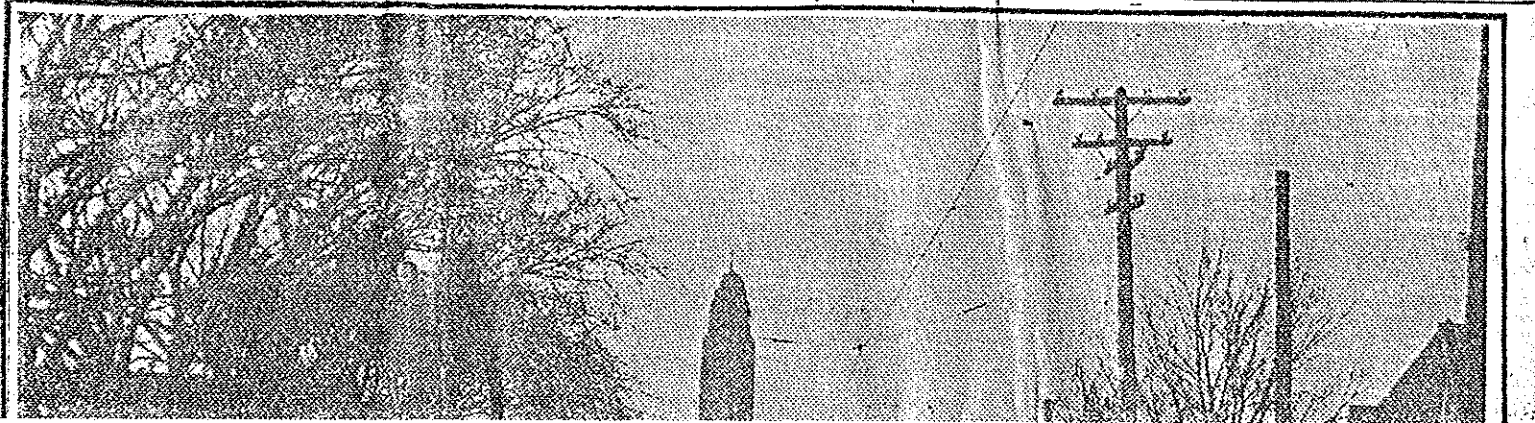
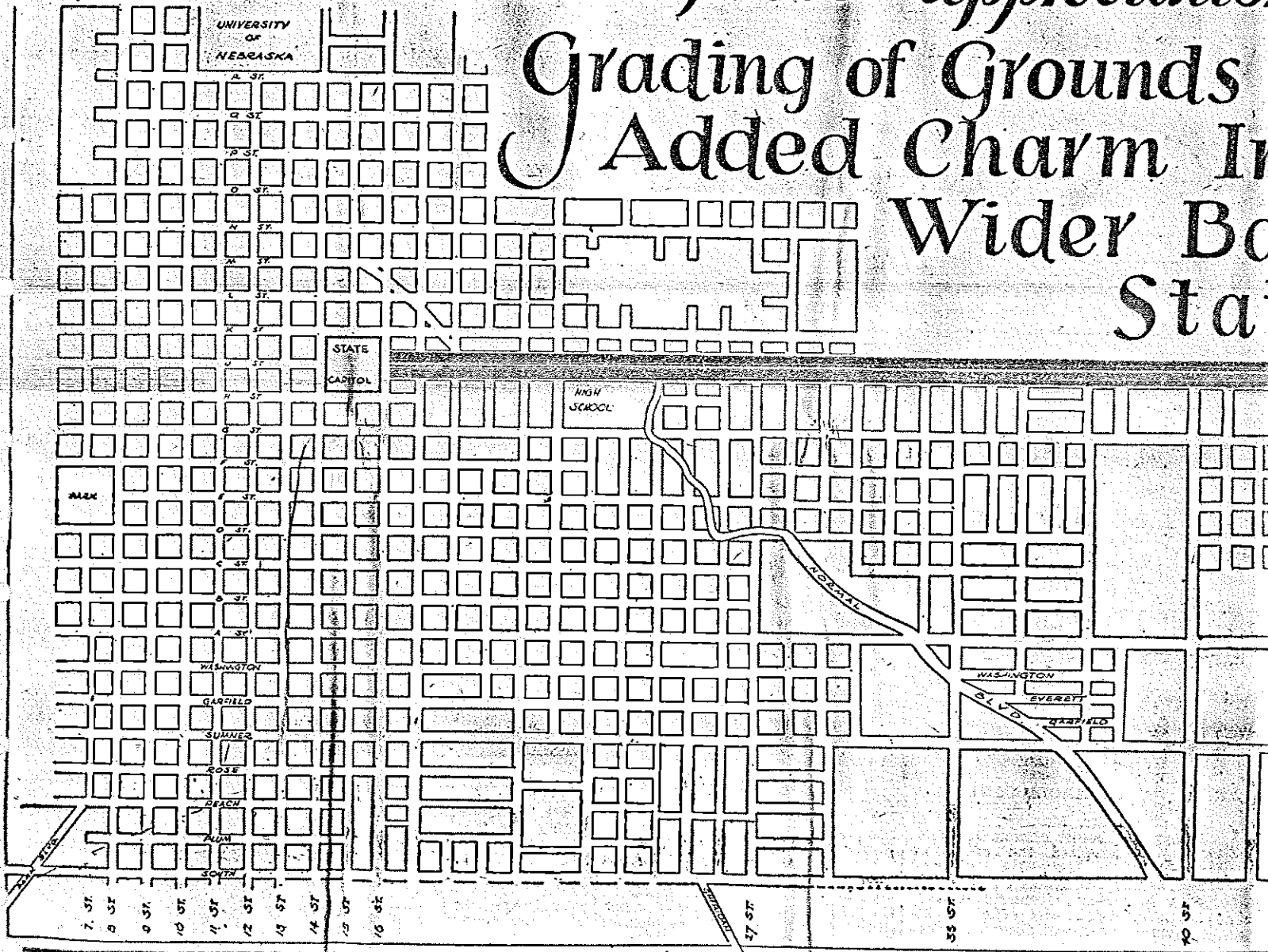
Sunday Journal

FOUNDED IN 1867

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, SUNDAY

Nebraska Has Its Capitol—Appreciation

Grading of Grounds Added Charm In Wider Bo Sta



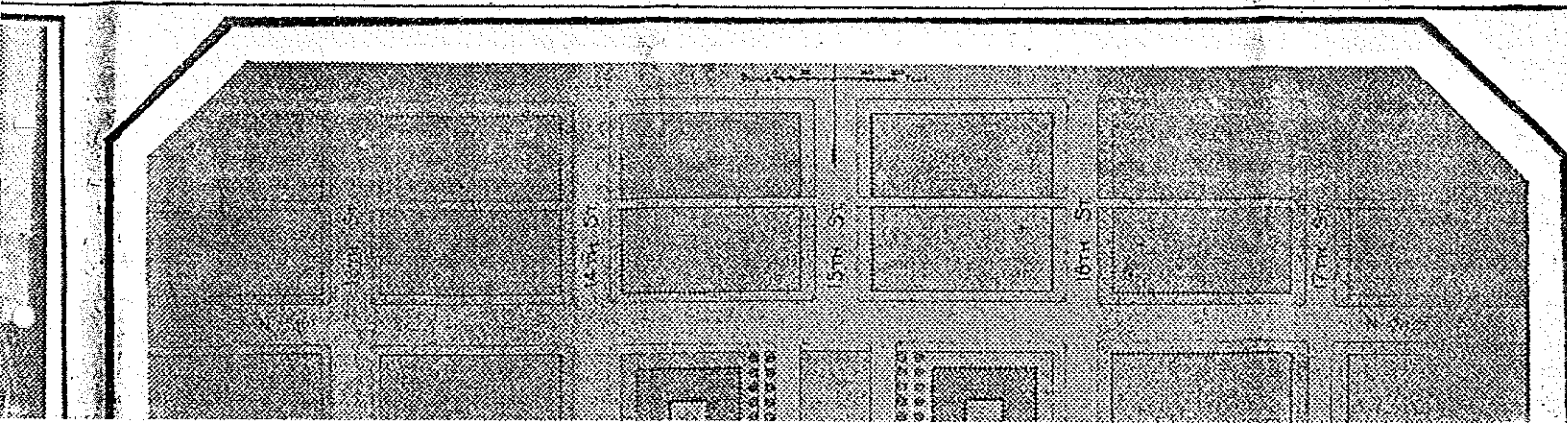
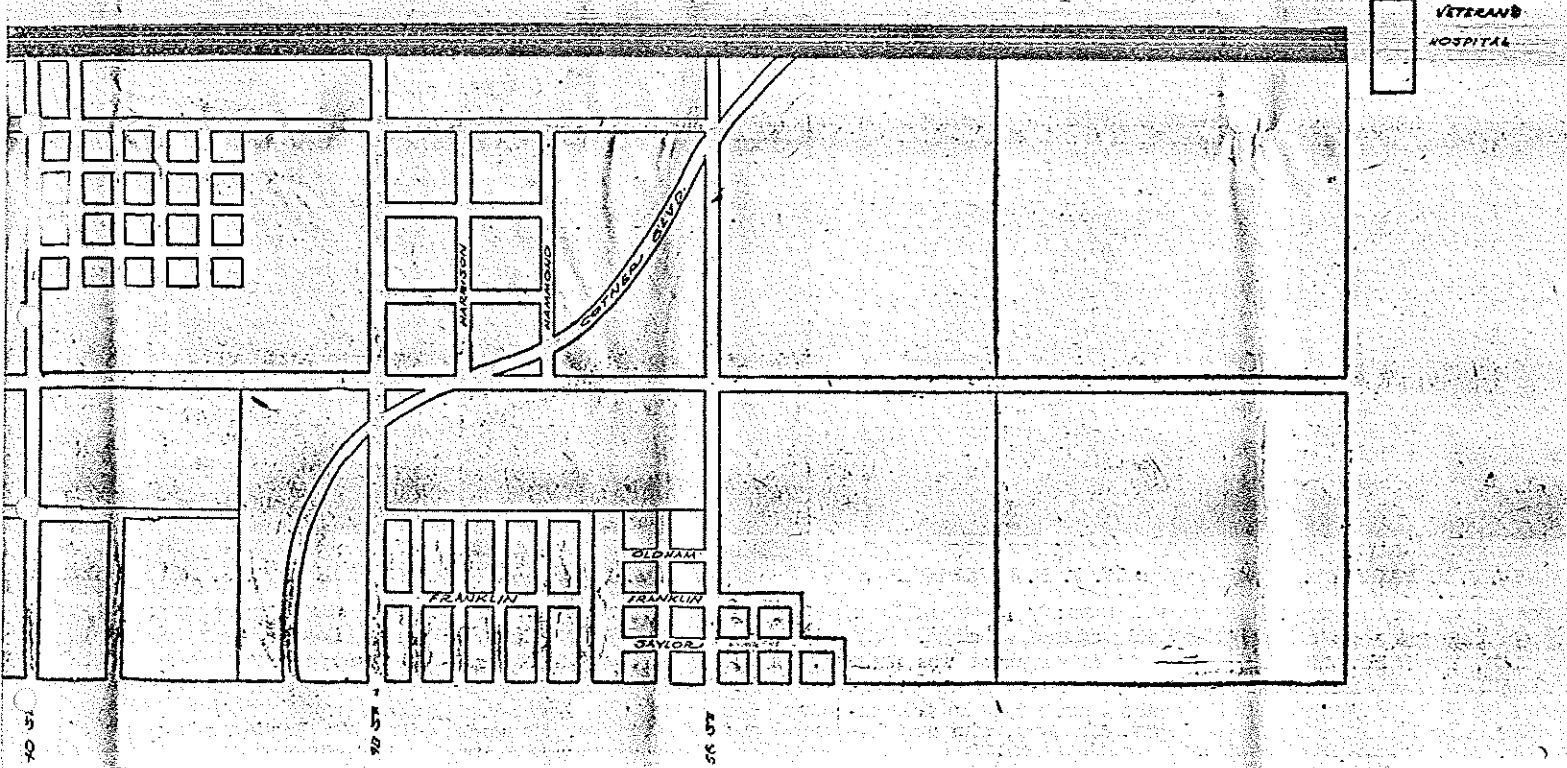
Journal and Star

FEATURES OF
NEBRASKA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1932.

SECTION C

*Creation of Beauty To Come With Setting
As Gives Slight Idea of
In Suitable Setting, And
Background Will Enhance
State's Center*





Thought must be given to the permanent beautification of the State House

BUCKLIN PHOTO

BY LULU MAE COE.

A CITY layout plan, in the form of a great cross, hangs in the office of M. I. Evinger, professor of civil engineering at the university and chairman of the general planning committee of the capitol environs commission, created by the legislature.

The axis of the cross is the state house tower, the governmental center. From this axis go out the four arms of the cross, four closed vistas, four city views coming to a definite conclusion.

To the north is the educational unit, the university.

To the south is the home section, at some day to be definitely peaked by the governor's mansion, possibly between Washington and A streets, and on Eighteenth.

To the east is rehabilitation, the United States Veterans Bureau hospital.

To the west is industry, marked in some future time by a suitable structure erected by a civic minded concern.

But the center is Nebraska's capitol. Mentally and emotionally, if not topographically, the center of Lincoln and of Nebraska.

LACKED MAJOR L'ENFANT.

Had Lincoln had a Major Pierre L'Enfant to plan its domain in 1867, as George Washington and the city which bears his name had a century and more, gone, it might have been possible to build a stately government building in the prepared setting of open blocks, minus residences, oil stations, apartments, and all other appurtenances of living, necessary in themselves, but hopeless in a public landscaping motif.

However, the new little village appreciated the sight of a new cabin and a one-story building far more than a corner park, for newcomers were few and the wide open spaces were apparently endless. And, as it is, Monsieur L'Enfant's plans have undergone severe modification, which might, too, have been the result had some succeeding French engineer dropped in to design our city.

AS it is, we've a state house.

The problem now is to give it proper background, foreground, and side grounds. With the grading and leveling of the grounds, there comes the thought that the entire landscaping program may follow as soon as plans, finances, grounds, and a million or two small details can be suitably arranged.

Within the past week, the Lincoln city commissioners in an informal discussion appeared to be in sympathy with a request resolution of the Greater Lincoln planning commission that J street be made a boulevard 120 feet wide from the capitol to the Veterans hospital, about four miles to the east. D. L. Erickson, city engineer, will submit a map of the area, showing the problems of cut back and the cost involved. At the present time, J street is not open from Fifty-third to Fifty-fifth nor beyond Fifty-sixth to Seventieth, the main building entrance of the hospital. Among other things, this plan would necessitate widening J street from Twenty-seventh street on and adding forty feet to the south side from Eighteenth to Twenty-seventh street.

COST NOT PROHIBITIVE.

According to Frank D. Tomson, vice president of the division of public affairs of the chamber of commerce, the cost, not prohibitive, is not the primary factor to be considered. We have the state house, and it must be given the proper setting. By adopting a plan to make of J a boulevard, a long time program of civic development will be worked out, a program for posterity and the future of the city. The cost will not be a part of the budget of 1932 nor of 1933, but it can be spread over a sensible period of years, during which and for many more years to come, Lincoln citizenry will take pride in its appearance.

It has been worked out that Lincoln can solve its beautification and east and west arterial problem very neatly by the J street boulevard, and at the same time open a direct route to the capitol, the focal sightseeing point for all visitors. Not only can it be an aid to local traffic problems, but visitors

from the northeast and southwest will find easier ingress to the building.

MUST RESTRICT BUILDING.

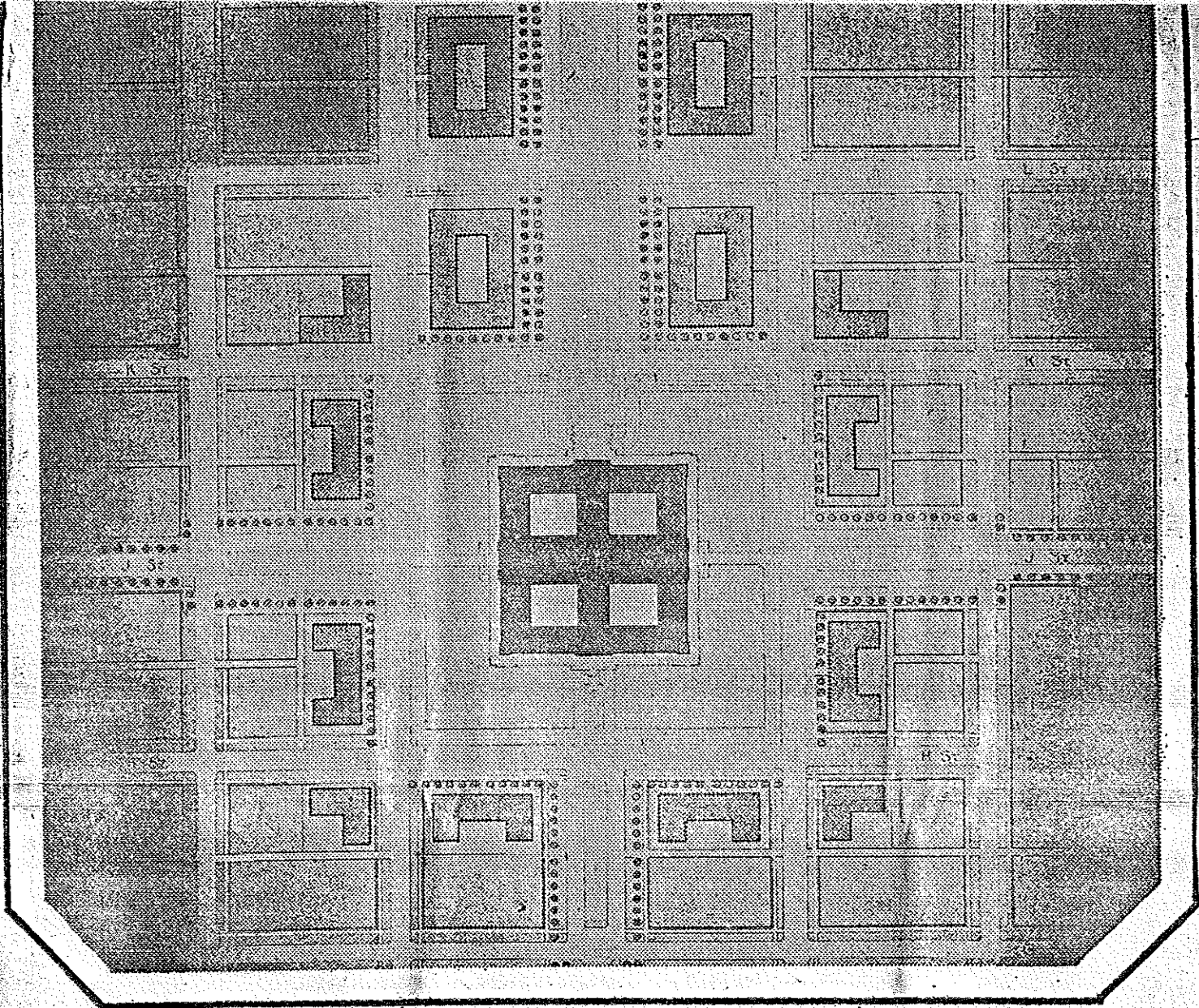
Of course, plans are scarcely even tentative as yet, but they've been talked about in a general fashion. Casual opinions differ on center parking, but a well-kept parking with disciplined shrubbery, so that the view is not cut off, does add to the boulevard theme. On either side will be a row of trees to outline the roadway.

One reason for bringing this suggestion forward at this time is the zoning committee can keep its eye on the development of the street and prevent any untoward building. If J street is replanned somewhat after that fashion, with three traffic lanes for incoming cars and another trio for outgoing, Lincoln will have the beginning of a boulevard system that in time will compare favorably with the excellent system of Kansas City, Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth, Memphis, St. Louis, Detroit, New Orleans, and other cities that have planned before they progressed.

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲

LINCOLN residents in all that large and growing section of the southeast part of the city drive to their daily duties along most any route, not buttoned in at any street when coming west and rather jagged in many spots, because of closed streets. If, leaving this J street boulevard just above the high school, were a diagonal highway, traffic would be considerably facilitated. It would be possible to buy right of way along the general line of the Rock Island tracks or to take off a width of the park, to join Normal boulevard about Twenty-eighth and Alpha. Although the idea does not fit in with a suggested plan for the landscaping of the north approach to the state house, it has been said that J street could again be broken, perhaps at Eighteenth, and curve off back of the Scottish Rite temple to join Fifteenth at M, possibly. Sightseers could go straight ahead from Eighteenth to the capitol; business folk and shoppers could follow the diagonal; the widened

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One of progress studies for capitol environs development

J and the widened Fifteenth would be an integral part of each other.

Motorists coming in on No. 38 from Omaha, were they capitol bent, could follow Cotner boulevard to the intersection of J street, turn and arrive easily at the edifice. If they were from Nebraska City direction or Iowa by No. 24 from Union, they would reach O and Cotner, turn south, and follow the same route. To motorists on No. 2 by way of Palmyra, it would be possible to follow Sheridan boulevard to Twenty-seventh street, turn north, take the new road which joins Normal boulevard to J, and down J street. At another date it might be possible to open a more direct route from Sheridan, but it is simpler to go Twenty-seventh than it is to negotiate South at any rush hour.

CAPITOL WOULD BE ACCESSIBLE.

Of course, the Cornhusker from the

south follows Thirteenth, a wide artery, and the Cornhusker cutoff by Fourteenth brings motorists from Wahoo and on north, the former but a block distant from the state house, the latter immediately passing. Coming from the southwest, traffic can arrive by the Crete cutoff and Park boulevard to South street, where there is a choice north, of Ninth, largely arterial, or Eleventh or Thirteenth, both through streets. In this manner, the capitol is easily accessible to visitors and the new boulevard would provide quick, through travel for Lincoln's increasing residential districts beyond J toward College View and Normal, as well as persons from Havelock and Bethany, if they have capitol business.

All of these routes pass through the center of the city, always desirable, from a dollars and cents viewpoint, but

not always possible. Travelers going to the northwest can likewise go down the widened Fifteenth to O street and west to the Pacific ocean or they can follow the potential Fifteenth to R and pass the university, going west along R to Tenth and across the viaduct to the S. Y. A. and sundry adventure.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED

Certain auxiliary improvements would necessarily follow upon this plan, but so vast an undertaking would demand various ramifications. Normal boulevard would require widening and paving for a portion of its length, and Twenty-seventh, now a thing of concrete hills and dales and bumps, would have to be resurfaced to carry even more general traffic. The Tenth street viaduct should be made passable with-

(Continued on Page Four.)

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Neb.

#327

Journal, April 16, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

BIDS OPENED AT CAPITOL

3-4-16-32

Electrical Fixture Contracts to Be Awarded Firms.

The capitol commission opened bids Friday afternoon on electric fixtures for the new legislative hall, also fixtures for other portions of the west wing of the capitol and on thirty-four bronze lamp posts for the capitol grounds. Each bidder submitted samples and brands and prices consequently varied greatly upon the different types of material. This will necessitate examination of the material proposed by each bidder and selection of the material desired. This work was entered upon by Governor Bryan, W. E. Hardy, W. H. Thompson and Secretary Cochran, all members of the capitol commission. The selection may be completed and awards made within a day or two.

Bids on different types of bronze lamp posts ranged from \$28,960 to \$8,480 for thirty-four posts. Price of fixtures for the new legislative hall ranged from \$9,220 to \$19,124. On electric fixtures for the remainder of the west wing, bids ranged from \$1,064 to \$1,875.

The five bids on electric fixtures for the new legislative hall were Orchard & Wilhelm, Omaha, \$19,124; Bailey-Reynolds Chandelier, Kansas City, \$15,325.54; Edward F. Caldwell & Co., New York, \$18,476; Western Electric Co., \$12,397; Warren & Co., Chicago, \$9,220.

Bids on electric fixtures for the remainder of the west wing were: Bailey-Reynolds Chandelier, Kansas City, \$1,301.92; Western Electric Co., \$1,875; Warren & Co., Chicago, \$1,064; Sterling Electric Co., Omaha, \$1,835.

Bids on thirty-four lamp posts were: Bailey-Reynolds Chandelier, Kansas City, \$9,910.75; Westinghouse Electric Co., Omaha, \$14,434; Edward F. Caldwell Co., N. Y. \$22,224; General Electric company, Omaha, \$12,182; General Bronze corporation, New York, \$12,930; William H. Jackson company, New York, \$13,500; Sterling Bronze company, New York, \$28,960; Kormeyer company, Lincoln, \$10,872; Omaha Steel Works, \$10,970; Superb Bronze corporation, New York, \$18,096; Western Electric company, \$8,480; Warren & Co., Chicago, \$9,220; Sterling Electric company, Omaha, \$13,865.

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Neb.

#328

Star, April 29, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Nebraska Capitol Ranked Third In List of Outstanding Buildings

(Special to The Star.)

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y., April 29—The Nebraska state capitol at Lincoln has been ranked by a jury of fifty prominent architects as third in the list of structures "whose architectural design was felt to be most satisfactory and appealing."

The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C., was ranked first and the Empire State building in New York City received one more vote than the Nebraska capitol.

The jury was selected by Federal Architect, professional magazine, and included architects located in all parts of the country.

Purpose of the poll was declared by the magazine "to separate the wheat from the chaff. To know which are the outstanding and fruitful buildings of the so-called modern phase of architectural design and how many compare with the acknowledged monuments of the past.

"They want to know to what extent such buildings have actually woven themselves into the fabric of enduring architecture and which

are mere lint and threads on the surface.

"It is no small compliment that the Empire State building, the Nebraska state capitol and the Chicago Daily News building are ranked with such serene and gracious architecture as the Lincoln Memorial and the Columbia library."

The vote for the various buildings was: Lincoln Memorial, 17; Empire State building, 14; Nebraska State capitol, 13; Morgan library, New York City, 11; St. Thomas church, New York city, 9; Daily News building, Chicago, 9; Scottish Rite temple, Washington, 9; Columbia University library, 7; Harkness Memorial, Yale university, 7; Folger Memorial library, Washington, 6; Pennsylvania railroad station, New York, 5; Palm Olive building, Chicago, 4; Pan American building, Washington, 4; City hall, Stockholm, Sweden, 4; Woolworth building, New York city, 4; Shelton hotel, New York city, 4; New York city hall, 3; Freer gallery, Washington, 4; Boston public library, 4; New York Telephone building, 3; Chicago Tribune building, 3; St. Vincent Ferrers church, New York City, 3; Princeton dining hall, 2; Adler planetarium, Chicago, 2; Hartford County building, 2; Cranbrook school, Mich., 2; Academy of Science, Washington, 2; Army Supply Base, Brooklyn, 2; United States capitol, 2; St. Bartholomews church, New York City, 2; Southern R. R. building, Washington, 2; Bowery Savings bank, New York, 2; Cornell Medical school, 2; Treasury building, Washington, 2; Racine County courthouse, Wis., 2.

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#329

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

RUGS FOR CAPITOL ARRIVE

✓-6-30-32

To Be Used in House, Senate
Chambers, Court Room.

Rugs by the truck load arrived at the capitol Wednesday. Big rolls, some in crates were so large and heavy that thirteen men were required to carry one roll into the unfinished west section for storage. The rugs were bought some months ago by the capitol commission for use in the house and senate chamber, court room No. 2 and in suites occupied by executive state officers and judges of the supreme court. The rugs will be laid immediately. State officers who have no new furniture or rugs will be provided with two or three, usually one for the official's private office and one for his deputy, but none for what are termed work rooms for employes. The larger rugs are for the legislative halls. They come in sections and will be sewed together before being laid on the floors of the two large halls. When this is done new walnut desks are to be installed in the halls, together with electric equipment which will enable members of the legislature to vote on bills by pressing a button on the desks, the vote being recorded on a large board back of the presiding officer's chair, in plain sight of the galleries.

Two sections of polished granite on either side of the tablet at the rear of the Abraham Lincoln monument on the capitol grounds have been removed to make a passageway around the monument in the line of the walk approaching the capitol from the west.

The inscription to be carved on the stone mantel in the lounge adjoining Representative hall in the capitol has been received. It reads:

"The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government; but the constitution which at any time exists, till changed by an explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is sacredly obligatory upon all. The very idea of the power and the right of the people to establish government presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established government."

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#330

Star, July 12, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Proper Setting For Capitol Is Urged By Throop

"The duty of Lincoln is to give the Nebraska state capitol, which I think is not only the most beautiful capitol in America but the country's most beautiful building, a proper setting," Frank D. Throop declared in a talk on "City Planning" before the Rotary club at the Lincoln hotel Tuesday noon.

"One of the first things which impressed me about Lincoln when I came here was the civic pride of its citizenry," he declared, "and I am certain that the majority of people here are willing and ready to provide such a setting for the state capitol within a very few years. In the not far distant future the capitol will be a center to which all Nebraska roads will lead."

Mr. Throop stressed the development of the city planning idea, as it has spread westward in America since the time the young French engineer, Major L'Enfant, laid out the plan for Washington, D. C., a plan now being carried out by the government. He discussed the development of Terminal Square in Cleveland and the North Shore and Michigan avenue development in Chicago. He also mentioned the state capitol environs plan worked out in Des Moines, Ia.

"One thing which must impress many people today is the difference in the interest a person shows in his personal property today as compared with fifteen or twenty years ago," Throop said. "Even the smallest home in Lincoln today has gardens about it of unusual beauty. This same interest is being manifested more and more in the development of public as well as personal property." S-7/12/32

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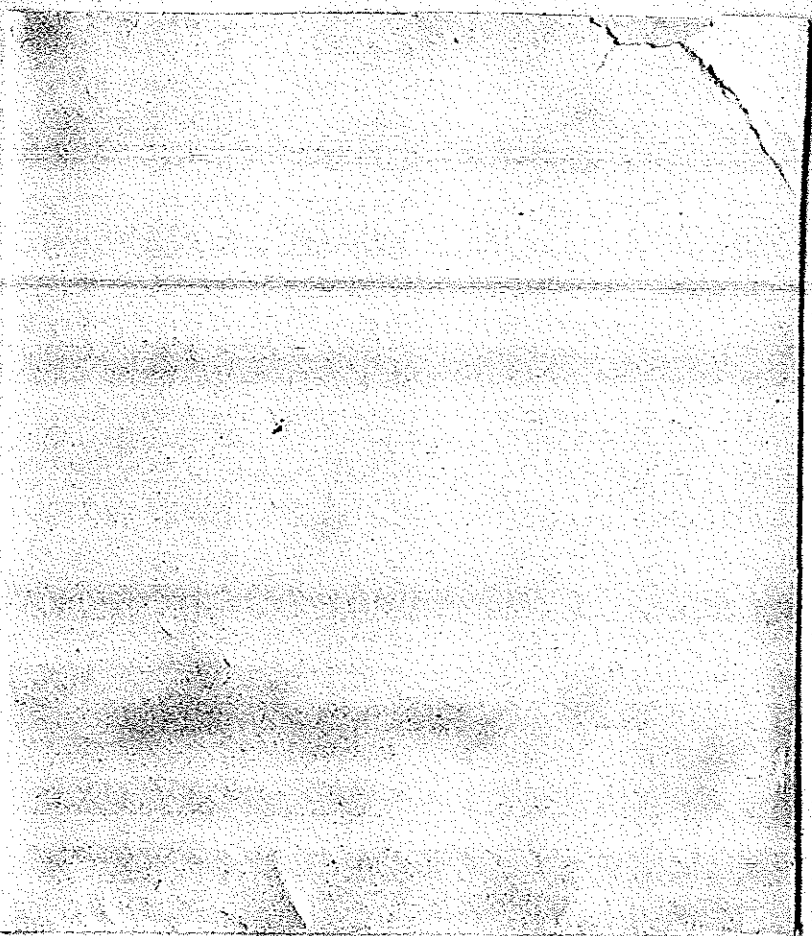
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#331

Journal-Star, July 17, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Lee Laure and his coworkers, Alex-
ander and Grogue - their association.



Lawrie Tells of Association With Goodhue

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article by Leo Lawrie, sculptor for the Nebraska state capitol, includes a group of letters from Mr. Lawrie's personal files, letters which passed between himself and Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, whose "scholarly and poetic mind" was of such importance in the capitol project, and Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the architect, who had to leave life before he saw the complete realization of his vision. It is reprinted from the T-Square Club Journal of Philadelphia, (a publication known as Shelter), through the courtesy of its editor, Mr. Maxwell E. Levinson.

BY LEE LAWRIE.

ONE day when I stopped in to see Goodhue about some work that I was doing for one of his buildings, he remarked, quite casually, "I have been invited to take part in a competition for a state capitol building, and I've been asked to name a sculptor, but you are Gothic."

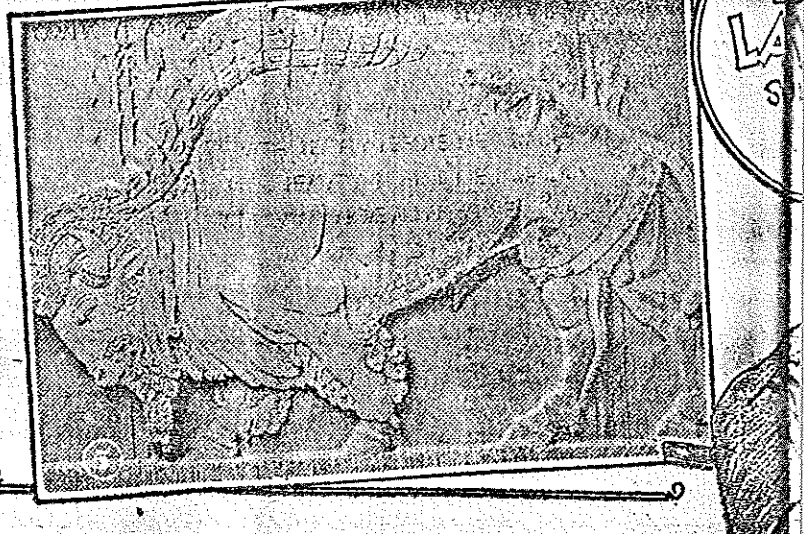
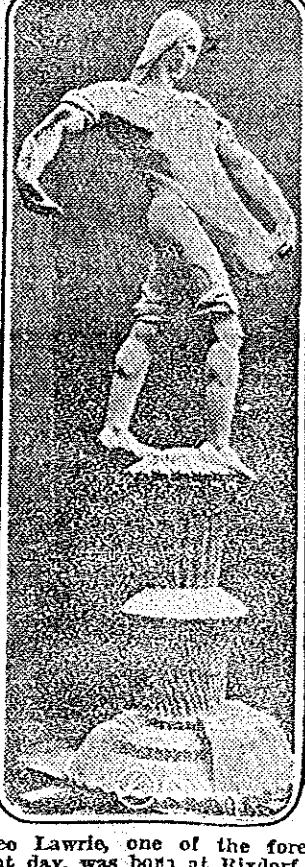
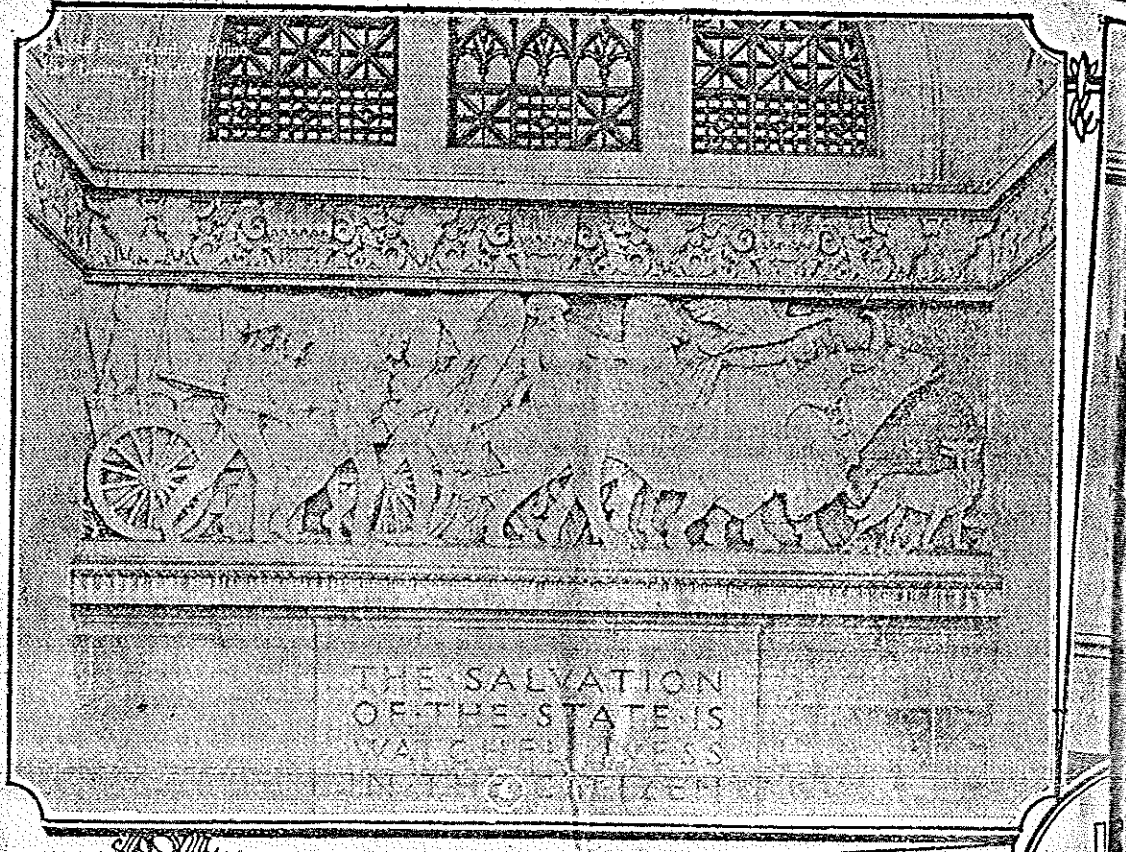
Perhaps I should explain that I was not at all Gothic when I first met Goodhue in the nineties. Then, as were many young sculptors of that day, with an architectural bent, I was striving in the style of the Italian Renaissance. The Gothic manner did seem natural to me from the start, but I am certain, nevertheless, that I should never have come to be regarded as a Gothic sculptor, nor have seen the beauties possible in that style had they not been revealed to me by Goodhue himself.

So I replied, defensively, "Well, I'm not so Gothic as you are, to be sure."

Goodhue Happy and Excited.

During the days that followed this conversation, he would, from time to time, show me drawings for the capitol competition. He was happy and excited, as he had been when I first knew him, and was on down through the years whenever the bounds of his design were those imposed by his own imagination, rather than by the needs and desires of owners and donors.

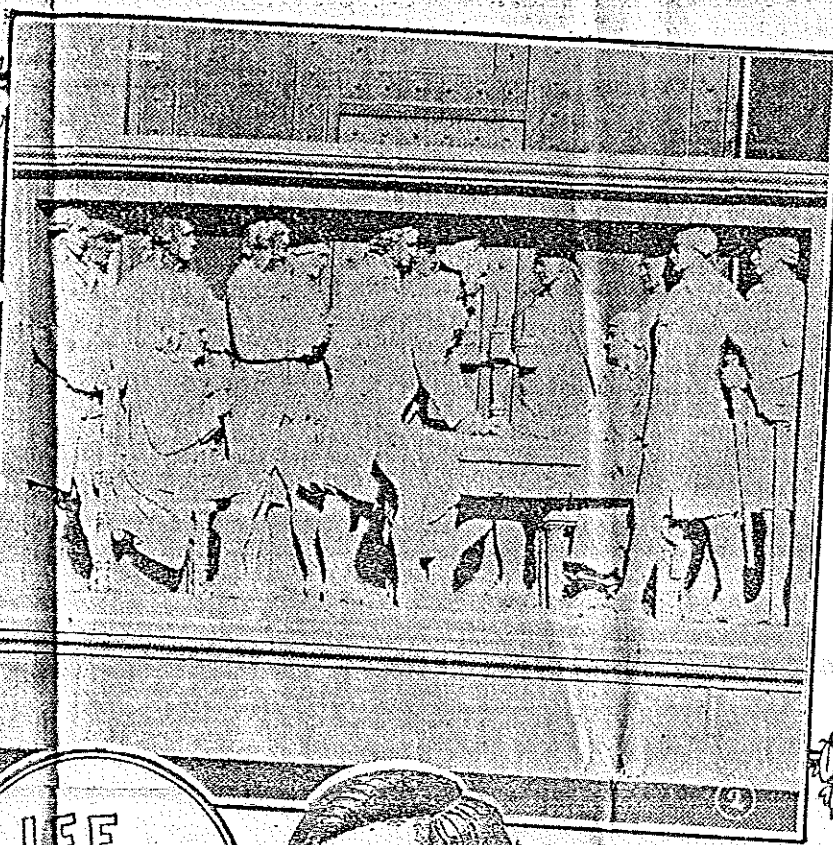
He told me that he did not expect to win the competition, but that anyway he would draw a building that could be understood in mass and detail by the plainsman, the lawmaker, and also by the artist who chanced by. At this time he would often bring up some point in connection with the sculpture, but if he had decided then that I was the sculptor whom he wished to work on his building in the event that he won it, he did not tell me so. Before long, however, he asked me to make pencil sketches for the statues for the competition drawing. The places allowed for the most important of these were for free standing groups and figures about the entrance. About the base of the tower, however, were buttress figures, the forerunners of the Nebraska type. The free standing



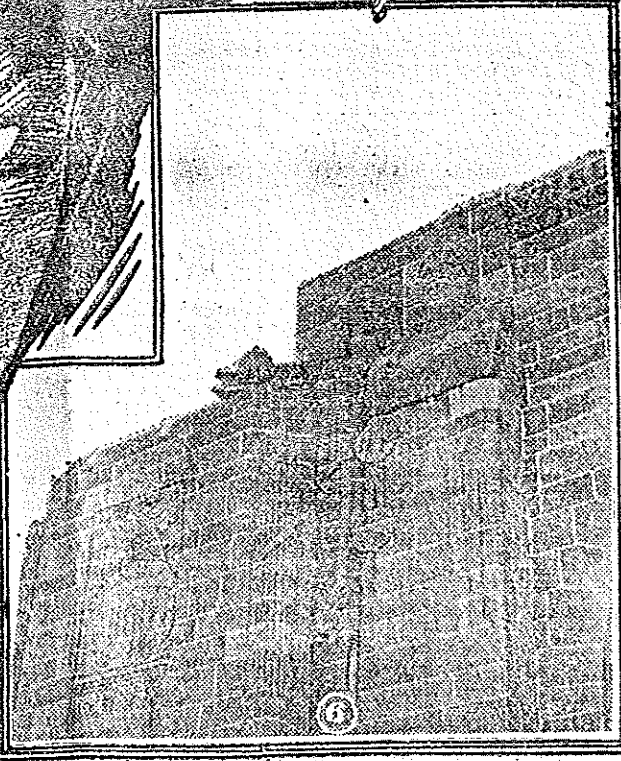
Leo Lawrie, one of the foremost architectural sculptors of the present day, was born at Bixdorf, Germany, October 16, 1877. Brought to America in infancy, he was educated in Chicago and Baltimore schools and at Yale University. He worked in the studios of Philip Martiny, Augustus Sabat-Gaudens and other sculptors, and later was an instructor in sculpture at Yale and Harvard. He designed the sculpture for most of the buildings of the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, including, in addition to the Nebraska state capitol, the United States Military academy at West Point, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C., Los Angeles public library, California Institute of Technology, St. Thomas, California.

and the above sketch by Gay Williams. It is the only existing likeness of Goodhue owned by the capitol commission.

Goodhue and Alexander on Nebraska Capitol



LEE
LAWRIE
SCULPTOR



sculpture were prepared by Dr. Alexander, there is still a vast sum of work in connection with the subjects to be looked up, such as portraits, costumes, accessories and the facts. I try very hard to avoid anachronisms and anachorisms, but one time I made an error which, at the moment of its discovery, caused me a bit of embarrassment, for my ignorance was plainly exposed.

It was at a dinner in Lincoln, when some photographs were passed around the table. Upon seeing the sketch for the Pioneer panel, one of the ladies asked why I had a man carrying an axe.

"To cut down trees and build himself a home," I replied.

"There wasn't a tree in the state of Nebraska when the pioneers arrived," she said, "only brush and prairie grass. They built their homes of the sod."

Another error regarding the natural history of Nebraska was that in the pattern of the frieze above the Pioneer panel where all of the elements were intended to be entirely Nebraskan I had put a rattle-snake into a place where such a form fitted well. When the photograph of this frieze reached Lincoln I was asked to use a different object here for the reason that Nebraska has no snakes. (Mr. Lawrie replaced the snake with an Indian arrowhead.)

Explains Intent of Sculpture.

In a letter to Dr. Alexander, the first, I believe that I ever wrote to him, and written, as I remember not long after Goodhue had invited him to collaborate on the very important work for the capitol, the subjects and inscriptions, I find this statement of the sculptural intention:

APRIL 30, 1923
DEAR DR. ALEXANDER:

My chief interest in the work for the capitol is to echo Mr. Goodhue's architecture of the building in the sculpture, to deal with blocks of stone in their relation to the architectural forms about them. If that is done, the sculpture cannot be the statuary kind. It is a great satisfaction to know that someone is there who understands my aim and my problem perfectly. I was a little afraid of the work's being published for fear it would not be understood, but I am sure that your article should have great weight in the reader's acceptance of work that must no doubt seem strange to many.

Not only in the article referred to, but in many articles and lectures Dr. Hartley Alexander has lent his attention to the interpretation of the meaning of this building, and the fact that it is so widely and so well understood is in large measure due to him.

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue died April 23, 1924. None of the carvings was then far enough along that he might have seen the result of his thought given to the sculpture. Whether my part fulfills his expectations I cannot tell. I had looked forward to the time when I would view the finished building with him and this time was destined never to come.

On April 29, 1924, I wrote to Dr. Alexander:

DEAR ALEXANDER:
It will be difficult to go on without Goodhue. This is the twenty-ninth year that I worked with him. I am the only one who needs his help, for while my part is sculpture, it is really his architecture in plastic form.

LAWRIE

Wesleyan Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Bishop and daughters, Janet Louise and Kathleen Ann, of Corona, Calif. are visiting their parents, Prof. and Mrs. W. G. Bishop 5121 Cleveland St., N. W.

Gay Williams was taken from what is believed to be him in Nebraska, a lantern slide.

In the main entrance arch of the capitol the monument of the pioneers to the plains is a

sheaf of wheat and then a shock of corn. The entire monument is thirty-two feet in height and weighs about ten tons.

5.—This is one of the four buffalo panels carved in the cheeks of the balustrades flanking the main entrance steps. Memorials to the Indian tribes that first held sway on the plains the panels are replete

on the competition drawing. When my sketches were copied onto the latter, Goodhue wrote:

"Won't you please call at this office tomorrow (Wednesday morning preferred) and have a look at your sketches as outlined in the Nebraska detail?"

Wins Capitol Competition.

As is well known the competition was won by Goodhue's beautiful, striking but reasonable design. I realized, as he must have, that the sculpture was but a very minor detail of the drawings; so when I received the following letter, while it made me feel very proud, I knew that I should remember that Goodhue always gave credit generously to anyone who made even a slight contribution to his work, and that I should read into it his kindness and the exuberance he felt over his great good fortune.

MONTECITO, CALIF.
JULY 1, 1920

DEAR MR. LAWRIE:

I found your letter of June 29 when I reached the club yesterday, and this is to promptly express my thanks for your congratulation. Among all those that I received—and they are many—yours means more perhaps than any other; for as you know, I have the highest possible esteem for you and am looking forward to the pleasure of working with you on this very building for years to come. It certainly is a blow to the classicists to have you and me lick 'em up; let's see to it that the job is a thorough one.

BERTRAM G. GOODHUE.

In my reply I referred to the adverse criticism in many magazines and newspapers of the jury's selection of his design, and I remarked that the habit of adhering to precedent apparently dies hard.

Did Not Expect Criticism.

The change in viewpoint that had led him to design the Nebraska capitol building had come upon him so gradually that he himself did not realize how startling it would seem to others whose experience had not taken them in the same direction. He had not expected the criticism, as this letter that he wrote to me shows:

MONTECITO, CALIF.
AUGUST 16, 1920

DEAR MR. LAWRIE:

Nebraska has certainly succeeded in stirring up some row. I am distinctly shocked at the inference that seems to be everywhere made that it's so new in style to be absolutely "out of the void." Have I got to live up to this impression in the design?

BERTRAM G. GOODHUE.

My recollection is that Mr. Thomas R. Kimball, who had the competition in charge for the Nebraska chapter of the American Institute of Architects, had stated in the invitation that a modern American design would not receive unwelcome consideration. At any rate Goodhue saw in the competition an opportunity for an idea that for some time had been taking form in his mind, and now was ripe for expression.

Before he began the drawing for

Visiting Relatives

Henry L. Roth, Jr. of Kansas City is visiting his grandmother, Mrs. William D. Splain.



new 1918, and University of Chicago chapter and others. Among other buildings upon which his work is represented are the tower and archway of the Harkness Memorial quadrangle, Yale University, the Bok "singing tower" of Florida, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, the new Louisiana state capitol, St. Paul city hall and court house and the new Rockefeller Center, or Radio City, in New York.

Twice winner of the gold medal in sculpture offered by the American Institute of Architects, he last received this coveted honor in 1927, when it was presented him for the "excellence and particular achievement of his sculpture for the Nebraska state capitol." Mr. Lawrie resides in New York, is married and has four grown children. He is of medium build, dark, with hair turning slightly gray, and quiet and retiring in manner. A busy man, he often employs from fifteen to twenty men in his studios. Few photographs of him ever have been published,

the Nebraska capitol competition, I recall that he made a number of such comments as this to me: "There was a time when you knew nothing about Gothic. Now you know nothing about anything else. Why have any style at all?" The meaning of these comments I did not comprehend until afterwards, but of course I see now that a new architectural sculpture such as he anticipated, would be possible only with a new architecture.

Began Work In Earnest.

When Goodhue returned from California in the fall of 1920, he set to work in earnest on "Nebraska" as he called it. He brought up some point about the sculpture nearly every time I was at his office, which was once or twice a week, but the first real assurance that I was to take part in the actual work came almost a year after the competition was won, when I received this letter:

MAY 12, 1921

DEAR MR. LAWRIE:

We have received a letter from the secretary of the Nebraska capitol commission, instructing us to have you collaborate with us in a preliminary way in the sculpture of the capitol building. We should be glad to have you come in and talk the matter over with us.

BERTRAM G. GOODHUE.

When I saw Goodhue, I found him rather silent, his manner somewhat aloof, as if I were to imply that the choice of a sculptor had rested entirely upon the capitol commission and that he had had nothing to say in the matter. It may be that during all of this time he was uncertain as to whether he wanted me to be the sculptor of this great building of his. I was not too certain, either, that I was equal to the responsibility, but of course I was glad to try, and so was soon at work on the small studies. The problems of sizes and shapes of buttresses and such matters were gone into before any of the figures were worked out. This letter shows how we proceeded:

NOVEMBER 25, 1921.

DEAR MR. GOODHUE:

The tracing showing the position of the ten great lawmakers, Nebraska capitol, came while I was away for a week. I should like to start the model now, but because these are buttress figures, I think it would be well to let the sculpture make use of more of the architecture below them. I cannot very well give the sense of a buttress terminating in a figure in so short a space. Also, I should like to have in this model the perforated balcony for one of the windows. If you think this should be included, will you let me have a tracing for the portion below this?

L. L.

Consider Stones and Joints.

Stones and their joints were now being considered, and these had much to do with keeping the sculpture simple. I recall that there was a good deal of discussion about the Pioneer panel, for example, to which this letter of mine refers:

NOVEMBER 19, 1923

DEAR MR. GOODHUE:

My three-quarter scale panel of Pioneers over the north entrance shows a projection of one foot in the full size. I should like to cut this into the wall, using the plane of the wall for the highest surface of the relief, and this surface would be the largest portion of the panel.

L. L.

Early in 1923, the type of sculpture had been determined, and a number of large models had been

completed. When these were photographed they presented some rather strange figures, it not having been necessary to make the surrounding walls, a vital part of them, in this large size, because the relation between the wall and the sculpture had been studied in the preliminary models. This fact gave me a bit of uneasiness when one day I received a letter from Goodhue's office asking me to provide photographs for the Nebraska capitol commission. I replied:

FEBRUARY 14, 1923

DEAR MR. GOODHUE:

I have your letter of February 13, and I am sending you a set of photographs of the Nebraska work that you passed on yesterday, that you wish to file with the Nebraska commission. I understand that hereafter I am to have duplicates of the photographs for that purpose.

If it is understood that this work is technical rather than artistic, that it is architecture rather than statuary, then the filing of the photographs will not hamper the progress of the work; but if this is not understood, I see much trouble ahead.

L. L.

Goodhue may have explained to the members of the commission that the sculpture needed the surrounding wall to show the effect it would have when carved on the building, for, so far as I know, they did not criticize it.

It would have been disheartening, I imagine, to have heard all of the disapproving comments that have been made about the work. Most of them, of course, have not reached me, but I shall tell of one that did.

Criticizes Buffalo Panels.

I was in Lincoln, to inspect the carving, and was lost in contemplation of one of the buffaloes, when a man came up and engaged me in conversation. He told me frankly he did not like the buffaloes, and he asked me why I had not made life-like animals. I tried to convince him it would have been wrong to do that and although I failed to change his opinion, the conversation was very enjoyable.

After I returned to New York, Dr. Alexander sent me this clipping of a paragraph from a Lincoln newspaper whose author I suspected was the man I had chanced to talk with about the buffaloes.

The facile gentlemen in charge of the sculpture on the new Nebraska capitol explains the weirdly wonderful buffaloes that appear on the entrance to the structure as being the kind of drawings that he thinks an Indian artist would have made if or when he pictured one. They are like no buffalo we ever saw or have had pictured for us. This is a pleasant little vagary of Mr. Lawrie's for which he will be forgiven because of the excellence of his other contributions. We mention it only to wonder what sort of theory of art it is that gives to us not a representation of a buffalo as it actually is, but what an unskilled artist thought it looked like.

Not knowing the identity of the writer, I made my acknowledgments to Dr. Alexander:

OCTOBER 19, 1923

DEAR ALEXANDER:

The little clipping concerning the buffaloes is very interesting. I remember saying something like that last summer when I was at Lincoln. A gentleman whom I suspect was the writer, remarked that he had never before seen buffaloes like those on the building. I asked him if he had ever before seen a building like that, and said that realistic buffaloes would be as absurd on this building as my buf-

portrays the irresistible movement of twenty-five feet long. The decorative and buffalo skulls.

2.—"Signing the Declaration of perforated balcony panels at the so is nine by five feet in size, are Samuel Adams (standing at left of at right of table) and John Hancock, Hopkins, Rush, Lee, Morris, Gerry, Adams and Huntington.

3.—Abraham Lincoln as the young foot buttress figures on the north

4.—This is the model of "The So tower. The nineteen-foot figure strid

façades would have been on the old state house.

L. L.

Constantly Making Explanations.

From the correspondence it appears that I was constantly making explanations during those first few years while grappling with the many complex problems. After the panels of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were made, I find that I wrote this letter to Dr. Alexander, who, as is well known, collaborated with Goodhue on the subjects and inscriptions, and whose scholarly and poetic mind Goodhue rejoiced to find wholeheartedly interested in the sym-bological program of the capitol building.

AUGUST 29, 1924

DEAR ALEXANDER:

No doubt there will be questions about the rather free portraiture. The most important point about these panels is one that will not occur to most people—that of each panel's being a group of forms, casual enough to make a picturesque subject, yet architectural enough to make a balustrade. So, for architectural reasons it is kept from being realistic, and also there is license in the subject matter, since there were of course more signers than appear in the panel, and all of the signing wasn't done in a day.

I hope you will ask any question that occurs to you about the composition problems of the panels. The structural composition of the balustrade panels was a problem. The figures must support the lintel stones and yet not look as if they do; and for that object we moved the figures about until we got the voids a pleasant pattern from the front and from the sides, and at the same time placed the figures at angles that would render the effect of the stone much greater than it is.

L. L.

Because of the constant striving for certain general effects in the sculpture's relation to the building, it may seem that the emotional aspect was altogether overlooked. Sometimes there is a sort of a tug-of-war between the two necessities. In a letter with regard to the Pioneer panel I find this matter mentioned:

AUGUST 25, 1924

DEAR DR. ALEXANDER:

The Pioneer panel is a great opportunity, and I think I'm going to get something good. I've taken out the heavy drag that you and the others criticized in the smaller models, putting into it some of the buoyancy that Mrs. Hall (Mr. Lawrie refers to the late Mrs. P. M. Hall) wanted. Still, I'm keeping it grim enough to convey to the young the courage and determination that went into the making of the state, and remind them that their inheritance came perhaps none too easily; also, the north entrance arch, being of a very sober design indeed, must have a panel that fits it.

When the panel is carved on the building, the movement of the group is toward the west; so I think I shall have the setting sun in the horizon in front of the oxen. This will help emphasize the idea that the travelers are rather anxious to come to a halt, as is suggested by the old man with the diving rod, looking for water.

L. L.

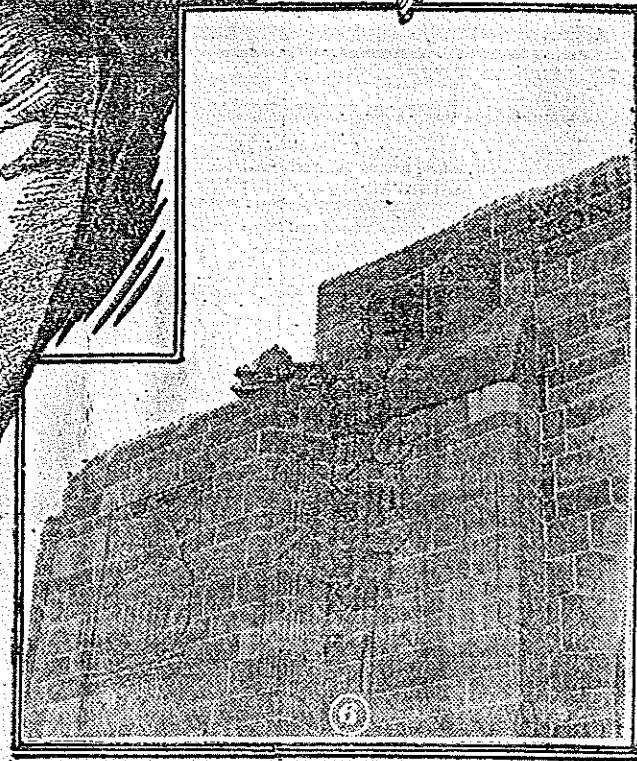
Story-Telling Subordinated. Also, with regard to this panel, I wrote:

SEPTEMBER 10, 1924

DEAR DR. ALEXANDER:

I am sending you a print of the finished model for the Pioneer panel, and I should be glad if you would tell me what you feel. The story-telling part of course, is subordinated to the architectural requirements; however, I have tried not to slight the subject, either.

A suggestion of vastness is intended with the first following ox. The other ox the newcomer quizzically regarding the



...to deal with blocks of stone in their relation to the architectural forms about them. If that is done, the sculpture cannot be the stately kind. It is a great satisfaction to know that someone is there who understands my aim and my problem perfectly. I was a little afraid of the work's being published for fear it would not be understood, but I am sure that your article should have great weight in the reader's acceptance of work that must no doubt seem strange to many.

Not only in the article referred to, but in many articles and lectures Dr. Hartley Alexander has lent his attention to the interpretation of the meaning of this building, and the fact that it is so widely and so well understood is in large measure due to him.

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue died April 23, 1924. None of the carving was then far enough along that he might have seen the result of his thought given to the sculpture. Whether my part fulfills his expectations I cannot tell. I had looked forward to the time when I would view the finished building with him, and this time was destined never to come.

On April 29, 1924, I wrote to Dr. Alexander:

DEAR ALEXANDER:
It will be difficult to go on without Goodhue. This is the twenty-ninth year that I worked with him. I am the only one who needs his help, for while my part is sculpture, it is really his architecture in plastic form.

LAWRIE

Wesleyan Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Bishop and daughters, Janet Louise and Kathleen Ann, of Corona, Calif., are visiting their parents, Prof. and Mrs. W. G. Bishop 5121 Cleveland, and Mrs. Henrietta Parll of 5013 Leighton avenue. Mr. Bishop received his bachelor's degree from Wesleyan in 1916 and his master's degree in 1930 from Leland Stanford Junior university. He has held superintendencies in the public schools at Oakland and Tekamah, at present, is vice-principal of the Corona high school. Mrs. Bishop, nee Minnie Parll, graduated from Wesleyan in 1917, received her masters degree from the University of California in 1921.

As president of the Corona Lions club, Mr. Bishop is visiting as many Lion clubs as possible on this vacation trip, which has taken him by automobile through Riverside, Calif., Las Vegas, New Mexico; Salt Lake City, Utah; Denver and Greeley, Colo. They will return to California by way of Yellowstone park, Portland, Ore., and San Francisco, Calif.

Prof. F. M. Gregg of the Wesleyan psychology department has delivered five lectures during the past week as a part of the series of lectures in the character educational courses at the University of Nebraska. On July 11, Professor Gregg spoke on, "The Great Conspiracy Against the American Youth," at a meeting of the Methodist League of Youth in Omaha. About 250 young people were present from the Fremont, Arlington, Blair, Lincoln and Omaha churches. On the afternoon of the same day, Mr. Gregg spoke over station WCAJ on his experiences during his trip to Washington, D. C., from which he and Mrs. Gregg recently returned.

...was taken from what is be-
...in Nebraska, a lantern slide

...the main entrance arch of the capitol
...the pioneers to the plains. It is
...above comprises ears of corn

...of Independence' is one of the three
...the south entrance. In the panel, which
...Benjamin Franklin (seated at left),
...of able), Thomas Jefferson (seated
...standing at right). Others are
...Winnington, Ellery, Sherman, John

...rainsplitter is one of the twenty-
...of the tower.

...the Soli," the huge bronze finial of the
...pedestal composed first of a

...of his predecessor, the buffalo.
...and America are suggested by
...eagle. The basket of seed, too precious
...be chafed by the jolting wagon, is
...died by the youngest male.

...hope you will think the faint sugges-
...of God. In the scout is all right. I
...remember your snaking your head when
...matter was discussed at the luncheon
...University club.

L. L.
...and six years later, I was still re-
...ating the difficulty of keeping
...sculpture within bounds:

JUNE 3, 1930
DEAR ALEXANDER:
...was good of you to say what you did
...the Lincoln (Mr. Lawrie refers to the
...Lincoln buttress figure). If it
...and for the architectural problem
...with all of my work, it would
...be difficult to make it more engaging.
...and it necessary to forego a

sheaf of wheat and then a shock of corn. The entire monument is
thirty-two feet in height and weighs about ten tons.

5.—This is one of the four buffalo panels carved in the cheeks of
the balustrades flanking the main entrance steps. Memorials to the
Indian tribes that first held sway on the plains, the panels are replete
with Indian thought and symbolism. The buffalo and maize, shown in
the background, were chief sources of food for the Indian tribes, whose
names are inscribed above. On the bodies of the bison are inscriptions
from Indian lore. On this buffalo bull is a passage from a Navajo
hymn sung to celebrate a refreshing shower: "In beauty I walk; with
beauty before me I walk; with beauty behind me I walk; with beauty
above and about me I walk."

6.—Wisdom and Justice, two of the four buttress figures at the
north entrance, are, together with Power and Mercy, "constant guard-
ians of the law," as the cornice inscription on the entrance arch in-
dicates.

All photographs are reprinted through the courtesy of the Nebraska
capitol commission.

little of the architectural stress and to
add a little of the romantic for so human
a character as Lincoln.

L. L.

In reference to the large pylon
figures, either side of the north en-
trance, I find this letter:

DECEMBER 17, 1924

DEAR ALEXANDER:
The pylon group of Wisdom and Justice
is still up in the rough, and though but
half size, still is large. This is a very in-
teresting problem, as it reduces the factors
to a few essentials.

L. L.

Two months later I wrote:
FEBRUARY 8, 1925

DEAR ALEXANDER:
I have read your criticisms very care-
fully about the heads of Wisdom and
Justice. The whole group is a matter of
planes, and the oval planes on Wisdom's
chin is quite gentle. I notice, though,
that it is emphasized in the photograph
because of the light. You will remember,
of course, that these figures are in con-
tracted high relief, and if planes of dif-
ferent angles were not used, the whole
thing would be flat. If they had a natural
projection from the wall, it would mean
that the buttresses would have to be twice
their present projections.

L. L.

Eliminate Non-Essentials.
Wherever it has been possible on
this building there has been an
elimination of non-essentials. A

good deal of sculpture that appeared
in the first scheme has been lost
in the process of simplification. This
letter refers to one instance:

JULY 18, 1928

DEAR ALEXANDER:
I am very thankful to have received a
copy of your complete scenario sent to
me by the Nebraska commission. The
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue Associates
asked me into see them the other day
when we went over your suggestion for
incised reliefs to replace the niches in
the foyer, and we agreed that nothing is
necessary there; and I must confess that
for some time I've been guilty of a very
unprofessional attitude in believing that
if modeling and carving aren't vitally
needed they should be omitted.

LAWRIE

Also, the Associates and I agreed
that it was better to eliminate the
huge figures on the corners of the
tower, and the smaller figures over
the played window slashes. After
this was done the tower had a much
more austere outline than in the
first drawings. Goodhue had con-
stantly emphasized the beauty of
simplicity as this work developed,
and we felt that he would have him-
self decided to omit the enrichment
of the tower.

An Embarrassing Moment.
Although the subjects for the

336.45

Feb.

#332

Star. July 21, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**CAPITOL DOORS
SPARED DOWN TO
7/11/32 SAVE NEW RUGS**

Forty-five heavy walnut doors in various offices at the capitol had to be taken off their hinges and pared off at the bottom to keep them from scraping the new inch-thick velvet carpet rugs recently installed along with new walnut tables, desks, chairs, cabinets, and other furniture. If this had not been done, the rugs would soon have been showing wear and tear in circular patches.

Some of the doors have bronze kick plates at the bottom, which had to be taken off and put on again. A workman has been busy attending to the doors for the past week or more. He cut from one-fourth to three-fourths inch off of each.

336.45

Neb.

#333

Journal, July 22, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL ROOM 'UNVEILED'

J. 2/22/32

**Representative Hall Shown
When Scaffold Removed.**

The nearly completed representative hall at the state capitol has been "unveiled" in all its beauty by removal of a forest of scaffolds used in construction of the walnut beam ceiling. Massive walnut benches are being placed in the gallery that surrounds three sides of the hall. Stone forming a background high over the speaker's desk is being carved, one figure being that of a pioneer woman with babe in arms and the other a husbandman in classic robes, one hand grasping the handle of a shovel.

Outside the capitol an effort is being made to keep green the newly laid sod by use of hose and sprinklers. The south door is closed while workmen are completing a

basement driveway and steps and walks leading from the street. The stone work on the walk approaching the east walk is virtually completed. The state penitentiary electric power line is being laid underground in conduits approaching from the southwestern corner of the grounds. Street lighting conduits are being laid from the same corner.

The main entrance on the north is still partly blocked by construction work on walks and steps. The driveway with a walk leading to the first floor, under the main entrance steps, is used by persons entering from the north. Work on walks around the Lincoln statue on the west side is progressing.

336.45

Neb.

#334

Journal, July 27, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

LAYING 626 SQUARE YARDS OF CARPET TO DEADEN TREAD OF LEGISLATORS

Low July 27 '32

In this day of loose rugs lying on the floor the capitol commission is taking down 260 square yards of carpet in the senate chamber and will soon lay 366 square yards in Representative hall in the capitol to silence the heavy tread of legislators. As both halls have solid cement floors visitors wonder how a carpet can be tacked close to the edges of the halls. The mystery is solved. A strip of wood was imbedded in the floor around the edge of each hall when the cement was laid.

Visitors in the senate chamber find that workmen use a carpet stretcher which is operated on the principle of the flimsy little stretchers used half a century ago when carpets were nailed tightly to floor, when the head of the house spread a little straw on the floor, perhaps put some newspapers under it to catch the dust, and proceeded to lay an ingrain carpet, if he was not rich. If he was wealthy, perhaps he laid a so-called Brussels carpet. The carpet was tacked to one or two edges of the room, close to the baseboard.

Of course, it never just fit the room and the two remaining loose sides had to be either turned under or stretched with carpet stretcher, one end of which was hammered into the floor close to the baseboard, and the claws in the stretcher then inserted in the carpet, and a lever used to do the stretching act.

Without this device the head of the house might use his fingers and knees while stretching the ingrain, sometimes bruising his knuckles and elbows trying to pull the carpet and himself over to reach the edge of the room and at the same time put in tacks before

the carpet moved out of position and keep his trousers and shirt from parting company.

In the legislative halls the process is now a little different. The rug, 260 yards square in the senate chamber comes in three large pieces, with a border on the edges. First a thick felt mat is placed on the floor. Then a piece of carpet big enough to make a circus tent is laid over the felt, the two making a soft surface fully an inch thick. The carpet and mat are both cut to fit the inserts and off-sets in the edge of the hall floor. But now the trouble begins. Innumerable iron pipes and sockets for desks and an electric system of voting by pressure of buttons on the desks, bulge up from the floor and make little mountains in the carpet.

Holes have to be cut in the carpet for these projections in the floor and the carpet sewed together in sections before the floor is really carpeted. In representative hall, where there are to be desks for 100 members of the lower house, 157 holes must be cut in the felt and carpet. In the senate chamber where thirty-three solons will sit, the number of holes will be less.

Then when it is all done and the carpet covers both hall floors up to the very edge, this soft covering may make fine pickings for moths and other corrupting things, including spittle and cigar ashes, during the years to come, or while the carpet lasts.

"Battleship linoleum is good enough for me, and it can be cleaned," remarked a prospective member of the senate when he viewed the carpet and his feet sank into its resilient surface.

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Keio

#335

July 30, 1934

Fantastical Stories About Delay In Capitol Sculptoring Unfounded

7/30/34
Fantastical reports from Lincoln to all parts of the nation that finishing touches on the sculpture for the new Nebraska state capitol are being held up pending a controversy as to whether the prophet Ezekiel, who lived 2,500 years ago, had whiskers, were based on an imaginary story. The whole story was the invention of an individual in whose mind alone the "controversy" existed.

Newspapers throughout the nation Friday and Saturday carried the stories of the delay on the capitol work while critics and defenders of a sculpture of Ezekiel argued whether or not the prophet followed the Lord's order to shave.

The Ezekiel sculpture is second in a series of eight twenty-foot carvings on the base of the tower representing typical heroes of great epochs in the history of civilization. It is the work of Lee Lawrie, sculptor of the capitol, and is the last of the eight to be carved in the stone walls of the tower.

The model for the sculpture was received in Lincoln and approved by the capitol commission more than two years ago. At the time Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, formerly of the University of Nebraska and now of Pomona college, Claremont, Cal., who collaborated with Lawrie and the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, architect, in the

symbolical scheme for the building, was said to have remarked that it was one of Lawrie's finest pieces of work. Carving of the sculpture was not done immediately because it was to go on the west face of the tower, then uncompleted.

So for two years Ezekiel lay crated in the capitol basement. No one in Lincoln had seen it, nor knew what it looked like, for through an oversight the capitol commission had not received photographs of it. It had been the stock "joke" of a certain individual, however, that the figure probably would have a beard.

In his office in the capitol W. L. Younkin, superintendent of construction, smiled as he read newspaper accounts of the "controversy." He doubts that all members of the capitol commission even know of the story. In New York, Lee Lawrie, the sculptor, interviewed by newspapermen, was not the least perturbed.

Monday morning Alessandro Beretta returns to the scaffold on the west face of the capitol tower. The interior sculpture work completed, he must spend three weeks in finishing Ezekiel and his beard.

Completion of Ezekiel will mark an end to the sculptural work on the tower, but considerable carving remains to be done at the east and west entrances to the building.

336.45

Neb.

#336

Journal, July 30, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

From July 30, 1932
This from Cyrus Black of Hickman: "I met a gentleman from California the other day who has been visiting his former neighbors in Lincoln and elsewhere in Lancaster county, and we were discussing the new capitol building. 'It is a wonderful structure,' said the Californian, 'but it seems to me that someone should be looking after the care of it. I couldn't help but notice the beautiful figures in the floor, but they were littered with cigar and cigaret stubs, carelessly thrown about by smokers who seemed to have no regard for beauty or art.'

"I was a member of the legislature when the bill was enacted, providing for the erection of this magnificent structure, and I naturally take a personal pride in having a part in making it possible for the people of Nebraska to build this, the most beautiful state capitol west of the Mississippi river, without going in debt," Mr. Black continued, "and it is a matter of regret that such carelessness is overlooked by those who have the care and custody of the building. I do not desire to stress the idea that those who have the custody of the new capitol are not trying to protect the structure from such acts of carelessness by some who visit the place, but I believe that a little more attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated by those who are justly proud of their new state capitol and love to hear commendation and praise of strangers who may chance to visit it, instead of criticism."

336.45

Neb.

#337

Star, August 11, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Artist Says Nebraska Capitol
Culmination Modern Era In Art

5/11/32

One of America's most noted mural artists, Eugene Francis Savage, of Ossining, N. Y., who is being considered by the capitol commission as one of the prospective muralists for the Nebraska capitol, stopped off in Lincoln quite unexpectedly Thursday morning to visit the building.

Mr. Savage, who is professor of painting and design at Yale university, and mural decorator of the Elks National memorial in Chicago, was returning from Los Angeles, where he served as chairman of the jury on painting of the international art section of the Tenth Olympiad.

Ranks With Empire State.

"It reminds me of everything I ever liked in art," Mr. Savage commented as he inspected the capitol with W. E. Hardy, vice chairman of the capitol commission, W. L. Younkin, superintendent of construction, and a reporter of The Star. "In my own opinion the Nebraska capitol and the Empire State building of New York represent the culmination of the modern era in art. I don't know what other building can be ranked with them unless it is Goodhue's library in Los Angeles."

His knowledge of the capitol, he explained, had come from photographic studies of the building, and from contact with the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the architect, whom he knew very well. He also is acquainted with the other artists of the building, Lee Lawrie, the sculptor; Hildred Meiere, the mosaic artists, and Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, who prepared the symbolical program.

In the work of each artist he showed a tremendous interest, and made frequent comments in praise of various parts of the building. Of murals already in the capitol, he was high in his praise of Augustus Vincent Tack's work in the governor's reception room and private office, which he said, "fulfilled their purpose excellently." He did not care for "The Spirit of the Prairie," which Elizabeth Dolan did in the state library.

Although cautious about criticizing the building, he later ventured to declare that "it was a mistake

to bring such a naturalistic painting into the building. It is very nice work, but a little out of place here. I believe all mural work would be better today, if artists would do strictly wall decorations, and not make their murals appear like views through a window."

People Human Here.

Commenting on Lincoln and Nebraska, Mr. Savage declared that people "are really human here," and when informed that the \$10,000,000

capitol is being built on a pay-as-you-go plan, added that "they apparently are smart, too."

As an artist, Mr. Savage is known to many Lincoln people. An exhibition of paintings by his Yale students was shown at the Nebraska art exhibit in Morrill hall last February, and in the spring the University of Nebraska school of fine arts purchased one of his paintings, "Triumphant Spring." One of his best known paintings is of interest to many Nebraskans, "Arbor Days," which is on permanent exhibition in the Chicago Art institute.

Although the capitol commission has made no definite plans in its selection of mural artists for the capitol, it is probable that several noted painters will be represented in the building. Mr. Savage is one of a number who are being considered.

Mr. Savage left Lincoln Thursday afternoon, returning to New York, where he is to prepare sketches for murals for the new Roosevelt memorial there.

336.45

Neb,

#338

Star, August 13, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

NOW WE CAN SEE HOW IT LOOKS

MORE than ten years ago ground was broken for the beginning of excavation and construction work on Nebraska's new capitol. Each step in the development of the great edifice has been watched with interest and pride by the people of the state. Now, at last, it is seen in its virtually completed aspect, in the midst of the changed landscape that will constitute its immediate setting.

Gone are the railroad tracks, the piles of unsightly materials, the temporary frame shacks, and the generally cluttered up conditions which made Capitol square resemble a junk yard. In their place are neatly sodded areas sloping gently away from the structure on all sides. Gone are the old, badly cracked steps at the corners of the square and the elevated sidewalks running around it. One can now stroll clear around the capitol without doing any hill climbing or stumbling over unevenly laid stone slabs. Cars can drive in and let off or take on passengers, and there is a loading and unloading place for trucks in the basement, out of sight of the public.

During all the years while building operations were in progress, it was hardly possible to visualize what the structure would look like when finished. Not until the completion of the tower and dome and the installation of the Sower on his lofty pedestal did the capitol even begin to fulfill its exterior design as previously pictured in architects' drawings. Even then, the hole left in the west side of the main edifice great marred the general appearance until it was filled in.

Viewed in its present setting, the capitol comes up to expectations. It is a rare gem of modern architectural art and constructive genius entirely worthy of the attention it has had and continues to receive from all over the world. As a monument to the commonwealth of Nebraska, it is adequate and satisfying.

To the citizens of Lincoln particularly the new capitol brings new inspiration for civic betterment. With such a building in their midst, the people of Lincoln are impressed more than ever with the responsibility resting upon themselves to keep the atmosphere of their city clean and wholesome and to do everything possible in the way of beautifying the section surrounding the seat of government.

Zoning regulations already adopted and in force will prevent the erection of any private structures in the neighborhood of the capitol which would obstruct the view of it from any direction or be out of harmony with its setting. There still remain to be done the widening and straightening of certain streets, the development of parked approaches, the opening of a thoroughfare from Capitol square to the university campus, and other features which will add to the beauties of the capitol itself.

Two other states have already adopted the style of architecture first carried out here, in the construction of their new capitols. Neither of these, however, equals the Nebraska building, which is likely to remain a long time the outstanding example of twentieth century construction for state governmental purposes.

336.45

Neb.

#339

A

LEGISLATIVE SHOES UPON DOWNY CARPET

J-5/8/14/32
Chenille Weave Rug Costing
\$16.75 a Yard Spread
for Lawmakers.

Outside and apart from the coming campaign for governor and state offices there is to be waged a hot fight in Nebraska for 133 seats in the legislature. For the latter office there is now spread a reward that prompts every candidate to win, for the winners will have the privilege of resting their tired feet upon soft carpet newly laid in the two legislative halls of the capitol, a building that will be completed by the time the legislature meets next January.

Among other meritorious qualities this carpet is supposed to possess is the power to inspire eloquence, to make people talk, not only legislators but their constituents. The fact that the carpet laid costs the state \$16.75 a square yard may have something to do with this.

Formerly the seventy-five cents might have been called six bits, but to many they look bigger than bits now. Many a legislator is expected to explain, as does Governor Bryan concerning the tapestry and other decorations in his private office, that he did not buy them, and lay it upon his predecessors or the capitol commission.

Members of the capitol commission say the carpet is a good serviceable piece of goods that ought to last twenty-five or thirty years and the price is reasonable, and was obtained by competitive bidding. This being true, some legislators who expect to use the carpet next year would not be surprised if their grandchildren some time in the future legislate upon this same carpet, their hearts bleeding for humanity just as profusely as did the hearts of their grandfathers.

Expect Carpet to Wear.

It has been the policy of the capitol commission to furnish the \$10,000,000 capitol in a manner to comport with the dignity and the beauty of the building and not to cheapen any material that goes into it. The carpet is expected to outwear several carpets of a cheaper grade and in the end save expense to the people of the state.

The carpets have been laid in both legislative halls and the seats have been placed in representative hall. Edges of the carpet had to be cut to fit the contour of the main floor, bordered with columns which project slightly upon the floor. In addition 157 holes had to be cut in the carpet in representative hall to permit desks and chairs to be fastened to the floor and allow for wire connections for an electric system of voting by means of buttons upon the desks.

The carpet is of chenille weave, a soft tufted or fluffy cord or worsted woven in a certain manner, the ends of the cord being clipped. With felt matting beneath the carpet is an inch or more thick, soft yet firm and resilient and, like truth crushed to earth, will rise again. It is not of striking color and has no distinct figure. Members of the legislature who are color blind take no offense at the color.

Matches Warner's Hens.

Senator Charles J. Warner of Waverly, viewing the senate carpet, at first was not pleased, but when it was explained to him that it was a buff color to match the color scheme of the senate decorations and that it was the same color as his barnyard chickens, a brownish-yellow, he heartily approved the color. Wherever the carpet is cut to permit fastening desks and chairs it is either bound by sewing tape on the edges or treated to a button hole stitch to keep it from traveling.

There are 2,352 square feet in the main floor of the senate chamber and 3,303 square feet in the floor of the house, a total of 628 square yards. At \$16.75 a yard this makes the total cost of the two carpets \$10,519. For galleries and under galleries a carpet costing \$5 a yard is to be used.

Some one has estimated that the thirty-three members of the senate will each be allowed in round numbers eight square yards of carpet in which to give expression to himself, provided he does not waive his rights and desires to use all the space allotted to him when he gets up to speak on the state of the nation.

Speeches in Four Feet.

While the house chamber is larger there are 100 members in that body and each member will have to confine his remarks to a space just a fraction less than four square feet, while his voice rolls up under the galleries and into the galleries and out any ventilating holes in the structure, and thus on into endless space.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

This division of the arena seems unfair to members of the house, but that is the best the architects could do in trying to enlarge representative hall.

The same apparent discrimination against the house in the matter of cost of carpet space available exists. Each senator will be at liberty to occupy eight square yards of carpet, costing \$134, while each member of the house will be limited to four yards of carpet costing \$67 all told. Acoustics in the senate chamber have been remedied, it is believed, by taking out the ceilings under the galleries and replacing them with perforated metal.

Desks Fastened Down.

Desks in the house are joined together in rows of five, the rows being curved slightly. Both desks and chairs are securely fastened to the floor, the chair bases with heavy screws, so that if either branch of the legislature ever votes chairs or desks to themselves the motion will have to be accompanied with screw drivers, and then it would require twelve legislators to carry one row of desks out of the house chamber if it were the determination of the members to saw the desks apart and divide them as spoils of war.

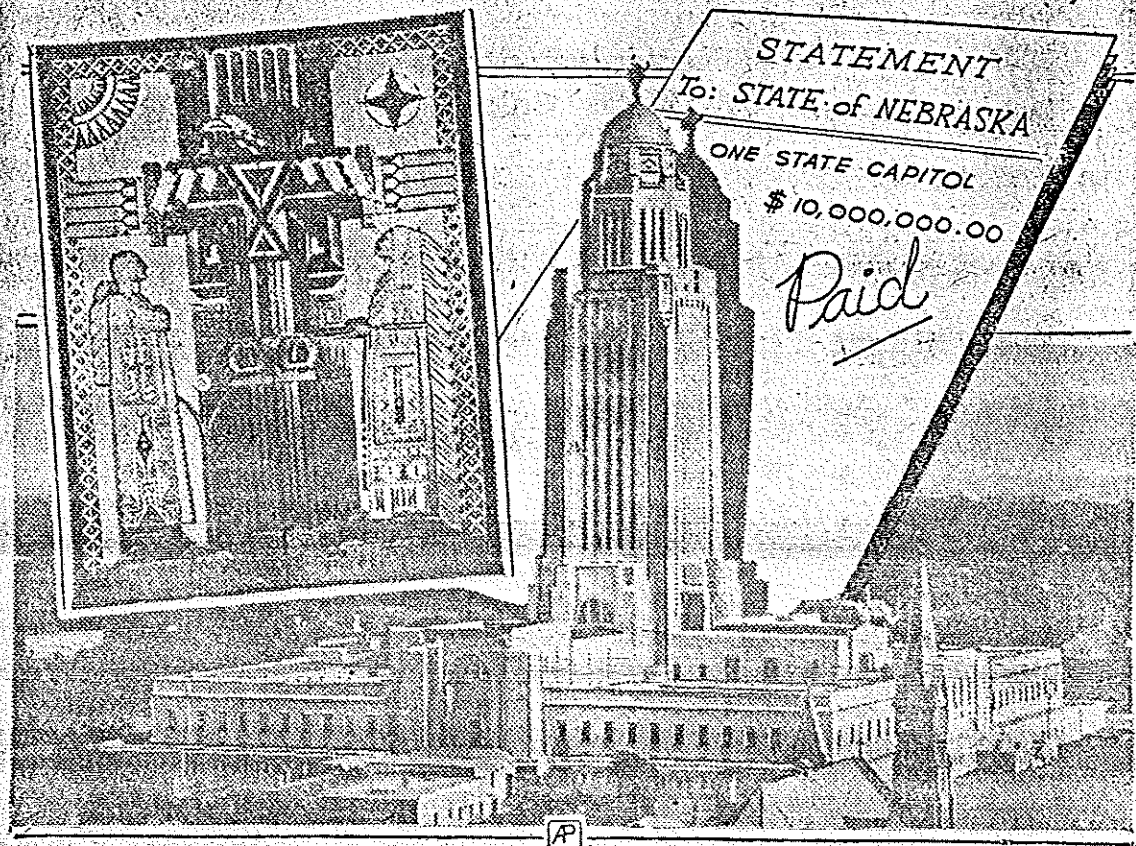
The candidates for the house who go into office with the predicted Hoover landslide will be able to walk in silence to their desks upon soft and downy carpet, take their seats in fine leather upholstered revolving chairs, and

gaze upon figures of Coronado, or Lewis and Clark, the coming of United States surveyors, a long line of pioneer covered wagons, the coming of cattlemen and busbandmen and meditate upon the march of progress which finds Nebraska legislators with their feet snuggled in carpet every hit as good as they have at home after they come in from the feed lot and take off their rubber boots and sit down to study the rapidly advancing market prices.

#340

"Pay as You Go" Capitol State's \$10,000,000 Gift to Itself

W.H. 8/21/32



No bonds have been issued for Nebraska's new capitol, whose four hundred-foot tower dominates the surrounding prairies. Instead, the 10 million dollar cost has been met by taxes—the "pay as you go" plan of financing—and the structure will be entirely paid for when complete. Claims for distinctiveness refer, among other things, to the mahogany doors of the senate chamber (upper left) with the Indian tree of life as the motif.

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 20 (AP).—A 10 million-dollar capitol whose architecture has attracted wide architectural attention soon will be delivered—prepaid—to the state of Nebraska.

Towering four hundred feet above the surrounding prairie, this "skyscraper" state house lacks only a few finishing touches before completion.

Every Brick Paid For.

Already \$9,750,000 has been spent on the structure, and every brick is paid for. Instead of issuing bonds, Nebraska has levied direct taxes for the capitol.

Now only some landscaping, a bit of interior fitting, sculpture and mural paintings are needed before the building, designed by

the late Bertram Goodhue of New York, is finished. No date for its dedication has been set.

Its four hundred-foot tower, constructed, like the rest of the building, from white limestone, has become a prairie landmark. Thousands of tourists visit it annually, and motorists 25 miles away can glimpse its gold dome, topped by a 32-foot bronze statue of "The Sower."

Goodhue, who submitted the winning design in a contest did not live to see it executed, but his associates carried on.

Built Around Old Capitol.

First the outer rim of the main building was constructed around the old capitol. Before the original structure was demolished, most state employees had found office

space in the new.

Architectural sculpture adorning the exterior was conceived by Lee Lawrie of New York, who also designed the Indian motif for two massive mahogany doors guarding the entrance to the senate chamber.

Symbolic Designs Used.

Intricate designs on the floor and ceilings of the main hall—all symbolic of life in various stages and moods—were worked out by Hildreth Meiere of New York. Other artists likewise made contributions.

Mural paintings, not yet ordered, are expected to cost about 80 thousand dollars.

Despite its unusual plans, however, there is little waste space. The tower, as well as the two-story main wings, contains offices.

336.45

Neb.

#341

Star, September 26, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE BUREAU

FOOTRESTS FOR NEBRASKA LAWMAKERS

TWO very commodious and ornate halls have been provided in the new capitol as permanent meeting places for the Nebraska state senate and house of representatives, which those bodies will occupy beginning with next winter's session. The rooms and their furnishings are far beyond anything ever before used by a lawmaking assembly in this state, in point of convenience, luxurious appointments, and decorative beauty; but some solons, no doubt, will discover things to criticize and find fault with.

One objection already advanced to the seating of the chambers is that it will not be possible for legislators to get their swivel chairs in position where they can comfortably elevate their feet to the top of their expensive walnut desks. This is because both the chairs and the desks are screwed down fast to the floor, and the chair does not sit far enough from the desk to permit its occupant to assume such a posture.

Also, the swivel part of the chair is fixed so as to turn only half way around—that is, the sitter can swing to the right or to the left, but cannot make a full circuit so as to face backward. That prevents him from sticking his brogans up on the desk just behind him. It just seems as though the designers of the senate and house furniture did their best to keep the manufacturers of laws from enjoying their accustomed comforts.

Trenmor Cone of Douglas county, who recently tried out the acoustics of the new house chamber by making a sample speech there to an imaginary audience, has already voiced his dissatisfaction.

"These seats are so diabolically contrived and set up," Cone says, "that a man can't get his feet on his own desk, and he can't swing around to see what is going on in the rear of the chamber. His only chance of getting a good footrest is to use the desk of his neighbor on one side or the other, and I'm afraid that won't work very well."

However, the plan of making swivel chairs fast to the floor has one advantage from the lawmaker's standpoint. It makes certain that he can lean back in his seat and go to sleep without any danger of tipping over, as has happened not infrequently in former sessions. A dignified statesman doesn't like to be tumbled backwards on the floor in full view of his colleagues and the public.

The arrangement, too, gives the taxpayers assurance that members will not be taking the chairs home with them at the close of the session.

Some solons will see a drawback in the fact that the front of each desk does not rise far enough above the top to permit the attachment of a placard showing his name to the people in the side and rear balconies. There will be a nameplate on the front, which the presiding officer and secretary or clerk can see, but that is all.

It will be tough, indeed, to get up and make a ringing speech, only to have people in the audience asking: "Who is that man?" and answering each other: "I don't know." Legislators naturally don't care to be classed with children. They want to be seen, heard, and known.

Well, the capitol commission couldn't expect to please everybody 100 per cent. It has done the best it could, and the honorable senators and representatives will have to make the best of what has been allotted them.

206.70
Neb.
#342

Star, Oct. 3, 1932.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**NO ADDITIONAL
LEVY NEEDED TO
FINISH CAPITOL**

S-10/3/32

**Funds Are Available For
Completion Of
Building.**

**Total Cost Expected To
Be Slightly Under
\$10,000,000.**

Except for certain details of architectural work and artistic features still to be installed, flood lighting for the tower, additional furniture and equipment, and carrying out the landscaping scheme Nebraska's new capitol is now completed and no further tax levy will be needed to take care of these matters.

The capitol commission, in a letter written by its secretary, State Engineer Roy Cochran, has informed State Tax Commissioner Smith that it is not requesting any further funds to pay construction costs or for ground improvements, beyond those already provided. It asks, however, that any unexpended balance from previous levies for the state capitol be reapportioned by the next legislature, so that the money can be spent as needed after July 1, 1933, the beginning of the next fiscal biennium.

Levy Reduced In 1931.

This marks definitely the final stage of financing the state building project on which the state embarked in 1919. Beginning in that year and continuing up to 1932 there has been a yearly tax levy to build the capitol on the "pay-as-you-go" plan. In 1933 there will be no such levy.

In the beginning, the special capitol tax amounted to .30 mill annually on the dollar of property valuation. It continued at that rate for eight years and was then reduced to .22 mill. In 1931 it was cut in half, on the capitol commission's recommendation, and for that year and 1932 the levy has been .11 mill.

Proceeds of these levies, including taxes not yet realized from the 1932 tax, total slightly under \$10,000,000 as the approximate cost of the

new capitol. The estimated gross receipts when all the money has been paid in are \$9,927,012.

Total Spent \$9,433,000.

Of that sum, approximately \$9,650,000 had been collected as taxes up to September 1 this year, and about \$9,433,000 spent. The balance on hand at that date, was \$216,744, with about \$277,000 still to come in from tax payments under the final levy of 1932.

A rough estimate of expenditures still to be made, which is largely dresswork, has been submitted by State Engineer Cochran to the State tax commissioner for budget making purposes, as follows:

Estimate \$225,000 Needed.

Models and carving, fourth section, \$53,800; murals, \$80,000; landscaping and lighting, \$15,000; steel equipment, \$15,000; furniture, \$12,000; fountains for inside courts, \$10,000; architects' fees, \$5,000; office expense, \$4,500; inspections, \$2,000; painting plant, \$550; approximate total, \$225,000.

Some shifting of these amounts will be necessary, increasing some and lowering others, but the total will not be much changed. It is impossible to determine in advance of receiving bids how much it will cost, for instance, for flood lights to illuminate the tower.

The main thing is that the capitol project is substantially finished now and that the citizens of Nebraska now own their building free of debt and are relieved of any further tax burden in that connection.

336.45

Neb.

#343

Journal, November 3, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL LIGHT, HEAT AND WATER EXPENSE

1-11-3-37

Total \$29,274 for One Year,
State Furnishing Light
and Heat.

The cost of heating, lighting and "watering" the capitol for one year, ending June 30, 1932, as shown by State Land Commissioner Swanson's report which is now being compiled, was \$29,274.07. This cost was divided: Heat, \$18,837.15; light, \$8,492.95; water, \$1,943.97. The legislature made an appropriation of \$60,000 for a period of two years for light, heat and water.

The state buys electric current and steam heat from itself and water from the city of Lincoln's municipal plant. The joint power and heating plant built by the capitol commission and university on university grounds furnishes steam heat thru a conduit more than one mile long. The same conduit carries electric wires for emergency purposes, but the state buys electric current from the state penitentiary, carried to the capitol by overhead transmission wires. The state pays 2 cents for kilowatt hour for current, 15 cents per 1,000 gallons of water, and 50 cents per 1,000 pounds for steam heat. The completion of the west wing and tower may run a higher bill for water, light and heat the coming winter. The eight acre lawn around the capitol, now sodded, may consume a greater amount of water next summer. A total of \$165,000 was appropriated by the last legislature for a period of two years for wages, light, heat and water and contingent purposes and maintenance of the capitol for two years.

The state land commissioner's accounting of 2,979,865 acres of land originally acquired from the government shows 1,254,976.37 acres deeded, 130,150.14 acres still under sale contract, 1,593,184.29 under lease, and 1,555.09 acres mostly eaten up by rivers and now listed as unclassified.

336.45

Neb.

#344

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Bronze Doors Of Indian Design
Arrive For Main Capitol Entrance

For several years the thousands entering the main doorway of the Nebraska state capitol have crossed a pine board threshold. It was explained that this was temporary, and that the glass doors there would some day be replaced with bronze grille doors.

These doors arrived in Lincoln on Tuesday morning.

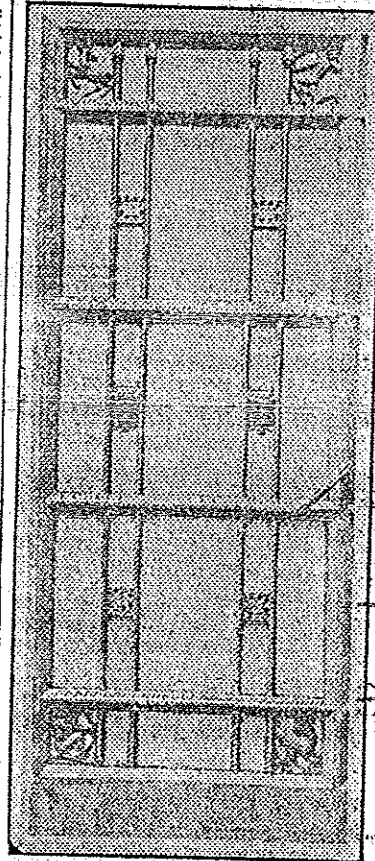
They are Indian in design, to fit into the symbolical scheme of the capitol, and were cast from models designed by Lee Lawrie, sculptor of the building. As shown in the accompanying picture of one of them, the symbols include an antelope and an Indian hunter in the upper corners, and an Indian hunter and wolf in the lower corners. In the center grilles are buffalo heads. The vertical bars take the form of Indian arrows, while the horizontal bars bear a simple Indian pattern.

Start Fitting Work.

The doors were cast by the William H. Jackson Co., of Long Island, N. Y., under a contract awarded to W. J. Assenmacher, Co., of Lincoln. Unpacked, they are now at the north entrance, where two men will spend the next week or ten days in the tedious task of fitting them into place. For this work, the Jackson company sent to Lincoln a chest containing hundreds of tools.

The entire shipment weighed 2,800 pounds. The doors weigh 500 pounds, or more perhaps as much as 800 pounds. The transom in which the Indian pattern on the doors is repeated, weighs as much if not more than one door. Additional hardware includes the side jambs and head jambs, eighteen inches wide, the threshold, transom bar, all of bronze, and pneumatic door stops.

Each door will have five panes of glass. The horizontal bars are on both sides, but the vertical bars and small symbols are on the outside only. The doors will be locked by a key lock instead of the heavy iron



bar and chain used to bolt the temporary doors.

Original plans for the capitol called for a set of bronze sliding doors of a heavier construction, but this idea was given up long ago in preference to the more practical swinging doors.

336.45

Neb.

#345

Star, December 21, 1932

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Dignity Marks Courtroom

Decorative Law Chambers in Capitol Hold
Unusual Interest; One Ceiling Contains
8,000 Pieces of Wood.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of daily articles on the Nebraska state capitol by John Edwards, Star staff reporter and a capitol guide.

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

No. 25. The Law Chambers.

South of the central rotunda of the capitol is a vaulted corridor in buff-colored tile, trimmed in two varieties of American marble—Yellow Kasota from Minnesota and Napoleon Gray from Missouri. The corridor terminates at the Supreme court room, which to artist and layman alike is always a room of unusual interest. Besides the Supreme court, the other law decorative chambers are the Supreme court room division number two, the lawyers' consultation room, the judges' consultation room and the judges' offices.

The decoration of these rooms is largely wood, with symbolism in the motives employed. They have no direct relationship to the story represented in the remainder of the building, however.

No room in the capitol is more dignified than the Supreme court. It isn't as large as court rooms in many state capitols. Instead, it is comparatively small—about fifty feet long and thirty feet wide, with comfortable seating capacity for at least fifty persons. Its chief decorative feature is a coffered ceiling, said to contain 8,000 pieces of wood, which carries symbols of the acorn, acorn flower, goldenrod, sunflower and ear of corn.

The walls have a four-foot walnut wainscoting, above which is a sound-absorbing tile known as "akoustolith," which in appearance resembles the limestone used in the

capitol. The judge's bench in the east end of the room is inlaid with many varieties of wood, and above, in the high wainscoting behind the bench, is this inscription from Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher: "Eyes and ears are poor witnesses when the soul is barbarous." Above is a seal done in colored relief by Lee Lawrie, the sculptor.

A pattern floor contains squares of Dark Red Tennessee and Napoleon Gray, with a border of Yellow Sienna. The door casings are of Yellow Sienna and contain small medallions carved with Nebraska symbols—an ear of corn, an anvil and a sunflower.

Across the corridor to the northwest is the second court room, which was the temporary senate chamber for several sessions. The room is paneled in walnut, has a walnut beamed ceiling in Indian designs and a marble floor in a deep yellow and green checkered pattern. The varieties used are Yellow Kasota and Vermont Green, with a small border of Utah Golden Travis.

Of unusual beauty is the moulded plaster ceiling in the judges' consultation room west of the Supreme court, a room seldom seen by the public. Two decorative medallions with a wheat border symbolize "International Representation" and "Interstate Representation." Two ornamental designs, from which hang light fixtures, represent virtues of the law—justice, courage, wisdom and truth.

East of the Supreme court is the judges' consultation room, and in the entire southeast quarter of the building on this level the judges' offices.

(Tuesday: Governor's Reception Room.)

Neb.
#346

Lawmaking in This Lap of Luxury

W.H. 1/5/33



This picture shows the opening session of the Nebraska house of representatives at Lincoln Tuesday, when the lawmakers—one of whom hitch-hiked four hundred miles for economy—sat down in a newly finished chamber marked by the utmost in luxury.

Before them, directly behind the speaker's rostrum, is an electric voting machine which cost the state 35 thousand dollars. The carpet which they trod upon cost 10 thousand dollars; the deeply upholstered chairs and desks at which they sat cost 25 thousand dollars. Above them was a beautiful ceiling of wood, figured with gold leaf, costing 5 thousand dollars. Spectators at the session looked down upon the lawmakers from a marble balcony.

336.45

Neb.

#347

Star, April 29, 1933

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL PROBE
REPORT FILED

4/29/33
**Building Nearly Done;
All Contracts Except
For Murals Made.**

Another of the numerous investigating committees appointed by the state senate early in the legislative session was heard from Friday afternoon. Senator Boelts, chairman of the group that has been looking over the capitol to see if anything was wrong filed its report which carried these findings:

That the building is substantially completed now, except as to mural paintings, some of the stone carvings, and a few other touches inside and outside; while the landscaping is done except for some sodding, installation of electric lights along the outer curbing of the square, etc.

That contracts have been awarded for all work not yet done, except the murals, and no large claims are left outstanding.

That the capitol fund now contains about \$225,000, of which \$30,000 to \$50,000 will be needed to carry out existing contracts and pay the architects the balance due them.

That the murals, being of a decorative character and not essential to the structural part of the building, can be postponed to a later time.

The committee favors discharging all employees of the capitol commission by June 1 and turning the edifice and grounds over to the entire custody of the land commissioner by that date. It recommends that the balance in the capitol fund left after present obligations have been met shall be turned into the state general fund.

This conflicts with a provision in the general budget bill, as amended by the state senate, which authorizes the capitol commission to use part of the unexpended balance for construction of a new governor's mansion, instead of spending any more money to repair and make over the old one. The report was laid over without action.

336.45

Neb.

#348

Journal, April 1933

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Boelts on Capitol

Chairman Boelts, Brunt, Sanden and McCarter, filed a report of their work as a committee to investigate the capitol commission, cepting the building and dismissing concerning the advisability of acing employes. The committee held several hearings. The report was laid over, Srb stating that its recommendations concerning turning a balance of capitol funds into the state treasury differ from plans of the finance committee, which contemplates building a new mansion for the governor from such funds.

The committee findings and recommendations are:

The building is completed, with the exception of some stone carving, some mural paintings on the inside, sodding and landscaping, and decorative lights.

The contract for the stone work, sodding and lights are let and the work on same is nearly completed; that the contract for the murals is not let.

The proposed mural paintings will not affect the building, except for decorative purposes.

There are no outstanding claims against the state for work, material or damages, except as to stone carving, sodding, and lights; there is \$225,000 in the capitol commission fund; \$50,000 to \$90,000 will pay the contracts and salaries of the capitol commission employes. The mural paintings are not necessary and can be done at a later date.

The committee recommends that the state accept the capitol at this time, subject to the above mentioned contracts; that the sum of \$90,000 be turned over to the state treasurer for payment of said contracts, when completed. That all the staff of the capitol commission be discharged on or before June 1, 1933.

That the care of the grounds be turned over to the commissioner of public lands and buildings, that he hire a competent man to supervise the completion of said contracts, and upon completion of same draw his voucher on the funds in the

hands of the state treasurer for payment of contracts.

That the capitol commission deliver to the land commissioner all contracts for unfinished work; that he be authorized to use any part of the \$90,000 not needed to pay contracts and supervisor, to use what is necessary of the \$90,000 to care for the lawn.

Estimated cost of completing contracts is \$75,000 and that the remaining \$115,000 be paid into the general fund of the state.

33C.45

Neb,

#349

Star, April 29, 1933

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Wants Mansion Item Retained.

In his capacity as chairman of the state capitol commission and from his personal knowledge of the rundown condition of the present executive mansion from having lived in it more than four years, Governor Bryan strongly approves the clause inserted in the general budget bill, H. R. 51, giving the commission discretionary authority to build a new gubernatorial residence with money taken from the unexpended balance in the capitol fund, as an alternative to spending a large amount that would be required to repair, remodel, and refurnish the one the state now had.

"That item should, by all means, be left in the bill and the limitation of \$50,000 on the expenditure for that purpose be taken off," declared the governor. "The capitol commission will not spend more than may be necessary, in any event. No new appropriation is involved, since the tax has already been levied in prior years and the money has been collected and is in the state treasury. S-4/29/33

"The capitol commission should not be hampered in any way in providing a mansion for the occupancy of future governors in keeping with the splendid new capitol which Nebraska has already built and paid for. A worn-out and badly-racked residential structure for the chief executive, standing alongside this magnificent structure which the whole world admires, would be a reflection on the good taste and judgment of the people of the state. I do not believe they will approve anything which might interfere with a harmonious setting for the main governmental structure."

Amazed At Capitol Report.

"What do you think of the report filed by the Boelts investigating committee, recommending that all further work on the capitol and its immediate environment be discontinued?" was asked of the governor.

"I am amazed and shocked that any legislative committee would sponsor such a report," he replied. "It is simply preposterous to talk of abandoning the project in its unfinished condition and giving the building and grounds no further attention. It does not seem possible that such a program would be indorsed by any but a very small proportion of Nebraska's citizenship."

"The capitol must be completed, including its murals and other decorative features, in harmony with its architectural plan, and appropriate landscaping must be done around it to give the building its proper setting. The people wanted it built they willingly paid for it, and they are proud of it. They don't want it left unfinished or neglected."

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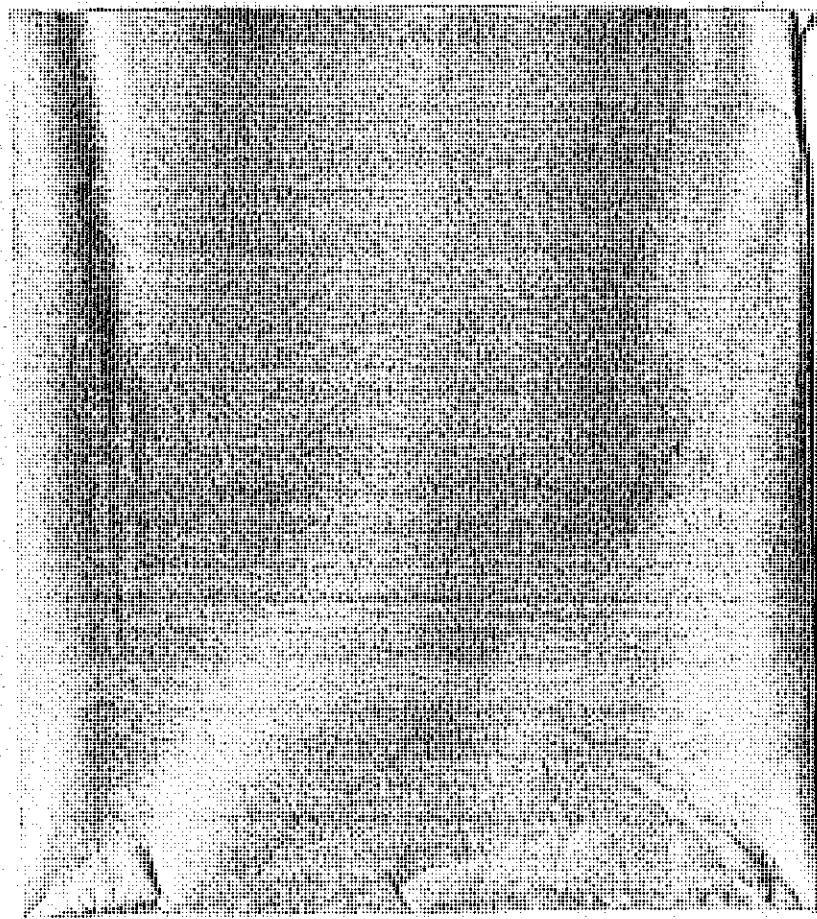
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#350

Journal-Star, January 29, 1933

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Capitol Dedications in Nebraska



Capitol Dedications In Past Not Popular

(Continued from Page One)

ital commissioners. It was disastrously used for the foundation of the university building against the protest of the builder, Robert D. Silver, that it was unfit."

▲ ▲ ▲ ▲
CAPITOL removal became a seldom discussed subject when the legislature of 1879 appropriated

\$75,000 to begin the construction of the west wing of another capitol building, the second state capitol, the fourth in all, the first section of the building immediately preceding this present edifice. William H. Wilcox was the architect and the contractor, W. H. B. Stout. The west wing, begun in 1879 and finished at the close of 1881, cost

\$83,178.81, although "said wing not to exceed in cost \$75,000."

Trouble popped up pronto. The legislature of 1881 appropriated \$100,000 for the construction of the east wing of the building, which was completed by December 1, 1882. Robert D. Silver, known to be a capable builder, put in a bid of \$86,400; Stout one at \$96,800, and a third firm was higher by a couple of thousand dollars. With almost no question, the contract went to Stout, which caused no little public comment, surprise, and lifted eyebrows. The Morton and Watkins history on this question is pointed—"That the contract was let to Stout—in July, 1881—though far from the lowest bidder, was a matter of course and is explicable only on the ground of corrupt political preference."

With the completion of these wings, the legislature of 1883 authorized the board of public lands and buildings to receive bids for the destruction and removal of the old capitol, even though the solons had been quite certain it would be self-destructive and possibly take them with it.

For the construction of the central portion of the capitol, the 1883 solons, and their 1885 successors, authorized a levy of one-half mill on the grand assessment rolls for 1883 through 1886. The legislature of 1887 levied three-fourths of a mill for the 1887 and 1888 to complete the structure.

Stout Wins Again.

Stout again received the contract, for \$439,187.25, although Silver underbid him by \$41,187.25. In a note in the Morton and Watkins history, mention is made of this capitol case, which was taken to the Supreme court, this paragraph appears:

"In the capitol case (Nebraska reports, v15, p. 263) it appears that the specifications had been artfully contrived so as to insure or justify the acceptance of 'Boss' Stout's bid, though it was \$7,250 higher than the bid of Robert D. Silver, his competitor, and at least, an equally responsible builder. Maxwell's dissenting opinion riddled the casuistry of the contention of the majority opinion that certain technical requirements of the specifications, which Silver had not met, were material and valid and must be complied with. The grinning imperfections of the capitol are a perpetual illustration of the contractor's lively sense of the propriety—and the privilege—of preserving congruity between the moral standard of letting, and the mechanical standard of performing the contract. Silver, by James W. Savage & his attorney, applied to the Supreme court for a writ of mandamus ordering the board of public lands and buildings to award him the contract, which was denied. The best and the worst that may be said is that the denial of the writ met public expectation."

With all these alrings of grievances and possible corruption, the people were so agitated that it is possible the thought of dedicating an edifice with so harassed a past failed to appeal to them, or wasn't thought of, and almost before the office holders and solons knew their way about, very hard times were upon Nebraska, and nobody was going in for fancy exercises.

The first funny little building and its successors failed of dedicatory attention, probably for the most part because the new country was so busy a place, the legislators found all their time required in passing a few of the laws not decaying the statute books and the last, undoubtedly, because a dedication of a building causing so much gossip seemed a bit out of place.

FEATURES OF
NEBRASKA

Sunday Journal

FOUNDED IN 1867

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA,

Dedication Rites, Perhaps Capitols Erected In More Days In Past

Or it may be
structure to stand
for more than century
treated with greater cere-
mony than those put
up and razed within
one lifetime.



Nebraska's first laws were passed in this plain little building in Omaha, erected as a private project - STATE HIST. SOCIETY PHOTO.

BY LULU MAE COE.

TEN million dollars gets attention that \$3,000 or even \$691,000 doesn't.

Which is true of more things than gilded youths, but which specifically refers to capitols at the moment.

For, unless record keepers were lax, nobody ever bothered to dedicate earlier structures. It was a popular pastime to dedicate practically every brick that went above a foundation, but they put the state house to work as soon as there was an office to squeeze into, and left the ceremony...

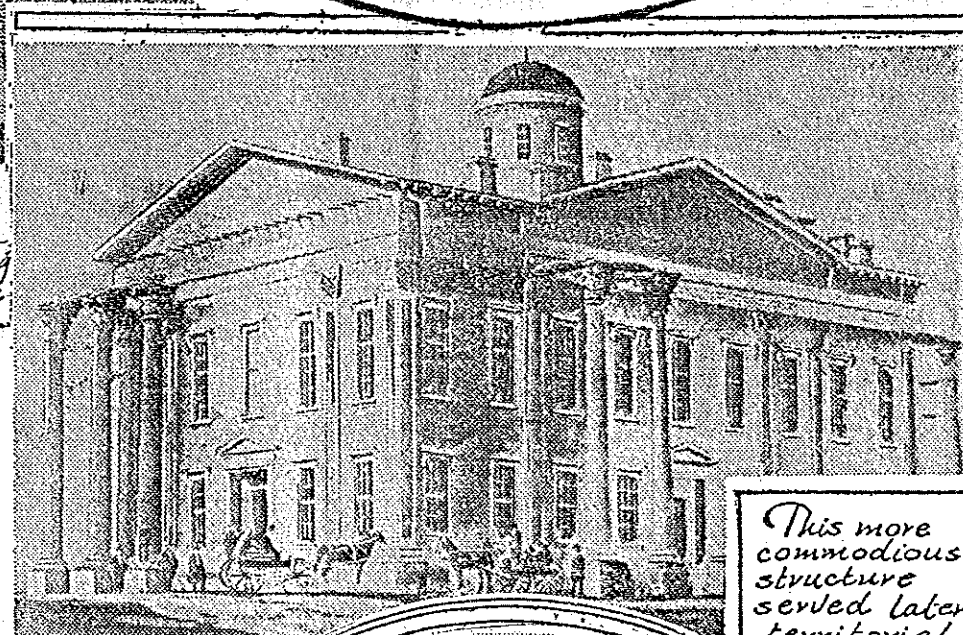


PHOTO COURTESY STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This more commodious structure served later territorial legislatures

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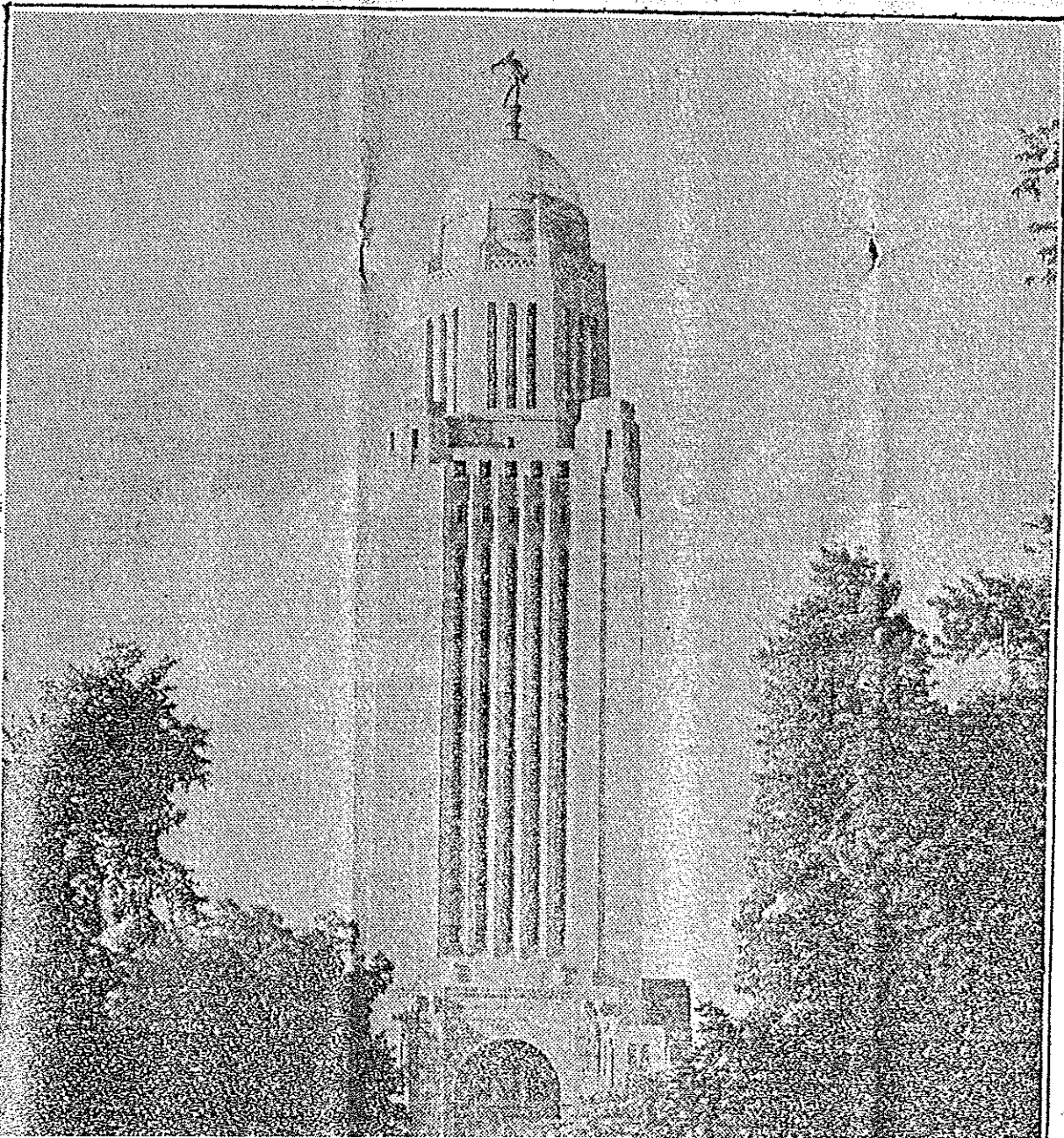
Journal and Star

FEATURES OF
NEBRASKA

SUN DAY, JANUARY 29, 1933.

SECTION C

*Because Earlier Nebraska
Discord, Haven't Been Popular*



...the state house to work as soon as there was an office to squeeze into, and left the ceremonies for other edifices.

It's highly probable that, raised as they were in strife and trouble and disension, with the more or less immediate danger of falling on political heads through incompetent construction, no one was interested in dedication services.

For it is true that the red trail of discord has twisted itself across the story of the capitols of a state which achieved its territorial rights through cholera and animosity.

Even the present magnificent structure hasn't escaped.

Scarcely was construction well begun until the charge was made that the state was getting inferior limestone, instead of the best grade for which it was paying. Although it was brought out that this material had been chosen for its color and graining in the general decorative scheme, the state received a refund. In 1929, a capitol investigating committee was appointed to inquire into charges of inefficiency and neglect upon the part of the commission in capitol construction, but neither major extravagance nor marked defects was determined. Only the other day a request was launched in both houses for a re-examination of the majority and minority reports of the 1929 investigation.

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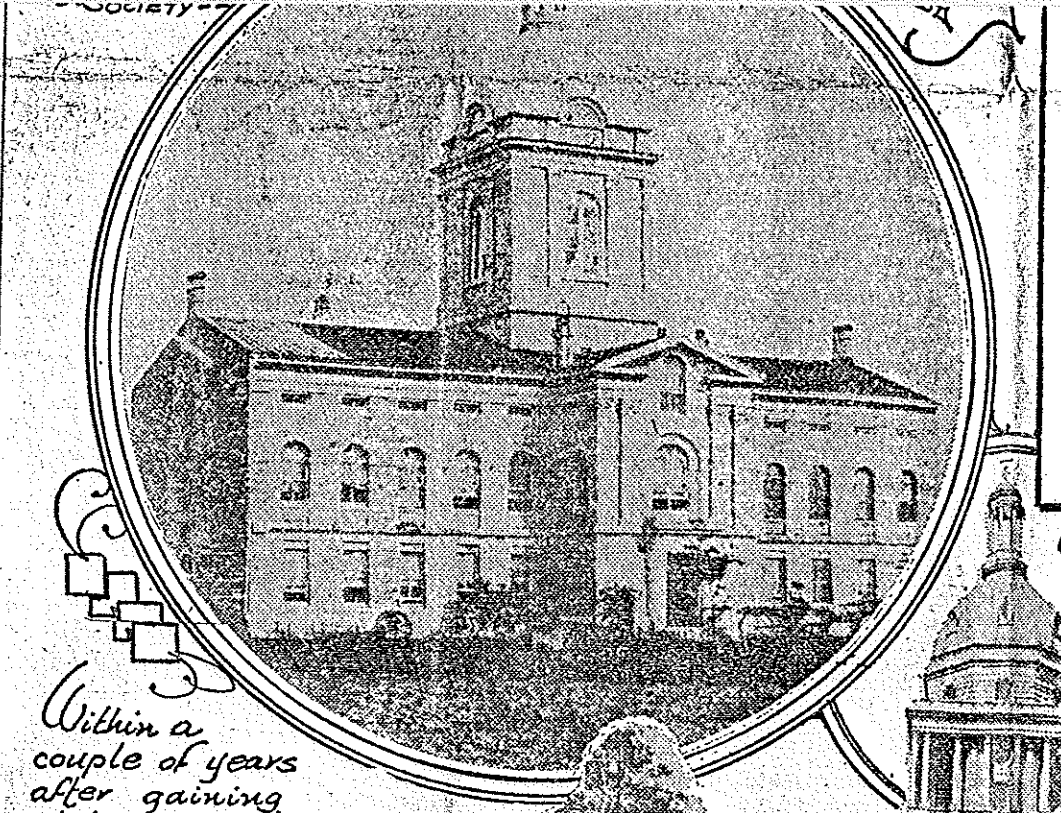
FIRST CAPITOL IN OMAHA.

THE first one seems to have escaped all charges. It was located on Ninth street between Douglas and Farnam in Omaha, and was known as "the brick building," a phrase that is sufficiently telling. The structure received but one criticism, that the legislative rooms were so small that few spectators could be accommodated. Since there wasn't any Omaha, the first territorial capitol was put up by Iowa men with Iowa money—because Iowa made Nebraska what it was then and set out to impose its will on the citizenry—and was put up "without a cost of one single dollar to the government." No governmental cost meant no taxes, and naturally everybody was happy.

The \$3,000 capitol, after two territorial sessions, became the general offices for a railroad, and trouble began with fair promptness. This grander structure was put up in part by a municipal grant of \$60,000 from Omaha and a federal appropriation of \$50,000. Mark W. Izard, the second governor, was to divide the \$50,000 among sufficient windows, doors, and floors to make a state house, but he miscalculated, rather badly.

To the second legislature, he said in his message:

"Your capitol... I am happy to say, has progressed as fast as circumstances would permit. The foundations are now



Within a couple of years after gaining statehood, Nebraska built this capitol.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

complete, and about five feet of the basement story. The work, so far, has been executed in the most substantial and workmanlike manner.

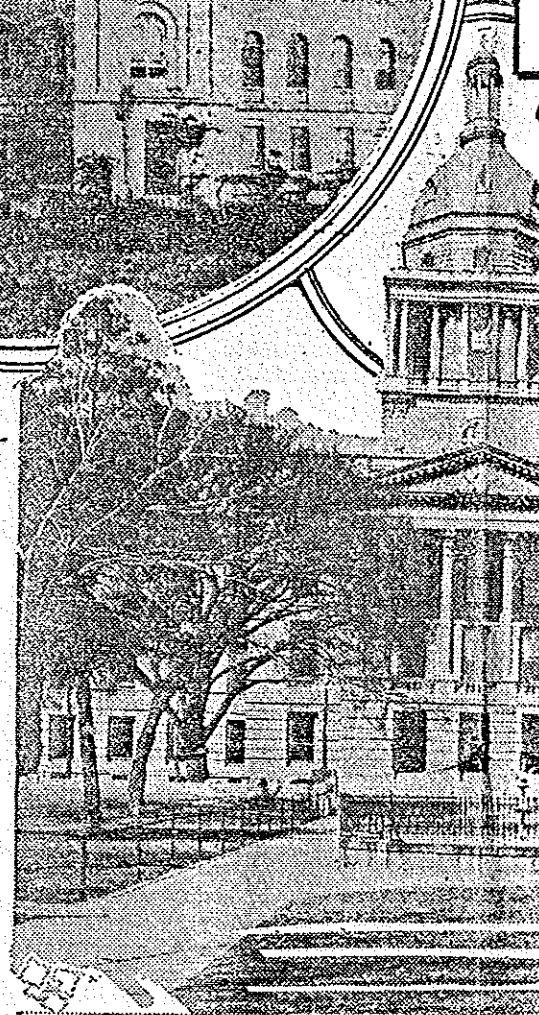
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"SECOND TO NONE."

THIS superstructure, when completed, will stand second to no building of the kind in the United States for beauty of proportion and complete adaptation to the uses and objects for which it is designed... the plans... have not only been approved by all master builders who have visited our territory, but that our sister territory—Kansas—has adopted them, in whole, without alteration; and I flatter myself that the day is not far distant when the visitor to the twin territories west of the Missouri will see their seats of government decorated by capitols perfected after the same model."

His hopes were bigger than his funds and the beautiful superstructure amounted to one story, with a basement beneath, with the \$50,000 all gone and a debt of \$8,000.

Omaha didn't think at the moment it was such a fine idea to have the territorial capital, but it rallied round the building that never was to be finished and issued "scrip" to the amount of \$60,000. The city pledged "capitol square," now the Central high school site, and the building to secure the "scrip." This lien meant that Omaha could do about as it wanted with the legislature, take away its model building if it wished, and the ensuing excitement of the citizenry brought about the deeding of the building to the state. Even so, the state didn't get much.

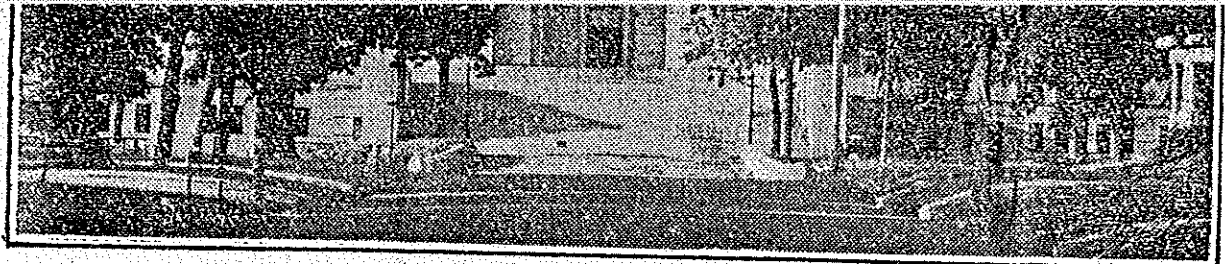


When the first state capitol under wind and weather, a large which served for many years.

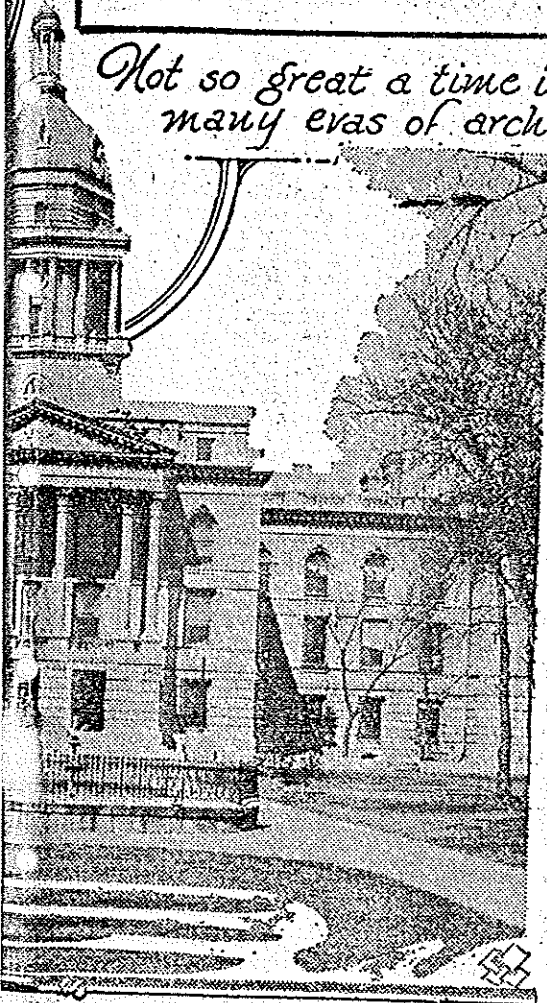
PLANNED SOUTHERN MANSION.

IT WAS to have been a regular old southern mansion affair, with very elegant Corinthian pillars running round and round the structure. However, but a portion of them were placed, and those were pronounced unsafe at a later date, and summarily removed; that is, those that didn't fall down in a gusty Nebraska breeze and thunderstorm. The remainder of this colonnade portico, which was to have been 14 feet wide and 65 feet long on each of the four fronts, never did come into being.

This "conspicuous ornament to Omaha, and a monument of refined



Not so great a time is between this and the first "brick building," but many eras of architecture separate the two — A MACDONALD PHOTO



*Capitol failed to bear up well
A larger edifice was constructed*
— A MACDONALD PHOTO

capitol was never finished as planned, it served its purpose and more. The territorial legislators legislated there and the first state legislature used it until the new state house, which was in a place called Lincoln and practically indiscernible to the public eye, was ready in January, 1869. Omaha then received back its ornament for educational purposes, and it continued in this style until 1869, eleven years after its completion, when it was pronounced unsafe and removed the following summer.

LINCOLN WAS COMPROMISE.

IT WAS certain that Nebraska's state house had to be located some place, and it couldn't be both north and south of the Platte. A little perspicacity on the part of interested citizens of—elsewhere, rather than here—had made Omaha the chosen site in the beginning. When the three commissioners, backed by boosting of Nebraska City, which wanted it down this way somewhere, selected Lincoln, half the state was displeased yet. And perhaps not unduly sad that the first state capitol appeared to fare even less well than its predecessor.

The original plans was for sandstone facing, but a later decision changed this to limestone for the exterior, as the sandstone was unsuitable to the design and none too durable. Instead of decaying within two years, as the limestone did, it probably would have needed an investigating committee during construction.

A writer to the Republican grew enthusiastic when he described the new building in this manner: "The first story is a kind of magnesian limestone, very beautiful, easily wrought, and excellent building material. It is brought from Beatrice a distance of forty miles. The inner walls are built of sandstone. Of this there are immense quarries within three miles of Lincoln. The builder... says it is the same rock that is in such high favor in New York City, where brown stone fronts are the

synonym of aristocratic grandeur." The excellent limestone didn't stand up under frost. And whatever the sandstone did for New York, it didn't do for the prairies. It had its origin in the Dakotas, and showed a tendency to turn into sand in the moist air, even though it came from Cardwell's branch, not more than three miles from the city.

FIRST CAPITOL HERE FAULTY.

THE first capitol after statehood, built at a cost of \$75,817.59, derived from the Lincoln lot sale, was scarcely up before the soft condition of the stones was noted. As early as 1871, it began to show signs of decay. In May, 1872, three years after the building was occupied, \$5,897 in repairs were necessitated, following a severe storm. In 1879, when the structure had been in use for a decade, Governor Silas Garber said in his retiring address: "For some time past the outer walls of the capitol have been considered unsafe... they (architects examining the building) pronounced the north wall in danger of falling."

In the interim, the old struggle for capital removal had flared afresh. About 1873, Nebraska City, possibly repenting of promoting a rival city nearby, sought again for removal. It reasoned that, with all the sandstone walls about, the state would not suffer financially because, "the university will fall down next year anyhow; the capitol should be donated to Lincoln, the lower part for a livery stable, the upper part for a block house—the upper windows would make good port holes." Vociferous applause of the bon mots of legislative colleagues was discouraged—to keep the roof and the walls where they belonged.

The late Albert Watkins, writing of capitol history, says of the enfeebled condition of the first state house: "The only plausible reason for using this stone is that the private owners of the quarries had the private ear of the cap-

(Continued On Page Three.)

taste," was described by a legislator as "a magnificent cellar, surmounted by portions of brick walls and surrounded by numerous isolated, unfinished dreary-looking columns." And soon not even the drab pillars remained.

In marked contrast to Governor Izard's description of the potential building in his message was a paragraph written by an eastern correspondent:

"The state house is a plain brick building, painted a lead color. Its plainness tells of a youthful state. By people who began life in log cabins, it would be considered magnificent."

Even though the second territorial

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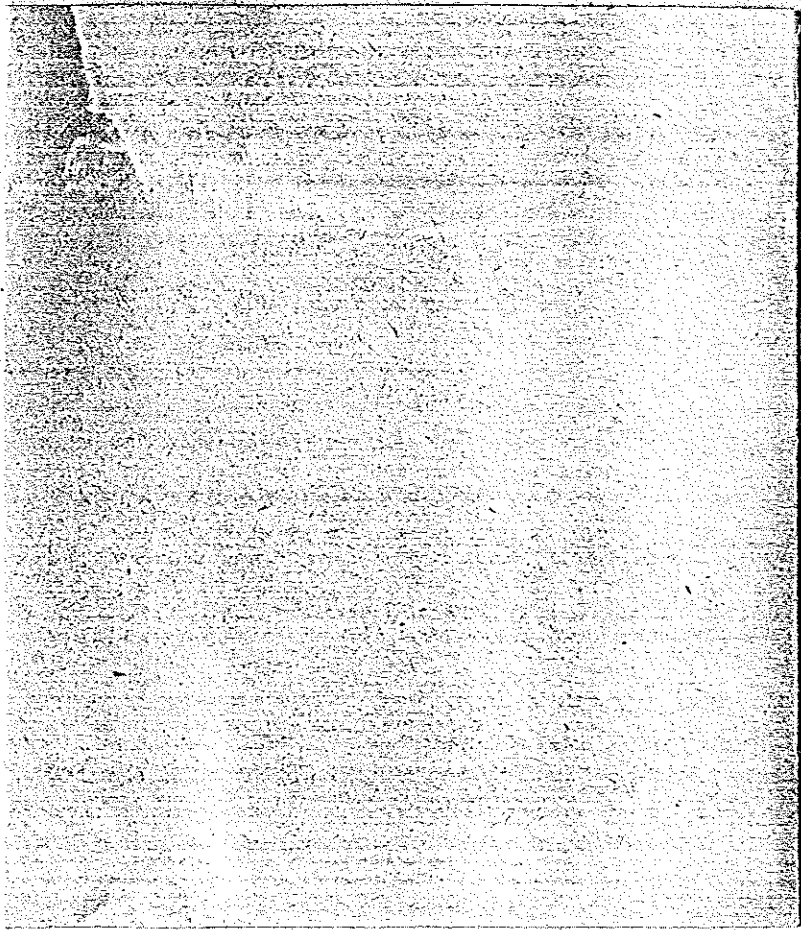
Journal-Star, March 26, 1933

Neb.

#351

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Tapestry Panels in Supreme Court Room of State Capitol



Exquisite Tapestry Panels Hung In S

75-8-26-3

BY MARTHA M. TURNER.

THE three tapestry panels hanging in the Supreme court room of the state capitol, are exquisite pieces of woven threads of wool and silk, expressly designed for the spaces and room in which they are placed. They were hung during the month of December last.

These picture-panels are: "Agriculture, Manuel Lisa;" "The Overland Trails," and "River Traffic, Steamer Yellowstone." The first two named are about 6 by 10 feet, and hang on the north wall of the room. The last named is about 6 by 7 feet and is placed above the door to the west of the room.

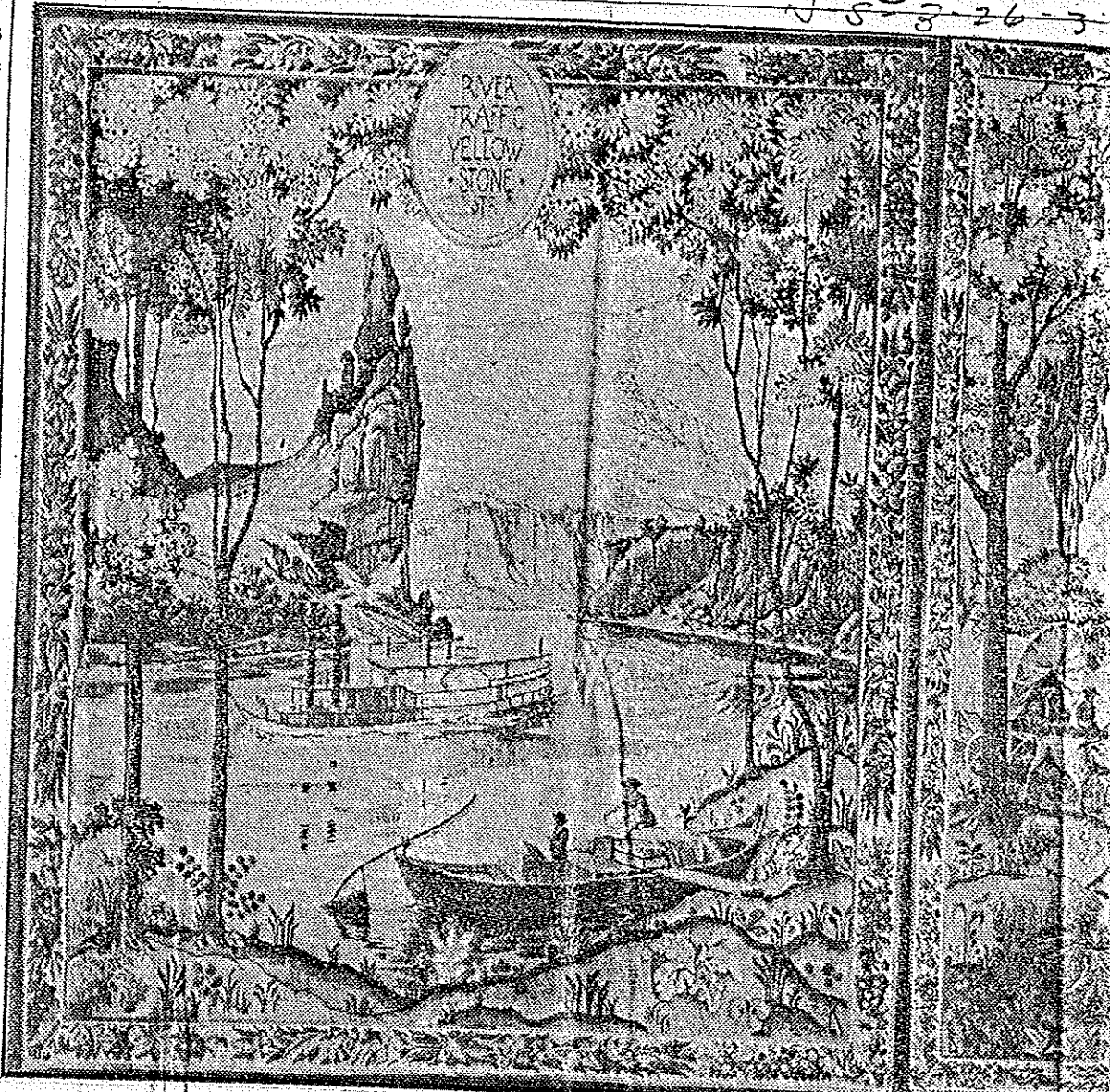
Nebraska has paid a generous sum of money for these three choice decorative tapestry pictures, but there is no reason why they shall not be here for several generations of peoples to enjoy. There is no reason that they shall not last hundreds of years. There are also eight tapestry panels in the senate chamber, designed and manufactured for the spaces where they have been placed. These are also historic of Nebraska subjects. They were secured through the Carson, Pirie Scott & Co., Chicago.

Designed By Kleiser.

The contract for the three panels in the Supreme court room was given by the capitol commission to Orchard & Wilhelm Co., Omaha, and they in turn engaged the Edgewater Tapestry Looms, Edgewater, N. J., to design and complete the work. Lorentz Kleiser is president of the company, and the three panels in the court room were designed and cartooned by Mr. Kleiser, and woven by hand under his direction.

The general effect of the panels is pleasing in their soft neutral colors, having the appearance of belonging to an earlier period of workmanship.

Mr. Kleiser has selected subjects representing the beginning of the state, when the word "Nebraska-Country" meant from the Missouri river west to Washington and Oregon, and north to the Canadian line. When the upper Missouri was in Nebraska, and we could say that we had mountains within our territory. The borders of each are the same,



These three interesting tapestries have been hung in the supreme court chambers of the capitol, each of them depicting a bit of early Nebraska. The original designs by Lorentz Kleiser, inset, have the formality of the masterpieces of ancient looms.

On the left is depicted the first voyage of the steamer "Yellowstone" to the upper waters of the Missouri in 1832. In the background is Citadel rock as pictured on the higher reaches of the Missouri.

The great western movement is suggested in the center tapestry,

a conventionalized design of the pink wild rose and purple grape. Born in Illinois.

The artist who designed and manufactured these beautiful panels, Kleiser, was born at Elgin, Ill. However, at the age of six his parents returned to their ancestral

home in Norway, and this was where the son received his first art education. He spent several years in Munich, and made for himself a record as painter and illustrator.

In 1900 Mr. Kleiser returned to America and became a designer, eventually establishing his own fac-

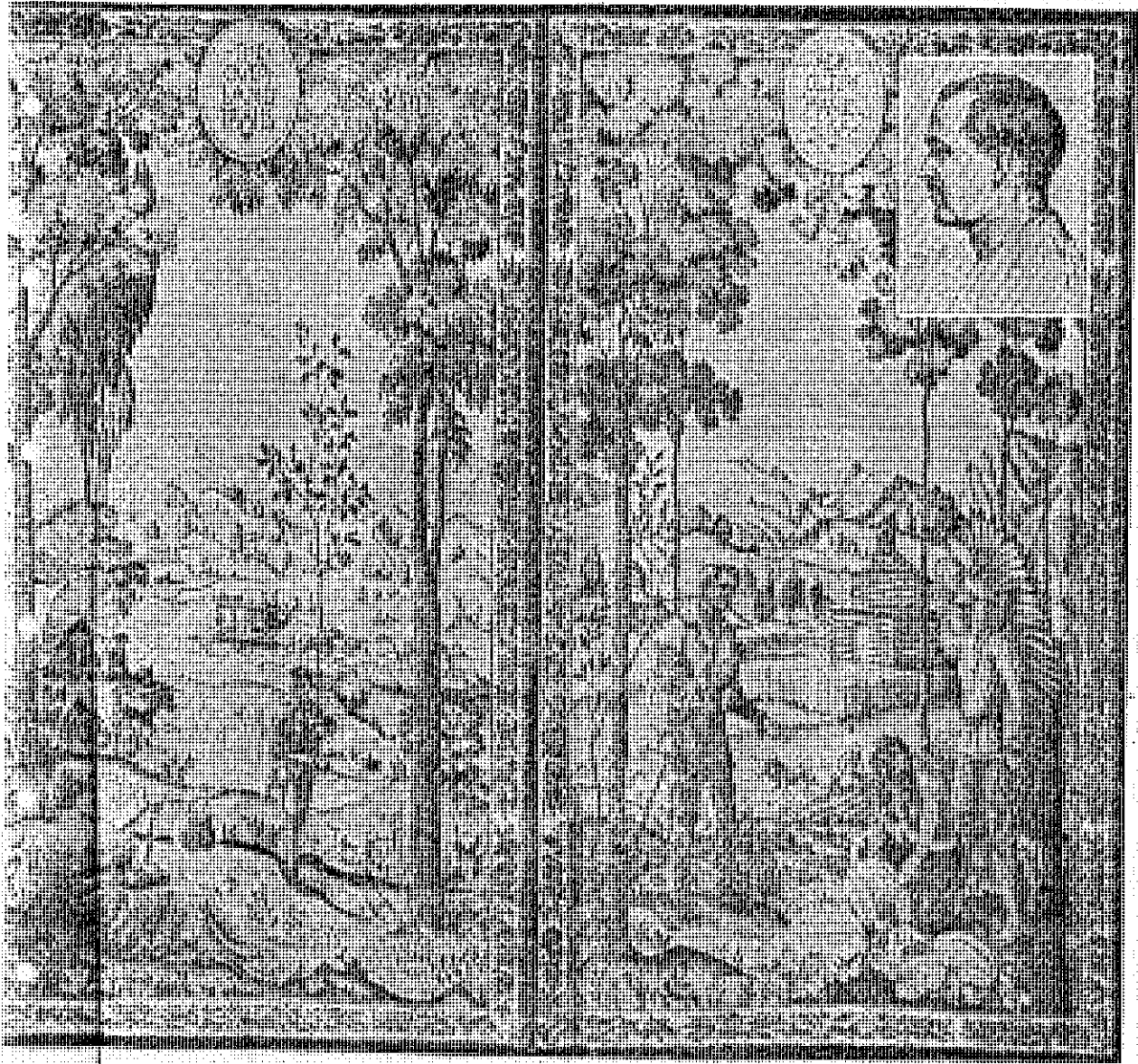
"The Overland Trails." The Oregon trail toward the Pacific, the Denver trail of Mormon trail of approximately the same. Mr. Kleiser has caught the spirit of those suggested those coming from St. Joe, Leavenworth, and Independence, all to converge at Fort Kearney.

In the third hanging, the designer has as subject, with Manuel Lisa, the founder

tory, which is described as a "pleasant medieval domain" extending five hundred feet along the Palisades of the Hudson river at Edgewater, with a home and picturesque studios where the spinning and dyeing of his materials is carried on by some ten thousand employees.

Three finished The serious plings of range as on

Supreme Court Room Of State Capitol



the Oregon trail, the greatest of all highway
 routes of the West, and the California and
 Santa Fe trails, crossed the mountains and
 the great plains along these trails, and
 the great cities of the West, such as
 St. Louis, Leavenworth, Atchafalaya, and other
 great cities of the West.

The speaker has chosen "Agribusiness" for his
 title, the speaker of the "Agribusiness" as he

Three years ago Mr. Kline's father
 died in a factory in southern France.
 The old production of Mr. Kline
 was found in many of the large
 cities of the country and the price
 of the stock of these up to a value which
 he can write has been "with many

years as the central figure. This, known as a leader more than a
 century and a quarter ago, was the first white farmer in Nebraska, hav-
 ing a hundred acres in his country and around each of his trading points
 he had a small town with cabins for his helpers. It is said the brought
 to Nebraska the seeds of the great crops, such as corn, potato, and
 beans, and gave them to the Indian tribes, since that time, Nebraska
 Indians have given their reputation, and the speech which John De-
 scribes as weighing in touch as 100 pounds, in a part of Indian gardens.

you know." Mr. Kline's father's "Tri-
 bune Series" is quoted in the class,
 and Mr. Kline's "Business" is
 mentioned in an article by
 him. Mr. Kline has developed and
 turned points for state capital,
 business, industry, private col-
 lection and national. Washington

today's "Big War" and
 "The of the Americans"; "The
 Importance of the St. Johns
 River in Florida"; "The
 Great American Business" and other historic subjects
 which he mentioned among his
 many practical pieces.

336.45

Neb

#352

PERSONAL VIEWS OF THE NEWS

By J. E. Lawrence

Full appreciation of the magnitude of the task represented by the construction of an outstanding capitol for Nebraska can be had only by recalling that the ceremonies which Governor Bryan and the capitol commission are planning upon completion of the final steps will come twelve years after work was begun.

The tentative date has been set for late in 1934.

Among the last contracts awarded was one for landscaping of the grounds, and only the final contract for murals remains to be let. There is enough work involved in them to extend well into 1934.

It was early in March, 1922, that initial steps were taken to remove the magnificent old elms, which had been planted when the second capitol was built, and which had grown from tiny saplings into great trees. On Armistice day, the following November, Governor McKelvie presided at the ceremonies of the laying of the cornerstone, for which a great throng gathered. Since then, on thru more than a complete decade, the work has been pushed with unremitting energy—one section following another. The speculation arises how long would it have taken the ancients to build a comparable structure, granting there was the genius to design it, and the engineering skill to put the materials together.

Nothing in the ancient world retains greater interest than the pyramids, about seventy in number, on the west side of the river Nile, beginning at Ghizeh, opposite Cairo, and extending south for more than sixty miles.

"They represent," says Director James H. Breasted, of the Oriental institute of the University of Chicago, "twelve hundred years of Egyptian history. The earliest of these great monuments was erected not long after 3000 B. C., and the latest a little later than 1800 B. C. The earliest superstructures of stone masonry now known, they represent the origins of architecture in stone at a time when civilization elsewhere possessed no other architecture than that of wood and sun-dried brick. At the same time, a monument like the Great Pyramid of Ghizeh, containing about 2,300,000 blocks of stone, each weighing some 2½ tons, put together with surface joints almost equaling the accuracy of modern commercial optics, is the product, not only of technical and engineering skill, but also is the result of an intangible expression of a social and governmental organization, able to convert all its resources of wealth, labor, mechanical skill, and administrative efficiency upon one su-

preme achievement, to which there is no suggestion of a parallel in western Asia, until 2,000 years later; that is, until after the beginnings of the Assyrian empire in the eighth century B. C."

That is exactly the point. Each pyramid represented the most complete form of slavery ever existing, due to the peculiar ambition of each individual Egyptian ruler to construct for himself something which surpassed the works of all of his predecessors. How complete that autocracy was may be gauged from the fact that a male was born for the sole purpose of building a monument to the existing ruler. All wealth, all resources, all labor, all energy, all genius was dedicated to that supreme purpose, memorializing for all time those born to rule.

* * * *

The pyramids could not have been built at the time they were constructed without slavery. They drained Egypt completely. There is no indication how many years were required to build each individual pyramid. The theory is that one was constructed by each ruler—that if his life span were short, its completion devolved upon his successor, who not only had that responsibility upon him, but who also had his own monument to construct.

Among the other seven wonders of the ancient world were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon in the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar; the Temple of Diana in Asia Minor near Ephesus; the statue of Jupiter Olympus; the tomb of Mausolus; the Pharos of Alexandria; and the Colossus of Rhodes. Each had its distinctive features. The Temple of Diana was 425 feet by 225 feet, and the roof was supported by 127 columns of marble, each 60 feet in height, and each weighing about 150 tons. The statue of Jupiter Olympus was the work of the Greek sculptor, Phidias, after he had been banished from Athens, and was of marble encrusted with ivory, and with draperies of beaten gold. The tomb of Mausolus was built by the widow of the King of Caria in Asia Minor and was remarkable for its beauty and its magnificent interior, only to be destroyed by earthquake. The Pharos of Alexandria, rising more than 400 feet in the air, was built as a watch tower on the island of Pharos. The Colossus of Rhodes, a brass statue of the Greek sun god Apollo, was 109 feet in height, constructed by Charles of Lindus, and it took exactly twelve years to complete it.

* * * *

Time was not an element with the ancients and labor was not involved. Probably no civilization ever will produce the exquisite workmanship which went into these monuments. Each block may have been the life labor of a man or a score of men. Certainly, the skilled artisan was never pressed to com-

OVER

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plete his task. It was his to be performed and so long as he applied himself to it, there was no punishment in store, other than the bitter never ending strain of too heavy physical labor.

The Nebraska capitol is a monumental building, exemplifying the finest of workmanship of an emancipated people. In a large measure, modern tools offset any advantages ancient monarchs possessed thru practices of bondage. That it has been built during a period of extreme interest, that it was started in a plains country far in the interior of America at the conclusion of a great war, that it was carried forward during an era when man believed fully in a golden age, that it was finished at a time when the country was emerging from the most serious depression in all of its history—these memories inseparably are associated with the capitol and become a part of it. It is unlike any of its predecessors, because it promises to remain as an evidence of architectural and construction skill for centuries, and we who have watched it from blueprints to building all-but-done have seen beauty grow visibly, in a chambered nautilus manner, "as the swift seasons roll."

336.45

Neb.

#354

Journal, December 8, 1933

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL BASEMENT IS DECLARED FIRE TRAP

12-12-33

Tons of Stored Paper, Old Furniture and Lumber Invite Blaze.

Is the new capitol of Nebraska in danger of damage or destruction by fire as a result of the storage of tons of loose and bound newspaper files and old furniture and lumber and other inflammable material in its subterranean basement? This question has been raised and is now up to State Land Commissioner Conklin, who by virtue of his state office is custodian of the building.

The state has no insurance on any of its buildings. It spends thousands of dollars of tax money paid by fire insurance companies for fire prevention and preaches cleaning up basements of private homes and business houses and yet the basement of the capitol is considered by investigators as the most hazardous risk in the entire state.

"The basement used for storage by the state historical society in the capitol is a fire trap. It's a disgraceful affair in a \$10,000,000 building," said a citizen of Lincoln who took the trouble to descend to the catacomb-like basement which underlies the entire building, just beneath the two floors which house state offices and legislative halls and supreme court rooms. While the capitol is as near fire proof as any modern building can be, experience in the Baltimore fire and elsewhere is that the best fireproof buildings collapse if sufficient heat is applied.

"I inherited the basement and the historical society material stored there," said Land Commissioner Conklin. "The historical society has been notified to clear one room it occupies on the first floor. The state fire marshal has reported it hazardous. Some months ago the fire marshal ordered the basement storage space of the society cleaned up to a certain extent, and that has been done but there may still exist a considerable fire hazard there."

Act of Legislature.

Whatever hazard exists is said to be due largely to legislative action, and Governor Weaver who retired from office in January, 1931. Governor Weaver, while legal custodian of the capitol and also chairman of the capitol commission, authorized the historical society to occupy one floor of the capitol tower, and use storage

space in the basement. The legislatures of 1931 and 1933 each appropriated \$2,000 for "conditioning and for removal of material of the historical society to the capitol." Whether the legislature knew the nature of the material to be moved is uncertain.

"We are trying to work out a plan for the handling of current copies of newspapers received from every city and village in the state," said Superintendent Sheldon of the historical society. "It is true we ought to have metal shelving, people call every day to see copies of newspapers, some published forty years ago. It all points to the need of a separate Historical Society building such as some other states have, sometimes combined with one other state activity. I am sure the newspapers of the state are interested in the proper preservation of their files as a part of Historical society records."

One quarter section of the basement, a place seldom seen by capitol visitors and to many entirely unknown, is occupied by the historical society as a storage place. It is an immense area, being about 200 feet long on the west side and the same distance on the north side. It is fenced off from the basement corridor with steel wire of two inch mesh. Behind this wire fence are stored 10,000 bound volumes of newspapers, and a large amount of newspaper files in packages, bundles and rolls and much loose paper in baskets. Ragged edges of rolled newspapers and loose papers project close up to the fence in much of the space, while layers of papers and bound volumes lie flat on wooden shelves. This shelving is made of two by fours and inch boards or lighter.

Always A Danger.

A chance visitor in this part of the basement might easily toss a lighted cigaret or cigar over the top of the fence or thru the two inch mesh and thus start a disastrous fire. Some of the mouldy rolls and layers of newspapers might start a blaze without human intervention thru that mysterious cause of many fires, spontaneous combustion. The replacing of the lumber shelves with metal shelves, which has been suggested, might prove of little value unless the newspapers were enclosed in metal cases.

In the south side of the basement there are tons of old furniture discarded in state offices when new furniture was bought, also wooden fixtures from the old legislative hall, and hundreds of feet of pine tables used occasionally by the highway department in corridors on the first floor to hold blue prints for contractors to examine when bidding on highway work.

On the first floor in a large room adjoining the historical museum there is a large set of wooden shelves and pigeon holes two feet deep, built up to the ceiling for storage of current newspapers.

These shelves have been ordered out of the building as nothing but metal cases are allowed in offices on the first and second floors. In the same room is a still more dangerous fire trap in the form of a pile of newspapers, tied in bundles of a dozen, more or less, several feet deep, adjoining a hot air register, where they might ignite from spontaneous combustion, aided by hot air from the register. These have been ordered removed by the state fire marshal.