

Spices

978.2651

N27b

1934-1960

c.2

BUILDING NEBRASKA'S CAPITOL

1934-1960

Capitol's Artistic Triumph Near Completion

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

WITHIN the last several weeks—entirely unnoticed by many—the sculptural decoration adorning the east facade of the Nebraska state capitol was finished, thus completing another important step in the exterior embellishment of the building.

For almost a year and a half the carving of some 450 square feet of stone was in progress—three bas-reliefs, 8 to 10 feet in size, above the arched windows at the entrance; two other reliefs, 5 to 9 feet, which flank the pedaces, and four small buttress ornaments. All were executed from models by Lee Lawrie, sculptor of the capitol.

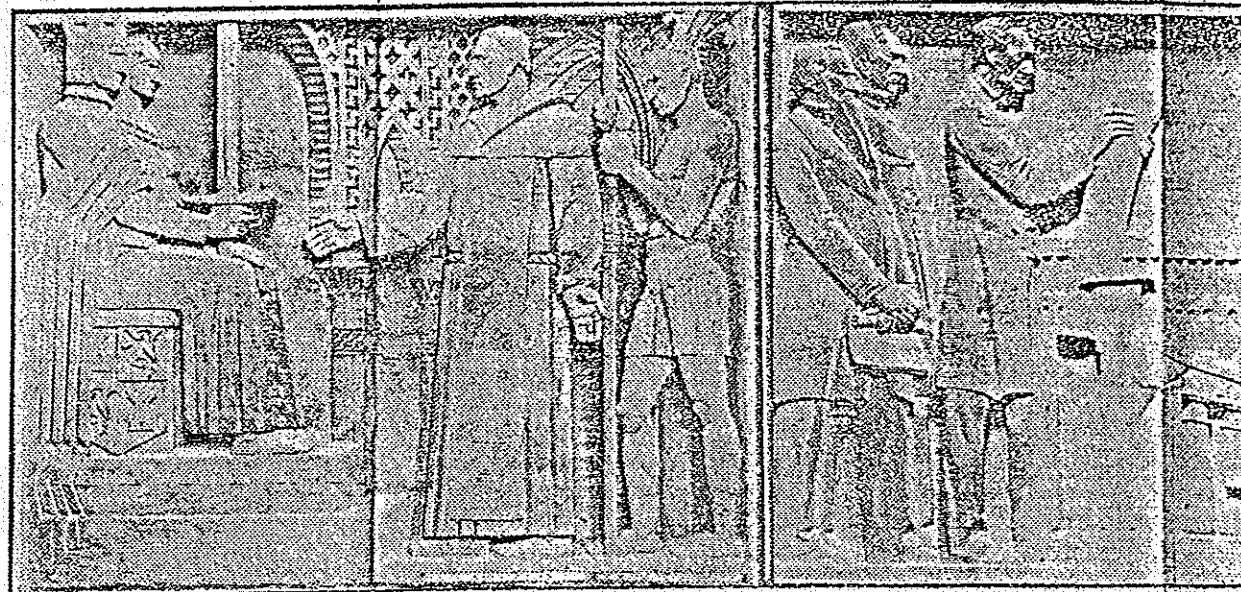
At the announcement was made of the completion of the panels. One of the models employed by the Edward Arino Co. of New York City, to be Mr. Lawrie's work, simply laid in his tools. Carpenters removed the scaffolding on which he had worked. The small frame shack, housing the equipment that provided Beretta with a compressed air supply, disappeared from the east facade.

Start On West Side.
Almost immediately the scaffolding and the frame house made their appearance on the west side. And they will remain for the greater part of the present year, while Beretta—probably with the assistance of another carver during the spring and summer months—will carve additional Lawrie panels on the building. This will complete a year's of sculptural decoration on the capitol.

Both the east and west facade reliefs are a part of "The Development of the Law" series, which circles the terrace of the building. Since the first years of construction, this portion of the capitol symbolism has attracted wide attention. It was the result of the laborative efforts of Lee Lawrie and Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, formerly of the University of Nebraska, who prepared the symbolic scheme of the building, both working with the late Bertram Goodhue, the architect.

From the press of the American Institute of Architects in 1926 appeared a book, "The Architectural Sculpture of the State Capitol at Lincoln, Nebraska," in which Dr. Alexander in an article wrote: "These reliefs are an amazing series of historic interpretations ritual in a true sense, and when the tale of them is completed Nebraska will possess in image such a pageant of great moments as would well assure that reverence for its traditions which it is the office of the public monument to inspire."

Includes 18 Bas-Reliefs.
The series includes eighteen bas-reliefs on the walls surmounting the entrance of the building, in addition to three pierced balustrade panels and ten buttress figures of great figures above the Supreme court.



Three of the five reliefs recently completed on the east facade of the Nebraska state capitol are pictured. They are the thirteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth panels in the eighteen-panel series, "The Development of the Law," which adorns the exterior walls.

At the left is represented Las Casas, the cause of the Indian before Ferdinand reading of the emancipation proclamation shown in the center. These, with a comp

the west entrance this year. The model for it already is in Lincoln. These first three panels as a group represent the old Testament conception of theocratic, inspired and divinely law.

The next three bas-reliefs, to be carved above the arched windows of the house of representatives lounge on the west facade, will be "Solon Giving a New Constitution to Athens," "The Publishing of the Law of the Twelve Tables in Rome" and

"The Establishment of the Tribunal of the People." They symbolize the legal foundations of democracy and republicanism in Athens and Rome.

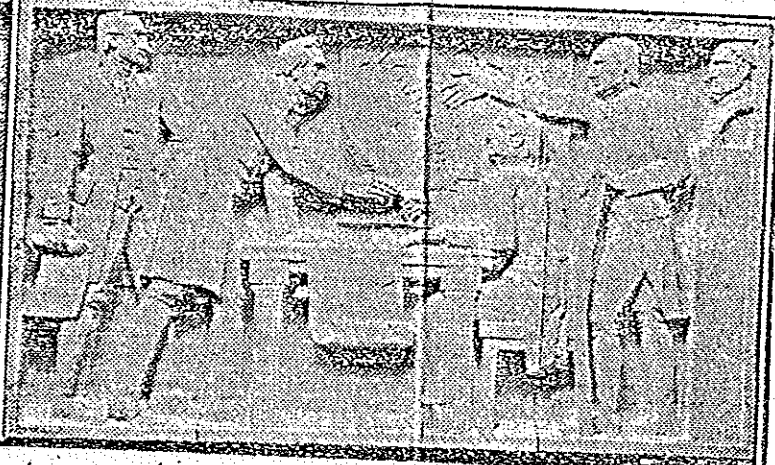
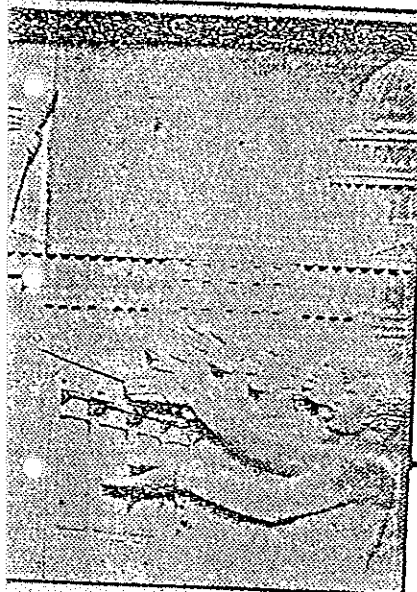
Solon Panel Model Here.
The model for the Solon panel recently arrived in Lincoln, but the casting of the others is not yet completed in the east. Of the three, Mr. Lawrie wrote to a friend in Lincoln this fall, in substance: "I think these are going to be some of the

best things I've done for the building. And I'm working night and day to complete them."

Number 7 in "The Development of the Law" series is "Plato Writing His Dialogue on the Ideal Republic," work upon which Beretta now has well under way. Numbers 8 and 9 at the southwest corner of the building, completed several years ago, represent the trial of Orestes, son of Agamemnon, before the ancient Athenian court on the Areo-

pagus Roman last th through and en formul Justini The carry develop first co develop

As East Facade Carvings Finished



delivering his famous "Speech on American Taxation" before the house of commons April 19, 1774, in which he argued for justice and generosity for the American colonies. The speech is summed up in these words carved in the stone: "Sir I wish to repeal the Boston port bill."

(13) "Las Casas Pleading the Cause of the Indian." Las Casas, known to history as the "apostle of the Indians," was a member of Columbus' second expedition to America, and on the Spanish conquest of Cuba, settled there. In 1510 he took the holy orders, the first granted in the new world. Convinced of the evil of enslaving the Indians, Las Casas set at liberty those allotted him, and in 1515 appeared before Ferdinand and Isabella pleading for their cause. The panel portrays this scene before the Spanish throne. Ferdinand's death prevented any measures being taken in the Indians' benefit, but throughout the remaining fifty years of his life, Las Casas was actively, and at times successfully, engaged in their welfare.

of the Pilgrim compact aboard the Mayflower in 1620, portray the first proclamations of the rights of the red, white, and black races in North America. All are 8 by 10 feet in size.

The remaining carving, 5 by 9 feet in size, is one of the panels leading to the establishment of law in Nebraska, the purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon in 1803.

All were designed by Lee Lawrie, sculptor of the capitol, whose earlier work on the building won international attention, and, in 1927, the gold medal in fine arts of the American Institute of Architects.

Pilgrim Compact Memorialized.

(14) "The signing of the Pilgrim Compact on the Mayflower." In this panel is pictured the well-known story of the Pilgrim fathers drawing up the covenant for a government in 1620 before landing at Plymouth, the first of a long series of written constitutions that have distinguished American history.

by Milton and Burke; the growth of freedom in America, as shown by the first proclamations of the rights of the red, white and black races in the new world; and the establishment of law in Nebraska.

Depict Ethelbert Code. The first panel in the second hall of the series, at the southeast corner, represents the Anglo-Saxon code drawn up by Ethelbert, king of Kent, in the sixth century, said to be the oldest document in the

English language. The next carving, also at this corner, portrays John Milton's defense of free speech before Cromwell. These panels were finished in 1928.

Then follows the five bas-reliefs on the east facade—Numbers 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16—the panels which were recently finished. Their individual stories follow:

(12) "Burke Defending America in Parliament." Edmund Burke, the British statesman, is portrayed

(15) "Lincoln's Proclamation of the Emancipation of the Negroes." Abraham Lincoln is portrayed reading his proclamation, as the shackles fall from the wrists of the slaves before him. Behind stand William H. Seward, his secretary of state, and General U. S. Grant. In the background is the national capitol.

(16) "The Purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon." In this panel are the figures of Robert Livingston, ambassador to France, and James Monroe, special envoy, signing the treaty of purchase of Louisiana territory. The French representatives are Talleyrand, minister of foreign affairs, and Marbois, another Napoleonic minister. A map of Louisiana is in the background, and behind Marbois is a bust of Napoleon.

In addition to these bas-reliefs at the east entrance, four small buttress ornaments may be seen. These include a Phrygian cap (or the liberty cap), a symbol of political revolutions; a ballot urn, twice represented, and an anvil, a symbol of Nebraska. While these are comparatively small, they are visible from the street level.

"The Development of the Law" story is completed at the northeast corner and abroad, country and musical groups in his home

as; Casas, a Spanish prelate, pleading Ferdinand and Isabella in 1515. The proclamation by Abraham Lincoln is a companion panel on the signing

pagus hill, and the codification of Roman law under Justinian. These last three symbolize the interpretation of the law through philosophy, through the spirit of human wisdom and enlightenment, and the final formulation of ancient law in the Justinian code.

The eastern nine panels, which carry forward the story, trace the development of English law in its first codification and in its spirit as developed in the defense of liberty

978, 2651
N 276
1934-1960
C. Z.

step in the exterior ornamentation of the building.

For almost a year and a half the carving of some 450 square feet of stone was in progress—three bas-reliefs, 8 by 10 feet in size, above the arched windows at the entrance; two other reliefs, 5 by 9 feet, which flank the facades, and four small buttress ornaments. All were executed from models by Lee Lawrie, sculptor of the capitol.

No announcement was made of the completion of the panels. One day Alessandro Beretta, the Italian carver employed by the Edward Ardolino Co., of New York City, to carve Mr. Lawrie's work, simply laid down his tools. Carpenters removed the scaffolding on which he had worked. The small frame shack, housing the equipment that provided Beretta with a compressed air hose, disappeared from the east lawn.

Start On West Side.

Almost immediately the scaffolding and the frame house made their appearance on the west side. And there they will remain for the greater part of the present year, while Beretta—probably with the assistance of another carver during the spring and summer months—will carve additional Lawrie panels on the building. This will complete ten years of sculptural decoration on the capitol.

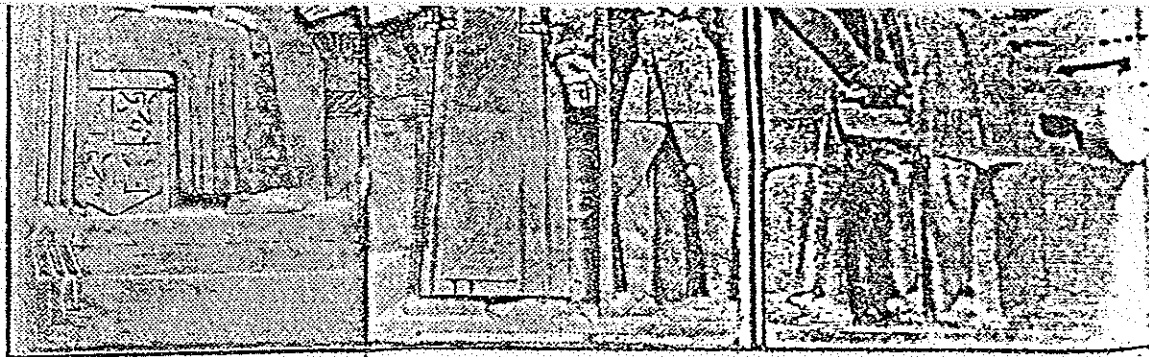
Both the east and west facade carvings are a part of "The Development of the Law" series, which encircles the terrace of the building. Since the first years of construction, this portion of the capitol symbolism has attracted wide attention. It was the result of the collaborative efforts of Lee Lawrie and Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, formerly of the University of Nebraska, who prepared the symbolical scheme of the building, both working with the late Bertram Goodhue, the architect.

From the press of the American Institute of Architects in 1926 appeared a book, "The Architectural Sculpture of the State Capitol at Lincoln, Nebraska," in which Dr. Alexander in an article wrote: "... these reliefs are an amazing series of historic interpretations spiritual in a true sense, and when the tale of them is completed Nebraska will possess in image such a pageant of great moments as should well assure that reverence for high traditions which it is the office of the public monument to inspire."

Includes 18 Bas-Reliefs.

The series includes eighteen bas-reliefs on the walls surmounting the terrace of the building, in addition to three pierced balustrade panels and ten buttress figures of great law-givers above the Supreme court rooms at the south entrance. The introduction and title are at the north entrance, which portrays "The Majesty of the Law." The south facade carvings, representing the written law and its interpretation, divide the eighteen bas-reliefs into two groups, nine around the western half, and nine around the eastern half of the building.

Reading begins naturally at the right of the north entrance. At the northwest corner is the first panel, "Moses Bringing the Law from Sinai." This and the one which follows, "Deborah Judging Israel," also at the northwest corner, were chiseled into the building eight years ago. The series, "The Judgment of Solomon," is one of the



Three of the five reliefs recently completed on the east facade of the Nebraska state capitol are pictured. They are the thirteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth panels in the eighteen-panel series, "The Development of the Law," which adorns the exterior walls.

the west entrance this year. The model for it already is in Lincoln. These first three panels as a group represent the old Testament conception of theocratic, inspired and kingly law.

The next three bas-reliefs, to be carved above the arched windows of the house of representatives lounge on the west facade, will be "Solon Giving a New Constitution to Athens," "The Publishing of the Law of the Twelve Tables in Rome" and

"The Establishment of the Tribunal of the People." They symbolize the legal foundations of democracy and republicanism in Athens and Rome.

Solon Panel Model Here.

The model for the Solon panel recently arrived in Lincoln, but the casting of the others is not yet completed in the east. Of the three, Mr. Lawrie wrote to a friend in Lincoln this fall, in substance: "I think these are going to be some of the

At the left is represented the case of the Indian before the reading of the emancipation proclamation shown in the center. These, with

best things I've done for the building. And I'm working night and day to complete them."

Number 7 in "The Development of the Law" series is "Plato Writing His Dialogue on the Ideal Republic," work upon which Beretta now has well under way. Numbers 8 and 9 at the southwest corner of the building, completed several years ago, represent the trial of Orestes, son of Agamemnon, before the ancient Athenian court on the Areo-

336.45

Neb.

#356

Journal-Star, February 4, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

START PLANTING OF TREES AT CAPITOL

J-S-2-4-34

Bryan Helps Set the First Specimen, an 18-Foot Concolor Fir.

The tireless finger of construction, which for ten years has been chronicling the saga of the Nebraska capitol, wrote again Saturday—this time to pen the first lines of the closing chapter. The lines were written as Governor Bryan tossed shovels of dirt about the base of an eighteen-foot concolor fir in a ceremony which marked the actual beginning of the capitol landscaping project. The project is the final step toward the formal dedication which will probably take place late this summer.

"We are happy to hereby signalize the turn into the lane which leads toward dedication," Governor Bryan said. "We hope to finish the landscaping program in a short time so that the patience and enterprise of Nebraska citizens who have built this great capitol will soon be rewarded with a dedication which is a tribute to the Cornhusker state."

The concolor fir—one of forty-four of that variety which will be used in the project that calls for transplanting of 163 trees of different varieties—is agreed by nurserymen to be "the perfect fir," according to Landscape Architect Herminghaus, who is in charge of the project. These firs will sentinel the north and south entrances; other varieties will stand verdant guard close against the walls of the building; and oaks, maples and elms will grace the lawn proper.

The concolor firs are native grown Nebraska trees which come from the J. J. Lydeck farm near the town of Bertha in Burt county. Mr. Lydeck brought the seeds back from a trip to the Rockies twenty years ago and raised the trees on land which he inherited from his father, a pioneer Nebraskan.

With Governor Bryan at the time of the ceremony were Ernst Herminghaus, landscape architect who has planned the project; W. L. Younkin, supervising architect for the capitol commission; Georgra A. Marshall, Arlington nurseryman who is furnishing many of the trees; and Harry L. Conklin, land commissioner and custodian of the capitol building and grounds.

336.45

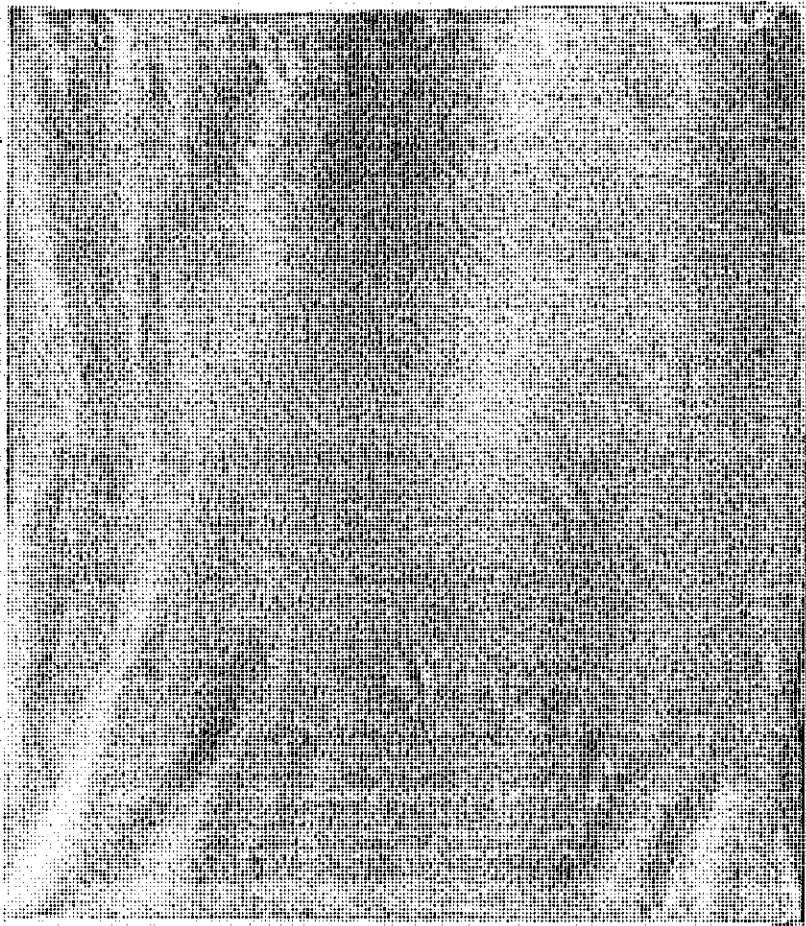
Neb.

#357

Journal - February 13, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Some Trees Set on New Capitol Lawn



SOME TREES SET ON NEW CAPITOL LAWN

J-2-13-34

Silver Fir, Colorado Green
Spruce, Red Cedar and
American Elms.

Tree planting on the capitol grounds is now half finished altho the capitol commission's contract with nurseries does not call for completion until April 1. J. J. Lydick of Burt county, who is not a nurseryman but who grew the stately firs now planted at the north and south entrances and those of the same variety along the walls of the capitol, spent a day or two looking over the planting as done by the contractor. He said the firs were grown from seed planted in 1911 or 1912. They are from seventeen to twenty-one feet tall. The seed came from Colorado.

The firs are to be trimmed on their outer surface with shears which will smooth down their symmetrical, open pyramidal crowns. These firs are of the balsam fir type of the pine family.

In his handbook of Nebraska trees, native and introduced species, printed by authority of the state, Prof. Raymond J. Pool, chairman of the department of botany, University of Nebraska, after describing the balsam fir says:

"Another fir tree that is commonly planted in this state is the silver fir, abies concolor, of the Rocky mountains and westward. The pale blue or grayish leaves, which are 2 to 3 inches long, serve to help distinguish this tree from the eastern balsam fir. In general the firs may be distinguished from the spruces, with which may people confuse them, by the flattish leaves, smooth twigs, and erect cones. Spruce leaves are four sided, the twigs are very rough after the leaves fall and the cones are pendulous."

Professor Pool says the balsam fir does not occur naturally in Nebraska, but is quite commonly planted as an ornamental, being substituted sometimes unknowingly for spruce for such purposes.

Spruce of the Colorado green variety are being planted near the base of the capitol walls. These have already been trimmed into globe shape. No blue spruce is to be planted. Tall cone shaped red cedars planted at the rear of the Lincoln monument are being given a fresh trimming by an expert. The red cedar or red juniper, says Professor Pool, is one of the most valuable trees of the United States because of the value of the wood and the uses of the species for landscape decoration. It is one of the four native Nebraska conifer trees.

Pool says it should not be planted near an apple orchard because of a certain rust fungus which alternates between the cedar and apple trees and often does great damage to the latter. He

with nurseries does not call for completion until April 1. J. J. Lydick of Burt county, who is not a nurseryman but who grew the stately firs now planted at the north and south entrances and those of the same variety along the walls of the capitol, spent a day or two looking over the planting as done by the contractor. He said the firs were grown from seed planted in 1911 or 1912. They are from seventeen to twenty-one feet tall. The seed came from Colorado.

The firs are to be trimmed on their outer surface with shears which will smooth down their symmetrical, open pyramidal crowns. These firs are of the balsam fir type of the pine family.

In his handbook of Nebraska trees, native and introduced species, printed by authority of the state, Prof. Raymond J. Pool, chairman of the department of botany, University of Nebraska, after describing the balsam fir says:

"Another fir tree that is commonly planted in this state is the silver fir, abies concolor, of the Rocky mountains and westward. The pale blue or grayish leaves, which are 2 to 3 inches long, serve to help distinguish this tree from the eastern balsam fir. In general the firs may be distinguished from the spruces, with which many people confuse them, by the flattish leaves, smooth twigs, and erect cones. Spruce leaves are four sided, the twigs are very rough after the leaves fall and the cones are pendulous."

Professor Pool says the balsam fir does not occur naturally in Nebraska, but is quite commonly planted as an ornamental, being substituted sometimes unknowingly for spruce for such purposes.

Spruce of the Colorado green variety are being planted near the base of the capitol walls. These have already been trimmed into globe shape. No blue spruce is to be planted. Tall cone shaped red cedars planted at the rear of the Lincoln monument are being given a fresh trimming by an expert. The red cedar or red juniper, says Professor Pool, is one of the most valuable trees of the United States because of the value of the wood and the uses of the species for landscape decoration. It is one of the four native Nebraska conifer trees.

Pool says it should not be planted near an apple orchard because of a certain rust fungus which alternates between the cedar and apple trees and often does great damage to the latter. He says it stands pruning without injury and may be trimmed into fantastic shapes. It is very hardy in this region and should be planted more widely as an ornamental, he says.

Concerning the American or white elm being planted on the capitol lawn, Pool says it is a famous and highly prized tree. It has extended entirely across the state from the forests of Iowa and Missouri. It grows rapidly and is an ideal park and street tree, one of the most beautiful of all American trees. It is one of the historic American trees as is typified in the Washington elm in Cambridge, Mass., and the William Penn elm in Philadelphia which was 233 years old when blown down in 1810.

336.45

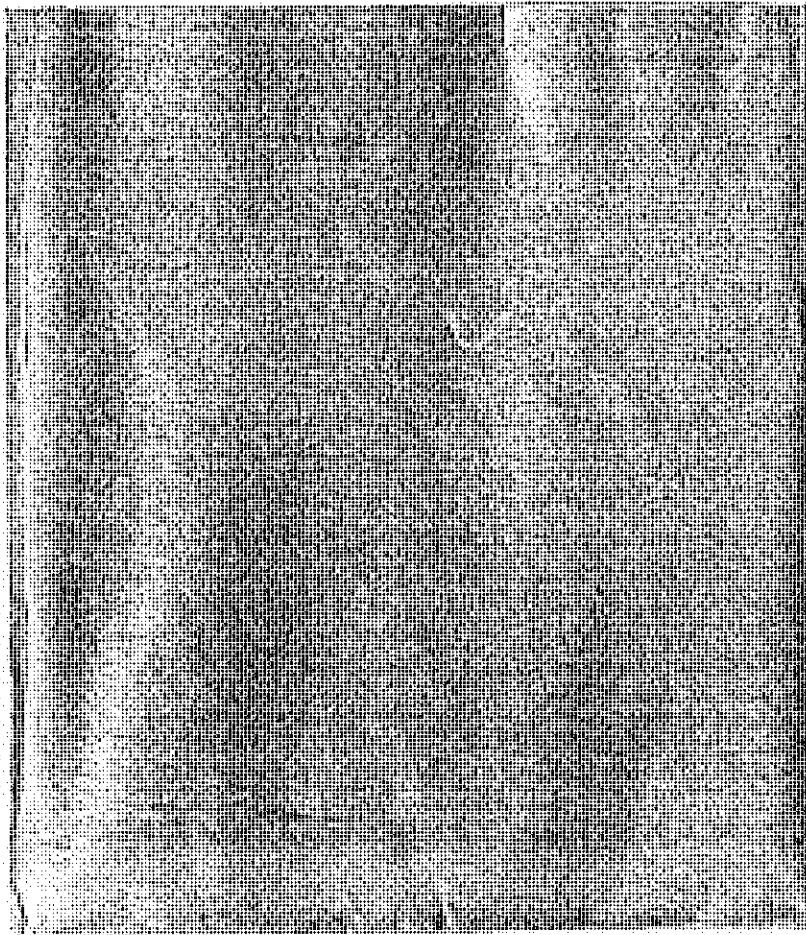
Neb.

#358

World-Herald, February 18, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

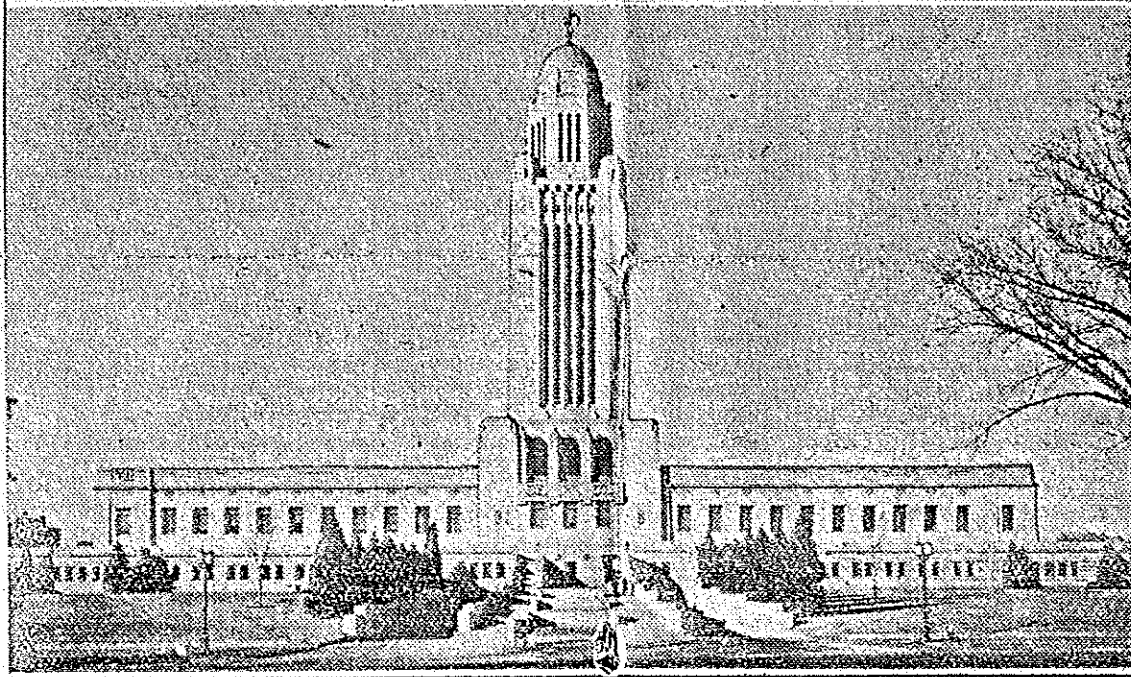
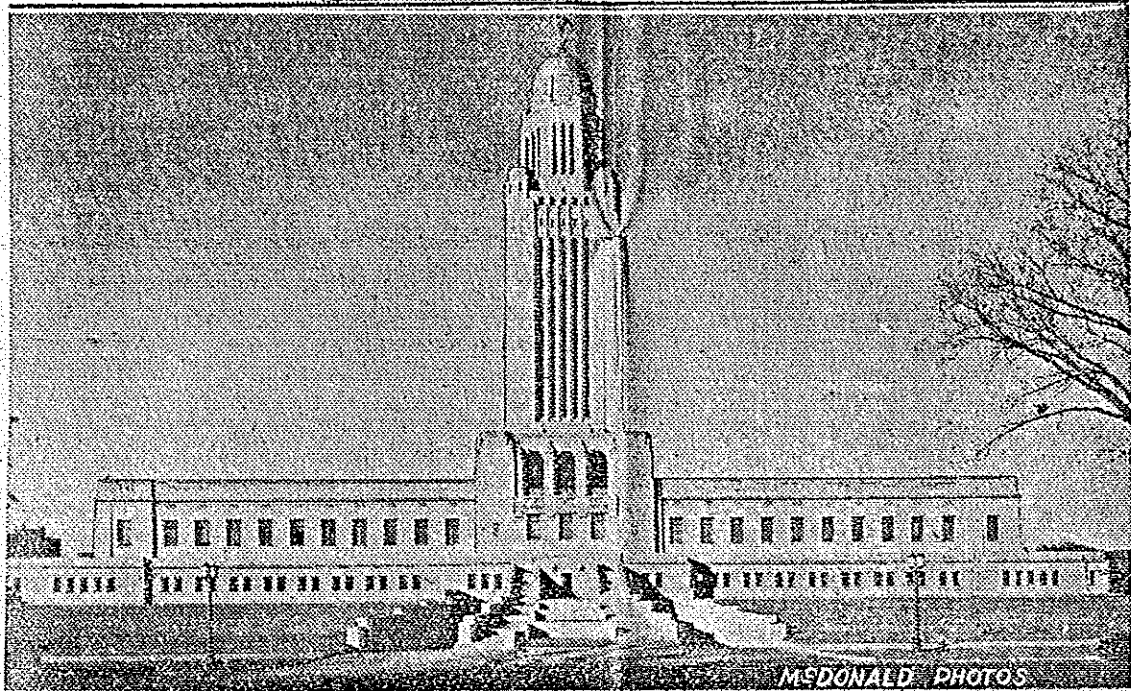
Landscaping the Capital Grounds



To Tree or Not to Tree—State Question

W 14-2-18-34

Landscaping Program to Provide "Warmth" for "Bleak and Cold"
Nebraska Capitol Causes Furore, but Planting Continues.



Before and after—the scene of the arboriculture war now being staged in Lincoln. The top picture shows the south side of the capitol building as it looked before trees were planted. Architects say it is "cold."

The other is the same view with the "warming remedy" partially applied. A few of the 143 trees to be planted are shown.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 17.—Hardly had Governor Bryan shoveled the first dirt about the first tree planted on the new 10 million dollar state capitol's lawn than an anvil chorus began beating mournful and protesting noises.

lawn. Architects said the building was "bleak and cold" without a setting. They displayed an early Bertrand Goodhue picture with its multi-treed and pushy setting. There was warmth.

Here Are the Arguments.

About 50 of the trees are now in. The deluge of protests is astounding. It is the favorite topic

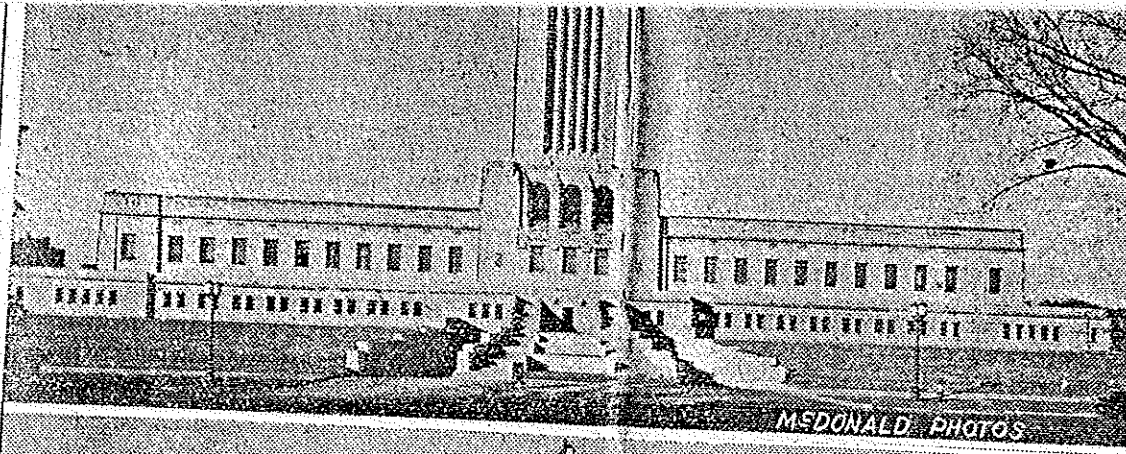
and shadows.

Trees give you one hundred views and perspectives, a barren building gives but one.

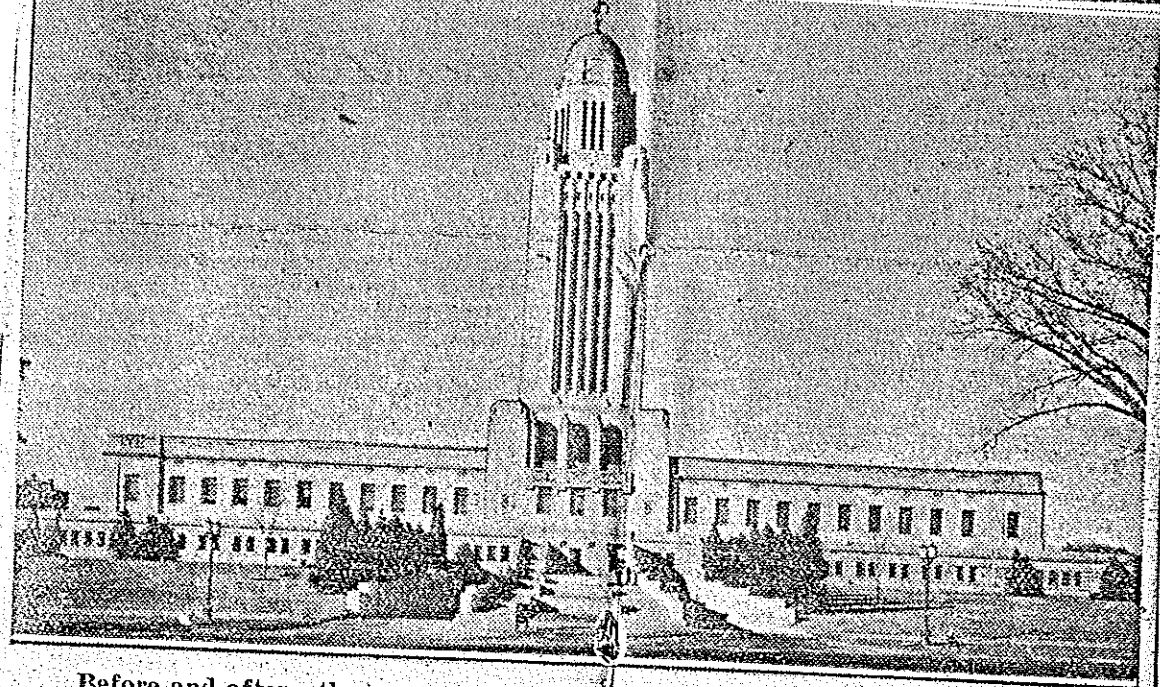
Trees may cover up murals from one view, but a step-10 feet one way or the other allows perfect views.

Out-staters Complain.

Ernest Herminghaus, Lincoln



MCDONALD, PHOTOS



Before and after—the scene of the arboriculture war now being staged in Lincoln. The top picture shows the south side of the capitol building as it looked before trees were planted. Architects say it is “cold.” The other is the same view with the “warming remedy” partially applied. A few of the 143 trees to be planted are shown.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 17.—Hardly had Governor Bryan shoveled the first dirt about the first tree planted on the new 10 million dollar state capitol's lawn than an anvil chorus began beating mournful and protesting noises.

The arboriculture battle has now reached a heated war stage, with fierce verbal lashings. One opponent went so far as to threaten in front of the landscape architect himself, to chop every tree on the place down with his little hatchet.

The capitol commission recently contracted for 143 trees to be placed about the building and

lawn. Architects said the building was “bleak and cold” without a setting. They displayed an early Bertrand Goodhue picture with its multi-treed and bushy setting. There was warmth.

Here Are the Arguments.

About 50 of the trees are now in. The deluge of protests is astounding. It is the favorite topic in the capitol.

Antagonists' claim:

The trees are too tall, will grow further to cover up the elaborate sculpturing, especially in front.

Trees are too close to the building.

One protestant says the county names 50 feet up on the building will soon be hidden. (The trees are now 17 and 20 feet tall).

The architects refute with:

Trees must provide the setting to warm the building, give lights

and shadows.

Trees give you one hundred views and perspectives, a barren building gives but one.

Trees may cover up murals from one view, but a step 10 feet one way or the other allows perfect views.

Out-staters Complain.

Ernest Herminghaus, Lincoln landscape architect, defends his plans. “It is just the first view that scares the people,” he says. “They will realize the beauty of trees when accustomed and when all the trees are in.”

“Goodhue had plans for 40-foot trees next to the building; the tallest here is slightly over 20 feet.”

Visitors from outstate are the biggest complainers. Lincolnites, now asked to plant huge trees in the parking across from the capitol to hide surrounding buildings, seem divided on the question.

336.45
Neb.
#359

Star, February 21, 1934

Capitol Landscaping Marks 15th Anniversary Of State House Act

More than 150 of the 183 trees to be transplanted on the state capitol grounds, in the first section of the landscaping project, were in place Tuesday evening—just 15 years after the bill for the new capitol was approved by the 1919 legislature and signed by Governor Samuel R. McKelvie.

On February 20, 1919, McKelvie

signed house roll No. 3. The next day—fifteen years ago Wednesday—was announced the appointment of "an unpaid, non-partisan capitol commission."

Here is a brief chronology of the building since then:

Commission Met 1919.

The first meeting of the commission was May 9, 1919. At its third meeting, June 24, 1919, Thomas R. Kimball, Omaha architect and the president of the American Institute of Architects, was named as its professional advisor. Under plans prepared by Mr. Kimball, and accepted in September, 1919, two architectural judgments were held. The preliminary competition for Nebraska architects was finished December 2, 1919, and the final nationwide contest June 28, 1920.

In April, 1922, the contract for the foundation of the new capitol was signed. April 15 ground-breaking ceremonies took place. Construction of the first section began in July, and November 11, the cornerstone was laid amid impressive ceremonies.

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, New York, architect of the capitol, died April 24, 1924. The following summer a contract was signed with his junior partners and successors, Mayers, Murray and Philip, to complete the building. State offices were moved into finished portions of the new structure in December.

Tower Built 1928.

Construction of the second section began in May, 1925; the tower, or third section, in February, 1928, and the west wing, or fourth section, in July, 1930. The exterior of the tower was finished in September, 1930.

In September, 1932, contracts for terracing and sodding the 7-acre lawn, and for installation of an acre of sidewalks, drives and retaining walls were let. Last month contracts for the first part of the landscaping were signed.

Landscaping the grounds, selecting the mural artists for the capitol corridors, flood-lighting the tower, and finishing the carving at the west entrance are the chief tasks remaining before the building is entirely finished.

Vacancy On Commission.

Members of the original commission were Governor McKelvie, chairman; State Engineer George E. Johnson, secretary; W. E. Hardy, Lincoln, vice chairman, and W. W. Head, Omaha, and W. H. Thompson, Grand Island. McKelvie served until 1923. He was followed by Charles W. Bryan, 1923 to 1925; Adam McMullen, 1925 to 1929; Arthur J. Weaver, 1929 to 1931, and by Bryan again, from 1931 to the present. State Engineer Johnson was replaced by Roy Cochran in 1923.

Of the three appointive members, Mr. Hardy and Judge Thompson—now United States Senator Thompson—are still active. Mr. Head resigned in December, 1930. Upon his inauguration as governor in January, Bryan offered the vacancy to the late Gilbert M. Hitchcock, who refused it. It was never filled.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

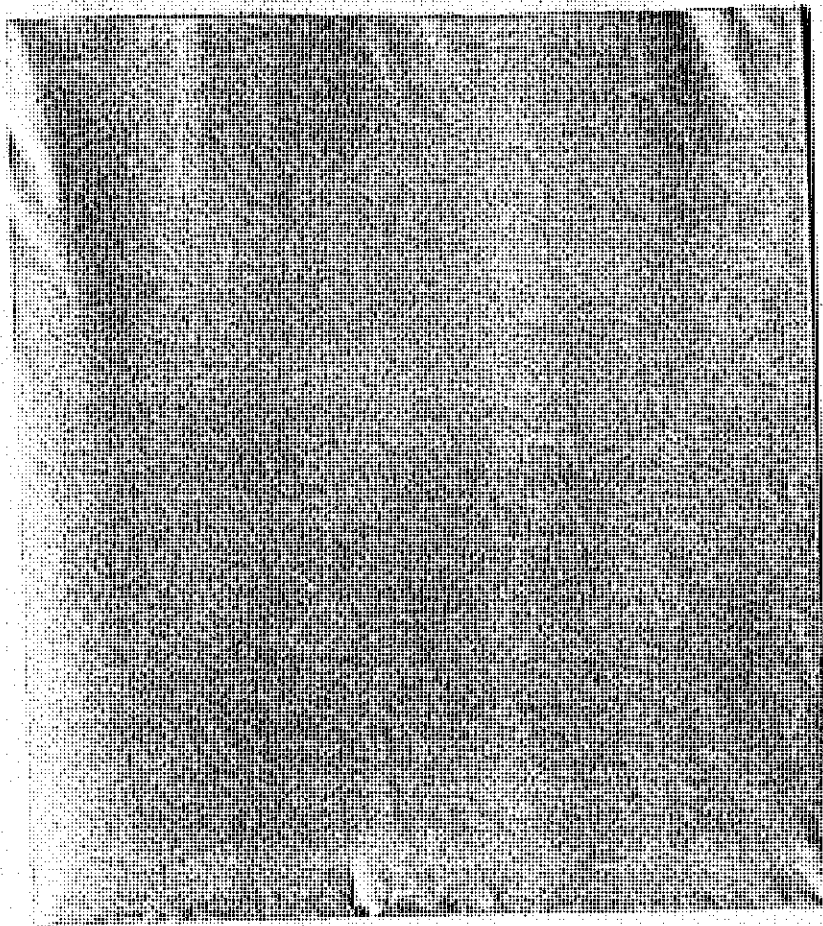
Neb.

#360

Journal-Star, March 11, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Landscaping the State Capitol Grounds



Arboreal Setting For State Capitol Excite

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

LANDSCAPING of the Nebraska state capitol grounds, it seems, has attracted quite a bit of attention. Considerable praise and some protests has been voiced for the program, which is now well under way. It is one of the largest in Nebraska's history; the largest, in fact, except possibly for some park plantings.

A little more than a month ago — on February 3, to be exact — Governor Bryan, as chairman of the capitol commission, threw in a spadeful of dirt around the roots of an 18-foot white fir at the northwest corner of the building. It was the first of 163 large trees, many nearly full-grown, to be transplanted on the seven-acre lawn.

"This is the first paragraph of the last chapter in the story of the capitol," said the governor, as he posed for photographers, spade in hand.

A few people gathered to watch the brief ceremony. At one side of the governor stood Ernst Herminghaus, of Lincoln, landscape architect for the entire project, and George A. Marshall, Arlington nurseryman. At his other side were W. Younkin, superintendent of construction of the capitol, and Harry P. Conklin, commissioner of public lands and buildings. Mr. Younkin, representing the capitol commission, is now in charge of the grounds. Mr. Conklin, who is designated by law as capitol custodian, will be in charge when they are turned over to the state.

Weather Speeds Work.

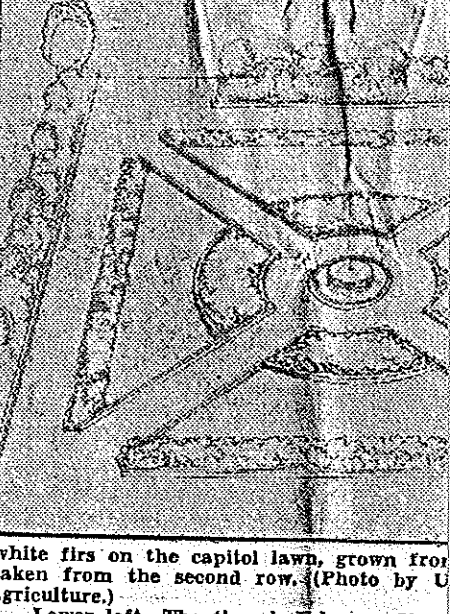
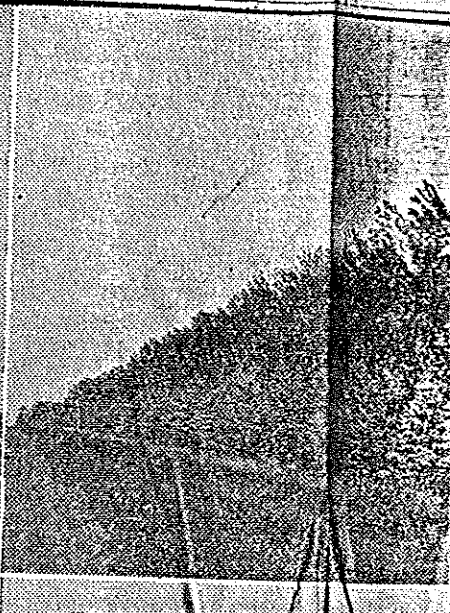
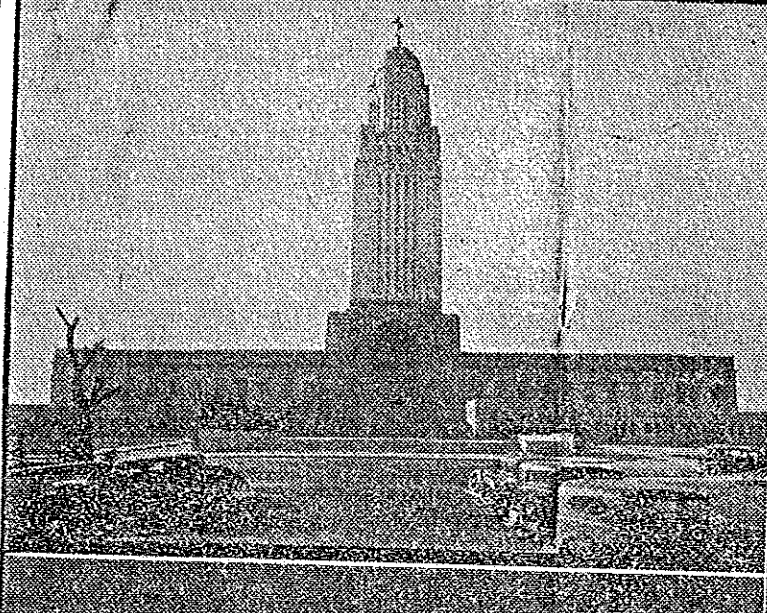
The planting, thus started, was continued in earnest. Specifications did not require contractors to get the trees in place until April. But weather conditions were ideal. The ground was easy to work. So the two nurseries, which a week before had been low bidders on the first section of the landscaping, pushed their tasks to completion. They sent crews of men to where the trees were to be removed to the capitol, and sub-let the planting on the lawn to a Lincoln firm.

Nineteen days after the first tree was in place — on February 22 at 1:15 p. m. — the entire job was finished. The last eleven trees were 3-foot pin oaks, which arrived on three large trucks from Geneva at evening at 6 o'clock. They were all set up after dark.

Bids for standard grades of nursery stock, the second section of the planting program, were opened several days later. Two Lincoln firms were low bidders. One will furnish and plant small trees and shrubs on the grounds; the other will decorate the four inner court-yards. Some of the work of both already finished.

17,824 Individual Plantings.

Completion of the entire project, approximately 17,824 individual items will have been transplanted on the grounds and in the court-yards. The total number of trees, exclusive of many...



Upper left—The cameraman used a wide-angle lens to obtain this full front view of the state capitol. Although the photograph gives a distorted picture of the 400-foot tower, it shows the planting of white firs flanking the granite plaza at the main entrance. At the extreme right, against the capitol wall, is an 18-foot white fir, the most perfectly-proportioned fir and the first tree to be set out on the capitol lawn. At the left workmen are seen cutting down an elm in the parking north of the capitol. The trees in the eight blocks of parking around the capitol have been removed by the city, and will be replaced with a uniform planting of scarlet oaks.—(Photo by Hale.)

Upper right—A windbreak a quarter of a mile long on J. J. Lydick's farm in Burt county, Nebraska. There are five rows of trees—one of blue spruce, one of white firs, two of pines, and one of poplars. The

white firs on the capitol lawn, grown from seed taken from the second row. (Photo by U. agriculture.)

Lower left—The time is February 22 at the southwest corner of the capitol lawn. 163 trees to be transplanted on the ground landscaping program. The tree in the picture is one of the two-ton oaks, from Guy Brown's farm at Geneva. (Photo by John Edwards.)

Lower right—A perspective of one of the windbreaks in the capitol, as each will appear upon completion of flowers and shrubs.—(Drawing by Ernest Hale.)

home-owners to develop their own gardens."

"I like the planting better every time another tree or shrub is set out," explained another, a Lincoln architect. "At first the large firs at the north and south entrances startled me. I guess it was because I was so used to seeing the building 'in the nude' that I didn't realize how bare the grounds were. The planting is just what is needed to properly set off the building."

A man in overalls, returning from work, stopped to survey the south entrance. He spoke with an accent: "Pretty good improvement! It looks like somebody's home!"

To these is added the praise of the United States bureau of public roads, Wilbur H. Simonson, of Washington, D. C., who spent a day

Philip, of New York City, former junior partners and successors to Mr. Goodhue. O. H. Murray, of the firm, worked up the preliminary studies, based on suggestions found among Mr. Goodhue's papers.

Personally Planned Settings.

In many of the buildings for which Goodhue was architect, he took a hand in planning the settings. The gardens he designed for the palatial home of J. Waldron Gillespie, in Montecito, Cal., are recognized by many landscape artists to be the finest in America. Hollywood film producers have often used them for motion-picture backgrounds.

The capitol planting program, as drawn up by Herminghaus and approved by the architects and the capitol commission, includes a formal planting of evergreens at the

are from the farm of J. J. Lydick, near Craig. He has about twenty acres almost completely enclosed with some 10,000 pines, firs and spruce. It is one of the finest evergreen plantings in America.

When Lydick inherited the farm from his uncle in 1910, it was a 240-acre treeless tract. And Lydick was a sick man, troubled with asthma.

"You'll have to go north and live among the pines," his doctor had informed him.

But he refused. "I'll plant my own pines," he said.

He sent to the mountains for seed. He knew little of tree-planting then, but George A. Marshall, the Arlington nurseryman, told him how to care for them, and when to transplant them. Lydick followed his advice. They were transplanted three times before being set out

of the borders

At the two small feet in solidly a 10-foot globe-tr eighteen

The grounds cedars, circular Lincoln

The provide offices of the this art by 100 f red sand

shrubs on the grounds; the other will decorate the four inner courtyards. Some of the work of both is already finished.

17,824 Individual Plantings.

At completion of the entire project, approximately 17,824 individual items will have been transplanted on the grounds and in the courtyards. The total number of trees, exclusive of many dwarf mountain pines, will be 192-163 in the first section and twenty-nine in the second. Among other large items are the following for the courtyards: 7,280 privet for hedges; 1,360 petunia plants, 5,440 tulip bulbs, 1,088 roses and 842 shrubs.

Eight Nebraska counties are represented in the trees on the grounds, including Lancaster, Dodge, Gage, York, Fillmore, Washington, Burt and Douglas. Many specimens are from nurseries; others are from lawns and farms. Shrubbery on the lawn will be from nurseries in Lincoln, Shenandoah, Ia., and Manhattan, Kas. In the courtyard planting, nurseries in five states, including Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and Alabama, will be represented.

The cost of the project has totalled \$12,926, and is being paid from the regular capitol building fund of the capitol commission. This is \$2,000 less than the \$15,000 the commission had anticipated would be necessary to properly landscape the grounds. The sum of the first section contracts was \$9,006, slightly in excess of the estimates of the landscape architect. But the second section, totalling \$3,920, was \$1,880 under the estimates.

Plans Praised.

Praise for the landscaping plans has been enthusiastic. "The capitol setting will be one of the beauty spots of the middle-west," said one Lincoln man. "It will be an inspiration for many

A man in overalls, returning from work, stopped to survey the south entrance. He spoke with an accent: "Pretty good improvement! It looks like somebody's home!"

To these is added the praise of the landscape architect of the United States bureau of public roads, Wilbur H. Simonson, of Washington, D. C., who spent a day in Lincoln with state highway department officials a week ago.

Some Protests Heard.

As for the protests, many are tinged with sarcasm. "What a forest!" or "Some wind-break!" or "Why hide the tower?" are typical comments.

"I wonder if they'll open up a bear preserve on the grounds now?" one visitor queried.

Several capitol janitors, who have spent many Sunday afternoons in helping to keep young lovers out of the darkened corridors in the building—which is a real job, they'll tell you!—look sadly at the planting. They wonder how much policing of the grounds they may have to do some day.

Most of the protests apparently are from people who insist that a prairie building should not have trees around it, and that it was never the intention of the architect, the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, to plant any.

"I prefer the stark simplicity of the capitol as Mr. Goodhue originally planned it," is the way several have expressed themselves.

These people, of course, do not know that Goodhue had in mind a multi-treed, bushy setting, with some trees at least fifty feet high. Nor do they know that Ernst Herminghaus, the landscape architect, based a large part of his scheme on a skeleton plan designed a year ago by Meyers, Murray &

Montecito, Cal., are recognized by many landscape artists to be the finest in America. Hollywood film producers have often used them for motion-picture backgrounds.

The capitol planting program, as drawn up by Herminghaus and approved by the architects and the capitol commission, includes a formal planting of evergreens at the north and south entrances; adjacent to the walls of the building, and flanking the Lincoln monument at the west approach. White firs, red cedars and green spruce have been used liberally. Between the building and sidewalk is an informal planting of deciduous trees—oaks, elms, maples, lindens, birches and one tulip tree. They are grouped to provide many open vistas of the capital. The heaviest planting is on the south, affording relief from the sun-glare; the sparsest is on the north.

The most highly-prized, and most expensive trees on the lawn are the forty-four white firs, or concolor firs. There are twenty at the north entrance; sixteen at the south, and two each at the four corners of the building. All are 22 years old, and vary from 16 to 21 feet in height. They will be trimmed regularly, and are expected to "fill out" solidly in a few years from the ground to their terminal shoots.

Most Beautiful Firs.

Nurserymen consider these trees to be the most beautiful of all ornamental firs. They are in such demand in some landscape projects in the east that they are said to have sold at times for nearly \$1,000 a tree. Their cost to the capitol commission, in place on the grounds, was about \$89.

Although native of the Rocky mountains, these trees were grown from seed on a Burt county farm 99 miles north of Lincoln. They

informed him. But he refused. "I'll plant my own pines," he said. He sent to the mountains for seed. He knew little of tree-planting then, but George A. Marshall, the Arlington nurseryman, told him how to care for them, and when to transplant them. Lydick followed his advice. They were transplanted three times before being set out at permanent locations on the farm. The row from which the capitol firs were taken is a quarter of a mile long.

"His Children."

Lydick calls his trees "his children." He has consistently refused to sell them in the past; although he often gives one away to a neighbor. For two years, though, Marshall has been telling Lydick that "those trees ought to be on the state capitol grounds." And finally Lydick was persuaded to sell a few. Options were taken on sixty trees. Only forty-four were used on the grounds, but the remaining are being held in reserve for possible replacements.

Lydick was in Lincoln in mid-February with the last truck-load of firs from his farm. It was his first visit since he attended the old Lincoln academy here thirty years ago.

As for the rest of the trees on the lawn, here is a brief list and description:

The Other Trees.

Forty-eight red cedars, 15 to 30 feet in height, transplanted from nurseries in Lincoln, Beatrice and Fremont, and lawns in Lincoln and Omaha. Three beautiful specimens were accepted as gifts by the capitol commission. Two were from Albert and Arthur Beckman, of Lincoln, whose father, the late Fred Beckman, was custodian of the old capitol grounds; the third was from Guy H. Green, of Lincoln.

Sixteen Colorado green spruce, from a York nursery. Four are 10-foot trees and twelve are five-foot globe-trimmed specimens.

Twenty oaks. Fourteen pin oaks, 20 feet high from a York nursery and the Guy Brown farm at Geneva; five red oaks, 15 to 20 feet high, from an Arlington nursery, and one 15-foot scarlet oak, from a Lincoln nursery.

Sixteen sugar maples, 15 to 25 feet high, from nurseries in Arlington, York and Beatrice, and a lawn at 1345 A street, Lincoln. The two 25-foot maples north of the capitol are from the A street lawn, two of the most beautiful specimens on the grounds.

Six American lindens, or basswoods, 18 to 25 feet high, and four 20-foot white birches, all from a Beatrice nursery, and one 18-foot tulip tree, from an Arlington nursery. Eight 30-foot American elm "wine-glass" shaped, were transplanted from the George E. Woods farm at man, several miles west of Lincoln.

Additional planting for the landscaping, includes 426 Pfitzer's junipers—evergreen shrubs—along the north and south foundations, the retaining walls at the east and west entrances, and on the sides of the Lincoln monument at the west entrance. Most of these are from 18 to 24 inches high, with a spread of from three to four feet. A few are much larger. To prevent "cutting the corners" of the capitol lawn, three junipers are being placed at each corner.

200 Dwarf Pines Set Out.

Two hundred dwarf mountain pines, a low bushy growth, border the east and west foundations of the capitol. All of these are now in place.

At the north entrance, bordering a part of the horseshoe drive under the main steps, will be a planting of 100 barberry bushes, from two to three feet high. Two grass plots, 11 by 62 feet in size, bordering the granite plaza at the north entrance, will be filled with 310 Andorra junipers. These are prostrate plants, six to eight inches high, with a two-foot spread. They will form a thick carpet of silvery green in summer, turning to a purplish tan in winter.

In the terraced mall at the south entrance will be a formal planting. A hedge of 140 savin junipers bordering the four panels of the mall was finished last Wednesday. In the two end panels will be a solid

sarcasm. "forest!" or "Some wind-forest!" or "Why hide the tower?" comments.

If they'll open up a drive on the grounds now?" queried.

capitol janitors, who have on Sunday afternoons in keep young lovers out of fenced corridors in the which is a real job, they'll look sadly at the plant-wonder how much polic-grounds they may have e day.

the protests apparently people who insist that a bldg should not have and it, and that it was intention of the architect, Bertram Grosvenor Good-lant any.

the stark simplicity of Mr. Goodhue origin-ed it," is the way several esed themselves.

people, of course, do not Goodhue had in mind a d, bushy setting, with at least fifty feet high. they know that Ernst us, the landscape archi-

large part of his skeleton plan designed o by Meyers, Murray &

the building and sidewalk is an in-formal planting of deciduous trees—oaks, elms, maples, lindens, birches and one tulip tree. They are grouped to provide many open vistas of the capital. The heaviest planting is on the south, affording relief from the sun-glare; the spar-est is on the north.

The most highly-prized, and most expensive trees on the lawn are the forty-four white firs, or concolor firs. There are twenty at the north entrance; sixteen at the south, and two each at the four corners of the building. All are 22 years old, and vary from 16 to 21 feet in height. They will be trimmed regularly, and are expected to "fill out" solidly in a few years from the ground to their terminal shoots.

Most Beautiful Firs.

Nurserymen consider these trees to be the most beautiful of all ornamental firs. They are in such demand in some landscape projects in the east that they are said to have sold at times for nearly \$1,000 a tree. Their cost to the capitol commission, in place on the grounds, was about \$89.

Although native of the Rocky mountains, these trees were grown from seed on a Burt county farm 99 miles north of Lincoln. They

Lydick calls his trees "his chil-dren." He has consistently refused to sell them in the past; although he often gives one away to a neigh-bor. For two years, though, Mar-shall has been telling Lydick that "those trees ought to be on the state capitol grounds." And finally Lydick was persuaded to sell a few. Options were taken on sixty trees. Only forty-four were used on the grounds, but the remaining are being held in reserve for possible re-placements.

Lydick was in Lincoln in mid-February with the last truck-load of firs from his farm. It was his first visit since he attended the old Lincoln academy here thirty years ago.

As for the rest of the trees on the lawn, here is a brief list and de-scription:

The Other Trees.

Forty-eight red cedars, 15 to 30 feet in height, transplanted from nurseries in Lin-coln, Beatrice and Fremont, and lawns in Lincoln and Omaha. Three beautiful specimens were accepted as gifts by the capitol commission. Two were from Albert and Arthur Beckman, of Lincoln, whose father, the late Fred Beckman, was cus-todian of the old capitol grounds; the third was from Guy H. Green, of Lin-coln.

Sixteen Colorado green spruce, from a York nursery. Four are 10-foot trees and twelve are five-foot globe-trimmed speci-mens.

Twenty oaks. Fourteen pin oaks, 75 feet high, from a York nursery and the Guy Brown farm at Geneva; five red oaks, 15 to 20 feet high, from an Arling-ton nursery, and one 15-foot scarlet oak, from a Lincoln nursery.

Sixteen sugar maples, 15 to 25 feet high, from nurseries in Arlington, York and Beatrice, and a lawn at 1345 A street, Lincoln. The two 25-foot maples north of the capitol are from the A street lawn, two of the most beautiful specimens on the grounds.

Six American lindens, or basswoods, 18 to 25 feet high, and four 20-foot white birches, all from a Beatrice nursery, and one 18-foot tulip tree, from an Arlington nursery. Eight 30-foot American elm "wine-glass" shaped, were trans-ferred from the George F. Woods' farm at Os-man, several miles west of Lincoln.

Additional planting for the II in the second section of the lan-scaping, includes 426 Pfitzer's junipers—evergreen shrubs—along the north and south foundations; the retaining walls at the east and west entrances, and on the sides of the Lincoln monument at the west entrance. Most of these are from 18 to 24 inches high, with a spread of from three to four feet. A few are much larger. To prevent "cut-ting the corners" of the capitol lawn, three junipers are being placed at each corner.

200 Dwarf Pines Set Out.

Two hundred dwarf mountain pines, a low bushy growth, border the east and west foundations of the capitol. All of these are now in place.

At the north entrance, bordering a part of the horseshoe drive under the main steps, will be a planting of 100 barberry bushes, from two to three feet high. Two grass plots, 11 by 62 feet in size, bordering the granite plaza at the north entrance, will be filled with 310 Andorra junipers. These are prostrate plants, six to eight inches high, with a two-foot spread. They will form a thick carpet of silvery green in summer, turning to a purplish tan in winter.

In the terraced mall at the south entrance will be a formal planting. A hedge of 140 sayin junipers bor-dering the four panels of the mall was finished last Wednesday. In the two end panels will be a solid planting of red-leaved barberry, from 18 to 24 inches high. In the two center panels will be small rec-tangular beds of Anthony Waterer spirea. These are dwarf red spir-eas, the most highly-colored of any

the marble is from the main floor of the old building.

In the center of each courtyard is to be a fountain of hammered lead, thirty inches high, designed several years ago by the architect. No contracts for these have been awarded as yet, and it is unlikely that they will be placed in the courts until later.

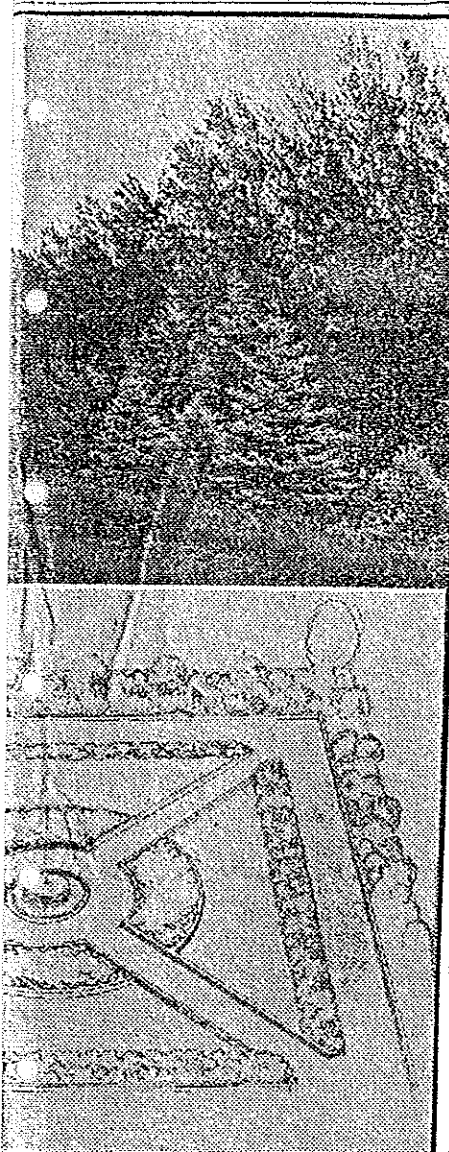
An eight-inch square hedge of privet will border all the paths in the courtyard. Around the lead fountains will be four circular beds, in which petunia plants will be set out late in May. Each courtyard will require 340 plants. In each a different color scheme will be worked out—red, pink, blue and dark purple—with all the beds solid masses of color.

Tulips To Replace Petunias.

When the petunias die in the fall, 1,360 Darwin tulip bulbs will be planted in the same beds. After they bloom in May, 1935—with colors of pink, lavender and two shades of red—the tops will be cut off, and petunias will be set out again. The capitol commission wants this plan to be followed an-nually.

Inside the peripheral path of each court will be four long beds of roses—the baby ramblers, which will

Excites Wide Interest As Work Progresses



...grown from seed by Mr. Lydick, were
(Photo by United States department of

February 22 at 11:15 p. m., and the place,
a lawn. This is a view of the last of
on the grounds in the first section of the
in the picture is one of eleven 25-foot,
n's farm at Geneva, set up after dark that
yards.)
of one of the four 87-by-100-foot court-
will appear upon completion of the plant-
drawing by Ernst Herminghaus; reproduc-

of the species. The beds will be
bordered with a hedge of privet.
At the south entrance door are
two small grass plots, six by 15
feet in size, which have been filled
solidly with trees. In each is
a 10-foot silver cedar; a four-foot
globe-trimmed green spruce, and
eighteen two-foot dwarf pines.
Nine Cedars Planned.
The only other planting on the
grounds will be nine 12-foot red
cedars, to be placed in the semi-
circular plot directly behind the
Lincoln monument.
The four inner courtyards, which
provide natural light for inside
offices of the capitol, are to be col-
orfully landscaped in the manner
of the illustration accompanying
this article. Each courtyard is 87
by 100 feet in size, and is broken by
red sandstone walks, bordered with
squares of marble, gray alternating
with maroon and blue. They

bloom all summer with flowers of
varying shades of pink and red.
Outside the path, in the seven-
foot space between the walk and
wall of the building, will be a mass
of low-growing flowering shrubs.
They will be four or five feet high
between the office windows, and
from three to four feet high under
the windows.
Many varieties of at least twenty
species of shrubbery have been
specified for use. Many will bloom
in the spring and early summer,
while some will not bloom until mid-
summer. Many will have colored
leaves, twigs and berries in the fall.
Here is the list of the shrubs,
many of which are familiar to gar-
den lovers:
Lilacs—Nine varieties, 24 plants, in-

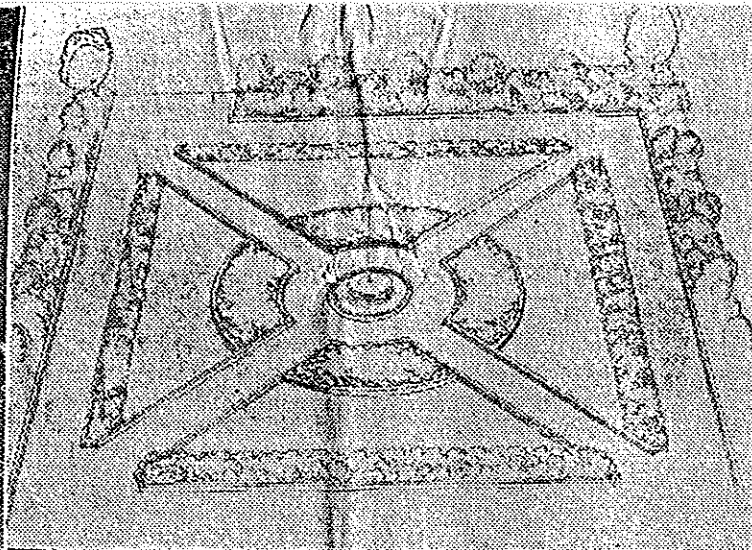
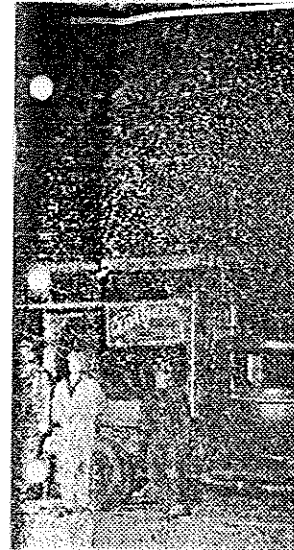
cluding three Charles X, four Charles
Joly, one Marie LeGrave, three Madame
Lemoine, two President Grey, two Al-
phonse Lavallo; two Michael Buciner, four
Souvenir of Ludwig Spaeth, and three
Rubra de Marley.
Altheas, or Roses of Sharon—Six varie-
ties, 11 plants, including two anemonaes-
florus, one Snowdrift, two Lady Stanley,
two Souvenir of Charles Breton, two
Rubus, and two Boule de Feu.
Viburnums—Four varieties, 37 plants,
including one wayfaring tree (v. lantana),
six arrow-wood (v. dentatum), eight high-
bush cranberry (v. opulus), and 22 Korean
viburnum (v. carlesii).
Mockoranges (Philadelphus)—Three varie-
ties, 69 plants, including 17 Virginal,
28 Glacier and 24 Lemoine.
Weigelias—Two varieties, eight plants,
including four Rosea, and four Eva
Rathke.
Hydrangeas—Two varieties, 175 plants,
including 198 large-flowered hydrangea,
and 67 wild hydrangea.
Rosa bushes—Seven varieties, 146 plants,

including 39 Rosa Rugosa "Grootendorst",
21 Rosa Rugosa "Hansa", 11 Rosa Rugosa
"Siberian", 13 Rosa Rugosa "Amelia
Gravereaux", 12 Rosa "Madame Plantier",
21 red-leaved rose, and 24 Father Hugo's
rose.
Spirea—Three varieties, 66 plants, in-
cluding 14 snowgarland, 12 many-flowered
snow-garland, and 40 frobella. Also 25
sorbaria, or mountain ash-leaved spira.
Miscellaneous—Eleven species, 281 plants,
including six white fringe tree, 23 bush
clover, 33 large flowered St. John's-wort,
38 shrubby cinquefoil, 25 beauty bush, 3
sweet pepper bush (clethra), 15 strawberry
bush, 31 Alpine currant, 24 cork-barked
burning bush, 28 Japanese quince (mixed
colors), and 30 globe-flower.
Trees in Each Court.
Each of the four courtyards is
to have in each of its four corners
a small flowering tree, about five
feet in height. Four Minnesota
(Continued on Page Seven.)

purple-leaved plums will be in the
northeast; four tree lilacs in the
northwest; four magnolias in the
southeast, and four flowering plums
in the southwest.

And then no story about the
capitol landscaping plans is com-
plete without mention of the 175
scarlet oaks for which the city
council last week appropriated about
\$300. They are to be planted in the
eight blocks of parking around the
capitol square, across the street from
the building.

CWA funds were employed to cut
down the old trees in the parking.
The cost of setting out new ones
will also be a CWA project. The
oaks will be about eight feet high,
and will be obtained in either New
York or New Jersey.



angle lens to obtain this photograph gives a view of the planting of white entrance. At the extreme white fir, the most perfect set out on the capitol lawn an elm in the park- blocks of parking around will be replaced with a mile long on J. J. Lydick's rows of trees—one of and one of poplars. The

white firs on the capitol lawn, grown from seed by Mr. Lydick, were taken from the second row. (Photo by United States department of agriculture.)

Lower left—The time is February 22 at 11:15 p. m., and the place, the southwest corner of the capitol lawn. This is a view of the last of 163 trees to be transplanted on the grounds in the first section of the landscaping program. The tree in the picture is one of eleven 25-foot, two-ton oaks, from Guy Brown's farm at Geneva, set up after dark that evening. (Photo by John Edwards.)

Lower right—A perspective of one of the four 87-by-100-foot courtyards in the capitol, as each will appear upon completion of the planting of flowers and shrubs—(Drawing by Ernst Herminghaus; reproduction by Hale.)

New York City, former partners and successors to Goodhue, O. H. Murray, who worked up the preliminary plans, based on suggestions from Mr. Goodhue's papers, finally Planned Settings.

of the buildings for which was architect, he took a planning the settings. The designed for the palatial J. Waldron Gillespie, in Cal. are recognized by landscape artists to be the America. Hollywood film have often used them for

capitol planting program, as by Herminghaus and appointed architects and the mission, includes a for- of evergreens at the south entrances; adja- the walls of the building, the Lincoln monu- the west approach. White cedars and green spruce used liberally. Between and sidewalk is an in- of deciduous trees: elms, maples, lindens, and one tulip tree. They are to provide many open the capital. The heaviest is on the south, affording in the sun-glare; the spar- the north.

st highly-prized, and most es on the lawn are the white firs, or concolor are twenty at the north sixteen at the south, and at the four corners of the All are 22 years old, and 16 to 21 feet in height. be trimmed regularly, expected to "fill out" solid- years from the ground

ost Beautiful Firs.

men consider these trees e most beautiful of all al firs. They are in such some landscape projects st that they are said to at times for nearly \$1,000 their cost to the capitol n in place on the grounds, 1931.

are from the farm of J. J. Lydick, near Craig. He has about twenty acres almost completely enclosed with some 10,000 pines, firs and spruce. It is one of the finest ever-green plantings in America.

When Lydick inherited the from his uncle in 1910, it was a 240-acre treeless tract. And Lydick was a sick man, troubled with asthma.

"You'll have to go north and among the pines," his doctor informed him.

But he refused. "I'll plant my own pines," he said.

He sent to the mountains for seed. He knew little of tree-planting then, but George A. Marshall, the Arlington nurseryman, told him how to care for them, and when to transplant them. Lydick followed his advice. They were transplanted three times before being set out at permanent locations on the farm. The row from which the capitol firs were taken is a quarter of a mile long.

"His Children."

Lydick calls his trees "his children." He has consistently refused to sell them in the past; although he often gives one away to a neighbor. For two years, though, Marshall has been telling Lydick that "those trees ought to be on the state capitol grounds." And finally Lydick was persuaded to sell a few. Options were taken on sixty trees. Only forty-four were used on the grounds, but the remaining are being held in reserve for possible replacements.

Lydick was in Lincoln in mid-February with the last truck-load of firs from his farm. It was his first visit since he attended the old Lincoln academy here thirty years ago.

As for the rest of the trees on the lawn, here is a brief list and description:

The Other Trees.
Forty-eight red cedars, 15 to 30 feet in height, transplanted from nurseries in Lincoln, Beatrice and Fremont, and lawns in Lincoln and Omaha. Three beautiful specimens were accepted as gifts by the capitol commission. Two were from Albert and Arthur Beckman, of Lincoln, whose father, the late Fred Beckman, was custodian of the old capitol grounds; the third was from Guy H. Green, of Lincoln.
Sixteen Colorado green spruce, from a New York nursery. Four are 10-foot trees and twelve are five-foot globe-trimmed specimens.
Twenty oaks. Fourteen pin oaks

of the species. The beds will be bordered with a hedge of privet.

At the south entrance door are two small grass plots, six by 15 feet in size, which have been filled solidly with trees. In each is a 10-foot silver cedar; a four-foot globe-trimmed green spruce, and eighteen two-foot dwarf pines.

Nine Cedars Planned.

The only other planting on the grounds will be nine 12-foot red cedars, to be placed in the semi-circular plot directly behind the Lincoln monument.

The four inner courtyards, which provide natural light for inside offices of the capitol, are to be colorfully landscaped in the manner of the illustration accompanying this article. Each courtyard is 87 by 100 feet in size, and is broken by red sandstone walks, bordered with squares of marble, gray alternately with maroon and blue. They materials from the old capitol. The sandstones are from the old side-walk around the capitol square, and the marble is from the main floor of the old building.

In the center of each courtyard is to be a fountain of hammered lead, thirty inches high, designed several years ago by the architects. No contracts for these have been awarded as yet, and it is unlikely that they will be placed in the courts until later.

An eight-inch square hedge of privet will border all the paths in the courtyard. Around the lead fountains will be four circular beds, in which petunia plants will be set out late in May. Each courtyard will require 340 plants. In each a different color scheme will be worked out—red, pink, blue and dark purple—with all the beds solid masses of color.

Tulips To Replace Petunias.

When the petunias die in the fall, 1,360 Darwin tulip bulbs will be planted in the same beds. After they bloom in May, 1935—with colors of pink, lavender and two shades of red—the tops will be cut off, and petunias will be set out again. The capitol commission wants this plan to be followed annually.

Inside the peripheral path of each court will be four long beds of roses—the baby ramblers, which will

336.45

Neb.

#361

Star, July 4, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

U. S. Has Own Housing Worry Here; Many Agencies Must Move From Capitol When Solons Meet

Six months from now, or about the time when the next Nebraska legislature is to convene, there will be an enforced exodus of federal relief and employment activities from the quarters they are now temporarily occupying in the state capitol. Over 100 officials and employes in the new organizations built up here during the past year will have to find working space elsewhere.

At present they are using all available rooms of the two legislative suites on the main floor, ordinarily vacant between sessions of the lawmaking assembly, and also the offices of the legislative reference bureau on the ground floor. The federal relief organization is also utilizing for storage of its blanks and office supplies half the space in the lowest floor of the tower, together with a large basement storage room which belongs to the state senate.

No Other Space Available.

There are no other offices in the capitol into which the federal staff can be moved. All remaining rooms are fully occupied by the various departments of the state government or by such organizations as the American Legion, Spanish-American war veterans, state board of agriculture, G. A. R., and so on.

It will cost somebody a considerable sum in rentals to provide housing for the emergency activities which the national government is now operating in Nebraska. Whether this expense will be assumed by Washington in addition to its other expenditures, or saddled upon the state, may become the subject of dispute when the time comes for them to move.

That some arrangement must be made to rent space in one or more privately owned buildings seems certain, inasmuch as the federal buildings in Lincoln and Omaha have little extra room.

The entire corps of federal emerg-

ency employes now on duty here has been built up from nothing a year ago.

The first organization to be set up was the federal-state re-employment service, now located in two large rooms which the legislative reference bureau uses during sessions of the state diet. There are two dozen or more people on its payroll, not counting district and county employes which it has scattered over the state.

This setup, however, is outnumbered by the federal relief organization which has been developed since last October by Rowland Haynes, whom National Administrator Harry Hopkins sent to Nebraska as his personal representative to oversee the work here. Between 75 and 100 of its employes are distributed around in twenty or more rooms of the capitol, mostly belonging to the legislative suites.

A large part of the relief administration's auditing force is stationed now in rooms of the house suite, including the speaker's main office and private office and the large office of the chief clerk.

Seven committee rooms on the house side and six belonging to the senate, all on the third floor level, house various special groups on the relief organization's payroll.

Haynes' force has also overflowed into one of the large rooms in State Tax Commissioner Smith's office suite. Smith crowded his employes into two other rooms so as to make this one available for the federal activities.

The relief agencies are using the legislature's furniture and other equipment picked up around the capitol, as well as the rooms.

As to the employment service, Washington has served notice on all the states that they must take over a large part of the cost of maintaining this activity beginning with the next fiscal year. The next legislature will be called upon to decide whether the organization that has

336.45

Neb.

#362

Journal-Star, July 15, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**CORNERSTONE OF NEBRASKA'S SECOND STATE
CAPITOL LAID FIFTY YEARS AGO TODAY WITH
SPECIAL CEREMONIES MASONIC GRAND LODGE**

7-5-7-15-34

Fifty years ago Sunday, July 15, 1934, the cornerstone of Nebraska's second state capitol was laid by the Masonic grand lodge of Nebraska. Nebraska's two territorial capitols had been in Omaha. The first capitol built after Nebraska became a state was erected on the present capitol site in 1868. This was torn down less than twenty years later to make way for the new one.

In the proceedings of the Masonic grand lodge is recorded the meeting of the lodge in special communication at 4 o'clock in the afternoon for this important business. The officers were John J. Wemple, Abel B. Fuller, Rolland H. Oakley, Milton J. Hull, Elias C. Wilcox, William R. Bowen, Joseph S. Wright, Robert W. Furnas, William Leese, Irving L. Lyman, Harry F. Downs, Francis E. White, Fred J. Benedict, William H. H. Dunn. A procession was formed which, escorted by Mount Moriah commandery No. 4, Knights Tem-

plar, marched to the site of the capitol, where a "cast concourse" of citizens was assembled. After a "discourse of sweet music" the work of laying the cornerstone began.

Sealed in the cornerstone were last proceedings of the grand lodge of Nebraska, A. F. & A. M., the last proceedings of the grand chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska, the last proceedings of the grand commandery of Knights Templar of Nebraska, a copy of the constitution of the United States and of the state of Nebraska, autographs of state officers and employes, a copy of the message of Governor Albinus Nance, 1883, and of the inaugural address of Governor James W. Dawes, 1883; a roll containing names of Nebraska National Guardsmen, a roster of the Ohio soldiers and sailors in Nebraska in 1884, a Burlington time table, copies of The State Journal, the State Democrat, (Continued on Page 2-A, Col. 6.)

The Evening News, the Staats Anzeiger, the Nebraska Farmer, the Nebraska Cynosure, the Nebraska Capitol, the Omaha Republican, Herald and Bee, a set of United States proof coins of 1884, and transactions of the Nebraska state board of agriculture and horticulture for the year 1884.

After the ceremony had been completed Robert W. Furnas, former governor and at that time grand orator of the Masonic grand lodge, gave the address of the day. After discoursing upon the significance of the cornerstone in an edifice of such importance he reviewed the progress of the state from its territorial days. The first territorial census, taken in 1854, showed the population of the state—including thirteen slaves—to be 2,732. In 1867, when the state was admitted to the union, the population was estimated at 60,000. The national census of 1880 gave the population as 452,542.

The cost of the second capitol was to be a little more than half a million dollars. The first building had been erected at a cost of approximately \$125,000, without expense to the people of the state, as the money came from proceeds of donated lands and city lots.

Mr. Furnas enumerated the number of city and town lots in the state, 117,709, and their value, \$14,226,291. He told how many horses, cattle, mules, sheep and hogs there were in Nebraska. As it was then about fifteen years before the automobile was introduced to the country no mention was made of this now popular vehicle, but he listed steam engines, safes, billiard tables, carriages and wagons, watches and clocks, sewing and knitting machines, pianos and organs. There were 2,440 pianos and 7,655 organs, according to his statistics, in the state in 1884.

When the building of the present and third capitol was begun about thirty-five years later this cornerstone, unopened, was placed in the northeast corner of the foundation of the structure.

336.45

Neb.

#363

Journal, July 21, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL LAWN NOT FORBIDDEN SLEEPERS

July 21-34

Were Asked to Co-Operate
and Not Use Blankets,
Porterfield Says.

"No one has ever been forbidden to sleep on the capitol lawn during this hot weather, and one hundred people slept there last night enjoying the cool grass and were not disturbed by anyone," said Secretary Porterfield of the governor's office. "No one has been refused that privilege. All that was asked was co-operation of the public not to use blankets or bedding, as the landscape architect, Ernest Herminghaus gave it as his opinion that blankets used thruout a night injured the grass which is kept moist by the liberal use of water."

Mr. Porterfield voiced the request of co-operation for the capitol commission several days ago during the heat wave. It was a request that people should co-operate by not spending the entire night on blankets on the lawn. The dry following this request news item in Lincoln papers stated that people were "forbidden" to rest on the capitol lawn and that people were using city parks for sleeping. This was followed by publication of a statement from State Land Commissioner Conklin, again accompanied by the word "forbidden," Conklin offering to open the marble floors and the basement of the capitol for night sleepers. Conklin explained that he has no control over the capitol lawn, that part of the state property being controlled by the capitol commission.

So the word went out that people were forbidden to sleep on the capitol lawn and newspapers in distant cities criticized it and taxpayers in Lincoln were heard to say that they paid for the capitol, and the luxurious quarters therein for state officers and that they ought to be allowed to use a little grass.

The newly laid sod on the capitol grounds cost the state \$5,000, the cost of labor on the grounds is more than \$600 a month and water costs more than \$400 every three months, and workmen are trying to retain the green and freshness of the grass for people of all the state and tourists from all states to view with pleasure, and Secretary Porterfield says the people have not been forbidden to sleep on it.

336.45

Neb.

#364

Journal, September 17, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL COMMISSION MAY NOT DEDICATE

9-17-34

Bryan to Recommend Dissolution of Body, as Work Nearly Done.

Governor Bryan will suggest the advisability of dissolving the capitol commission Monday afternoon at a meeting of that body, now that the work of constructing the \$10,000,000 capitol and grounds is practically completed. To the legislature, he said, he will again recommend that the building be placed in the hands of the governor and its upkeep be delegated to the state engineering department. This recommendation would apply also to the governor's mansion. Bryan said he intends to remove the first of next year from the mansion to his home at 17th and B, which he has retained unoccupied altho he maintains his legal residence there.

The capitol is now under State Land Commissioner Conklin as to care and the hiring of janitors and caretakers.

Formal dedication of the capitol, once fixed for Sept. 1 and abandoned, may be permanently abandoned. Bryan said there had been informal talk among members of the commission about not attempting to have a formal dedication because of fear of inclement weather this late in the year, and for the further reason that many people who had helped pay for the structure in taxation would be financially unable, thru no fault of their own, to attend. This matter is to be discussed at the commission meeting. President Roosevelt had been invited to attend the proposed dedication Sept. 1, but was unable to come then or at a proposed later date.

Bryan said he would again recommend that the capitol be placed under the governor in order that its upkeep might be under supervision of the state engineer's department. "Upkeep, to preserve it from deterioration, is more important than scrubbing, waxing, washing and cleaning of draperies," he said, "The cracking and leaking of the terrace over administration offices on the ground floor and to let these go uncared for has cost thousands of dollars to the state. Constant engineering attention is necessary, and this should be provided."

FAVORS END OF CAPITOL BOARD

9-17-34

Bryan Believes Time Has Arrived Return Job To Governors.

Plans For Dedication Ceremony Delayed Indefinitely.

Dissolution of the Nebraska capitol commission at the end of the present calendar year and the placing of the capitol building and grounds and the executive mansion in care and custody of future governors are favored by Governor Bryan, chairman of the commission. Now that construction of the building and landscaping of the grounds are finished and only a few details of mural decorations and other art work remain to be looked after, Mr. Bryan thinks there is no longer any good reason to continue the life of the body which has had charge of the project for the past 15 years.

His views to that effect were laid before the members of the commission at a meeting held in his office Monday afternoon. Previously, the governor told newspaper men that he will include in his message to the next legislature a recommendation that it be abolished and the supervision, care, and control of the capitol, grounds, and mansion be transferred from the land commissioner back to the governor, who exercised these duties prior to 1929.

May Drop Dedication.

Governor Bryan also indicated that dedicatory ceremonies for the capitol, originally set for September 3 and later postponed to an indefinite date in October, may be abandoned altogether, at least for the immediate future.

It would take considerable time to secure speakers and the attendance of notable personages in keeping with the formal dedication of a structure celebrated all over the world for its architectural grandeur and beauty, the governor said. By the time the plans could be carried out, inclement weather might be here, he suggested; and in any event a great many taxpayers of Nebraska who would like to attend cannot do so this fall or winter because of financial conditions caused by the drouth.

Practically the only work that remains to be done on the capitol is the carving of another frieze group or two on the outside stonework, the selection and installation of inside murals, and possibly some statuary to be placed in the building.

But the maintenance of the building and grounds and of the executive mansion will require constant attention, Bryan declared; and he believes the best agency for that purpose is the state engineering department, which is under the governor.

Cites Terrace Cracks.

"As an example of what I have in mind, there are leaks and cracks constantly developing in the outside terrace, which if not attended to promptly cause water to leak through into the office below, and require considerable money for inside repairs and redecorating. Such things need unceasing supervision and immediate attention when they occur. The engineering department is properly equipped to look after them."

The capitol fund still had on hand September 1 the sum of \$221,000, in round numbers, of which \$200,000 is available under an appropriation made by the last legislature to put the last touches on the building and grounds, including \$10,000 set aside for repairs at the executive mansion.

State Auditor Price, however, has beginning of the current fiscal biennium, must be paid out of this \$200,000, which leaves only \$172,000 net for additional details.

W. E. Hardy, a member of the capitol commission, is doubtful that this amount will be sufficient to take care of mural decorations and other features the commission has planned for. He said he would like to continue the commission's existence for two years longer and request a small additional appropriation out of the balance in the capitol fund, to clean up all odds and ends.

Two of the five members originally appointed on the capitol commission in 1919 are still serving. One is Mr. Hardy; the other is United States Senator W. H. Thompson of Grand Island. The third appointed member, Walter W. Head, resigned from the commission when he left Nebraska two or three years ago, and his place was never filled. The governor and the state engineer are ex officio members during each administration.

336.45

Neb.

#366

Star, September 24, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

DISBANDING THE COMMISSION.

ANNOUNCEMENT by Governor Charles W. Bryan that he would recommend disbandment of the state capitol commission to the next legislature, and that such a step had the approval of its members, should direct attention to the magnificent public service which these men have performed, without financial reward of any kind. 5-9-24-34

More than ten years have passed since the building was started. It now is virtually complete, except for the mural paintings. It is a source of pride to all people in the state, and it takes its rank among the most beautiful buildings in America. It is paid for in its entirety.

Throughout all of that time, Mr. W. E. Hardy, of Lincoln, has served on the commission and has given the new capitol as much time, thought and energy as most men devote to their personal business. He traveled thousands of miles, visited many states, and many notable buildings, all with a thought of the new Nebraska capitol. Serving also were W. H. Thompson, of Grand Island, Walter Head, formerly of Omaha, Governor Bryan, ex-Governor McMullen, ex-Governor Weaver, ex-Governor Samuel R. McKelvie, and State Engineers Johnson and Roy Cochran. They all gave splendid service. The state of Nebraska owes them a debt of gratitude for their high sense of civic responsibility.

336.45

Neb.

#367

Journal-Star, October 28, 1934

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

FOOTNOTES.

Ms. 10/28/34

Occasionally some publication devotes space and art and genius to describing for its readers the Nebraska state capitol. Usually such efforts have little effect at home, other than that of publicity value recognition. But when experts tell the story, not only of the great building itself, ignoring some of the features that guests see first and talk much about, and of the progress in building conception that was being made by its creator when death came, it draws critical attention at home. When they present features of the capitol that many, who have seen it many times, have never noticed or dwelt upon, it makes the subject new to home people. They supply texts for study. They offer information, garnered from many sources, that had passed us unnoticed. They offer a new conception so clearly that it is recognized, and the new to Nebraskans is instantly accepted.

As has already been said, a recent issue of the American Architect is almost exclusively devoted to the Nebraska state capitol. From first page to advertisements the capitol receives attention. A color map of the surroundings is shown on the cover, front and back. Pictures of tower and building, Sower and mosaics, ceilings and terrace, rotundas and corridors, marble columns, symbolic decorations and inscriptions, fill the many pages not devoted to descriptive text. There are illustrations that give to the home reader a new idea of a great structure with which he thought he was familiar. There is descriptive text that carries interpretation to what the eye has seen and there is historical matter that should find a place in archives where records of the past and present are forever kept. The story of the capitol and its architect is told by Charles Harris Whitaker.

Had Goodhue lived those who knew him well believe much would have been changed in major public building construction in America. "It is because Goodhue's philosophy about buildings was undergoing a profound change and development. . . as well as the freedom of the competition program that the Nebraska capitol stands as a landmark," says Whitaker. "However valid may be the criti-

cisms—and no one would have been more sensible about them than Goodhue—the building derives its impressive nobility and dignity from the simplicity of the form that Goodhue conceived. There can be no doubt, had he lived, that he would have pushed his way steadily toward a complete divorce of the representational process of imitative design; and at last would have won his way to the pure craftsman's point of view. Then there would have arisen a building in which only the collaborators would have been the workmen." Then of the building itself Whitaker says: "It is not only an evidence of the genius that no civilization can afford to neglect, but it is also a legacy from one of the most fertile imaginative brains that the art of building has ever known."

Aside from maps of floor plans and elevations the detail of capitol construction is lacking. That makes the story of its inception and completion graphic, more gripping, more impressive. Of the scheme for selecting plans, an unrestricted competition for those chosen, there is much said and much compliment for Thomas R. Kimball for his part in planning a competition that brought out the best from all entrants.

The value of description as thus presented is that in reading it what the eye has seen is interpreted; what has been felt is articulated; as the eye follows the written word, rough materials are fashioned into an architectural symphony, made more pleasing to the senses by a harmonious fusing of color and design.

One is made to feel that the great tragedy was the passing of the artist who conceived such a building; whose flights of genius might have gone on and on, revolutionizing the architecture of a nation and affecting building forms the world around. Here was an artist given his freedom in competition whose fancy rose to heights and yet remained practical; who could mingle the prosaic with luxurious art, producing that which served and pleased. The capitol was built as he planned, and yet, had he been permitted to remain to complete what he had conceived, and to go on with future work, Nebraska's building of state might not have remained his greatest contribution.

336.45

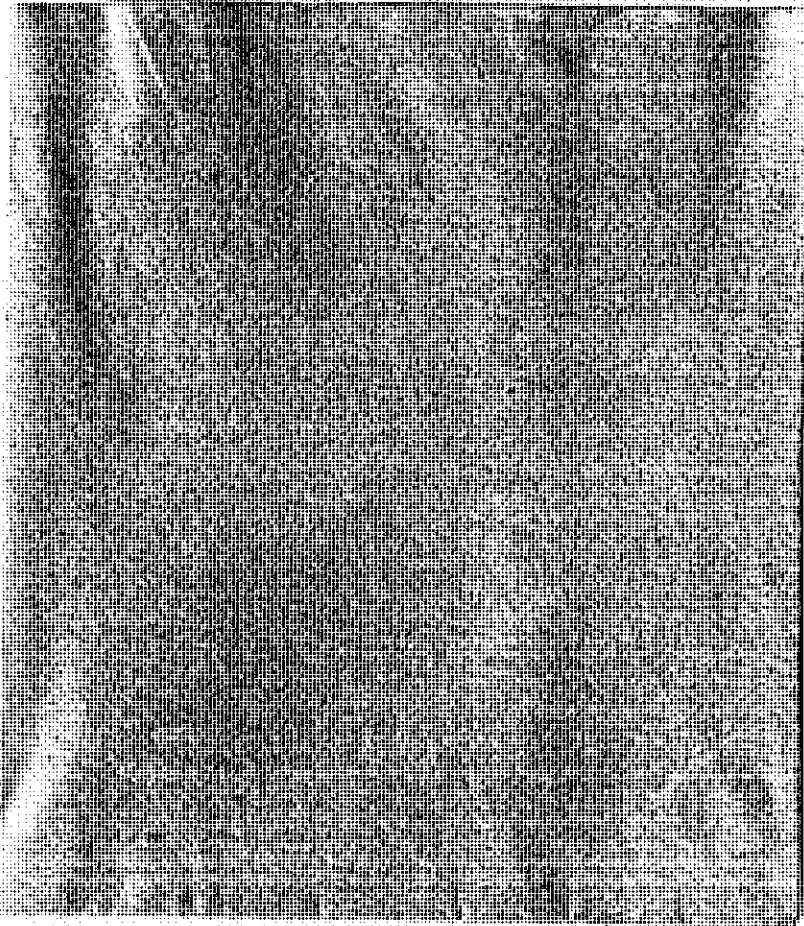
Neb.

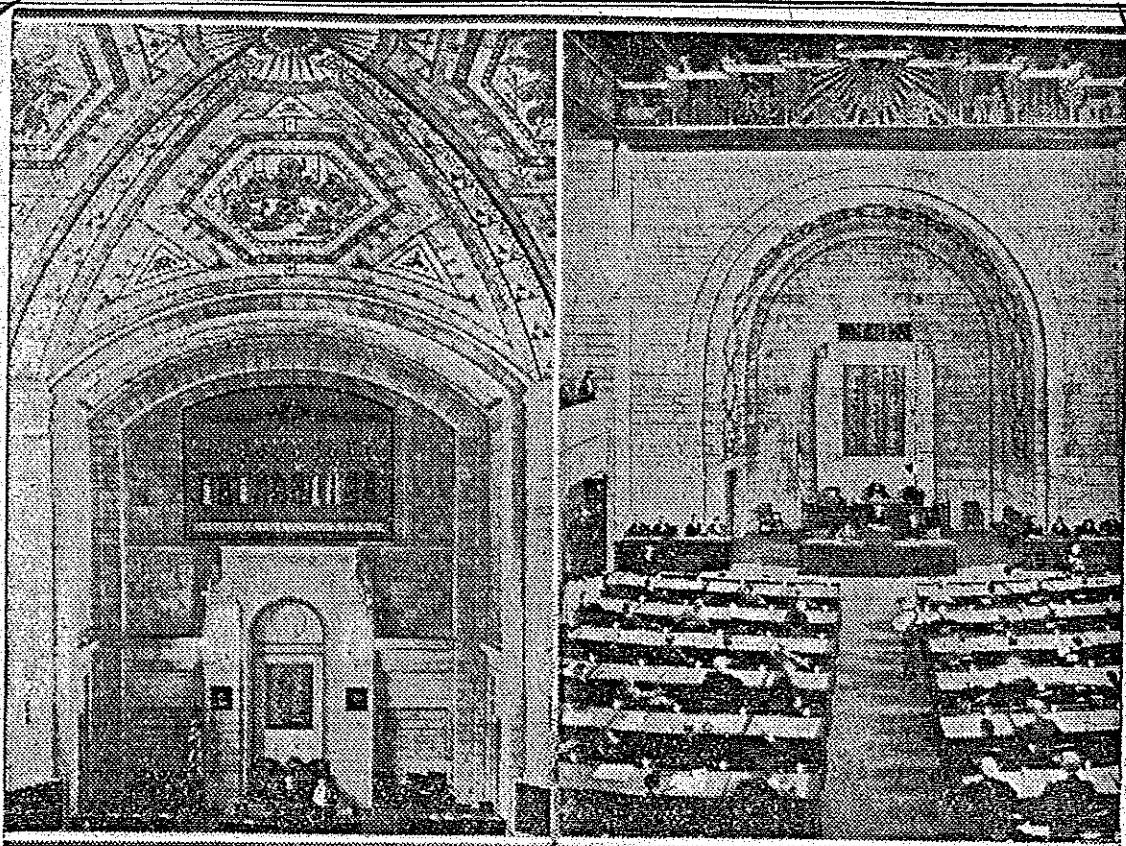
#368

WORLD-HERALD, NOVEMBER 11, 1934

Which legislative Hall Must Go?

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU





Left—Interior of the Nebraska state senate chamber; right, the house.

W. H. WINKER

Which Legislative Hall Must Go? Unicameral Plan Has One Doomed

Special Dispatch to The World-Herald.
Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 10.—The old melodrama title, "Which One Shall I Choose?" is becoming the question of the hour at the state capitol. It refers to the two legislative chambers, the senate and the house; one of which is going to be left vacant when the one-house legislature amendment becomes effective in 1936.

People over the state also are asking the question and the answer lies in "how many men are going to have seats in the unicameral body?" There can be 30 or there can be 50. If there are 34 or less the senate chamber can be used. If there are more than 34 the house chamber use will be arbitrary. The present house of representatives has one hundred members and the chamber has one hundred seats, not counting those for the gentlemen of the press. The senate has 33 members, but the chamber has 34 seats, for some unexplained reason.

One to Be Vacant.

Legislators who have called at the secretary of state's office to get their seats for the coming legislature have, almost without exception, voiced a sentiment in favor of a 33 member unicameral body elected from present senatorial districts. People at the state house, however, point out that each of the 133 members of the house and senate will cherish the hope of coming back in 1936 and will in the end favor a full 50 member body. The incoming

sioner, goes a step further. "Let the third house use it," he says, "and the fourth (estate newspapermen) as well. Some chidingly recommend its remodeling into a bar, but under state statute, rum selling on state property is forbidden."

Suggest Locked Doors.

Proponents point out that either chamber could be used for big highway lettings when a small army of contractors and material company representatives descend on the capitol. Or it could be used for a room to hold various examinations in, an extra courtroom. There is one group believing the best thing to do is to lock the doors and leave it in readiness against the time when the people go back to the two-house system.

In any event, remodeling either chamber for some so far unthought of use, would be expensive. The floor is filled with metal conduit used to carry the wires that are necessary for the electric roll call system. The costly carpets are cut out around each seat anchor and conduit and would have to be taken up,

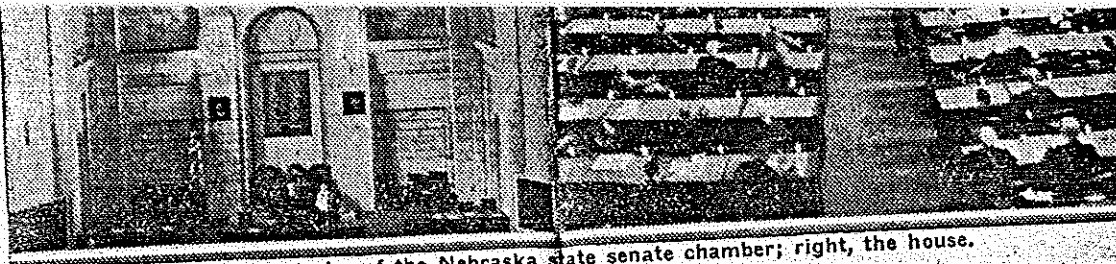
and the whole floor torn up and relaid. The design of the rooms is ideal for legislative chambers carrying out the dome and wing idea, Chief Guide John Edwards explains, but would be a little incongruous for other use.

Cost Thousands.

Both rooms cost thousands of dollars each, according to W. L. Younkin, of the capitol commission. Younkin said it would be impossible to estimate how much each room cost since its integral parts were part of mass contracts for the entire building.

As an indicant, however, it is pointed out that the carved doors to the senate chamber cost \$4,500 and the leather-covered doors to the house chamber cost \$1,50. The beautiful marble columns in each chamber, the arched dome and beamed ceilings, the costly drapes and hangings and the gold inlay work and mosaics were proportionately expensive. The house chamber is 48x72 feet in dimension and the senate chamber 48x48 feet.

Little World-Herald Want Ads do the business.



Left—Interior of the Nebraska state senate chamber; right, the house.

Which Legislative Hall Must Go? Unicameral Plan Has One Doomed

Special Dispatch to The World-Herald.
Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 10.—The old melodrama title, "Which One Shall I Choose?" is becoming the question of the hour at the state capitol. It refers to the two legislative chambers, the senate and the house, one of which is going to be left vacant when the one-house legislature amendment becomes effective in 1936.

People over the state also are asking the question and the answer lies in "how many men are going to have seats in the unicameral body?" There can be 30 or there can be 50. If there are 34 or less the senate chamber can be used. If there are more than 34 the house chamber use will be arbitrary. The present house of representatives has one hundred members and the chamber has one hundred seats, not counting those for the gentlemen of the press. The senate has 33 members, but the chamber has 34 seats, for some unexplained reason.

One to Be Vacant.

Legislators who have called at the secretary of state's office to get their seats for the coming legislature have, almost without exception, voiced a sentiment in favor of a 33 member unicameral body elected from present senatorial districts. People at the state house, however, point out that each of the 133 members of the house and senate will cherish the hope of coming back in 1936 and will in the end favor a full 50 member body. The incoming legislature is going to have to set up the statutes regulating the unicameral body.

Whatever house is used for the one-house legislature will throw the other open for some use. Questioning of employes at the state house and some of the elective officials reveals two unanimous opinions on what use to make of the vacated chamber. Those who voted against the amendment say, "Let the present third house, the lobbyists, use it!"

Hugh Drake, railway commis-

W. H. Younkin
 stoner, goes a step further. "Let the third house use it," he says, "and the fourth estate newspapermen) as well. Some chidingly recommend its remodeling into a bar, but under state statute, rum selling on state property is forbidden.

Suggest Locked Doors.

Proponents point out that either chamber could be used for big highway lettings when a small army of contractors and material company representatives descend on the capitol. Or it could be used for a room to hold various examinations in an extra courtroom. There is one group believing the best thing to do is to lock the doors and leave it in readiness against the time when the people go back to the two-house system.

In any event, remodeling either chamber for some so far unthought of use, would be expensive. The floor is filled with metal conduit used to carry the wires that are necessary for the electric roll call system. The costly carpets are cut out around each seat anchor and conduit and would have to be taken up,

and the whole floor torn up and relaid. The design of the rooms is ideal for legislative chambers carrying out the dome and wing idea, Chief Guide John Edwards explains, but would be a little incongruous for other use.

Cost Thousands.

Both rooms cost thousands of dollars each, according to W. L. Younkin, of the capitol commission. Younkin said it would be impossible to estimate how much each room cost since its integral parts were part of mass contracts for the entire building.

As an indicant, however, it is pointed out that the carved doors to the senate chamber cost \$4,500 and the leather-covered doors to the house chamber cost \$1,500. The beautiful marble columns in each chamber, the arched dome and beamed ceilings, the costly drapes and hangings and the gold inlay work and mosaics were proportionately expensive. The house chamber is 48x72 feet in dimension and the senate chamber 48x48 feet.

Little World-Herald Want Ads do the business.

336.45

Neb.

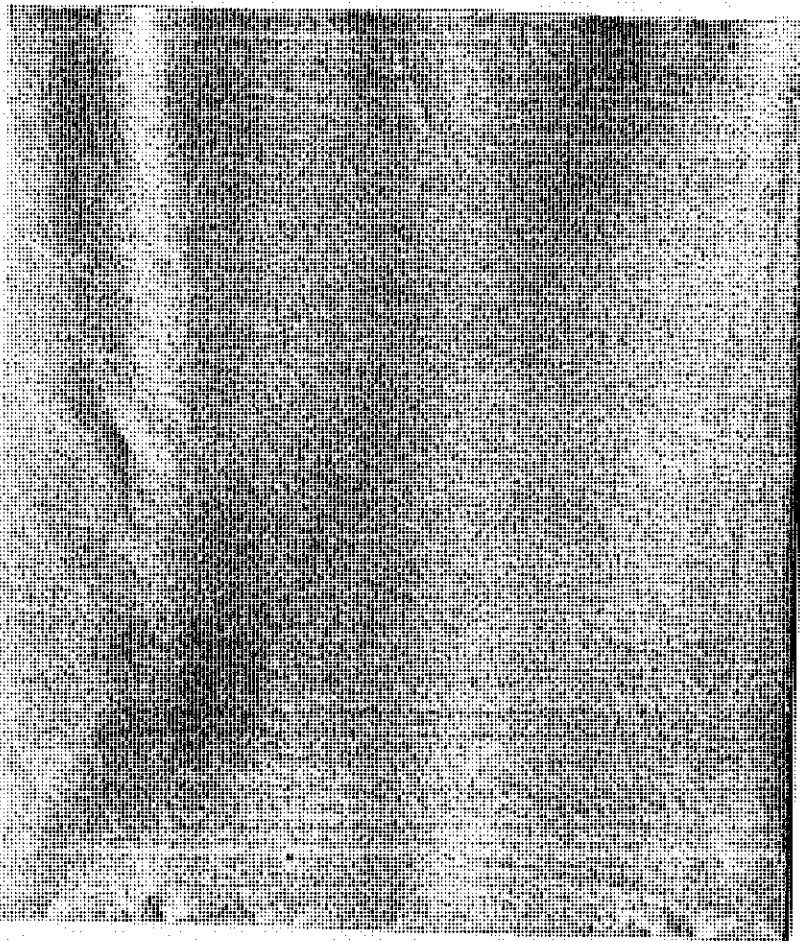
#369

Journal-Star, December 16, 1934

Portraits of Past Governor's Wives at Executive

Mansion

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



FEATURES OF
NEBRASKA LIFE

Sunday Journal

FOUNDED IN 1867

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, SUN

Mrs. C.W. Bryan's Plan of Procuring Wives Forms Charming Collection



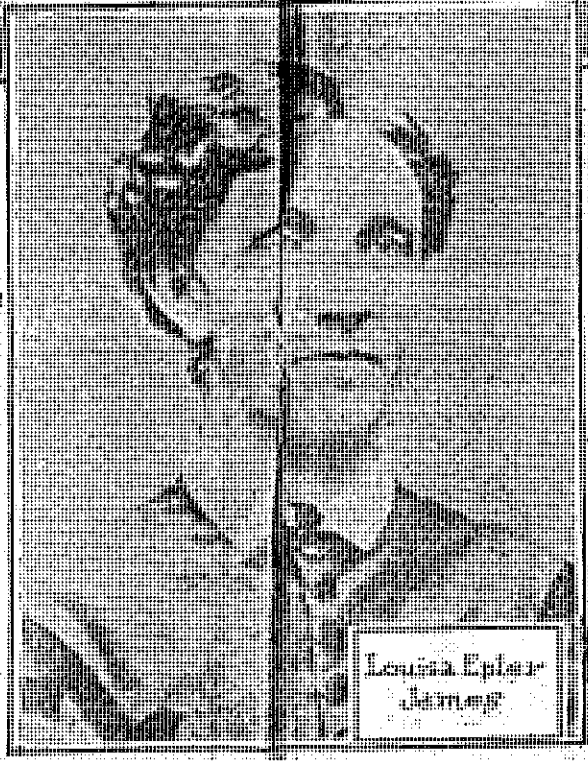
Mary
E.
McComas
Furnas



Lyla
Wheeler
Garber



Lydia
Story
Butler



Louisa Epier
James



Alva C. Tarristrol, who made sixteen of these reproductions for the two layouts, copied the old daguerrotypes and fedact. photographs for the executive mansion collection.

Copyright, 1914, by Alva C. Tarristrol, Lincoln, Neb.

BY LULU MAE COE.

"IT HAS been said that men must work and women must wait and I declare that the waiting is often harder than being in the actual arena. We who only stand and wait—with the echoes of the din of political battles in our ears—must find some interest and I found that interest in collecting these pictures."

And that is one of the reasons why I collected it at all.

THE END

sons, as she expressed it at the formal presentation of the group of portraits, that Mrs. C. W. Bryan, wife of the outgoing governor, gave her time, energy, and enthusiasm to procuring the pictures of other first ladies of Nebraska to hang in the executive mansion.

Interested in Personalities.

The other was her interest in these women, many of them of long ago, who had been chate-laines of the governor's home, who had presided there, who had had their joys and their problems there, quite in the manner of any housewife. As she said:

"While we are not natives of Nebraska, we are beginning to think of ourselves as old settlers. I came to Lincoln a bride forty-two years ago, when this house was first built for a private residence, and if older people live in the past as they are said to do, it is but natural that I should think about former governors' wives—with sympathy and appreciation."

Ambition Large.

Something over two years ago, Mrs. Bryan determined to secure this portraiture record, with the thought of having it completed by the next January. She laughs when she mentions that ambition, for it was in early October of this autumn that she added her latest find. Reading of a ceremony to be held in the Hall of the Governors in Albany, Mrs. Bryan's fancy was caught by the phrase and she wondered if it might not be possible to have the likenesses of wives of former Nebraska gov-ernors in the mansion, as com-panion pieces to the gubernatorial pictures, some day to be hung in the capitol.

Consulting Dr. A. E. Sheldon, secretary of the Nebraska State Historical society, Mrs. Bryan found him an instant co-operator in her plan. He gave her ad-dresses of relatives and friends of former governors who might have old pictures, or who would know where they could be obtained, which led Mrs. Bryan into a pro-longed and thriving correspond-ence. N. C. Abbott of Nebraska City, a member of the society's executive board, also was enthus-iasitic over the idea, and his per-sistence procured three of the ter-ritorial wives' portraits.

All But One.

It was Saturday, October 6, of this year that Mrs. Bryan form-ally presented the collection she had obtained with the co-opera-tion of the historical society. The twenty-three of the twenty-four possible portraits form a charm-ing history of the women who have been mistresses of this man-sion or of the home serving in that capacity at the time of the husband's incumbency and all of them are delightful to look upon.

Mrs. Bryan had the original pictures—some of the older ones worn and blurred and yellowed—copied in uniform size, the maiden name printed indelibly below to give individuality, together with the date of the husbandly incum-bency, and framed in a narrow bronzed gold of simple design. Each finished portrait is about 13 by 17 inches in size. The request

HERE IS A SUGGESTION

THAT'S A
SIZEABLE
DEDUCTION
ITEM

A YOUNG LADY
HAD JUST BOUGHT
A GIRDLE AT A
DEPARTMENT
STORE AND HAD
WALKED DOWN
O STREET
AND INTO
ANOTHER
STORE
BEFORE SHE
NOTICED A
SECOND GIRDLE

OUR CLEARING
IDEAS OFFERS TH



Journal and Star

EDITORIAL
AND FEATURES

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1934.

SECTION C AND D

Big Portraits of Past Governors' Wives at Executive Mansion



Mrs. C. W.
Bryan



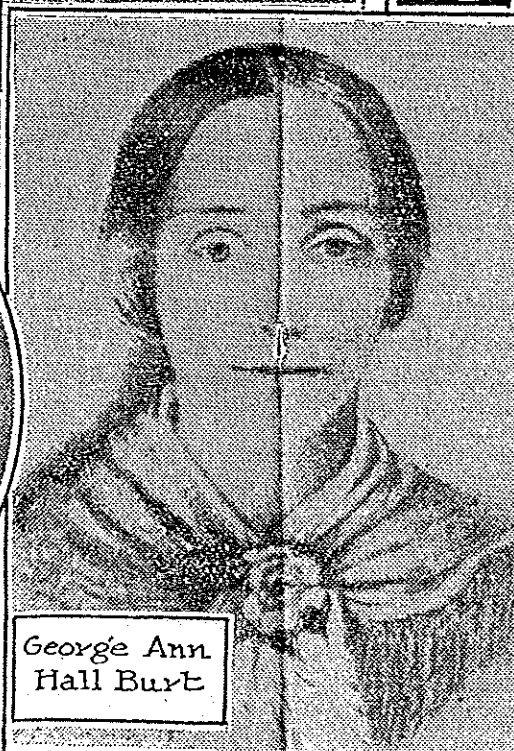
Cornelia
H. Sullivan
Richardson



Marthena
Survillae
Barlow
Saunders



Eliza Irwin
Black



George Ann
Hall Burt



Sarah
White Nance

could meet that requirement.

Luncheon Ceremony.

Preceding the presentation, Mrs. Bryan had the wives of four past governors and four daughters as her luncheon guests, those who were able to accept the invitations she issued. They included Mrs. A. C. Shallenberger, Mrs. Chester Aldrich, Mrs. Arthur J. Weaver, Mrs. Adam McMullen, herself making the fifth. The daughters included were Josephine Poynter Bickford (Mrs. R. A.), Helen Nance Andehson (Mrs. Walter L.), Miss Virginia Neville, and Mrs. W. E. Harnsberger, daughter of Governor and Mrs. Bryan.

Nebraska has had twenty-eight territorial and state governors. Governor Lorenzo Crouse was a widower at the time he was governor from 1893 to 1895 and Charles H. Dietrich, who served only four months before going to Washington as senator in May, 1901, was not married in his incumbency.

Declines Courteously.

Writing to Mrs. Bryan, Mrs. Ezra Savage, whose husband was governor from 1901 to 1903, states that "incredible as it may seem, I have not had a photograph taken in fifty years"—and the only one she recalls was of her teens. Declaring she knows of no reason for her antipathy, whether it be "a subconscious inferiority complex or perhaps from pure perversity," she finds herself too 'old to change an established habit, "so will you pardon my seeming rudeness in not complying with your pleasant request."

A granddaughter of Mrs. Mark W. Izard, who was a Miss Shackelford of Virginia, wrote from Van Buren, Ark., that relatives stated Mrs. Izard never had had a picture taken. Mr. Izard was the second territorial governor, serving from 1855 to 1857.

Although Mrs. Bryan has no pictures of Mrs. John M. Thayer, wife of the governor of the late '80s and early 90s, it may be added later to the collection. Her son wrote from Seattle that he had no satisfactory likeness of his mother, but at some time when he was in the east, where he had many effects in storage, he would try to secure her picture.

Eleven Living.

There are eleven former governors' wives living, nine in Nebraska, including Mrs. John H. Mickey, Mrs. Shallenberger, Mrs. Aldrich, Mrs. John H. Morehead, Mrs. Keith Neville, Mrs. S. R. McKelvie, Mrs. McMullen, and Mrs. Weaver, with Mrs. Bryan making the ninth. Mrs. George L. Sheldon resides in Pettit, Miss., and Mrs. Savage in Seattle. Their husbands occupied the gubernatorial chair from 1901 on through the present day.

Nebraska's first first lady never saw her new home, for Francis Burt's term was but a short three days, when death took the South Carolinian gentleman, who had made the arduous journey in the place of the Kentuckian who declined to come into the "wilderness." George Ann Hall Burt was born in Charleston, S. C., and removed later with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. George Hall to Pendle-

(Continued on Page Two.)

Mrs. C. W. Bryan Enhances Mansion

(Continued from Page One.)

ton, a small aristocratic town in the northwestern part of the state, where the family took part in events suitable to its distinctive social status, even though of limited means. The daughter's marriage to Francis Burt of Pendleton took place in 1831.

Remember Mrs. Burt.

Mrs. Burt's descendants remember her as a pretty dark-eyed, dark-haired woman of charming personality, according to Mrs. Bryan. She was literary, and wrote under the name of Ellen Douglas. However she was not a "blue stocking" for the family returned regularly to Charleston for the Jockey club races and the Jockey club ball and for the very exclusive St. Cecelia ball.

Nor did Nebraska know ever the wife of William A. Richardson, Cornelia Sullivan Richardson of Virginia. The aged picture from which Mrs. Bryan's copy was made was sent by a daughter-in-law, and shows her leaning on her hand.

Gowned in black, with large puffed sleeves and her ruche caught by a brooch, Eliza Erwin Black "sat" for her picture long ago in Pennsylvania. She and her husband, Samuel W. Black, the fourth territorial governor from 1859 to 1861, were both from Pennsylvania, and she was the daughter of Judge Erwin of Pittsburgh. A granddaughter has President Buchanan's letter written to Mrs. Black concerning her husband's appointment to the governorship of this territory.

Illness Delays Work.

During the time Mrs. Bryan was seeking these pictures, Governor Bryan had his very severe illness and her interest in the project of course waned to the vanishing point. However, when his convalescence was apparent, Mrs. Bryan received the very lovely portrait of Marthena Surville Barlow Saunders, wife of the last territorial governor, Alvin Saunders, and her enthusiasm was renewed at once. The portrait was made from an old daguerreotype, taken, as her daughter, Mrs. Russell B. Harrison of Washington, D. C., wrote, at the time Governor Saunders was in office. It is a three-quarter length picture, showing a very beautiful woman in a full skirted, wide striped taffeta gown, with a round neck and small collar. Over her smooth chignon is thrown a chenille head dress.

Mrs. Lydia Butler.

The wife of the first state governor, Lydia Storey Butler, was a native of Ohio, and was educated in a Presbyterian seminary, the finest girls' school of the time. Following a period of teaching in Indiana, she was married to Governor Butler at Lincoln.



Rose Higgins Sheldon

Alice Brinson Holcomb

Mrs. Lydia Butler

Francis Dawn Daves

Marthena Barlow Saunders

Sylvia Stroman Aldrich

the election of her husband to the highest office. With the close of Governor Butler's term of office, the family went to Pawnee City, where Mrs. Butler was active in public life and was a supporter of woman suffrage.

Mrs. Bryan had been unable to find relatives of William H. James, who served from 1871 to 1873, until a fortunate coincidence secured it for her. H. J.

Doolittle, an Indian reservation engineer for the federal government, calling on Governor Bryan, mentioned that he was the grandson of a former Nebraska executive. During the evening at the executive mansion, learning of Mrs. Bryan's quest, he said he could secure the desired picture from his aunt, and enthusiastically wired for it that evening.

According to the biography,

Mrs. James, born as Louisa Epler, was a native of Marion, O., where her parents were pioneers. At the close of the Civil war, the family removed to Malden, Mo., where Miss Epler's marriage to Mr. James took place February 12, 1857. Mr. and Mrs. James went to Dakota City, where Mr. James had been practicing law. While there, he was elected secretary of state, and from that be-

It Happened In Nebraska Or To I

A NEBRASKA CITY woman hears the voices of her children and grandchildren for the first time; a

attention to sawing wood; a house at Hartington has done its share of wandering; the government moves to oust

couples in twenty years.

Year Of Thrills.

Nebraska News-Press: Slightly bewildered and incredulous

With Collection Of First Ladies Portraits



Eliza Zilg Shallenberger

Mary Virginia Neill Neville

Minnie Weisenreder Morehead

Cora Greenwood McMullen

Maude E. Hart Weaver

Maria Josephine McCorkle Poynter

Anna Henry Boyd

in 1858. For nine years during '60s, Mrs. Boyd's home was her husband's ranch near Gibb a wild country in those pion days, with Indians frequently the warpath. The Boyd eld child, Eleanor Boyd Bierbow was the first white child born Buffalo county.

Mrs. Silas A. Holcomb, b Alice Brinson, was a true I braskan, her birthplace be Cass county in 1859. When was twenty-three, she was m ried to Mr. Holcomb and t years later, the family moved Custer county. From Broken B she came to Lincoln to be state's first lady from 1895 1899.

The first mistress to occupy present governor's mansion v Mrs. William A. Poynter, wh home it was from 1899 until 18 Maria Josephine McCorkle v born in 1848 in Washington, and did some work at Rockf Female seminary, now Rockf college, and graduated fr Eureka college, and began teaching in 1869. Six years a her marriage to Mr. Poynter 1872, they came to Nebraska, p neering seven miles from Alb and residing in the first fra house in Plum creek valley. W Mr. Poynter came to Lincoln, M Poynter interested herself movements for the betterment homes for farm folk and activ supported cultural and religi activities. Her home continued Lincoln and she died five ye ago at the age of eighty.

Later Governor's Wives.

The remaining portraits those of the later governors' wi those of this century, includ Flora Campbell Mickey, wife John H. Mickey; Rose Hig Sheldon, Mrs. George Sheld Eliza Zilg Shallenberger, I Ashton Shallenberger; Sylvia S man Aldrich, Mrs. Chester A rich; Minnie Weisenreder Mc head, Mrs. John H. Morehead, of them in their inaugural gov Mary Virginia Neill Neville, I Keith Neville; Martha DeArr McKelvie, Mrs. Sam McKelvie her inauguration gown; C Greenwood McMullen, Mrs. A McMullen; and Maude E. I Weaver, Mrs. Arthur J. Weave Governor Bryan chose the of Mrs. Bryan for the collect a head and shoulders port taken a decade ago on the ri age day of thier daug Marylouise Bryan, in the ex tive mansion. Mrs. Bryan is wi ing cream lace.

Mrs. Bryan's wish is that e succeeding gubernatorial leave her picture to hang be those she has collected. Her forts have made the past " ladies" vitally real to those of those generations, and i pleasant custom for those con after to continue.

uisa Epler, came governor for two years. O., where Leaving Lincoln later, the family neers. At went to West Point and remained war, the there until 1877, when Mr. James idon, Mo., accepted a position in Colfax, marriage to Wash., and the members traveled February west.

time in Cincinnati and was married in October, 1845. Eleven years later the Furnases removed to Brownville. Mr. Furnas served as governor for the term of 1873-75.

Being more or less of an invalid for two decades and partially blind for a portion of those years, Mrs. Furnas, however, refused to recognize a handicap, and spent much time in research. Among other things, she thought of developing the silk industry in Nebraska, and the historical society has a specimen of Nebraska silk, evidence of her desire to rival the silks of the east.

Mrs. Lyra Garber.

Lyra Carolina Wheeler was married to Silas Garber in 1875, while he was governor of Nebraska, and was the first lady until 1879. Her home later was in Red Cloud. This is a

scribes her in her biography. Her portrait has a very full skirt, with the fullness concentrated in the back, and large tucked sleeves, with a deep lace bertha falling over them. Distinctive from her predecessors, Mrs. Dawes has a high pompadour, the others largely having been devoted to center parts with the hair drawn over the ears.

Anna Henry Boyd

The portrait of Anna Henry Boyd possibly was taken about the time of her marriage, for it is a lovely picturization of the '50s, with its drop shoulders, the neck is outlined by deep fringe, the parted hair, and little cap. She was born in New York, but she was married to James Boyd, who was to be governor in the first of the '90s, in Council Bluffs

To Nebraskans

loads of limb wood, ideal for kitchen stoves.

A Wandering House.

s. Slightly
ulous

Maria Josephine McCoy Poynter

Anna Henry Boyd

Eliza Zilg Shallenberger; Mr. Ashton Shallenberger; Sylvia Struman Aldrich, Mrs. Chester Aldrich; Minnie Weisenreder Morehead, Mrs. John H. Morehead, a of them in their inaugural gown; Mary Virginia Neill Neville, Mr. Keith Neville; Martha DeArno McKelvie, Mrs. Sam McKelvie, her inauguration gown; Con Greenwood McMullen, Mrs. Ada McMullen; and Maude E. Ha Weaver, Mrs. Arthur J. Weaver.

Governor Bryan chose the one of Mrs. Bryan for the collection a head and shoulders portrait taken a decade ago on the marriage day of their daughter Marylouise Bryan, in the executive mansion. Mrs. Bryan is wearing cream lace.

Mrs. Bryan's wish is that each succeeding gubernatorial wife leave her picture to hang beside those she has collected. Her efforts have made the past "first ladies" vitally real to those of those generations, and it is a pleasant custom for those coming after to continue.

came governor for two years. Leaving Lincoln later, the family went to West Point and remained there until 1877, when Mr. James accepted a position in Colfax, Wash., and the members traveled west.

Included in the Ohio born "first ladies" was Mrs. Robert W. Furnas, formerly Mary E. McComas of Bellbrook, O. Born there in 1826, she taught for a

time in Cincinnati and was married in October, 1845. Eleven years later the Furnases removed to Brownville. Mr. Furnas served as governor for the term of 1873-75.

Being more or less of an invalid for two decades and partially blind for a portion of those years, Mrs. Furnas, however, refused to recognize a handicap, and spent much time in research. Among other things, she thought of developing the silk industry in Nebraska, and the historical society has a specimen of Nebraska silk, evidence of her desire to rival the silks of the east.

Mrs. Lyra Garber.

Lyra Carolina Wheeler was married to Silas Garber in 1875, while he was governor of Nebraska, and was the first lady until 1879. Her home later was in Red Cloud. This is an exceptionally typical portrait of the '70s, and shows her with a Roman striped tie, long ear drops, and a white low ruffed collar, with a velvet neckband. Mrs. Garber was born in Columbus, Ga.

The full length portrait of Sarah White Nance, presiding during the terms from 1879-1883, was taken in her inaugural gown, a rich wine colored satin fashioned with wine velvet. It, of course, is long, and heavily trimmed with fluting and shirring around the skirt and it has the fitted lines of today's gown. Governor Nance was the youngest executive ever to be chosen in Nebraska, and his wife's portrait depicts her as youthful and attractive.

Both Frances Dawes Dawes and her governor husband, James W. Dawes, who also was a cousin, were Wisconsin born. In the '70s, Mrs. Dawes came to Crete and for more than thirty years was socially and civically prominent in the community — "gracious, quick-witted, poised, tactful, with an infectious joyousness and friendliness," as Mrs. Bryan de-

scribes her in her biography. Her portrait has a very full skirt, with the fullness concentrated in the back, and large tucked sleeves, with a deep lace bertha falling over them. Distinctive from her predecessors, Mrs. Dawes has a high pompadour, the others largely having been devoted to center parts with the hair drawn over the ears.

Anna Henry Boyd

The portrait of Anna Henry Boyd possibly was taken about the time of her marriage, for it is a lovely picturization of the '50s, with its drop shoulders, the neck is outlined by deep fringe, the parted hair, and little cap. She was born in New York, but she was married to James Boyd, who was to be governor in the first of the '90s, in Council Bluffs

o Nebraskans

loads of limb wood, ideal for kitchen stoves.

A Wandering House.

enr Amusee sts' Interest

lazed, an explosion," Schultz contended stern "Meteors passing through the s day make a great hissing noise a re to when one of the celestial visito plunges into our atmosphere the is instantly engendered a heat intense that it burns off the t outer film of the body and cau the bolide itself to explode, as latter cold glass plunged into hot wa suddenly, may snap."

Schultz in explaining the n teor's fall pointed out that the outer space in which meteo bodies travel it is as "black night, about 459 degrees bel zero and practically a vacuum. When a meteor bursts, its p are called meteorites, readily c tinguished by their dark, gla outer crust, sometimes found the surface and sometimes dug from quite some depth.

Highly Interesting.

But big or small, Dr. Barb says meteorites are of extr interest to scientists. Their c

(Continued on Page Three.)

elp Lincoln Anniversary



336.45

Journal, December 20, 1934

Neb.

#370

CAPITOL COMMISSION CLOSES ITS LABORS

12/20/34

Recommends Care of \$10,000,000 Be Transferred to the Governor.

Governor Bryan announces that the capitol commission of which he is chairman has completed its duties and brought its business to as near a conclusion as possible, and that it will cease to exist after the opening of the new year. At a meeting attended by the governor, Acting State Engineer Lobdell and Judge W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, members of the commission, it recommended that the incoming governor be authorized by the legislature to complete any unfinished work, such as mural paintings, flood lights for the exterior of the tower and door plates for executive state offices and departments.

"The commission has spent just about \$10,000,000," said Bryan, "and it may spend slightly more in the matter of a few bills that may come in before the year ends."

The commission suggests its own dissolution. It may hold one more meeting during the year. Bryan said the commission recommends that the care, custody, maintenance or upkeep of the capitol, including janitor hire, be lodged by the legislature in the governor, with authority for him to use the state engineer's office in carrying out this plan, so as to prevent deterioration of the structure. Cochran, incoming governor, has spent years in aiding in the building of the capitol and is familiar with its plans.

The capitol commission was appointed Feb. 21, 1919. It was to construct a new capitol. Ground was broken April 15, 1922. Governors McKelvie, Bryan and McMullen served as ex-officio head of the commission. The commissioners were W. E. Hardy of Lincoln, Walter W. Head of Omaha and W. H. Thompson of Grand Island. State engineers who were ex-officio members were George E. Johnson, Roy L. Cochran and Acting State Engineer A. T. Lobdell. Head resigned and his place was not filled. The death of W. E. Hardy, near the close of the commission's life, caused another vacancy.

Bryan as retiring governor will individually recommend that the state acquire 150 feet of ground to widen 15th street for a distance of two blocks north of the capitol, the city to widen from there to the university.

No action has been taken by the commission toward placing busts or statuary in niches in the interior of the capitol.

The commission approved a tentative final report of its labors which will be printed for submission by the governor to the legislature. It has received a request from the supreme court for fire doors to protect records of the court stored in the basement. The commission took no action, but laid these over for consideration of the incoming state administration.

336.45

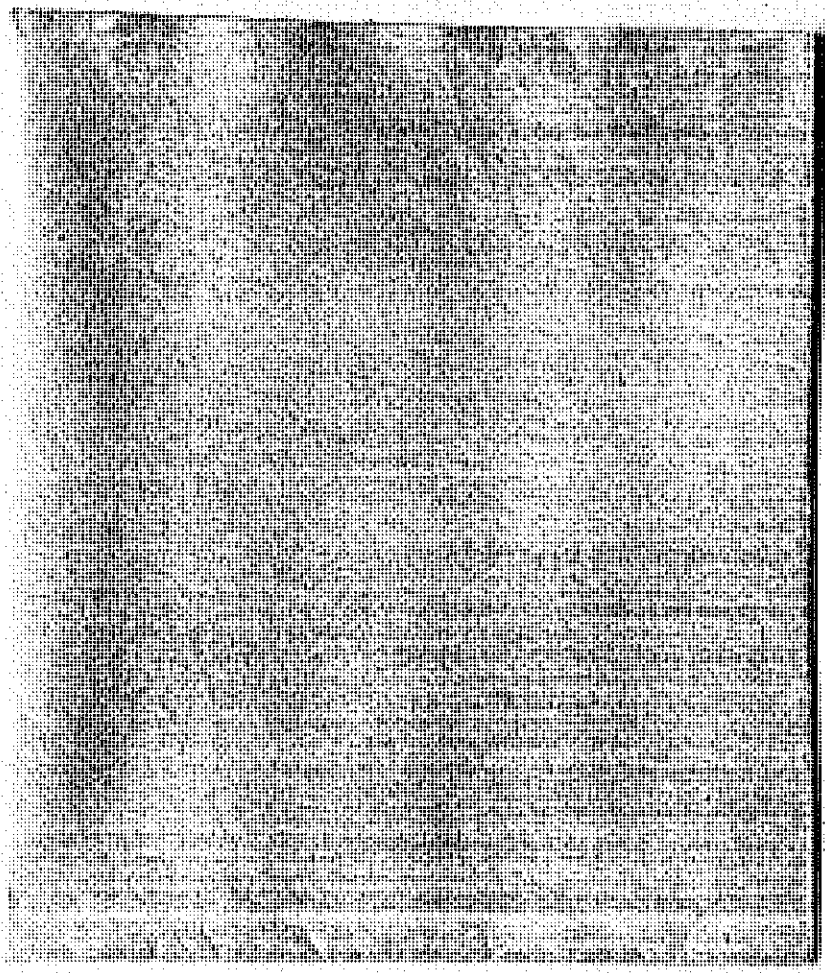
Journal-Star, February 24, 1935

Neb.

#371

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Nebraska's Capitols



FEATURES OF
NEBRASKA LIFE

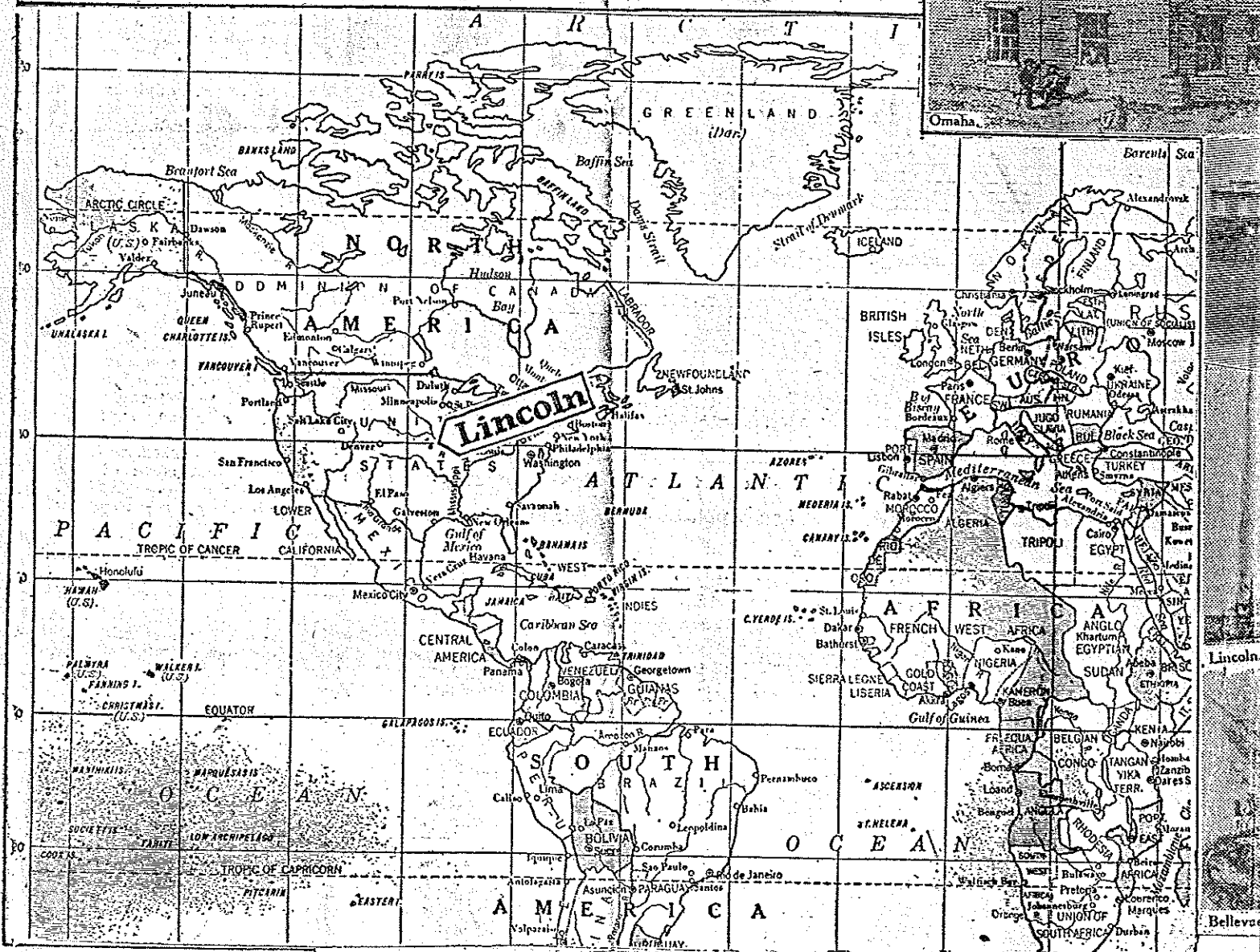
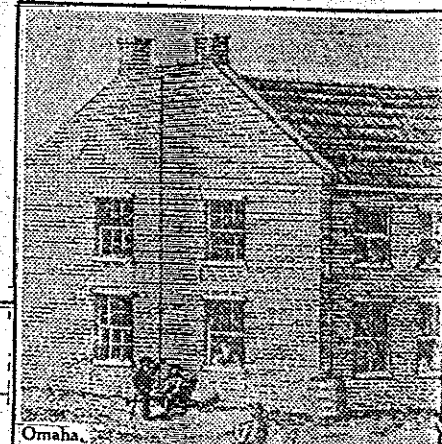
Sunday Journal

FOUNDED IN 1867

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, SU

Lincoln Has Not Been Th

When These Vast Plains Were
Being Handed About, Busi-
ness Was Conducted In
Many Centers



BY LUI U MAE COE.

THE boundaries of the new state had been reduced somewhat to their present

...had been reduced somewhat to their present form.

Congress had agreed that the thirteen-year-old territory was to become a state when the people there were ready.

The people, after a delay of a couple of years and a vote that bespoke slight enthusiasm for the new venture, were ready.

The legislature of 1866 had passed an act to remove the capital from Omaha.

Congress again had come to the front with a few statements on voting qualifications, and the legislature had complied.

President Andrew Johnson had issued a proclamation.

Ready "In Fashion."

Except for population, civilization, and a capitol site, Nebraska was ready to go on that first state day, March 1, 1867.

The population took care of itself, even if some of the first comers were imported for census purposes. Despite beyond-the-Hudson comments, civilization has come along nicely. About four months after Nebraska had become a state, Lincoln became the new capital city and is doing well sixty-eight years after.

But neither that scraggling little hamlet that was Lincoln nor the equally scraggling, if slightly more populous Omaha, was the plains' first capital.

Banded About.

For centuries before any governmental forms had been hacked out of these prairie grasses, the region was being banded about, claimed by first one major power of that day and then by another. Their citizens may never have looked upon an Indian tepee nor watched mass movement in buffalo lurching down a valley, but this endless region, stopped only by the waters of two great oceans was parceled out deliberately as might rose or waned, and such affairs as needed administering have been cared for in the great cities of the world.

Strange little capitalless state, taking over affairs from the old and the great!

Spain brought the first flag to wave, in effect, at least, over what many years later would be called the state of Nebraska, taken from the tongue of those whom they saw in this region and who, in one instance, spilled the proud Castilian blood on Nebraska prairie grasses. The Spaniards, thirty-one years after Columbus inadvertently had found America looming up beside the Santa Maria, came to Florida, and upon their maps Nebraska became a part of that region where it is said eternal youth was sought.

Spaniards Are First.

According to Dr. A. E. Sheldon of the state historical society, the first white men to call on the present Nebraska were thirty Spanish horsemen, commanded by Francisco Vasquez Coronado in August, 1541. They crossed the plains from Mexico by way of

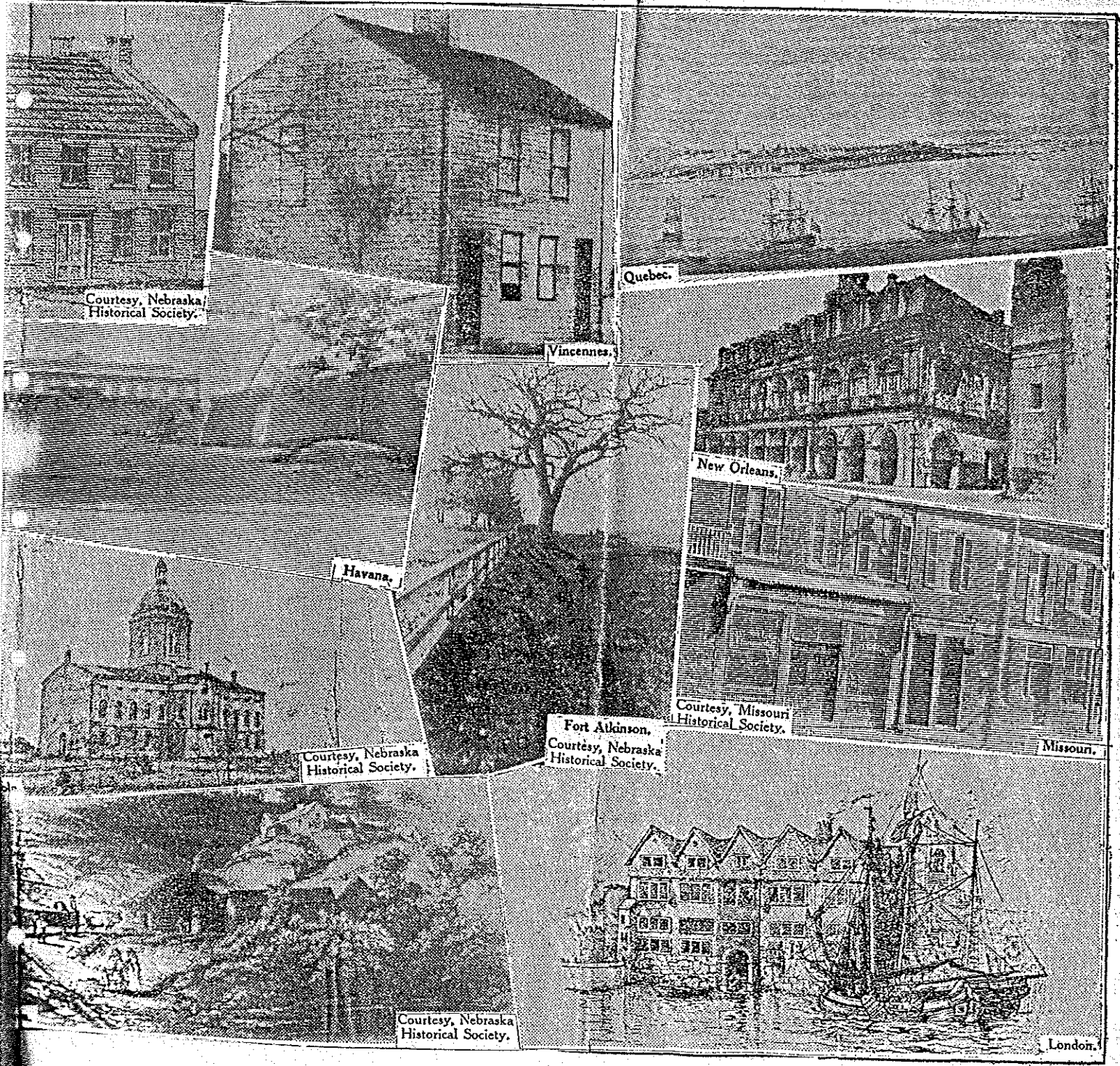
Journal and Star

EDITORIAL
AND FEATURES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1935.

SECTION C AND D

This Region's Only Capital



Courtesy, Nebraska Historical Society.

Vincennes.

Quebec.

Havana.

New Orleans.

Courtesy, Nebraska Historical Society.

Fort Atkinson, Courtesy, Nebraska Historical Society.

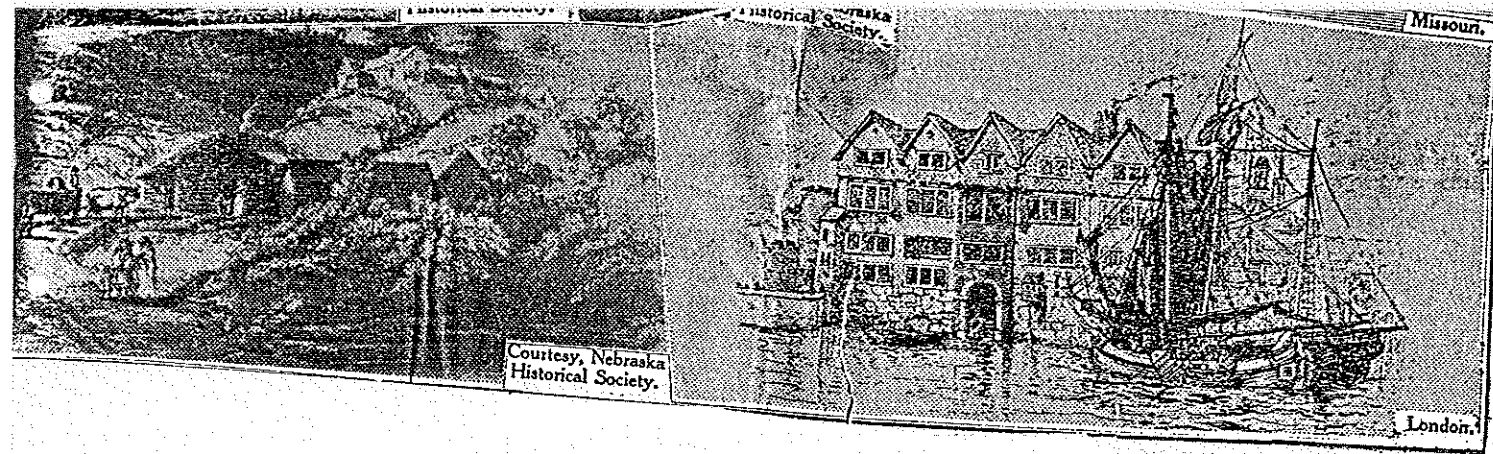
Courtesy, Missouri Historical Society.

Missouri.

Courtesy, Nebraska Historical Society.

London.

Arizona, and eventually came to this vicinity, and left behind an accurate story of the plains. Two



Courtesy, Nebraska Historical Society.

London.

Arizona, and eventually came to this vicinity, and left behind an accurate story of the plains. Two centuries later, when France and Spain contested for this region, the Spanish Caravan, sent out by the Spanish governor at Santa Fe, came to Nebraska to subdue the Indians and make the country forever Spanish. It was this expedition that was wiped out by the Indians and plundered by the red men.

While this section was called Florida, the center of civil affairs was at Havana. Aged now, Havana was but a hamlet in 1513—five years old and known as Puerto Carenas—a tiny center for the business of so much new and unknown world. Two years after, Don Diego de Valesquez founded a city on the southern coast, and called it San Cristobal de la Habana. Following more changes of name and place, in 1519 it was situated on its present site, had its name Hevana restored, and had a population of fifty.

King Very Liberal.

When the king of England was giving grants to settlers in the new country, their boundaries were defined to stretch from the Atlantic ocean to the Pacific, then known as the South sea. A landholder in New England had a perfect right to plant a garden in Nebraska, if he cared to explore that far. However, local problems kept him rather well occupied, and he had scant time to cross mountains and rivers to look upon the land a generous king had allocated him, so, while he owned his share of the future state, neither he nor his confreres saw it. Business was conducted in London town when England laid claim to this country, but none was so wise in that city that he could offer information to His Majesty's subjects on their properties abroad in America.

The Spanish had seen the country and the English had granted lavish patents, but it was the French who advanced the exploration and trade, and who appeared to have the soundest claim to the region. During the early French regime, with Quebec, founded in 1609 as the headquarters, the missionaries and traders made their way to the Great lakes. Father Marquette and Louis Joliet described the Missouri river and the French maps of the Mississippi have the names of the Indian tribes living on the Missouri—Pawnee, Otoes, and Omahas.

Based upon the book

came to Nebraska to subdue the Indians and make the country forever Spanish. It was this expedition that was wiped out by the Indians and plundered by the red men.

While this section was called Florida, the center of civil affairs was at Havana. Aged now, Havana was but a hamlet in 1513—five years old and known as Puerto Carenas—a tiny center for the business of so much new and unknown world. Two years after, Don Diego de Valesquez founded a city on the southern coast, and called it San Cristobal de la Habana. Following more changes of name and place, in 1519 it was situated on its present site, had its name Havana restored, and had a population of fifty.

King Very Liberal.

When the king of England was giving grants to settlers in the new country, their boundaries were defined to stretch from the Atlantic ocean to the Pacific, then known as the South sea. A landholder in New England had a perfect right to plant a garden in Nebraska, if he cared to explore that far. However, local problems kept him rather well occupied, and he had scant time to cross mountains and rivers to look upon the land a generous king had allocated him, so, while he owned his share of the future state, neither he nor his confreres saw it. Business was conducted in London town when England laid claim to this country, but none was so wise in that city that he could offer information to His Majesty's subjects on their properties abroad in America.

The Spanish had seen the country and the English had granted lavish patents, but it was the French who advanced the exploration and trade, and who appeared to have the soundest claim to the region. During the early French regime, with Quebec, founded in 1609 as the headquarters, the missionaries and traders made their way to the Great lakes. Father Marquette and Louis Joliet described the Missouri river and the French maps of the Mississippi have the names of the Indian tribes living on the Missouri—Pawnee, Ojoes, and Omahas.

Based upon the law that all the country drained by any river belongs to the nation settling it, the lilies of France claimed all the land whose waters ran into the Mississippi, following river discoveries by three Frenchmen. From New Orleans and Biloxi and St. Louis, the traders came among the Indians in the closing years of that century and more than half the next and the French influence, coming from the north and the south, was quite the strongest of any of those far distant powers, and the French were liked.

France Gives Up.

However, France and English colonists went to war, and at the close, France gave up all the land she had worked for and claimed. The lands west of the Mississippi, including the Nebraska region, went back to Spain and the crown.

(Continued on Page Three)

Capital Of Nebraska In Earlier Days Was Far From Present Site

(Continued from Page One.)

and gold. From 1762 until 1803 Nebraska was a Spanish province, with its center at the Latin New Orleans, a province four times as large as Spain and France together, given secretly by Louis XV to his cousin, Charles III of Spain.

In those days, New Orleans, that New Orleans is the Vieux Carre today, had been the capital of French territory in its vicinity for forty years. With word of the change of ownership of the territory, its residents were deeply indignant, and the first Spanish governor was expelled. Five years later, the quaint old city numbered 468 dwellings and had a population of 1,900 free persons and 3,191 in all. It grew but slightly during the Spanish rule, although the people, their customs, and the allegiance remained French.

In the land of the fleur-de-lis, Napoleon Bonaparte was planning to bring his lost colonies back to France and to buy all that great territory, once French, from Spain. But he faced war with England, and Bonaparte knew that the English navy could take the American colonies by attacking from the mouth of the Mississippi. Rather than see Louisiana English, the Corsican determined to sell the rich territory to the United States.

That was the Louisiana purchase, a wilderness of 827,987 square miles, costing \$15,550,000.

And with the signing of the papers in France, ceremonies later in the Place d'Armes and in the Cabildo, and the tri-color came down and the Stars and Stripes went up, and Nebraska, huddled in that vast tract, was American Territory of Indiana.

From October 1, 1804 to July 4, 1805, the Louisiana territory was part of the territory of Indiana and its capital was Vincennes. The state house was a plain frame building, with government offices on the first floor and on the second floor, the assembly room, reached by an outside stairway. Wooden pins held the framework of the building and the key, it is said, weighed half a pound, and well it should to guard the secrets of so much country.

At that time, the region includ-

ing Nebraska was made a part of the territory of Louisiana, having St. Louis as the capital. Seven years later, title was transferred to the territory of Missouri, but the center of government remained the same. Begun as a French fur trading station, it was St. Louis, founded as Laclede's Village and later named for Louis IX which accounted for some of the earlier French phase of this region. Three years after it became "our" capital, with the arrival of the first steamboat and the establishment of an Astor fur post, St. Louis was well on its way to becoming one of the principal cities of the purchase.

Although St. Louis remained the territorial governmental center until Missouri was made a state in 1821, Fort Atkinson right here in Nebraska and on the present site of Fort Calhoun was the center of the white authority, the first federal fort in the future Nebraska. It was a miniature town in itself—with a saw mill, quarry, farm lands and farm products, a school, a simple weather bureau—undisputed as the largest community in this vicinity as it was

the only one Nebraska could claim.

In 1827, Fort Atkinson was abandoned by the United States government, and its garrison sent to Fort Leavenworth. With its abandonment, Bellevue, the oldest town in Nebraska and claiming population of unknown date, became the business center for this section. Traders and trappers came there to bargain and to ship their wares down the river. Voyagers and visitors stopped there to glimpse the new country. For a number of years, Bellevue was the only place to go and the only place to stay, and its trading post served as store, social center, and inn.

Bellevue, of course, had hoped to be the new capital with the signing of the Kansas-Nebraska bill on May 30, 1854 and hope had continued high with the arrival of Francis Burt, but the acting governor, Thomas B. Cuming, decreed otherwise. The first territorial capital was to go to a little village in the woods eight miles above Bellevue—Omaha. It was a two story brick building, presented for the first state house, without cost.

336.45

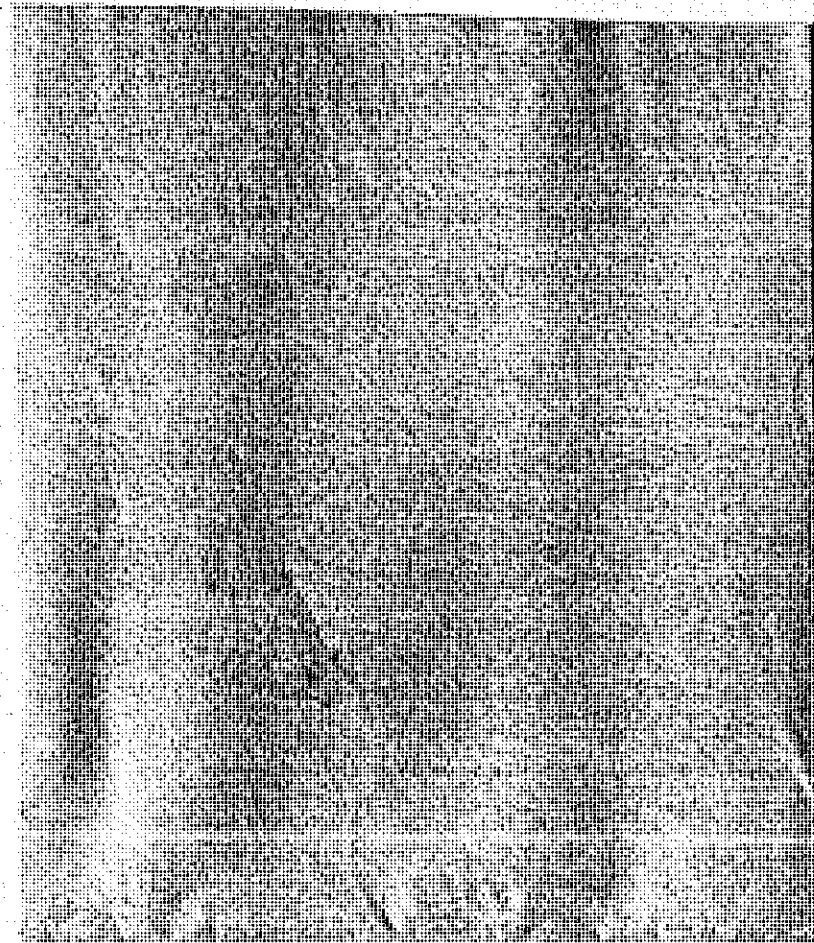
Journal-Star, February 24, 1935

Neb.

#372

Capitol Sites of this Region

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



336.45

Lincoln State Journal.

September 30, 1935.

Neb.

#373

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL NEEDS REPAIRS

State Land Commissioner Swanson said he might ask Governor Cochran to include in his special legislative session call a proposal for an emergency appropriation of about \$20,000 for repairs on Nebraska's 10 million dollar capitol. "I have a WPA application in for about \$2,000 on a dollar matching basis for immediate repairs on the wall of the promenade around the building," Swanson said. "If we get that money it will just stop the leaks but money will still be needed for permanent repair." He said mortar was dropping out of caps on roof corners, also, and needed repair. L.S.J. 9/30/35

336.45

Feb.

#374

Lincoln Star

October 23, 1935

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

SWANSON'S STEP JUSTIFIED

IT MAY seem as though the state of Nebraska is taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another, being neither gainer nor loser by the transaction, when Land Commissioner Swanson, official custodian of the capitol, arranges to buy electric current for that building from the University of Nebraska power plant at 1 cent a kilowatt, instead of from the penitentiary plant, heretofore supplying it at the 2-cent rate.

One establishment, of course, loses what the other gains, and to that extent the state is nothing ahead. However, it would seem that Mr. Swanson is fully justified in his action, considering that it may be the means of avoiding a deficit in the expenditure for fuel, light, power, and water at the capitol during the present biennium. He must do everything he can to keep within the funds which the legislature has provided for these things, and a 50 per cent saving on cost of electricity is quite worth while in that regard. L.S. 10/23/35.

336.45.
Neb.
#375

Omaha World Herald,

November 26, 1935.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Legislature Requested 11/26/35
S.W.H. to Pay for Light, Heat

Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 25 (P).—
For the first time in history, the
Nebraska legislature this session
was asked to pay specifically for
the light and heat it used, a
total of \$876.

Leo Swanson, state land com-
missioner and custodian of the
capitol building, submitted bills
to both the senate and the house
for light and heat.

The senate bill for 24 days of
light at \$1.80 a day and 24 days
of heat at \$12.80 a day was al-

lowed for a total of \$350.40,
while the bill was on file with
the house for a total of \$525.60
or \$19.20 a day for heat and
\$2.70 a day for light.

Swanson said his emergency
fund was too short to pay out
the total for the extra light and
heat required for the special ses-
sion.

It was doubtful the house
claim would be allowed. The
senate rejected one for \$216 for
demoting the senate chamber
and lounge.

336.45

Neb.

#376

Lincoln Star

December 18, 1935.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Capitol Likely Continue Using Prison Current

L.S. ————— 12/16/35
Control Board Points
To Legal Opinion;
Offers Rate Cut

An offer to supply electric current the year round at 1½ cents per kilowatt hour from the state penitentiary power plant to the capitol and governor's mansion was made Wednesday by two members of the board of control to Land Commissioner Leo N. Swanson, capitol custodian, who two months ago switched over to the University of Nebraska plant on the basis of 1 cent a kilowatt hour, instead of 2 cents previously paid for "juice" furnished from the penitentiary.

When the capitol and mansion were cut off from the penitentiary circuit last October, the latter institution lost one of its biggest customers. It also provides current for the state hospital, the men's reformatory, and the orthopedic hospital, as well as for the prison. The board of control did not relish having such a big hole made in the income from the power plant, and it has been trying ever since to induce Land Commissioner Swanson to switch back.

Cite Opinion.

Chairman Hager and Member Eubank of the board called on Swanson at his office Wednesday and submitted the offer to sell electricity in future for 1½ cents a kilowatt. They had an opinion from the attorney general holding that the University of Nebraska is not authorized by law to furnish current for the capitol and mansion, except as "stand-by service" in an emergency.

The land commissioner apparently has been convinced that he cannot legally continue buying from the university, even though he can save about \$500 a month on current by doing so. However, he is insisting that the board of control make him a better proposition than the one now before him.

"It costs more to manufacture juice at the penitentiary than in the university plant," said Swanson, "but it looks as though I'll have to patronize the latter, according to the attorney general's opinion, regardless of cost.

"I might agree to pay the board of control 1½ cents a kilowatt for electricity in the summer season, when no steam heat is being produced in the penitentiary plant; but I'm asking them to make a lower rate—say about 1 1-3 cents—during the months when the plant is running nearer to its capacity."

AYRES WILL NOT LET SWANSON CLEAN SNOW

J.H.S. ————— 2/2/36.

Capitol Injured Allegedly Be- cause Contingent Fund Can't Be Used.

"State Auditor Ayres will not let State Land Commissioner Leo Swanson shovel snow." This rumor spread like wildfire Saturday thru the fireproof \$10,000,000 capitol. It was considered important in view of the fact that eighteen inches of snow had fallen in January on the capitol terrace and it is all still in place except what has melted and run thru into offices, library book stack room and the house and senate chambers, injuring some plaster and rugs on the way. The terrace of the capitol is not a bank of earth at the edge of the grounds. The terrace is the stone lean-to that surrounds the capitol and houses many state offices where appointive officers and employes work. Its roof is both roof and walk for sightseers who desire to meander around the building from a low point of view.

"The state auditor will not let me use the \$10,000 capitol contingent fund to hire men to shovel snow off the terrace," said Land Commissioner Swanson, when asked concerning the rumor. "I can't clear it of snow unless I am allowed to use that fund, for my maintenance fund of \$15,000 for the capitol is all needed for supplies necessary in the building. My wages fund for capitol employes was cut by the last legislature to \$70,000, a reduction of \$5,000, and it is all needed. The capitol was given a maintenance fund of \$15,000 and yet the legislature gave the governor \$9,000, half of it for maintenance and half for improvements and maintenance. At the same time the capitol commission, which ought to be out of existence as it has finished the building but which still seems to legally exist, was given an estimated \$18,000 for maintenance of capitol grounds and state capitol building, including labor and the purchase of necessary materials and equipment. If there is any snow shoveled it seems to me it ought to be done by the capitol commission, since I am deprived of the use of the capitol contingency fund."

"I have been paying out of my funds for watering the capitol lawn," said Swanson, "but I do not intend to do so from now on."

With a \$50,000 fund for fuel, light and power the state land commissioner has a total of \$145,000, including the unused contingent capitol fund, for a period of two years. This is \$5,000 less than the former biennial appropriation, or a cut of about the amount capitol janitors were alleged to have formerly contributed to a campaign fund. Since then their wages have been cut, some working for less than \$100 a month.

Ayres Explains.

"It is true I have refused to draw warrants on the capitol contingency fund to hire men to shovel snow from the terrace," said State Auditor Ayres. "This office did that during the past biennium, and the legislature roasted us for it and tacked on to the new appropriation a proviso that none of the contingent fund should be used for salaries or wages. I do not consider snow a contingency in Nebraska. I have lived in the state fifty-nine years. In my youth I have gone barefoot to school in the early spring thru snow. Snow is to be expected here every winter. I looked in the dictionary and I found contingency may be defined as something not predictable, something fortuitous, and further, fortuitous is defined as something happening by chance, accidental. A contingency is certainly dependent on an uncertain future event. In fact there never should be a contingent fund. The legislature ought to provide enough money for care of the capitol without leaving it to someone to decide what is and what is not a contingency."

Since no one is shoveling snow off the terrace and the capitol is leaking at nearly every pore, it has been suggested that State Veterinarian Anderson could dispense with a tin tub and a tin bucket if he would get some one in authority to put a floor drain under the leaks in his office ceiling and connect it with the storm water sewer system of the capitol. Another practical joker has suggested that Swanson, as custodian, use his capitol janitors to clear the terrace of snow even tho they may not have time to spare from their work inside the building. The capitol commission has all during the winter cleared the walks of the capitol, but the commission takes the view that it is not expected to use its funds upon any part of the building, altho its appropriation calls for "maintenance of the capitol grounds and capitol building."

"Patience will settle the snow trouble," said one interested in it. "Time heals all wounds. Next August there will be no snow to worry about."

336.45
Neb.
#378

Lincoln Star

March 19, 1936

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Nebraska's 10 million dollar state house — built to anticipate governmental needs "for a hundred years"—is crowded to the rafters less than four years after completion. Land Commissioner Swanson, custodian of the capitol, is hard pressed to meet the demands for quarters made upon him. He's much in the position of the innkeeper, who had seven guests but only six beds, but found a bed for each. Similar legerdemain has been employed to house newcomers in the governmental family. Any more, and the bulge will be noticeable.

336.45

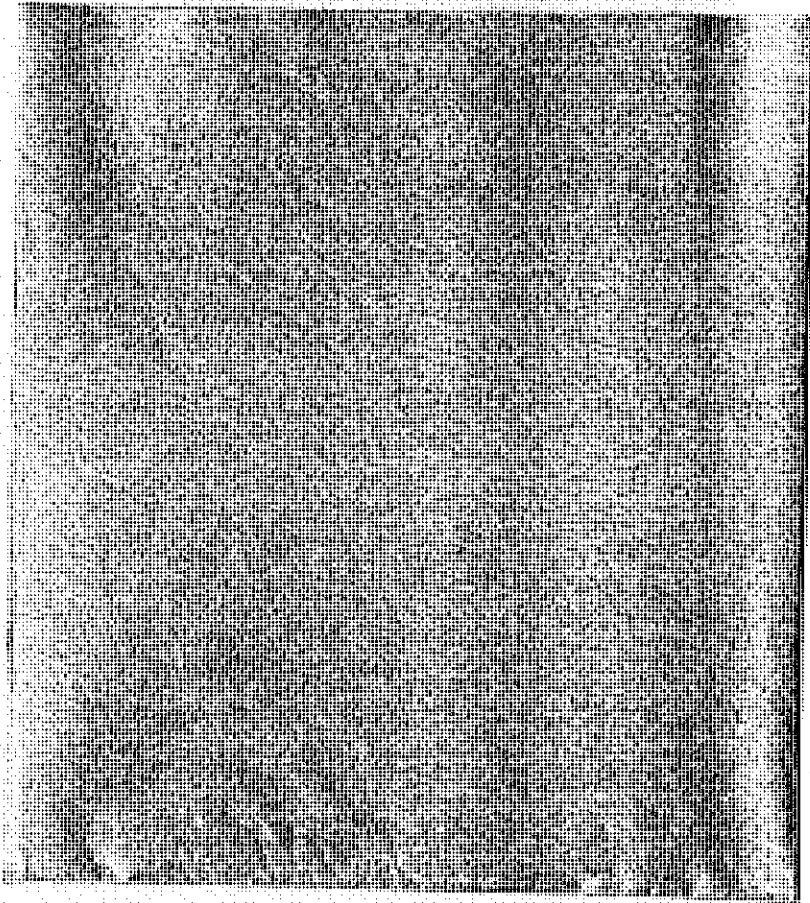
Neb.

#379

Lincoln Journal and Star

July 26, 1936

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

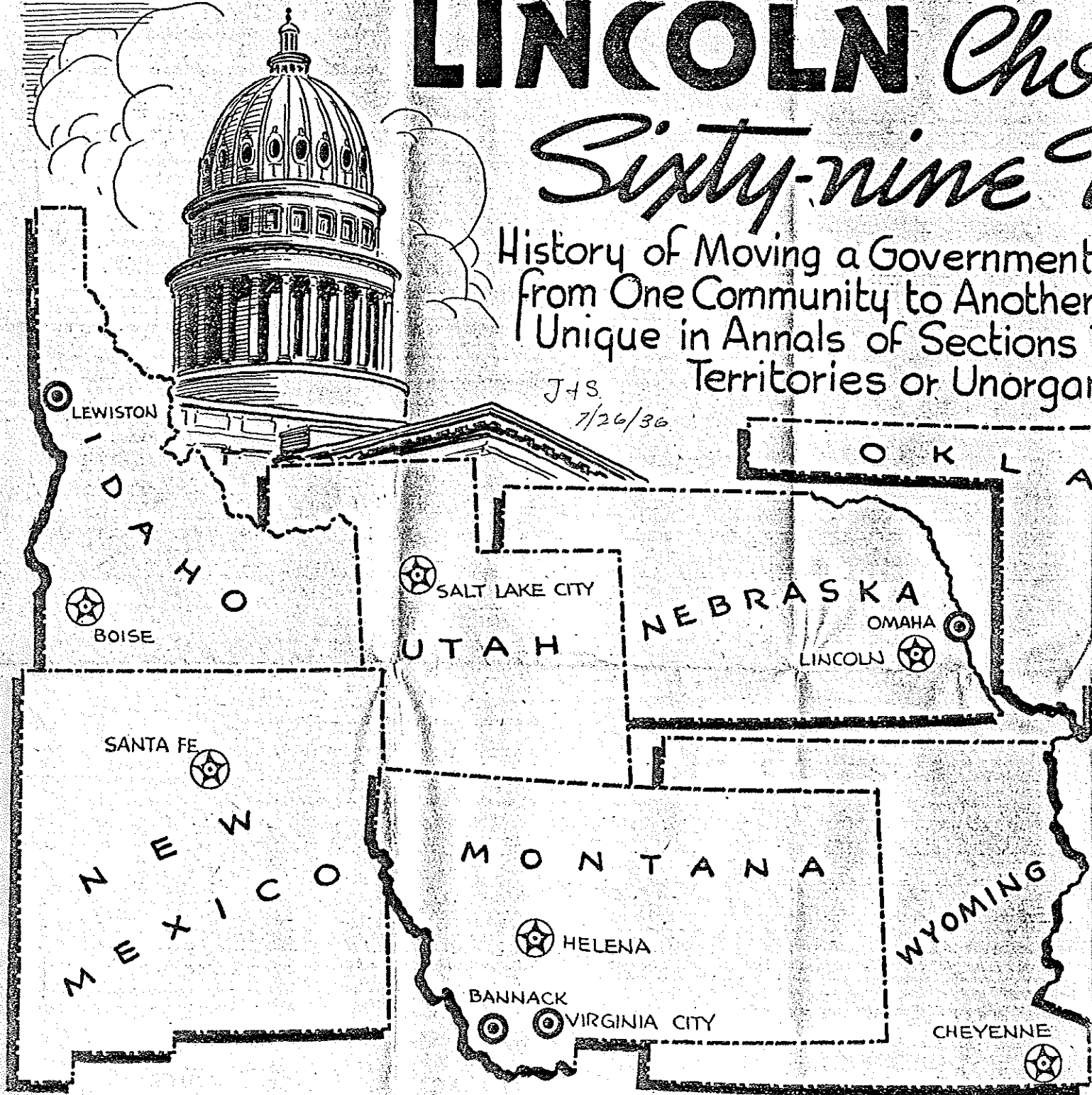


LINCOLN Chapter

Sixty-nine

History of Moving a Government
 from One Community to Another
 Unique in Annals of Sections
 Territories or Unorgan

JHS
 7/26/36



LULU MAE COE.

"WELL, we'll know today where the capitol is to be."

"Yes, they seem mighty slow. I wonder what they are talking about so long at Donovan's."

"We're a state now. Got to be mighty careful about where they put the capitol. Easy to go wrong, and we don't want any more rumpus."

"That's right. Not long since we was a territory though. Now

Wheeling was the capitol of West Virginia when Lincoln was selected. It was the center of the Unionist agitation in Virginia, serving as the headquarters of the opposition to secession within the state and the capital of the new state until 1869 and again from 1875 to 1885. Charleston became the seat of government in 1870, and retained its title except for the above decade.

"Yes, they seem mighty slow. I wonder what they are talking about so long at Donovan's."

"We're a state now. Got to be mighty careful about where they put the capitol. Easy to go wrong, and we don't want any more rumpus."

"That's right. Not long since we're a territory, though. Now we've got statehood and pretty soon we'll hear where they put the capital city."

"We're moving right along. Quite a few territories 'round us yet, and some parts not even organized yet."

No stenographers were present that day, July 29, 1867, sixty-nine years ago this Wednesday, but as the men and women waited in the white July heat, their own dramatic moment probably aroused unwonted interest in places beyond their own boundaries.

Question Unsolved.

Idaho, Arizona, Montana, the Dakotas were strung together on the thread of their talk, as they hoped the three commissioners invited by the legislature to take a ride to find a capitol site for Nebraska had done their work; that the question, vexatious and unsettling, was solved.

Before the knots dispersed, they were to learn that the new capital city was to be a plot of ground between the salt beds and the creek. Probably until time comes to a close and men need no laws, Lincoln was to remain the capitol site.

Had those Lincolmites given less intense devotion to the movement of the commissioners and, rather, sketched current history in their minds, they would have known that governmental centers roam; and years alone settle them into place. They knew that Bellevue had hope for the capitol building when it was given to Omaha; they knew that thirteen years had been required to settle the tug-of-war with one Platte on one end, the other on the opposite end; they knew that quantities of paper villages and others with scarcely more than a citizen each to distinguish them from paper had pressed individual advantages for the seat of government; they couldn't know then, but capital removal was a pertinent rumbling for years to come.

Had No Need.

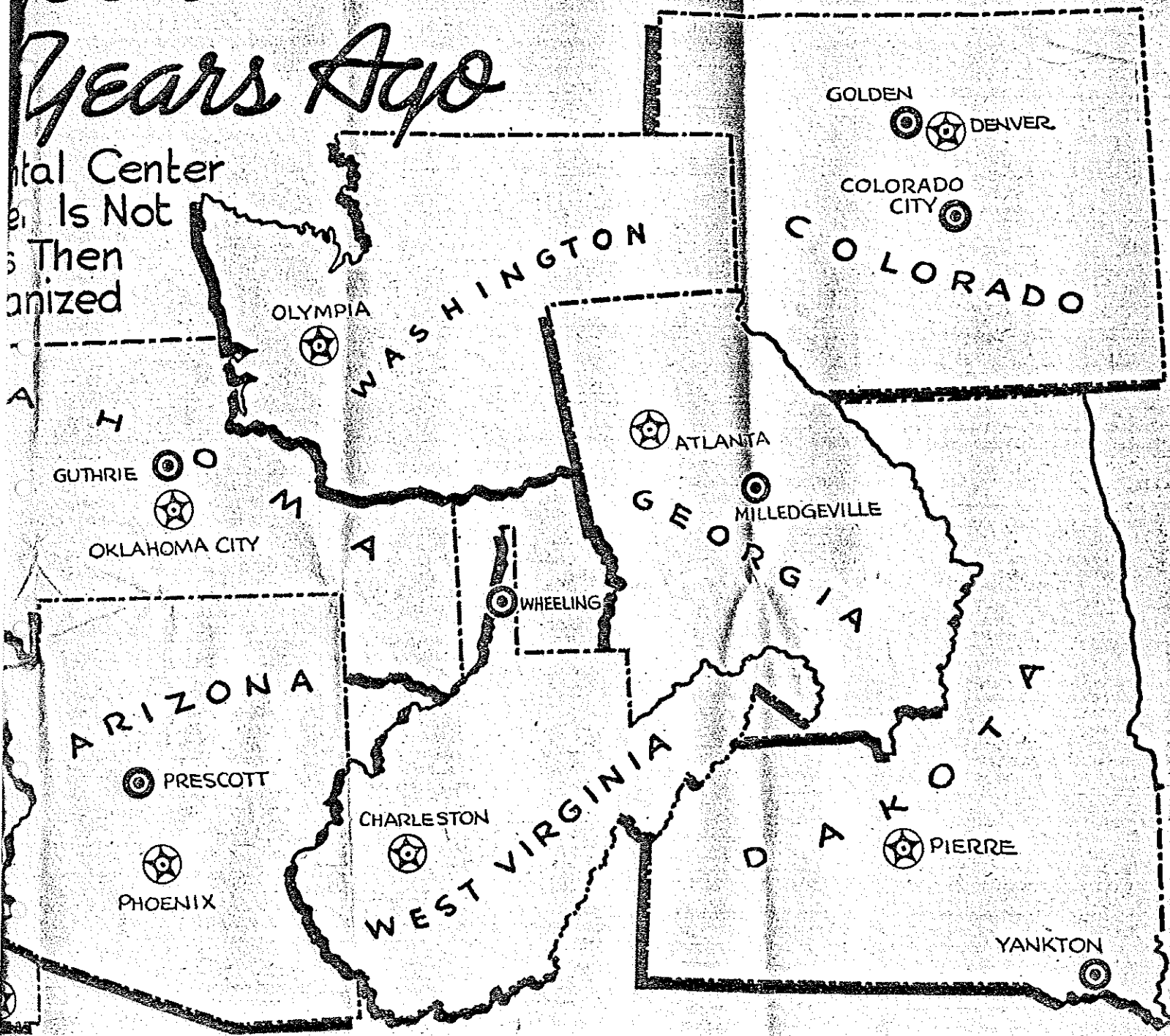
Of the eleven commonwealths to become states after Nebraska, four of them in territorial and statehood days picked up their ledgers and moved from one place to another. A couple had one capitol when they were one, changed it, tossed it later to half the organization, and chose a new one for the other half. On that July day, a couple of the present states had no need for governmental centers of any kind.

When Lincoln was chosen as Nebraska's capital, only two of the older states were governmentally fluid. The others had taken form many years previously, and held their position. Milledgeville had served Georgia as her capital from 1807 to 1867. The following year Atlanta was made the temporary capital of the state for the reconstruction period, and it was made permanent some years later.

Present as CAPITAL CITY

Years Ago

Capital Center
Is Not
Then
Organized



A great fan extending toward the west and spreading to the north and south formed the major outlines of the territorial section of the United States in July, 1867. With fair consistency, the idea of statehood and the maintenance of permanence in government had crept from the east toward the west. While the movement had not been with the precision of a knife spreading icing on a cake, it had become rather well solidified by that day, and Lincoln stood with states to the east and territories to the west, although California, Oregon, and Texas were denials the general platitude.

There was little relationship between those capitals of the territories and the village capitol of a state so brief a time previously a territory, with one possible exception. Olympia was the terminal point of the Oregon trail; Nebraska marked its beginning. As a community it was twenty years old when Lincoln emerged from Lancaster; as a capital it had been chosen a year previous to Nebraska's statehood. Gold, fur, ore, oil, the earth's riches, form their foundations; agriculture is "another" occupation, not a major enterprise.

Lincoln Was Chosen As Capital City 69 Years Ago; Other States Discussed

(Continued from Page One.)

Oregon Trail — Lincoln — Boise
— Olympia.

Coming along the same year was Wyoming, not made a territory until 1868, although Cheyenne was founded in 1867 at the extension of the Union Pacific to that point. It was made the territorial capital in 1869, when territorial officers were appointed.

Founded By Mormons.

Utah and Salt Lake City, originally the City of the Great Salt Lake, parallel the arrival of the Mormons and the establishment of their government. The city was founded by Brigham Young and his followers in 1847, and it was toward there they made the long Mormon trail across Nebraska. Lincoln had been established for nineteen years when Utah became a state.

When the Donovan house was the center of attraction that morning, the Sacs, Cheyennes, and other tribes were roaming around on the old lands of the Creeks and the Seminoles, but all around them were great tracts of uninhabited territory. By this means and that,

the unpopulated lands were laid open to settlement, but government came in March, 1890, with the organization of Oklahoma territory. There was something vaguely familiar in the quarreling over the capital city site when the first legislature met in Guthrie. Also a certain familiarity in the fact it remained in Guthrie because there was no unanimity of decision on the new location. It remained the capital until 1910, when Oklahoma City was selected.

Last one to join our little band was Arizona, proclaimed as a state in 1912. Established as a territory in 1863, the territorial capital from 1864 to 1867 was Prescott. The present governmental center, Phoenix, was chosen a county seat in 1871, but did not rise to capital heights until 1889.

New Mexico, with Santa Fe as the oldest seat of government in the United States, was admitted in 1912. It had been a territory for seventeen years and its capital had been the seat of governors from the early Spanish days, when Lincoln was made Nebraska's governmental center.

Oregon, and Texas were denials the general platitude.

There was little relationship between those capitals of the territories and the village capitol of a state so brief a time previously a territory, with one possible exception. Olympia was the terminal point of the Oregon trail; Nebraska marked its beginning. As a community it was twenty years old when Lincoln emerged from Lancaster; as a capital it had been chosen a year previous to Nebraska's statehood. Gold, fur, ore, oil, the earth's riches, form their foundations; agriculture is "another" occupation, not a major enterprise.

In the same year that Lincoln became the governmental center of Nebraska, Denver was chosen as the capital of Colorado. The city had sprung into golden bloom with the gold seekers eight years earlier, but hadn't been rated as capital material in the beginning. Colorado City drew the prize first, following Colorado's organization as a territory in 1861. A year later, Golden became the choice, and remained so for the next five years. Colorado was the next state to be admitted to the union after Nebraska, but it was not until 1876, although it had refused the honor in 1864, and became known as the Centennial state.

Four In A Year.

After that move, it was some time before the circle of states was increased, but the federal government did a good job, once started. Montana, the two Dakotas, and Washington all burst into statehood in 1889, but their pasts varied.

Montana, erected as a territory in 1864, held its first legislative session at Bannack, which has not remained one of the major centers, but at the time of Nebraska's choice it was Virginia City, off to a bouncing start by being adjacent to the rich Comstock lode. Helena, laid out in 1864, was founded picturesquely on the location of the Last Chance gulch, another gold deposit, but it was not until 1876 that the seat of government was removed there from Virginia City.

Nebraska's neighbors, the Dakotas, began life together as a territory in December, 1861, but separated into North and South divisions twenty-eight years later. Yankton was the center of government from the first of the territorial days until 1882, arcing Lincoln's date, but the following year, Bismarck had the honor for the territory. When two states were formed, Bismarck remained with North Dakota and Pierre, then nine years old, was selected for South Dakota.

Smithfield To Olympia.

Olympia, was the capital of Washington territory when Lincoln was under advisement, and it remained to become the state's center in 1889. It is an old city, settled in 1846 and chartered in 1854, the year Nebraska became a territory. In its youth, it was known as Smithfield.

Scarcely had the quadruplets set up their established government until Idaho knocked and was admitted. It was set up in territorial form in 1863, and its first legislature held sessions in Lewiston. However, a year later, the territory was given its present boundaries, and the capital was removed to Boise, once the site of a Hudson

#380

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

McLemore Puzzled When Lincoln People Ask Him About "The Sower;" Declares His Stance Is Correct

E.S.J.

11/12/36

BY HENRY M'LEMORE.

Copyright, 1936, United Press.
Life is filled with surprises.

My first big one came when
aged 4, I looked into a mirror.

My latest big one came when I
arrived in Lincoln, Neb., by the
way of a monoplane with a pilot
so deft he made you want to land,



THE SOWER.

"A dead copy of the South Georgia Crap
Shooter."

and a hostess so pretty she made
you want to stay up.

The pilot won, because he was
at the controls, and I stepped out
into what I had been told was the
hottest of hot football beds, not
excluding Columbus, O., where old
ladies of the crutch and bedroom

slipper age accost you on the
street and ask after Tippy Dye's
health.

Knowing how hot Lincoln was
I came prepared to talk nothing
but football. By reading Lou Lit-
tle's book for ignorant spectators
while on the plane, I had mas-
tered enough gridiron knowledge
to make a pretty fair showing. I
knew what a spinner was, how to
determine a six-two-two-one de-
fense without the use of calculat-
ing machines, and the difference
between a place kick and a field
judge. I was prepared, then, to
talk at length on Pitt's chances
against the Nebraska Cornhusk-
ers on Saturday.

Ask After "The Sower."

Much to my disappointment,
Lincoln did not quiz me on foot-
ball. The first man I met, and he
was that old dope you read about
so often, "the man on the street,"
the second man I met, and all the
other men I met, wanted to know
whether "The Sower" on top of
the state capitol was properly
designed.

At first this question puzzled
me. Then, with the blood hound
instincts that have marked me as
a reporter, I chased this query to
its lair.

"The Sower" is a statue. A hel-
luva big statue. All bronze. And
he stands on top of the capitol. He
is supposed to represent the per-
fect sower, sowing the seeds of
grain which has made Nebraska
one of the foremost agricultural
areas in the world.

At first everybody liked the
sower. They used to come from
miles around to look up and ad-
mire the sower. Then one day a
critical old farmer expressed the
opinion that if a farm hand who,

(Continued on Page 6.)

McLemore Puzzled When Lincoln People Ask Him About "The Sower."

(Continued from Page 1.)

in sowing seeds, used the techni-
que of "The Sower," came and
asked for a job he would say:

"Listen, Gus, if that's the best
you know how to sow, try farther
down the road."

His Form Wrong?

In short, the agrarian critic said,
the bronze guy's form was all
wrong.

The debate on whether the
farmer was right or wrong has
been going on for years. A de-
cision apparently can't be reached.

So they asked me, a man who
has sown only oats, and those of
wild variety, to sound off my
opinion. By nature reticent, I only
rented a small building with 2,444
seats, to give my opinion.

My opinion is this: He is the
hottest sower I have ever seen.
In the first place, he uses a stance
which is a dead copy of the South
Georgia crap shooter when he is
going for that "natural." You
know there is nothing hotter. The
palm of the right hand is tucked
downward, the face wears an ex-
pression of deep melancholy, and
the legs are spread apart after
the manner of Vardon shooting for
the green.

In the second place—but gentle-
men, there is no second place.
When he throws those seeds from
that position he can only roll
"sevens" and "tevens." In Georgia
that means "pick up the dough
and prepare to fade."

In Nebraska it means "get out
those threshing machines, you
farmers, you, there's a bumper
crop in the fields."

Ladies and gentlemen, this con-
cludes Thursday's broadcast from
Henry "Cornassel" McLemore.
Send your farm problems to him.
Send your household problems to
him. But don't wait on the post-
man until you get an answer.

336.45
Keb.

Lincoln Star,

November 27, 1936.

#381

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Urge Illumination Of Capitol Tower With Floodlights

A party of Nebraska junior chamber of commerce officials called on Gov. R. L. Cochran Friday afternoon urging an appropriation of \$7,500 to illuminate the capitol tower. Gerald Hallstead, Crete, state president of the junior chamber, said the flood lighting will not only display the tower's beauty effectively at night, but will also remove a hazard to aviation. *L.S. 11/27/36*

With Hallstead were Charles Hoff, Lincoln; Fonda Brown, Scottsbluff, and R. W. Winkelman, Fremont, vice presidents of the state junior chamber. Charles Doyle, secretary of the state aeronautics commission, was there with the governor.

Criticizes Swanson.

While at the capitol, Hallstead criticized Land Commissioner Leo Swanson's recent order reducing the guide service at the building to two tours daily. This makes it difficult for many visitors to thoroughly enjoy the building, Hallstead said.

For the safety argument, Hallstead recalled Doyle's disclosure recently that an air transport narrowly missed colliding with the tower while seeking a night landing.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Won't Yield Capitol Space

a.w.f. ————— 6/18/37
Legislators Complicate
Housing Problem

Lincoln, Neb., June 17 (U.P.)—
The legislative council has refused
to waive its right to possession of
two large rooms on the first floor
of Nebraska's capitol, already
glutted with boards, bureaus, com-
missions and new departments.

That was the word legislators
brought back from Senator John
Knickerhalm's picnic at Grand Island
Sunday.

Both Governor R. L. Cochran
and Land Commissioner Leo N.
Swanson, building custodian, re-
quested Senator Amos Thomas of
Omaha, chairman of the council,
to cede the rooms to the labor de-
partment, which must find space
for its new unemployment compen-
sation division and state employ-
ment service.

But the council members refused
to yield. They felt they must assert
themselves now if the council ever
is to amount to anything. The
council rooms will be the head-
quarters of at least one perman-
ent employe of the legislature—a

researcher to be selected at the
September meeting. In addition the
clerk of the legislature, Hugo Srb
of Dodge, is a permanent officer
and will have an office the year
around.

"If we don't stop creating new
boards and bureaus, w'll have to
build an annex to our magnificent
new capitol."

That was a common argument
advanced during the recent session
of the capitol. And it's getting to
be no joke. The capitol, housing
departments and agencies that the
late Bertram Goodhue of New
York never dreamed of when he
designed the building in 1920, is
badly overcrowded.

Liquor commission personnel is
scattered all over the building.
Chairman J. A. McEachen is using
an office intended for the lieuten-
ant governor, and hearings are
held in the senate lounge. Part of
the highway department staff is in
the tower. Employes of the board
of education for nurses work in
the poorly lighted senate locker
room.

336.45

Neb,

#383

Lincoln Star

June 22, 1937

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CONCERNING
BUREAUCRACY

THERE was no demand on the part of Lincoln interests to get the Nebraska capitol floodlighted at this time. The issue arose out of activity by the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission to place lights on the Sower astride the dome of the building to remove possible hazards to aviation.

That in itself is a laudable purpose. Although the regular air route runs to the north of Lincoln, on dark, cloudy and stormy nights it is possible that an aviator engaged in regular commercial service might stray from the course. And aviation accidents are to be avoided wherever and whenever precaution and foresight can avert them.

But the plan of lighting proposed originally by the commission was wholly out of keeping with the original plans of the architects, who when they drafted specifications and supervised the construction steps covering nearly a ten-year period, proposed a system of floodlighting. The legislature was convinced that having the investment which the state has made in an outstanding building, its value should not be depreciated by utilizing the dome as a beacon station for warning signals for aviators. The Nebraska Aeronautics commission has a considerable balance in funds, which it reappropriated to the use of the commission. And the legislature itself earmarked \$10,000 of the funds for the specific purpose of floodlighting the building. In the original bill it delegated that responsibility to the capital custodian, the former land commissioner.

L. S.

THEN on the closing day of the session a second bill was introduced by Senator John Comstock of Lincoln, who headed the original fight against decorating the sower grotesquely with a string of red lights. The Comstock bill reappropriated the \$10,000 and specified the work should be done under the direction of the capitol architects.

That is where trouble began. Custodian Swanson arranged for floodlighting as an experimental test and in addition planted a red light between the feet of the sower. When attention was called to the legislative provision with respect to lighting the capitol, Mr. Swanson said he would turn off the flood lights, which he did, because he had been criticised presumably, but he said he had put up the red warning light, it was paid for and it was there to stay.

And on the heels of the Swanson statement it develops the capitol architects had ideas of their own about supervising the lighting of the capitol. There is some justification for their attitude. A considerable period has elapsed since the capitol was completed and since the firm responsible for it was asked to go ahead with designing a lighting system in accordance with the original provisions. In correspondence with Governor Cochran the firm has suggested an engineer should be employed to work out the lighting plan, and it is estimated the cost will be approximately \$1,000. The architects are willing to give such advice as may be desired but the expense will have to be met naturally. And that is about the way it now stands.

THERE is in all of it an excellent cross section of the working of bureacracy which is being discussed so much now. Not all of the bureacracy originates in Washington. Some of it begins at home. Mr. Swanson's purposes are not the target of criticism. He was honest in his desire to be of service. The same observation extends to the Nebraska commission which supervises aviation. All Mr. Swanson had in mind was to carry out what he thought was a specific instruction to light the capitol.

But altogether too much emphasis is placed upon what Washington directs. In this instance Washington gave no instruction until the secretary of the aviation commission, acting upon the request of the head of the appropriation committee of the legislature, wired the Bureau of Commerce for regulations covering beacon lighting for tall buildings. It was said that Washington was doing this. The regulations from which instructions, or to use the language which the Department of Commerce employed in its letter, "suggestions," were adopted in 1926. That was more than ten years ago. All of this time the capitol boasted of no red lanterns until the wire was dispatched by the Nebraska commission. If people are interested in bureacracy there are plenty of opportunities to begin work here at home. There is a fertile field here. In the face of a clearly defined sentiment expressed in the legislature the only light on the capitol tower today is the red beacon placed there. After devoting ten millions to create one of the most beautiful buildings in America, the people of Nebraska are entitled to better treatment than that. They are entitled to have the splendor and beauty of that building preserved. Under no circumstance can it be believed that floodlighting presents so many obstacles that any and all hazards to aviation could not be removed.

#384

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAUCAPITOL TOO SMALL
FOR NEW ACTIVITIES

S.N.S. 6/27/37

Prepare Put Some Depart-
ments in Attic as All
Rooms Occupied.

The 10 million dollar capitol of Nebraska, 432 feet square, with a central tower containing 14 tall stories, 400 feet high, topped by a figure of "The Sower," is now full to overflowing and new departments created by the last legislature must take to the attic. When the capitol was built predictions by the uninformed were that the tower offices would never be used for any purposes and that the two main stories and basement would never be occupied. The capitol commissioners who built the building and who thought they knew boasted that the Nebraska capitol was large enough to house all state activities; which, in some states occupied several separate buildings, and that it was the only capitol which was not too small for increasing departments when finished. The boast was also made that by substituting a central tower for the usual dome form of architecture there was less unusable space in the building than in any of the large state structures in the country. It was called a utilitarian structure, altho beauty had not been sacrificed.

Plans adopted by the capitol commission contained assigned space for all the principal state offices and departments existing in 1922 when the corner stone was laid. The construction continued for ten years or more and since then there has been a constant expansion of departments and an increase in number. The building was designed to house the supreme court, its large law library and reading room, and two court rooms, an attorneys waiting room and the attorney general's office, all of which in some states occupy a building outside the capitol.

Everybody was given space who could lay any claim to being a part of the state government or if not a part of the government an assistant to it or an activity receiving state support in the form of appropriations of money. The soldier organizations, such as the

G. A. R., the American Legion, the Spanish War veterans were given state headquarters in the capitol, the latter two being recipients of state funds for relief of their members and families.

Alphabet Activities Out.

The state board of agriculture which conducts the state fair was given space. The state and vocational educational and rehabilitation department was one of the newer departments created and given space. For a year or so various alphabetical activities of the federal government were granted office rooms as being connected with state relief and social security work, and these were housed in the capitol for a year or so but all moved out when the legislative rooms they occupied were needed by the two house legislature.

The state liquor control commission, newly created, succeeded to some of these rooms. The national guard, which was for a time housed out of the capitol, came back and so did the highway department which was out during a part of the reconstruction period. The building had been so constructed around the old capitol before the latter was torn down that the state paid little rent for departments housed temporarily outside during construction.

While former Governor Weaver was in office and was custodian and also chairman of the capitol commission he assigned five stories in the then partly vacant

tower to the State Historical society, but this was later changed and the society now has a magnificent museum occupying a large hall on the ground floor with offices adjacent. It also has about one-quarter section of the capitol basement for storage.

The aeronautics commission, one of the newly created state activities, is now housed in the capitol. Some of the older departments under the governor, such as state sheriff's office, examiners for the licensing of barbers, hairdressers and beauty parlor operators, also prize fighters and wrestlers, nurses and eight or ten other professions, have long been established in rooms in the capitol.

Like "Hole of Calcutta."

From basement to the top of the tower the building is now filled. Space is not always fairly divided between departments. Some departments, such as the drafting rooms for the state highway department and the state labor commissioner's office, the latter housing temporarily the force of nine appointees under the state unemployment compensation law, are so crowded that they are likened unto the Black Hole of Calcutta where out of 146 British subjects forced into a room 18 feet square by an Indian nabob 123 died of asphyxiation in one night. Still in other departments may be seen two state employes in a room as big as a barn at desks so far apart that a telephone would seem to be the only reasonable means of communication.

"Office rooms shall be furnished in the capitol," is now a common clause in bills creating new state activities. Among those created by the last legislature are the departments for licensing automobile dealers and salesmen, licensing of architects and engineers, a headquarters for a small state highway patrol, the state unemployment compensation department, and a state planning board to plan a ten year building program that is allegedly already planned by university regents, board of control and state normal board for twenty years ahead.

It is proposed to cut doors from the legislative committee rooms to an adjoining attic where rooms are to be finished at the expense of the federal government for the state unemployment compensation. A similar proposal is for new rooms in another portion of the attic for the planning board, but state officers have as yet found no certain source of funds. The recent legislature passed an act to collect 10 percent of fees of an indefinite number of state activities for use of rooms in the capitol but did not propose to abolish any of them to make room for newer activities, some of which are deemed more important than some older departments. Secretary of State Swanson and State Superintendent Taylor who are using attic space for storage have protested against taking space in the basement. All of which has given rise to the remark "When shall we build another state house?"

Neb,

#385

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

MUST PAY STATE RENT

**Barber Examiners Get View
of Attorney General.**

The attorney general's office ruled valid a 1937 legislative act which takes 10 percent of the fees collected by quasi-public licensing boards in the state capitol as rental and overhead.

The opinion, written at the request of Secy. Walker of the state barber board, said it could find no unconstitutional features in the bill, sponsored by the appropriations committee over the objections of licensing board representatives. *L.S.J. 6/30/37*

The 10 percent fund goes into the general fund and 80 percent of fees collected by the barber examiners is to be available for expense of the board. The attorney general holds the fees collected are regulatory fees and not such license fees, penalties or fines that are payable into county or city or state school funds. In deciding what is a reasonable fees for regulatory purposes he says the legislature has considerable latitude and that salaries of those administering the law does not comprise all the expenses incurred in administration.

Secretary Walker said he did not intend to sue to test the 10 percent rent law, but understood other people have been talking about doing so.

The giving of trading stamps or other benefits in connection with purchases of cream is a violation of the state cream purchasing law, the attorney general's office held. The opinion was asked by Jesse O. Banister of Dannebrog.

336.45 LINCOLN Star

Neb.

#386

July 7, 1937

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Lights On The Tower Will Yet Burn

Land Commissioner Leo Swanson Discloses
L.S. Capitol Floodlighting Plans Near Fruition 7/7/37

Land Commissioner Leo N. Swanson promised Wednesday that "the capitol tower will be floodlighted" and explained further that he now has three lighting plans before members of the New York architectural firm which designed the building.

While installation of the floodlighting will not mean that the red flasher between the feet of the Sower will be removed, Swanson said, the aeronautic commission's danger beam will not be used when the floodlights are on except when fog or storms makes visibility poor.

H. O. Murray, one of the New York architects, Swanson said, has tentatively approved one of the plans submitted. The land commissioner said he has since written Murray regarding details of the plans and is waiting a reply before proceeding further. He estimated the equipment cost of the plan approved at near \$5,000 and added that the floodlighting could be put in for much less than the \$10,000 provided by the legislature.

Ends Rumors.

His statement that he intends to go ahead with the floodlighting plans apparently puts to an end the rumors that the tower of Nebraska's 10 million dollar capitol would not be illuminated until the legislature came back and straightened things out.

The legislature appropriated \$10,000 for lighting the capitol tower but instructed the land commissioner to proceed with installing lights only after the original architectural firm designing

the building had approved the plans.

Difficulties arose when Murray informed Governor Cochran and Swanson that his firm did not design floodlight systems. He recommended another New York concern which would do the planning job for \$1,100. This proved a little disconcerting since state officials thought Murray's organization would suggest lighting plans for nothing.

Swanson repeated Wednesday that he would not pay \$1,100 for the lighting plans. Instead he asked three large electrical firms who are in the market to supply the needed equipment to draft plans. They did. It was those plans Swanson sent to Murray.

With all the planning going on, Swanson said he had one of his own—that is to plant four spot lights around the building at points two blocks away from each corner. These, the land commissioner declares, would light the Sower.

Swanson's personal plan, he said is contingent upon the city's agreement to furnish power for the lights. The Swanson lights would be placed on three apartment houses and one church—provided, of course, the church and house owners are willing.

This plan, Swanson said, had not been approved by the New York architects.

336.45

Neb.

#387

Lincoln Star

July 7, 1937

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

3 Empty Rooms

Wide Open Spaces At

Capitol Are Easy to Fill

For the first time in many a moon, there was a trio of vacant office rooms on the first floor of the capitol Tuesday—but they won't be vacant long.

E. H. Luikart, who the legislature and the Supreme court said was an individual private receiver for failed state banks, moved out of the space he has occupied since 1933 and left three vacant rooms behind him. Luikart left the capitol by order of the legislature which said he had no business taking up public space.

Of the three rooms vacated, Land Commission Leo Swanson said one will remain at the service of the state banking department. The largest of the three will be utilized by Supt. Charles W. Taylor, who plans to put the nurses' bureau there and use the rest of the space for files. The third room will become liquor commission property.

Swanson said Taylor is running out of file storage space.

336.45
Feb.
#388

State Journal August 2, 1937

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

COURT REFUSES HARRY SWANSON INJUNCTION

8/3/37 SV
Land Commissioner Wins in
Cooling System Suit Be-
tween Swansons.

Leo Swanson said he would re-
move the cooling system unit in-
volved, but not until after Harry
Swanson returns to town.

Secretary of State Swanson was
denied a temporary injunction
against Land Commissioner Swan-
son Monday by District Judge
Broadly in a suit brought by the
secretary of state to enjoin the
land commissioner from cutting
off the water supply or otherwise
interfering with the operation of a
cooling system in the secretary of
state's office.

Judge Broad found that in the
statutes controlling this subject,
the legislature had given exclusive
custody and control of the state
capitol to the commissioner of
public lands and buildings. Among
other duties imposed upon the de-
fendant, the order stated, was the
exclusive control and discretion in
supplying material and equipment
necessary for the proper main-
tenance of the building, and that it
held that this necessarily applied
to other offices.

"It is the opinion of this court
that the installation of the air
cooling system such as is involved
in this case, under the evidence
and showing made, would be con-
strued as a part of the permanent
equipment of the building" the or-
der stated. "Under the statute re-
ferred to, as construed by this
court, the commissioner of public
lands and buildings is given the
exclusive authority in that regard
as to whether or not the installa-
tion shall or shall not be made. It,
of course, follows that if he does
not approve or order the installa-
tion of the thing, the cost of op-
eration and maintenance of such
equipment is a matter entirely
within the discretion of the said
defendant."

"While it is the personal opin-
ion of this court that by the use of
air conditioning the efficiency of
the working force of the office
may be greatly increased and
therefore expense reduced, it is
also the opinion of this court that

it is a matter entirely in the dis-
cretion of the commissioner of
public lands and buildings under
the present law."

Secretary of State Swanson in-
stalled the cooling system without
consulting Land Commissioner
Swanson. The land commissioner
cut the water pipes and refused
to let the system operate. He con-
tended that if the secretary of
state operated his own cooling
system unit, any other office could
do the same and the capitol would
be marred by the various officers
who installed their own units. He
contended that he had control and
no officer had a right to instal
equipment without his consent.

336.45

Neb.

#389

Lincoln Sunday Journal + Star Aug. 15, 1937

Compromise concerning Land Commissioner Swanson's expressed determination to require Harry S. Boyd to vacate the capitol cafe, consisting of two large and two small rooms, operated by Boyd as a private enterprise, is now the talk at the capitol. Swanson as custodian had proposed closing the cafe on the ground that he needed the room for new activities created by the legislature. He had stated that if the legislators by law cared to set aside rooms in the capitol for a cafe they could do so at their next meeting. Swanson said it is now possible that the cafe can operate in the south room, about 10x14 feet, one of the rooms at present so used, and the other three rooms be given to the state highway for its office force enforcing the new drivers license law, registration of automobiles, licensing of auto dealers and salesmen and highway right of way work, the latter an old activity. These are all on the tenth floor of the tower. If they move other new activities of the state government will take their places in the tower. Some heads of state departments and some legislators have asked Swanson to relent, saying the cafe "is a convenience," while some heads of offices have forbidden their employes to spend their time in the cafe during office hours, or "on the state's time." The cafe pays \$55 a month rent to the state.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Neb.

#390

Lincoln Star August 20, 1937

State House Bureau Rent Law Is Studied

LS 8/20/37

Jensen Says Auditor And Department Heads Must Start Collection

State Treasurer Walter Jensen began to make active inquiry Friday about the matter of collecting "rent" from the various professional boards in the state house, as provided under a law passed by the last legislature, and to determine whose job it is to collect the rent.

The bill provides in its first section that the "State Treasurer shall set aside ten percent of the fees" of those various boards, placing it in the general fund; then it enumerates the activities affected.

Following that another section empowers the state auditor to draw his warrant against the various fees, for the ten percent assessment, "upon a voucher signed by the head of the department."

The departments affected are: board of medical examiners, osteopathy, chiropractics, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, embalming, undertakers, chiropody, veterinary medicine, cosmetology, barbers athletics, nurses, engineering and architecture, real estate commission and brand department.

The assessment on all of the departments, according to an estimate of the state treasurer's office will amount to about \$18,000 each biennium.

State Treasurer Jensen is of the opinion that it is the duty of the auditor and the head of the department to initiate the move for making the assessment, and that the requirement that he "set aside ten percent" is merely for

the purpose of paying the warrant in favor of the general fund when it arrives.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Keb.

#391

Lincoln Star August 20, 1937

Cochran Urges Capitol Zoning Group Be Named

4.3 7/20/37

Joint State, City And Civic Commission To Work Out Problems

At a conference Friday with Ernest L. Smith and John G. Aldrich, Lincoln city councilmen, Governor Cochran suggested a revival of the committee which once existed to investigate street zoning in the vicinity of the state capitol.

Smith and Aldrich called on the governor to talk over the most recent zoning controversy that has arisen out of the action of the council in reclassifying the southwest corner of Thirteenth and J streets for business.

After leaving the governor's office and consulting with others, Mr. Aldrich called the governor by telephone and suggested that he name such a committee.

Suggests Group.

The governor suggested that such a committee should be composed of the mayor of Lincoln and city engineer, the state engineer, the member of the university board of regents for this district and the president of the Lincoln chamber of commerce.

"Such a committee could work out some definite plan not only for the control and improvement of the property directly facing the capitol grounds, but the streets leading to the capitol," the governor said, "in that connection I am thinking mainly of the proposed improvement of Fifteenth street to the University campus, and J street towards the Veterans hospital, the widening and improvement of which most of us have had in mind ever since construction started on the capitol building."

The governor did not comment on the present controversy over the Thirteenth and J street issue.

The committee which the governor proposes reviving is one created by an act of the 1927 legislature, and which, at that time had mainly as its objective the widening and improvement of Fifteenth street to the university campus.

The governor said that he does not feel that he has the authority under the old 1927 law to name such a committee, and any such selection would need be voluntary co-operation between the state, city and university, all working for the common cause of improving the capitol building surroundings.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Neb.

#392

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

MOVING DAY SOON AT THE STATE CAPITOL

LEAD 8/24/37

Board of Control to Descend From Tower to First Floor

—Other Changes.

When the state board of control, having charge of 17 state institutions, voluntarily moved from the second or main floor of the capitol to the eighth floor in the tower it had little contact with the public. Now that it has been made state assistance board for the entire state and also placed in charge of public welfare its new activities bring it directly in contact with the public and so Custodian Swanson, having charge of the capitol, has decided to move the board to the rooms now occupied by the state compensation court and to move the court to the tower floor occupied by the board.

Other changes are to be made, said Swanson, which will lessen the traffic on the two small passenger elevators which carry scores of passengers daily to the topmost part of the tower for a view of Lincoln and surrounding country. The board of control in its proposed quarters will be placed adjoining the child welfare division and the offices of Director Vandermoer who heads the assistance work of the board. Employees of the board now lose much time going from one floor to another in the tower. The board's drafting room on the fourth tower floor will be retained. Judge Coffee of the state compensation court, a court created a few years ago, comprising three judges, will take with him the fine rugs and furniture bought with the court's funds when it was created. The board of control has been using much of the old furniture in the tower.

Swanson has also decreed that the newly created state planning board, a body created to tell the regents and board of control what and how and when they ought to build new buildings, is to have three offices. It will have one office in the attic over the secretary of state's office, and will take the present offices of the game and park commission on the first floor and offices now occupied by A. E. Anderson, state and federal crop statistician, on the first floor, west side. Anderson will take the sixth floor in the tower, the game department going to the ninth tower floor.

R. W. Culwell's motor registration division and highway right of way offices will be moved from the tenth floor of the tower to the rooms on the first floor formerly occupied by a cafe.

The state and federal vocational department will move from the ninth to the tenth floor of the tower.

State Offices To Be Shifted

Demands For Room Are
Cause Of Wholesale
Moving Plans

A wholesale reassignment of office space in the state capitol is contemplated by Leo Swanson, capitol custodian, in order to take more than 200 state employes out of the capitol tower and thus relieve congestion in the two small elevators that serve the upper floors.

The principal object of the moving is to place the state planning board, and the highway planning board on the ground floor. They now occupy the fifth and fourth floors. The state planning board employs 65 persons, while the highway planning board has 85 persons on its payroll. Both departments are affiliated with the state highway department. Their total payroll is 150 employes.

Already arrangements have been made for housing the state auto drivers' license force on the first floor by taking over three rooms occupied by the capitol restaurant, leaving the restaurant one small room.

In order to get these 280 employes where they will not need

to use elevators, Swanson contemplates moving the game, forestation and park commission from the ground floor to the ninth floor; and A. E. Anderson, state-federal crop statistician to the sixth floor.

Another move contemplated is to move the office of the state board of control down to the ground floor in offices occupied by the workmen's compensation court, and move the court to the eighth floor of the tower.

A. E. Anderson, crop statistician, feels that the move is breaking faith with the promise made to him when the federal department in 1925 came to the capitol and when he was assured adequate office facilities.

"More people come to our department than ever go to see the planning board," Anderson said. "Our office is now directly across from the state department of agriculture with which we must work constantly and for that reason moving us to the sixth floor will be very illogical and inconvenient."

23645

Feb.

#393

Neb.

#394

TALK OF MUTINY IN THE STATE CAPITOL

L. F. J. 8/25/37

Departments Object to Being
Relegated to Offices
in Tower.

The game and park commission had advised Custodian Swanson of the capitol that "it is inadvisable" for the commission to move from its office rooms on the first floor of the building to the tower offices, as ordered by Swanson, for the reason that it is feared removal to the tower will cut the sale of permits of various kinds which the commission alone issues, that many packages, guns and pieces of motion picture equipment comes into the commission's rooms which would be difficult to handle on the tower elevator; that it would cost nearly \$1,000 to re-equip the offices in the tower, the present offices having been recently equipped and it "would not be fair to the taxpayers to spend another \$1,000. The commission also objects to sharing one of the tower floors where there are other organizations with as low as three or four people employed occupying entire floors.

Chief Game Warden Lytle, in the absence of Secy. O'Connell, said his own reasons for objecting to being relegated to the tower are:

"The commission feels that their work would be handicapped in many ways if they are moved to the ninth floor of the tower. No other department in the state house has as many people directly interested in it as the game, forestation and parks commission, and countless thousands of hunters, fishermen and outdoor enthusiasts visit these offices during the year for information and to buy permits."

Judge Coffey of the state compensation court whose department has been ordered to change places with the board of control and take an eighth floor in the tower instead of the present first floor rooms protested to Custodian Swanson, stating that if the desire is to relieve the tower ele-

vator of traffic the move would not be good because the compensation court has many callers, holds hearings and witnesses or claimants are often brought to the rooms on stretchers or wheel chairs and it would require the aid of several janitors to take them up in an elevator.

Swanson announced that the changes he ordered must take place regardless of objections.

336.45
Neb.
#395

CONSERVING SPACE IN THE STATE HOUSE

L. Swan St. 4/9/12/37
Custodian Swanson Charges
the Legislature Is
Wasting It.

State Land Commissioner Swanson blames the legislature for his order requiring the state game, forestation and parks commission to move from its first floor quarters to the tower by Oct. 1.

"The commission wouldn't have to move if the legislature had not assigned four large rooms to the legislative reference bureau and the new legislative council," Swanson said.

The capitol custodian pointed out that the reference bureau shifts its headquarters from the capitol to the university at the close of the legislative session and said the council, which will meet only periodically, could have used the lieutenant governor's office or perhaps the house lounge.

Says Trying to Save.

"I am trying to conserve space and the legislature is wasting it," Swanson asserted. "I want to make it clear that there is no thought in my mind of penalizing any department."

Chief Conservation Officer O'Connell has vigorously opposed Swanson's order. O'Connell said the matter will be taken up at the monthly meeting of the commission next Thursday.

"The main reason we do not want to move is that we sell a great number of hunting permits and fishing licenses and our business will be injured if we have to move to the ninth floor of the tower where the public will not be able to find us as readily," O'Connell explained.

"Leo has said that he wants to lighten the traffic on the two passenger elevators in the tower but we feel that it is better to inconvenience state employes rather than the public."

This reference was to Swanson's decision to move the 240 employes of the state planning board from the tower to the first and second floors to lessen elevator traffic and put the board nearer the state highway department.

Overflow in Attic.

He has assigned the planning board to space now occupied by the game commission, by A. E. Anderson's office of agricultural statistics with the overflow to be placed in an attic room above the governor's office.

Swanson estimated that planning board employes use the elevators on an average of ten trips a day.

The game commission said Swanson would not gain floor space by the change and declared that the commission would be forced to spend several thousand dollars establishing new quarters.

If the commission desires, Swanson probably will conduct a hearing before making the order effective. Swanson said he is not impressed by letters which friends of the game commission out in the state are writing him.

336.45

Neb.

#396

State Journal

Sept. 16, 1937

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

SWANSON CAN'T MOVE THE GAME COMMISSIONERS

9/16/37 E.S.J.

Attorney General So Rules—
Swanson Says They Will
Move Oct. 1.

War between Land Commissioner Leo Swanson, custodian of the capitol, and Secy. O'Connell of the state game and park commission, is imminent. Swanson has given notice that noncombatants must be evacuated from the danger zone by Oct. 1, and he has not changed his intention one particle just because Francis V. Robinson, assistant attorney general, has given O'Connell an opinion that the game commission does not have to move from its present quarters on the first floor to the ninth floor of the capitol tower.

"The opinion is rot," said Swanson, "it's worse than that, it is putrid. The commission will move Oct. 1 unless I am prevented from moving it by an order of court."

Swanson was recently made a deputy state sheriff. He has at his command a large force of state house janitors. O'Connell and the game commission has at its back a strong force of deputy game wardens who may be called in for special duty on "moving day."

"The commission will cross the bridge when it comes to it," said O'Connell when informed that Oct. 1 is moving day. "The commission will be in session Thursday and may have a statement to make Friday."

The imminent trouble was caused by Swanson's recent orders to switch several departments in the capitol to better conserve space for new activities created by the legislature. The attorney-general's opinion is that Swanson has received no authority from the legislature to reassign rooms in the capitol, but that his duties are still, by the act of the last legislature, limited to that of a "mere caretaker or custodian."

The original state game warden was merged with the agricultural and game department, but in 1929 the legislature created a state game and park commission and provided that "all meetings shall be held in suitable offices to be provided in the capitol." The game commission was provided with its present quarters by the capitol commission. The attorney-general holds that the capitol commission was agent of the legislature up to July 24, 1929, when the legislature created the office of custodian of the building, naming the state land commissioner as such official, but giving him no specific power to reassign rooms.

Swanson said he intends to move the board of control to the first floor and place the state compensation court in the tower, and in making this change desires the north room now used by Director Sheldon of the state historical society, to be used by the board of control. A. E. Anderson, state and federal crop reporter, is also ordered to move from the first floor to the tower.

336.45

State Journal

Sept. 25, 1937

#398

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

TEST SWANSON AUTHORITY

ESI 9/25/37

Game Commission to Enjoin
Custodian of Capitol.

State Land Commissioner Swanson has modified his demand that the state game and park commission give up its office rooms on the first floor of the capitol and remove to the ninth floor in the tower; to a request for vacation of one office room on the south of the commission's present quarters. The demand was turned over by Sec'y O'Connell to the attorney general, and Assistant Attorney General Robinson said a suit for a writ of injunction to prevent Swanson's interference with the game commission would be filed during the coming week before Oct. 1, time limit for removal from one room fixed by Swanson. The room in question is desired for use of the state planning board.

"We must find more space and it is necessary that the commission give up one of its rooms," Swanson said. "If it doesn't we will send janitors in to move out the furniture in one of the rooms on Oct. 1."

Swanson's announcement brought a prompt reply from Sec'y O'Connell of the commission, whose refusal to move was upheld by an opinion from the attorney general.

"It is absolutely impossible for us to function with less space," he said. "We'll do well to get along with what we have, as we must make room for engineers and draftsmen because of the \$75,000 in federal aid that will be coming in for wildlife conservation. If Swanson is going to continue to harass us, we may have to rent some office space downtown until the legislature meets and decides what rooms we may have in the capitol."

336.45
Ne b.
#399

STATE DEPARTMENTS TO PAY CAPITOL RENT

SJ 11/23

State Treasurer Starts Col- lection of Estimated \$18,000 Due.

State Treasurer Jensen, acting under the Brady bill passed by the last legislature, to collect 10 percent of the receipts of certain state examining boards and commissions and transfer the amount to the state general fund, has notified the boards and bureaus enumerated in the bill that he will make the transfer of the money for the period beginning July 1, 1937, to Dec. 31, 1937. Legislators had estimated the total would be at least \$18,000 for 2 years, but this is a matter of speculation and will not be known until the transfer of funds is made.

So far as known none of the boards or commissions specifically named are ready to contest the validity of the bill as being in conflict with laws not amended by the bill which provide that all fees shall be spent by the departments collecting them. In some cases, such as the state barber board, the taking of 10 percent of fees and placing it in the general fund, will leave the board of examiners short of funds to pay their own statutory salaries and expenses.

The bill purports to appropriate the 10 percent to the general fund, but owing to the vague language in the bill the attorney general, in an opinion given State Auditor Price, holds that the appropriation of the 10 percent applies only to bureaus and boards specifically named in the bill and not to "any other board, bureau, division, fund or commission not mentioned above, now existing or hereafter created."

The activities mentioned in the bill by name to which the collection is to be made by the state treasurer are state board of examiners in medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, embalming, including funeral directors and undertakers, chiropody, veterinary medicine, cosmetologist examiners, barber examiners, athletic division under the governor, bureau of education and registration of nurses, state real estate commissioner, stock brand fund of the secretary of state, state board of professional engineers and architects. The state game commission, state bar commission, the department of agriculture and other "code" departments are among those not yet subject to the tax according to the attorney general's opinion.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Neb,

#400

State Journal Dec. 2, 1937

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

MAY TEST BRADY'S BILL

Validity Questioned But Officials Take No Action.

There is talk at the capitol of a suit in court to test the validity of the Brady act of the last legislature which attempts to appropriate 10 percent of fees of examining boards and certain departments, the 10 percent to go into the general fund for payment of current expenses of the state government, a sort of rental charge to imposed upon the boards for occupying office room in the capitol. Thus far the governor, secretary of state and the state superintendent who are heads of the departments specifically named have made no move to test the act. Its validity is questioned on the ground that the bill authorizes the state treasurer to set aside the 10 percent only "if and when the 10 percent is appropriated" by the legislature for general fund purposes, and that in fact the bill does not appropriate the 10 percent. The title seeks to do so but the body of the act appropriates nothing, is the allegation. The attorney general has held that it "was the intent" of the legislature to appropriate the 10 percent.

The Brady bill is also alleged to be void, even if it does appropriate the 10 percent to the general fund, in that it became a law May 7, whereas the general appropriation bill, which became a law later, on May 21, appropriates in most instances the entire amount of fees collected by the boards in question to the use of the boards, and being a later law its provisions would govern. The fees which the Brady act attempts to appropriate by its 10 percent provision are estimated by state officials at \$18,000 for two years.

336.45

Neb.

#401

State Journal Dec. 18, 1937

ZONING OF CAPITOL SHOULD BE LIBERAL

58 15/18

Five Property Owners So Suggest to State Planning Board.

A letter written by W. E. Sharp, John M. Alexander, H. V. Martin, H. L. Babcock and Bennett S. Martin, owner of property near the capitol, addressed to W. H. Mengel, engineer for the state planning board and to a subcommittee of the state board, suggests the opinion that restricting zoning except for apartment houses and residences would not accomplish beautification results but would have the opposite effect. They suggest that any zoning in the proposed restricted area should be "most liberal, that it may permit a great many possible uses for this property."

State Engineer Tilley, chairman of the state planning board, a body that is to make further recommendations to the city council of Lincoln concerning zoning, said if the writers of the letter desired a hearing before the state board or its subcommittee, he would favor it.

The letter says:

"We, the following property owners, within the zone tentatively agreed upon as being an area to be restricted and regulated, that it may reflect favorably in a program of capitol beautification, wish to express ourselves in regard to the possibilities of such zoning arrangement. It is our understanding that the interested property holders have not had an opportunity to present their views, or defend themselves against anything that might be considered by them inequitable to their property. We are only speculating on what may come from this board as a recommendation in the matter of zoning.

"It is our definite opinion that any zoning within the contemplated area should be most liberal, that it may reflect a great many possible uses for this property. We are basing our hypothesis upon the fact that this property is being considered for restriction, except for apartment and residential uses.

"It is our opinion that at this time the saturation point has been reached in apartment construction and that new residential construction is invariably seeking a newer outside location, where the property is nearly all new and is not reflected upon by aged buildings, and there will be nothing left for this property to look forward to for a great many years to come, should it face narrow zoning restrictions that would blot out any speculative or anticipated values. It would be a fact, except for maintenance where the owner occupied the property as a residence, that there would be nothing added for improvements; maintenance expense small, the property would gradually become more uncouth, taxation would more than consume revenues, and the possibility of reaching the desired goal would be foiled.

"This is a matter that should be considered equitably and the temperamental aspect of a general beautification program should be reasonably mellowed by consideration for the property owner's position. We wish to emphasize definitely that it would be a fallacy to restrict this area as to only one or two possibilities, for it would operate oppositely in accomplishing beautification results.

"We do not shirk the responsibility toward a general beautification program for our most beautiful capitol building, but we do not believe that any program of rigid restrictions would definitely accomplish the desired effect. Before any definite recommendations are made that might be very hard to later disturb, we would very much prefer having an opportunity to defend our position, and we speak not only for ourselves but for any other property owners within this contemplated zoned area, who may wish to voice his opinion."

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Neb.

#420

Lincoln Star Jan 18, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**Revamping Office Space
At Capitol Building Is
Again Being Discussed**

Withdrawal of the suit brought by the state game, forestation and parks commission to enjoin Leo Swanson, capitol custodian, from moving the offices of the commission from the first floor of the capitol into rooms in the tower, has revived the question of several other moves about the capitol.

Swanson said Tuesday that his previous order directing the compensation court to move into the tower where the board of control is located and the board of control into the ground floor offices occupied by the compensation court may be delayed. He is waiting until the game commission gets located, after some partitions are placed in their tower headquarters, and the draughtsmen from the planning board are moved down stairs, before determining other moves.

Governor Cochran stated Tuesday that he believes the legislature at its next session should make a survey of the building to bring about a more equitable distribution of the space.

336,45

Neb,

#403

State Journal Jan. 20, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

It has been charged that some departments in the state capitol have more space than needed and others are crowded to the point of making efficiency of effort impossible. The governor suggests that the legislature should authorize a careful survey of the situation and put an end to the constant bickering over quarters. He holds that it would be possible to make a more equitable allotment of space. He holds that there is sufficient space in the building if it is properly used. He also points out that some departments using the building come "very close to being federal agencies" SV 1/20/38

336.45

Neb.

#404

Lincoln Star Jan. 26, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Legislative Council 1/30/38
Latest To Refuse To
IS Give Up Its Offices

Moving plans which have stirred several offices at the capitol recently met delay Wednesday when the legislative council refused to give up four rooms assigned to it by the last legislature.

Senator Amos Thomas of Omaha, council chairman, said the council is willing to forego only two rooms, as provided in a resolution adopted at the last council meeting. Under State Land Commissioner Leo N. Swanson's plans, however, the unemployment compensation court would take over all four rooms after vacating its present first floor quarters for the board of control, which now is on the eighth floor of the tower.

The commissioner's plans also called for the transfer of the legislative council to the eighth floor. Tom Riggs, assistant custodian of the capitol, said the matter would be held in abeyance until the return about Feb. 3 of Swanson, who is in Western Nebraska conducting delinquent school land lease sales.

CAPITOL ZONING PLANS PURCHASE TWELVE BLOCKS

Calls for Widening 15th and J Streets by City and State

The motion before the planning board, for adoption of the subcommittee's report, was withdrawn as the afternoon session opened, and the committee instructed to confer again with the city administration.

A decade or more has elapsed since the legislature and the city of Lincoln began negotiating for improvement of the setting for the capitol, a world wide piece of architecture, with little result. The state planning committee has now started upon a second long range phase of the work. At a meeting of the board at the capitol Tuesday the environs committee of the state board submitted a report as the result of a request by the city council of Lincoln for recommendations from the state body. The committee would have the state acquire one block deep each way from the capitol, the two block deep purchase being abandoned.

Carl H. Swanson of Culbertson, chairman of the state board's environs committee, submitted his report.

The report under consideration recommends the purchase by the state of twelve blocks of ground adjacent to the capitol to be parked and landscaped. As to zoning it recommends the widening of 15th street and J streets the location of the governor's mansion to be between A and Washington and 14th and 16th street, and that the area between 12th and 14th sts. and F and M sts. be zoned to exclude commercial and other uses not in harmony with the architectural scheme of the capitol. The city is to share some of the expenses contemplated, the report says.

Committee Recommends.

Chairman Swanson's committee made the following recommendations:

1. That the state of Nebraska acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the 12 blocks immediately adjacent to the present capitol grounds and that the area so acquired be cleared and landscaped to provide a proper setting for the capitol as funds become available and the condition of structures within the area make it advisable.

2. That the state of Nebraska acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the property lying between A street and Washington street and 14th and 16th streets, as the future site of the governor's mansion and that the present zoning limitation be continued for the territory lying between 14th street and 16th street and A street and F street.

3. That the area surrounding the capitol grounds and lying between 12th and 16th and F and M streets, be zoned to exclude all commercial and other uses not in harmony with the architectural scheme of the capitol and be zoned to provide a maximum height limitation of 50 feet for all structures.

4. That the city of Lincoln acquire the necessary rights-of-way and widen 15th street to a width of 150 feet, from the capitol grounds north to the University of Nebraska campus at R street, and that the area between 14th and 16th streets lying on each side thereof, be zoned to restrict all buildings to a height of 50 feet and to require all construction to conform to a general plan in architectural design.

5. That the city of Lincoln acquire the necessary rights-of-way and widen J street to a width of 120 feet from the capitol grounds to the Veterans hospital and that present zoning limitations be maintained for all territory lying within one block of said J street.

6. That the area lying between H and K streets from the capitol grounds to 11th street be zoned to exclude commercial construction, to impose restrictions as to type of architecture as heretofore recommended and to limit the height of buildings to 50 feet.

7. That, in co-operation with the city of Lincoln, and subject to the opinion of the attorney general as to the validity of the same, restrictions be imposed by legislative enactment upon the construction of buildings within the capitol area outlined in recommendations numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, said restrictions to govern use, height and architecture of buildings; that such legislation provide for a commission to pass upon all proposed construction; and further that the authorities of the city of Lincoln review the entire zoning ordinance with the aforementioned recommendations in mind to determine whether any readjustment of the zoning ordinance is necessary, other than the changes recommended, in order to maintain a sound, comprehensive zoning plan for the general territory effected by the recommendations.

for the general territory effected by the recommendations.

8. That any acquisition of property by the state be conditioned upon the city of Lincoln assuming the responsibility of carrying out the north 15th street and east J street developments.

9. That, in any future recommendations of the state planning board building levies, some percentage be allocated for acquiring property in the capitol environs, as economic conditions permit, bearing in mind the fact that the program proposed is designed for long range execution and can and should be carried out without, at any time, imposing an undue burden upon the taxpayers of the state or the city of Lincoln.

Cost of Property.

While the committee does not estimate the real value of the property to be acquired nor go into the matter of legislative appropriations, it investigated and reported that the total assessed value of property situated within one block of the capitol was \$1,418,350 and that of the second block zone to be \$2,806,625. Whether or not the assessed value is high or low the committee does not express an opinion but the chairman said some property owners are willing to sell for even less than assessed value. The committee deducts tax exempt

property amounting to \$210,000 in the first block around the capitol. The exempt property within the two block zone is estimated at \$285,000. Assessed value of property adjacent to 15th street from M to R is listed as \$440,000.

Assessed value of property on J street is listed at \$204,000. With the two block purchase, which is not recommended, the assessed value of property to be taken is listed at \$4,869,466. The committee believes property involved is assessed from 50 to 75 percent of the actual value. Mayor Copeland, said the committee, assured the committee of co-operation by the city and that the city expects to bear the cost of improving approaches to the capitol grounds, having already acquired some property on 15th street with that thought in mind.

The state planning board approved the publication of a study of Nebraska's population made mostly by PWA funds and labor, the publication to be in mimeographic form.

Col. Frank D. Eager on behalf of the Spanish War Veterans, asked that a site for this organization's proposed monument be granted somewhere within the proposed landscaped space about the north side of the capitol. He said the organization would try to bear all expense of the monument itself.

The board decided to undertake a study of the possibility of eradicating Bang's disease among Nebraska's cattle. Arthur Melville, board member from Broken Bow, said the disease is being transmitted thru cow's milk to humans.

State Engineer Tilley appointed Melville as chairman of the committee and S. R. McKelvie of Lincoln, Dr. F. E. Ziegenbein of Nebraska City, Edgar Howard of Columbus, and Gates Lilley of Papillion as the other members.

The board intended to delve into the institutional buildings study at the afternoon session. The 1937 legislature authorized a survey of building needs at all institutions under the board of control, normal board and the University of Nebraska.

The attorney general said the legislature could legally pass a zoning act without encroaching upon the home rule charter of the city of Lincoln.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

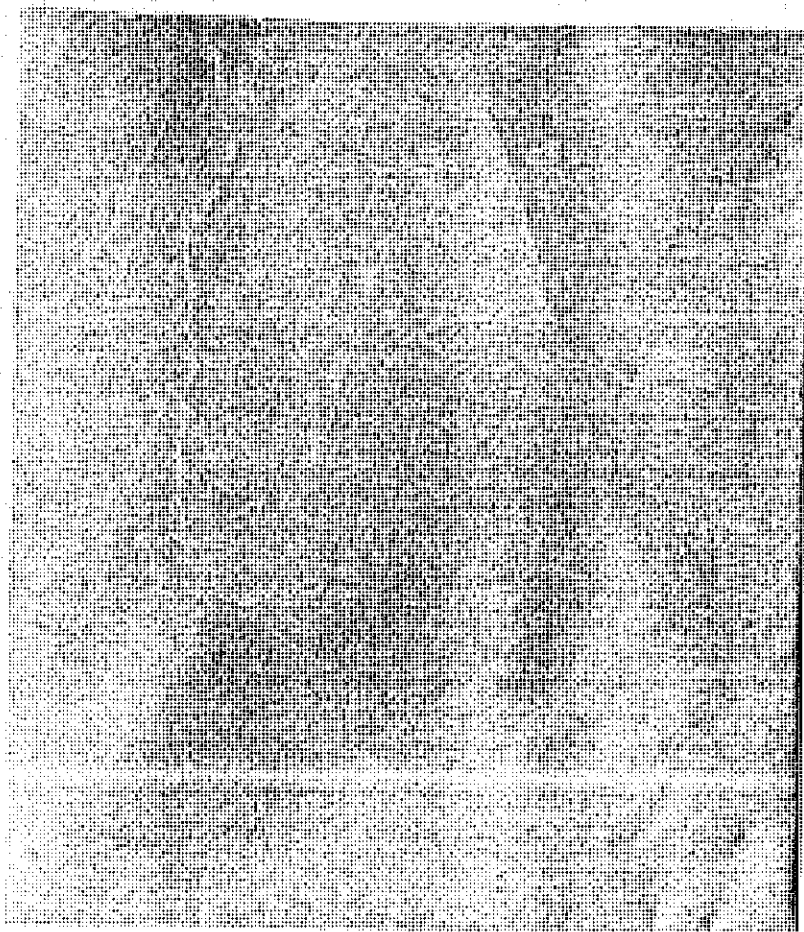
336.45

Neb.

#406

Lincoln Star Jan. 28, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



Capitol Zoning Report Is

15 1/28/38

Long Range Plan Urges Clearance Nearby Environs

Big Land Buying Program And Commercial Ban In Area Is Suggested

A sweeping plan which would provide a broad landscaped setting for the state capitol was proposed by a committee of the state planning board Friday.

The long range program suggests state purchase of twelve blocks immediately adjacent to the capitol, purchase of property between A and Washington and Fourteenth and Sixteenth street for a governor's mansion, and restriction of all avenues leading to the capitol to commercial structures.

The program also suggests widening Fifteenth street from the capitol to R street.

The committee reported the twelve blocks which the state would purchase are worth roughly about \$1,418,350. No estimate was made on the property in south Lincoln which would be the site for the governor's mansion. The committee said the present assessed valuation on the property adjacent to the capitol is "50 to 75 per cent of actual value."

The committee explained the valuation was arrived at after a number of persons owning property in the vicinity of the capitol had appeared before the board. Among them were H. V. Martin, Bennett S. Martin and H. L. Babcock all of whom declared the area is not suitable for residence purpose and that the assessments are now too high.

The subcommittee named last November to make a study of the zoning problem suggests that a regular allowance be made by subsequent legislature which would be used to start the land purchase program. Such a proposal, the committee stated, would spread the cost over a long period of time and not impose an undue burden on the taxpayer.

Recommendations.

The complete list of recommendations:

- 1—That the State of Nebraska acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the twelve blocks immediately adjacent to the present capitol grounds and that the area so acquired be cleared and landscaped to provide a proper setting for the capitol as funds become available and

Legal Snarl Foreseen In State Regulation Of City Zoning

ACCEPTANCE DEFINED.

The state planning board late Friday afternoon agreed to file the proposed plan for capitol zoning, but its definite acceptance as part of a proposal to submit to the legislature was deferred pending "further study and revision." Most members of the board, and its sub-committee, agreed some of the recommendations were "too far reaching" but that the purpose was worth keeping alive.

Legal and economic questions involving the proposed capitol zoning program suggested by a committee of Lincoln and out state citizens were being considered Friday by the state planning board.

Robert Devoe, university regent and member of the sub-committee, said state regulation of zoning in Lincoln may not be approved by the courts. He said a similar venture at Madison, Wis. was declared unconstitutional.

Hunter Upholds Authority.

Another opinion expressed by Attorney General Richard Hunter held that the zoning plan was within the authority of the legislature. He ruled that since the capitol belongs "to the entire state" that the legislature acting "in behalf of the entire state is not precluded by the home rule charter of the city of Lincoln from taking such steps as the legislature thinks necessary to protect the capitol building and grounds from the effect of uncontrolled building activity in nearby areas."

City Engineer D. L. Erickson, also a member of the sub-committee, said the recommendations of the report may be "too far reaching" and "so far as the city is concerned raises serious ques-

Legal Snarl Foreseen In Capitol Zoning

(Continued from Page One)

tions both economic and legal as to how far we can go."

The planning board and its committee, at the suggestion of Devoe, decided to go further into the matter of the legality of state regulation of zoning during the afternoon session. Devoe had previously pointed out that Hunter's opinion does not touch upon issues which were raised in the Wisconsin case.

Merely Recommendation.

A. C. Tilley, state engineer and chairman of the planning board, said the zoning plan is "only a recommendation to the legislature" and does not suggest that "it must enact the plan."

Carl Swanson of Culbertson, chairman of the sub-committee urged some plan be proposed to the legislature "to assist the city in its zoning problems."

Other members of the group also pointed out that the proposal may "take the pressure off the city council brought by demands for business zoning near the capitol grounds."

All members of the state planning board were on hand except Gwyer Yates of Omaha. Those present were: A. C. Tilley, state engineer; W. H. Smith, state tax commissioner; Gates Lilley, Ft. Crook; S. R. McKelvie, Lincoln; J. G. Mothersead, Scottsbluff; Edgar Howard, Columbus; Dr. F. E. Ziegenbein, Nebraska City; Carl Swanson, Culbertson; Henry Smith, Hastings; Arthur Melville, Broken Bow; Walter O'Connor, North Platte, and Gene Huse, Norfolk. Swanson, Melville, Mothersead, Yates and McKelvie are the members of the sub-committee.

To Study Bang's Disease.

Urged by board member Arthur Melville of Broken Bow, the board selected a committee of five to make a study of Bang's disease among cattle. Melville told the board that the constant spread of the disease and its transmission to humans through the use of milk, known in human sickness as undulant fever, makes a study of it second to tuberculosis in importance. Melville is still fighting the affects of undulant fever contracted over a year ago. Chairman Tilley named Melville, S. R. McKelvie, Edgar Howard, Dr. F. E. Ziegenbein and Gates Lilley as members of the special committee.

O. W. Meier, Frank Eager, Judge P. J. Cosgrave, Stanley Maly and E. E. Carle, making up a committee of Spanish-American war veterans called upon the planning board and asked it to take into consideration in making its plans a proposed monument for veterans of the Spanish war.

City Zoning Report Is Made

City Plan Clearance by Environs

Legal Snarl Foreseen In State Regulation Of City Zoning

ACCEPTANCE DEFINED.

The state planning board late Friday afternoon agreed to file the proposed plan for capitol zoning, but its definite acceptance as part of a proposal to submit to the legislature was deferred pending "further study and revision." Most members of the board, and its sub-committee, agreed some of the recommendations were "too far reaching" but that the purpose was worth keeping alive.

Legal and economic questions involving the proposed capitol zoning program suggested by a committee of Lincoln and out state citizens were being considered Friday by the state planning board.

Robert Devoe, university regent and member of the sub-committee, said state regulation of zoning in Lincoln may not be approved by the courts. He said a similar venture at Madison, Wis. was declared unconstitutional.

Hunter Upholds Authority.

Another opinion expressed by Attorney General Richard Hunter held that the zoning plan was within the authority of the legislature. He ruled that since the capitol belongs "to the entire state" that the legislature acting "in behalf of the entire state is not precluded by the home rule charter of the city of Lincoln from taking such steps as the legislature thinks necessary to protect the capitol building and grounds from the effect of uncontrolled building activity in nearby areas."

City Engineer D. L. Erickson, also a member of the sub-committee, said the recommendations of the report may be "too far reaching" and "so far as the city is concerned raises serious ques-

Big Land Buying Program Suggested

(Continued From Page One.)

a maximum height limitation of fifty feet for all structures.

15th Street Widening.

4—That the City of Lincoln acquire the necessary rights-of-way and widen Fifteenth street to a width of 150 feet, from the capitol grounds north to the University of Nebraska campus at R street, and that the area between Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets lying on each side thereof, be zoned to restrict all buildings to a height of 50 feet and to require all construction to conform to a general plan in architectural design.

5—That the City of Lincoln acquire the necessary rights-of-way and widen J street to a width of 120 feet from the capitol grounds to the Veterans' hospital and that present zoning limitations be maintained for all territory lying within one block of said J street.

6—That the area lying between H and K streets from the capitol grounds to Eleventh street be zoned to exclude commercial construction, to impose restrictions as to type of architecture as hereinbefore recommended and to limit the height of buildings to 50 feet.

Restrictions.

7—That, in co-operation with the City of Lincoln, and subject to the opinion of the attorney general as to the validity of the same, restrictions be imposed by legislative enactment upon the construction of buildings within the capitol area outlined in recommendations numbered 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6; said restrictions to govern use, height and architecture of buildings; that such legislation provide for a commission to pass upon all proposed construction; and further that the authorities of the city of Lincoln review the entire zoning ordinance with the aforementioned recommendations in mind to determine whether any readjustment of the zoning ordinance is necessary, other than the changes recommended, in order to maintain a sound, comprehensive zoning plan for the general territory affected by the recommendations.

8—That any acquisition of property by the state be conditioned upon the City of Lincoln assuming the responsibility of carrying out the north Fifteenth street and east J street developments.

The program also opening Fifteenth street from the capitol to R street.

The committee reported the twelve blocks which the state would purchase are worth roughly about \$1,418,350. No estimate was made on the property in south Lincoln which would be the site for the governor's mansion. The committee said the present assessed valuation on the property adjacent to the capitol is "50 to 75 per cent of actual value."

The committee explained the valuation was arrived at after a number of persons owning property in the vicinity of the capitol had appeared before the board. Among them were H. V. Martin, Bennett S. Martin and H. L. Babcock all of whom declared the area is not suitable for residence purpose and that the assessments are now too high.

The subcommittee named last November to make a study of the zoning problem suggests that a regular allowance be made by subsequent legislature which would be used to start the land purchase program. Such a proposal, the committee stated, would spread the cost over a long period of time and not impose an undue burden on the taxpayer.

Recommendations.

The complete list of recommendations:

- 1—That the State of Nebraska acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the twelve blocks immediately adjacent to the present capitol grounds and that the area so acquired be cleared and landscaped to provide a proper setting for the capitol as funds become available and the condition of structures within the area make it advisable.
- 2—That the State of Nebraska acquire, by purchase or condemnation, the property lying between A street and Washington street, and Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets, as the future site of the governor's mansion and that the present zoning limitation be continued for the territory lying between Fourteenth street and Sixteenth street and A street and F street.
- 3—That the area surrounding the capitol grounds and lying between Twelfth and Eighteenth and F and M streets, be zoned to exclude all commercial and other uses not in harmony with the architectural scheme of the capitol and be zoned to provide

tions involving the proposed capitol zoning program suggested by a committee of Lincoln and out state citizens were being considered Friday by the state planning board.

Robert Devoe, university regent and member of the sub-committee, said state regulation of zoning in Lincoln may not be approved by the courts. He said a similar venture at Madison, Wis. was declared unconstitutional.

Hunter Upholds Authority.

Another opinion expressed by Attorney General Richard Hunter held that the zoning plan was within the authority of the legislature. He ruled that since the capitol belongs "to the entire state" that the legislature acting "in behalf of the entire state is not precluded by the home rule charter of the city of Lincoln from taking such steps as the legislature thinks necessary to protect the capitol building and grounds from the effect of uncontrolled building activity in nearby areas."

City Engineer D. L. Erickson, also a member of the sub-committee, said the recommendations of the report may be "too far reaching" and "so far as the city is concerned raises serious ques-

2—That the City of Lincoln acquire the necessary rights-of-way and widen Fifteenth street to a width of 150 feet, from the capitol grounds north to the University of Nebraska campus at R street, and that the area between Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets lying on each side thereof, be zoned to restrict all buildings to a height of 50 feet and to require all construction to conform to a general plan in architectural design.

5—That the City of Lincoln acquire the necessary rights-of-way and widen J street to a width of 120 feet from the capitol grounds to the Veterans' hospital and that present zoning limitations be maintained for all territory lying within one block of said J street.

6—That the area lying between H and K streets from the capitol grounds to Eleventh street be zoned to exclude commercial construction, to impose restrictions as to type of architecture as hereinbefore recommended and to limit the height of buildings to 50 feet.

Restrictions.

7—That, in co-operation with the City of Lincoln, and subject to the opinion of the attorney general as to the validity of the same, restrictions be imposed by legislative enactment upon the construction of buildings within the capitol area outlined in recommendations numbered 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, said restrictions to govern use, height and architecture of buildings; that such legislation provide for a commission to pass upon all proposed construction; and further that the authorities of the city of Lincoln review the entire zoning ordinance with the aforementioned recommendations in mind to determine whether any readjustment of the zoning ordinance is necessary, other than the changes recommended, in order to maintain a sound, comprehensive zoning plan for the general territory affected by the recommendations.

8—That any acquisition of property by the state be conditioned upon the City of Lincoln assuming the responsibility of carrying out the north Fifteenth street and east J street developments.

9—That, in any future recommendations of the State Planning Board building levies, some percentage be allocated for acquiring property in the capitol environs, as economic conditions permit, bearing in mind the fact that the program proposed is designed for long range execution and can and should be carried out without, at any time, imposing an undue burden upon the taxpayers of the state or of the city of Lincoln."

Neb.

CAPITOL ZONING IS LAID OVER FOR FURTHER STUDY

SJ 1/29/38
City Committee Asks for
Time to Study State
Board's Report.

The state planning board, at the request of Robert Devoe, member of the city environs committee, deferred action toward adoption of the state board's proposed long time zoning plan for the capitol and grounds. The report was "accepted" to give further time for the city committee and the state board's committee to study the recommendations. The board adjourned subject to the call of State Engineer Tilley, chairman.

The city and the state board's committee spent an hour in conference regarding adoption or changing the board's committee recommendations. Both sides considered the matter as not needing immediate action short of some weeks to months study, in consideration of the fact that the report cannot go before the legislature in less than 12 months, or at the regular session in January, 1939.

Devoe said the city committee had not had time to study the recommendations. He feared it may call for some action which may possibly not be legal. It was understood the two committees in conference heard expressions from the city committee as to the legality of the zoning proposed.

"The legislature has the right to condemn and take property for the state and the city has power to zone," reminded Devoe in the board meeting. So action was deferred by the board, it being shown that changes should not be attempted in the report with two members of the board's environs committee having been called away after the forenoon meeting.

City in Doubt.

The city committee is said to have been in doubt as to the legality of zoning property against business from such a wide territory as between 12th and M sts., and F to M sts. This would include the Cornhusker hotel and the bus station nearby. The city committee pointed out that if any of the present business houses should burn down or need repair nothing could be done about it. They must remain without repairs or rebuilding.

Devoe said that with further study perhaps the city committee would not ask for any change in the report. The board's committee had also recommended that the area between H and K sts. from the capitol grounds to 11th st. should be zoned to exclude commercial construction.

The report recommended the state purchase one row of city blocks around the capitol, 12 blocks in all, whose assessed valuation was \$1,418,350. While not recommending purchase of a row of two blocks deep the committee reported that if this were done and the city acquired right of way for widening J st. to the Veterans hospital and 15th st. from the capitol to the university the assessed value of property to be taken would be \$4,869,466. It was

the view of the committee that all these things be done some time in the future as economic conditions permit without imposing undue burdens upon the taxpayers of the state or of the city of Lincoln, all being conditioned on the city assuming the responsibility of carrying out the 15th and J sts. development.

State Buildings.

Chairman Tilley said the planning board's staff had gone about as far as possible without the aid of the board. He proposed four new committees to supervise the staff in planning building needs for three state activities. The result was the adoption of motions and the appointment of the following committees:

Committee on Building Needs of Institutions Under Board of Regents.

J. G. Motherhead, Scottsbluff, chairman; Walter O'Connor of North Platte, L. B. Stiner of Hastings, William H. Smith of Seward, state tax commissioner; Edgar Howard of Columbus.

Normal State Normal Board.

Gene Huse, of Norfolk, chairman; Gwyer Yates of Omaha, J. L. Cleary of Grand Island, Carl Swanson of Culbertson, Dr. F. E. Ziegenbein of Nebraska City, Board of Control (Penal and Charitable), Arthur Melville of Broken Bow, S. R. McKelvie of Lincoln, William H. Smith, state tax commissioner; Gates Lilley of Papillion, Edgar Howard of Columbus.

Policy Committee and Coordinating Committee.

A. C. Tilley, state engineer, chairman; J. G. Motherhead of Scottsbluff, Gene Huse of Norfolk, Arthur Melville of Broken Bow, Carl Swanson of Culbertson.

Three of the committees are to pass upon construction of state buildings under a classification of buildings whose erection is considered imperative, those deemed necessary but not so pressing as those in the first class and buildings that are deemed merely desirable as adding to the usefulness of existing institutions.

The co-ordinating committee is to receive reports from the other committees and co-ordinate the planning. Its members are the same as a former committee on "policy."

Dr. Ziegenbein of Nebraska City was substituted for Arthur Melville of Broken Bow at the latter's request to serve as chairman of a committee on a study of the Bangs disease in cattle.

Chairman Tilley was authorized to choose staff members or other experts to represent Nebraska at a meeting of the National Resources committee to be held in Omaha, Feb. 11 and 12, at which time water resources, land use and transportation may be discussed by the public and representatives of the states of Nebraska, Kansas, North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Neb. #408

State Journal Feb. 2, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

SWANSON IS READY WITH MOVING PLANS

ST 2/2/38

Capitol Custodian Directs Changes in Occupancy of Rooms.

Back from a long trip in western Nebraska on business connected with school land leases, Land Commissioner Swanson, who also doubles as capitol custodian, started in motion his plans for redistribution of office quarters in the statehouse. He has been compelled to revise his program for shifting about of offices as a result of the legislative council's refusal to give up more than two of its four rooms on the ground floor.

The commissioner's present schedule calls for the transfer of:

The state board of control from the eighth floor of the tower to the state assistance department's quarters on the first floor.

The state assistance department to the space now occupied by the Nebraska compensation court and the child welfare bureau and two of the legislative council's rooms, all on first floor.

The compensation court to the eighth floor.

The child welfare bureau from the northwest corner of the first floor to the southwest corner, using part of the agriculture department's present quarters.

Originally, Swanson intended to move the board of control into the compensation courtrooms and shift the latter agency into the entire space occupied by the legislative council. The plans, however, were halted by the council's protest.

The commissioner said considerable construction work, mostly partitions, would be necessary to move the board of control into the assistance quarters. The board, he said, has agreed to bear the cost.

336.45

Neb.

#409

World Herald Feb. 8, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Objects to Capitol Beautification

Lincoln, Neb.: In your January 28 edition there appeared an item, "Draft Capitol Beauty Plan." As one citizen of the state of Nebraska and a taxpayer, I must admit that it disgusts me to read such an item.

"State urged to buy nearby property valued at a total of \$4,229,975!" This committee should investigate all records before speaking so freely of squandering money of the overtaxed people. It is true, we need space but this space is needed for offices, and I do not believe that such money should be spent in these trying times for beautification. Especially, not for the beautification of the city of Lincoln at the expense of the taxpayers of the entire state.

I recall that at one time the chairman of this committee loudly objected when a school land lease in which he was interested was raised from a pasture rental to agricultural rental.

Let the patriots of Lincoln, if that is what they call themselves, float a bond issue and beautify their own city. There should be enough civic pride in the vicinity of the state house to make these changes without such a great expense to the taxpayers.

W H 2/2/38
N. SWANSON.

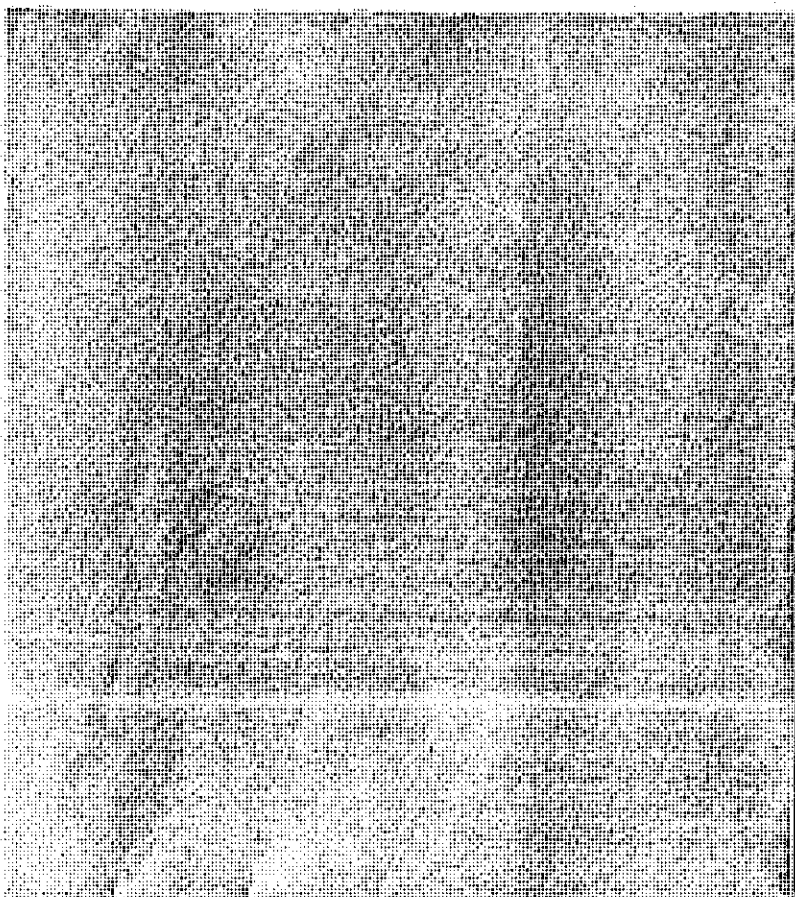
336.45

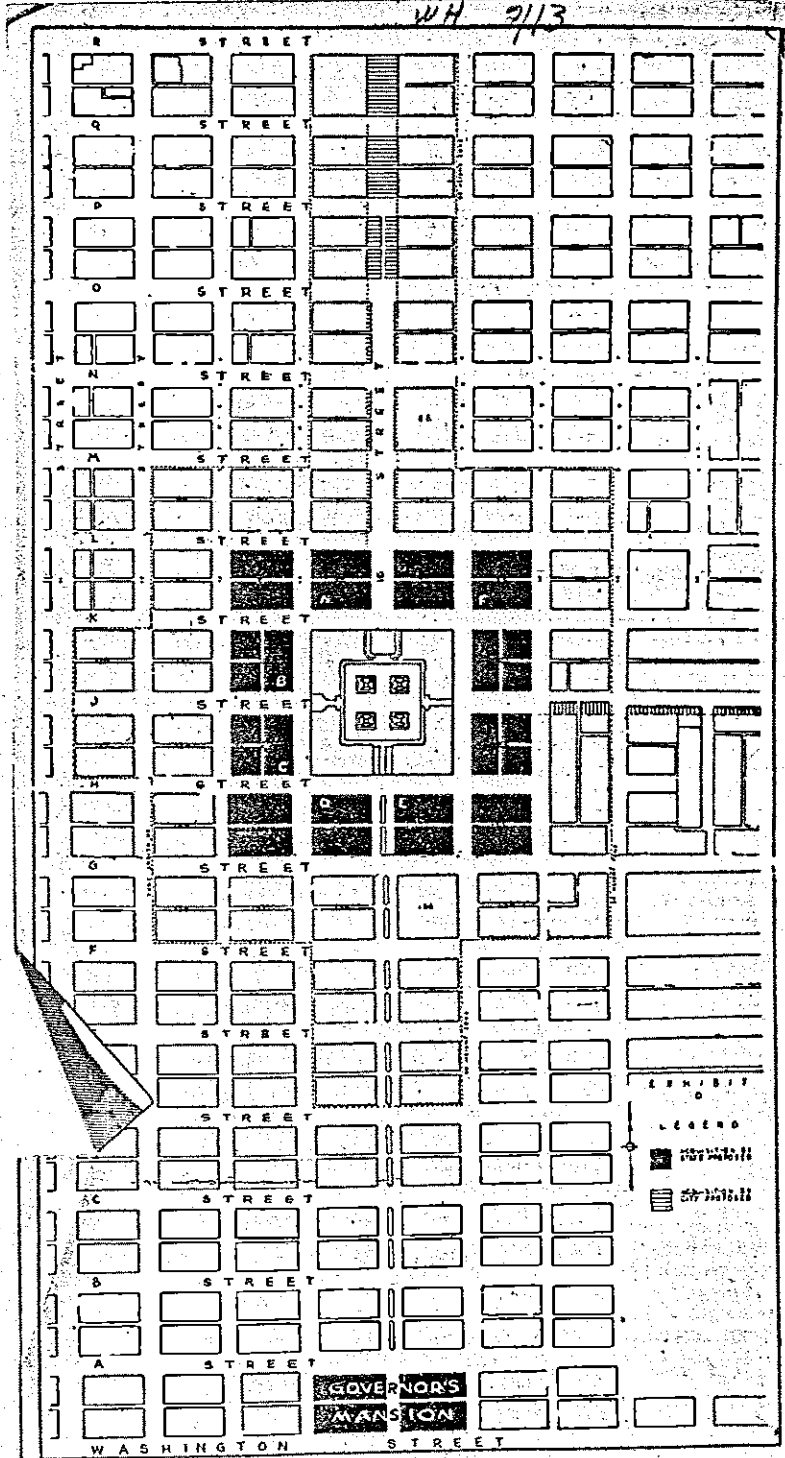
Neb.

#410

World Herald Feb. 13, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU





Capitol Plan

Outgoing State Land Commissioner Leo N. Swanson, whose chief duty is to take care of the state capitol, put himself on record last week against the long-range program of the state planning board for improvement of the capitol setting. The map above indicates that plan.

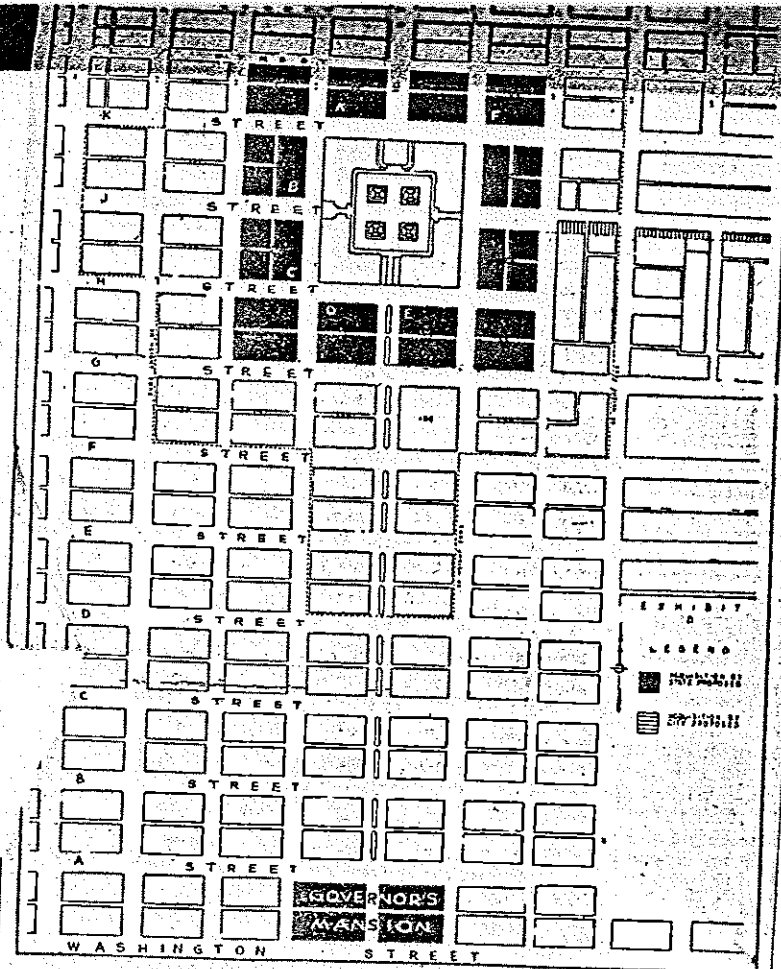
Blocks in black are those which the board proposes should be eventually purchased by the state, but only when the present property becomes obsolete. The area has an assessed valuation at \$1,428,350, includes such properties as the Catholic cathedral (A), Coryell apartments (B), state teachers' association headquarters and apartments (C), governor's mansion (D), Acacia fraternity house (E) and the First Christian church (F).

This territory surrounding the capitol would be cleared and

broad avenues of approach to the capitol. The portions of the map shaded with parallel lines are those to be acquired by the city, permitting Fifteenth street to cut through to the university campus at R street, and widening of J street to the east.

The planning board emphasizes that its program is a long-range one, to be carried out over a period of many years. It suggested that the city of Lincoln zone the territory from Twelfth to Eighteenth and from F to M streets to exclude commercial construction and that buildings be limited to 50 feet in height so that the capitol tower will show at its best. A permanent capitol commission to pass on all proposed construction in the area was suggested for consideration by the next legislature. Financing was proposed by means of a small permanent building levy.

Land Commissioner Swanson's objection was contained in a le-



Capitol Plan

Outgoing State Land Commissioner Leo N. Swanson, whose chief duty is to take care of the state capitol, put himself on record last week against the long-range program of the state planning board for improvement of the capitol setting. The map above indicates that plan.

Blocks in black are those which the board proposes should be eventually purchased by the state, but only when the present property becomes obsolete. The area has an assessed valuation at \$1,428,350, includes such properties as the Catholic cathedral (A), Coryell apartments (B), state teachers' association headquarters and apartments (C), governor's mansion (D), Acacia fraternity house (E) and the First Christian church (F).

This territory surrounding the capitol would be cleared and landscaped to provide a magnificent setting for the building. Six blocks south, two more blocks would be purchased for a new governor's mansion, located at the end of a broad avenue, now Fifteenth street.

The plan includes provision for widening of streets by the city of Lincoln to provide four

broad avenues of approach to the capitol. The portions of the map shaded with parallel lines are those to be acquired by the city, permitting Fifteenth street to cut through to the university campus at R street, and widening of J street to the east.

The planning board emphasizes that its program is a long-range one, to be carried out over a period of many years. It suggested that the city of Lincoln zone the territory from Twelfth to Eighteenth and from F to M streets to exclude commercial construction and that buildings be limited to 50 feet in height so that the capitol tower will show at its best. A permanent capitol commission to pass on all proposed construction in the area was suggested for consideration by the next legislature. Financing was proposed by means of a small permanent building levy.

Land Commissioner Swanson's objection was contained in a letter to The World-Herald. "I do not believe," he said, "that such money should be spent in these trying times for beautification. Especially, not for the beautification of the city of Lincoln at the expense of the taxpayers of the entire state. Let the patriots of Lincoln float a bond issue and beautify their own city."

336.45

Neb,

#411

State Journal March 20, 1938

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL ATTRACTION
FOR WORLD VISITORS

~~SJ~~ 3/20

173 Persons From Foreign
Countries Pay Call in
Last Six Months.

Nebraska's state capitol appears to be going the "white spot" campaign one better when it comes to drawing interested people. A check of Land Commissioner Swanson's figures on visitors to the building for the past six months shows to what extent the fame of the ten million dollar building has spread over the world.

Beginning last September, Swanson had Bill Lundy check all foreign, out-state and Nebraska visitors from the signatures in the visitor's registration book. The total number of visitors who signed the registry book for the first six months of the count was 22,564.

Of this total number of visitors, 15,285 were Nebraskans, 7,106 were from out of the state, and 173 were from foreign countries. The registry reveals the tourists who are not Nebraskans come from every state in the union, with Kansas somewhat in the lead.

One of the most surprising figures is that of the foreign visitors. The 173 who signed their names at the capitol came from 36 different countries. Bill Lundy, who sits at the information desk at the main entrance, said he has talked to several foreigners who are delegates from their country, the latest being a man from Czechoslovakia who is in this country to negotiate trade agreements.

Foreign countries credited with visitors to the building are: England, Germany, Canada, Scotland, France, Hawaii, Switzerland, Alaska, China, New Zealand, Norway, Bulgaria, Egypt, Cuba, India, Central America, Spain, Denmark, Australia, Czechoslovakia, Nova Scotia, Africa, Russia, Sweden, Belgium, Japan, Panama, Canal Zone, British Columbia, Argentina, Finland, Bavaria, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and British Guiana.

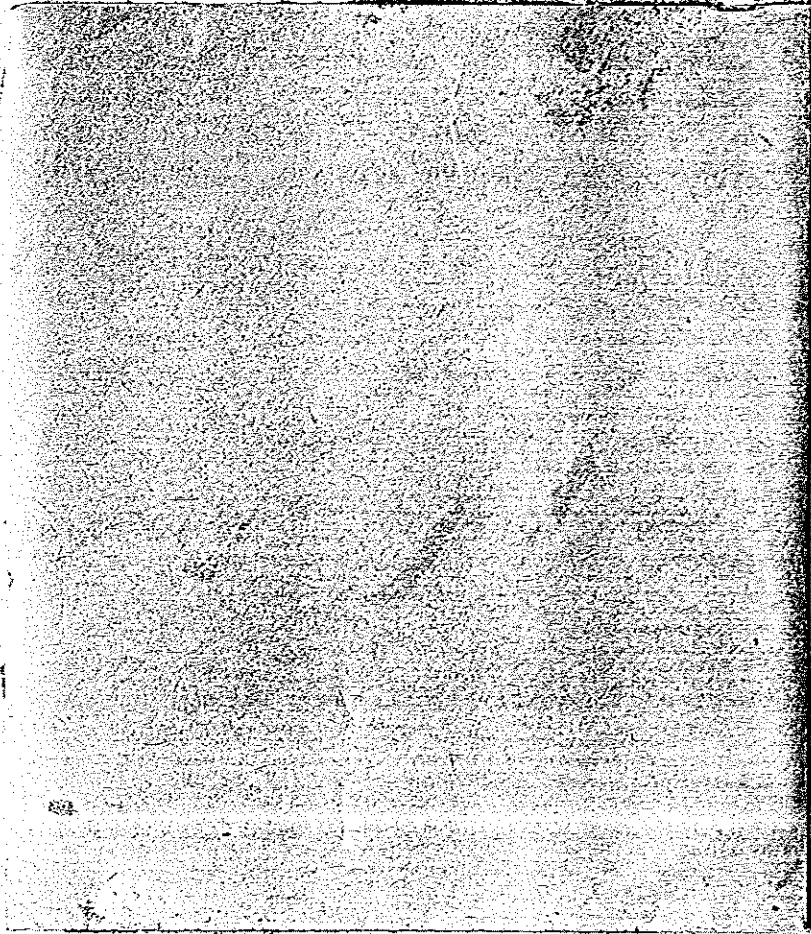
336.45

Neb,

#412

World-Herald, January 12, 1941

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



HOME of the GOVERNORS.



Fairly a
the com
eds, dir
home of
house.
family w
mission
Mrs. Gr
children
Dorothy.
The m
had that
was hall
age by
later sold
as abate
sions go
walls are
to be for
home in
The car
Cochran
house fo
redempt
peculiar
Slynn, an
for paper
transfor
tory into
Cochran
The gov
around \$
his house
for other
Cochran
servants
12-room h

(West-Union)

Most elaborate piece in the house is this sterling silver punch bowl set on the buffet in the dining room. The set is rumored to be worth more than 10 thousand dollars. On the silver locket is an Indian head, the seal of state, corn, wheat, a sunflower and an anchor. The handle of each cup is fashioned in the shape of a sea horse. The set was part of the silver service on the old battleship Nebraska.



Sunday World-Herald

• ROTOGRAVURE SECTION •

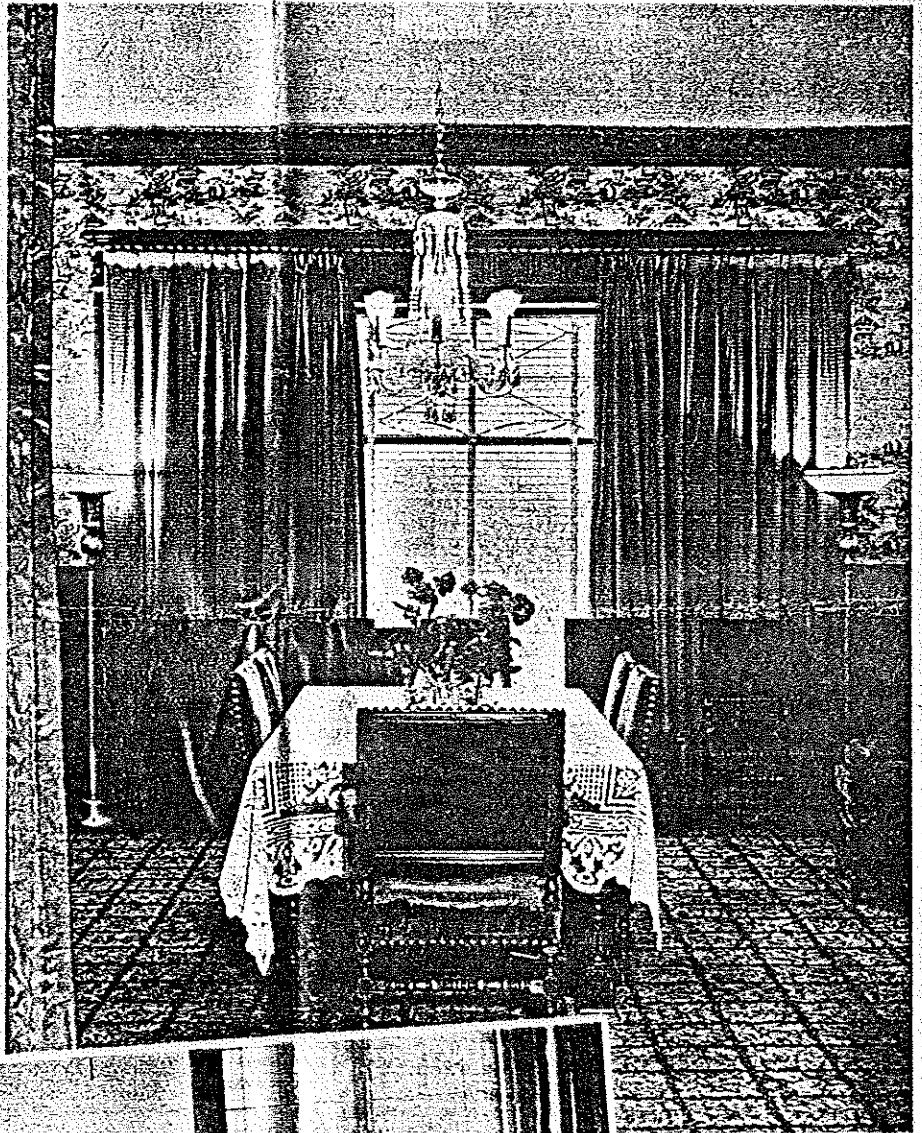
OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JANUARY 12, 1941.

Fairly simple and inornate is the executive mansion in Lincoln, since the early 1900s the home of the governors of Nebraska. Thursday a new first family was set to move into the mansion — Dwight Griswold, Mrs. Griswold and their two children, Dwight, jr., 14, and Dorothy, 18.

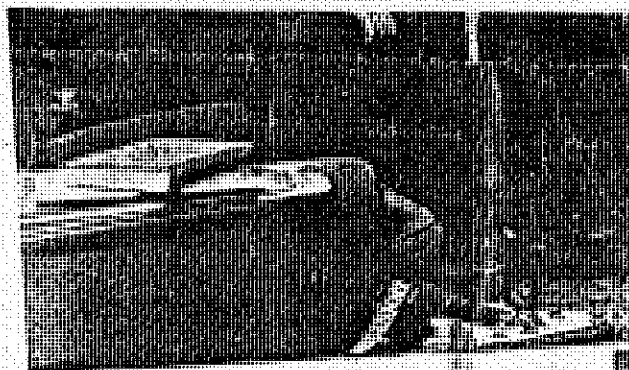
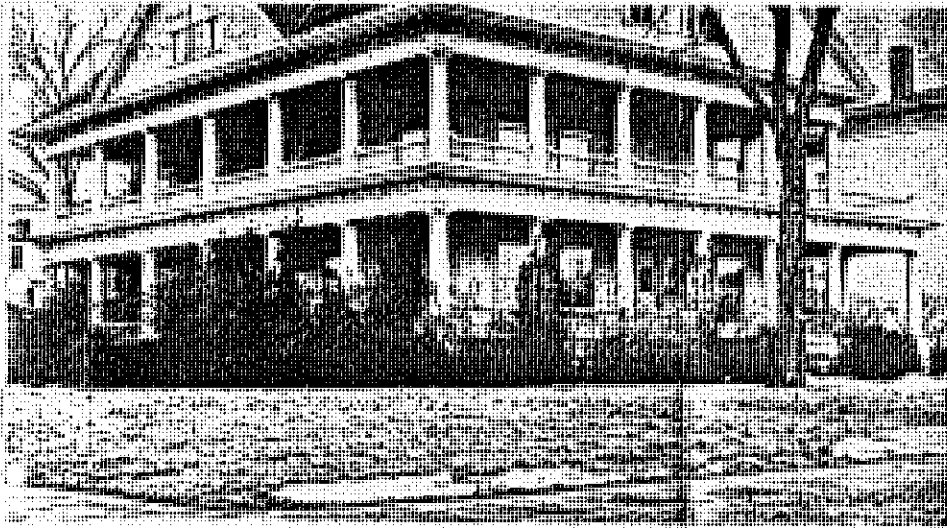
The executive mansion was just that—a mansion—when it was built more than 40 years ago by D. E. Thompson, who later sold it to the state. It is no shakes as governors' mansions go today, but within its walls are the finest materials to be found in any older-type home in the state.

The outgoing first family, the Cochrans, have occupied the house for six years. Some redecorating was done by the previous governor, Charles W. Bryan, and Mrs. Bryan. Except for papering of two rooms and transformation of a conservatory into a breakfast room, the Cochrans made no changes. The governor is allowed around \$2,100 a year to run his household, hardly enough for extensive redecorating. The Cochrans got along with two servants to help care for the 12-room home.

(World-Herald photos by Earle Bunker.)

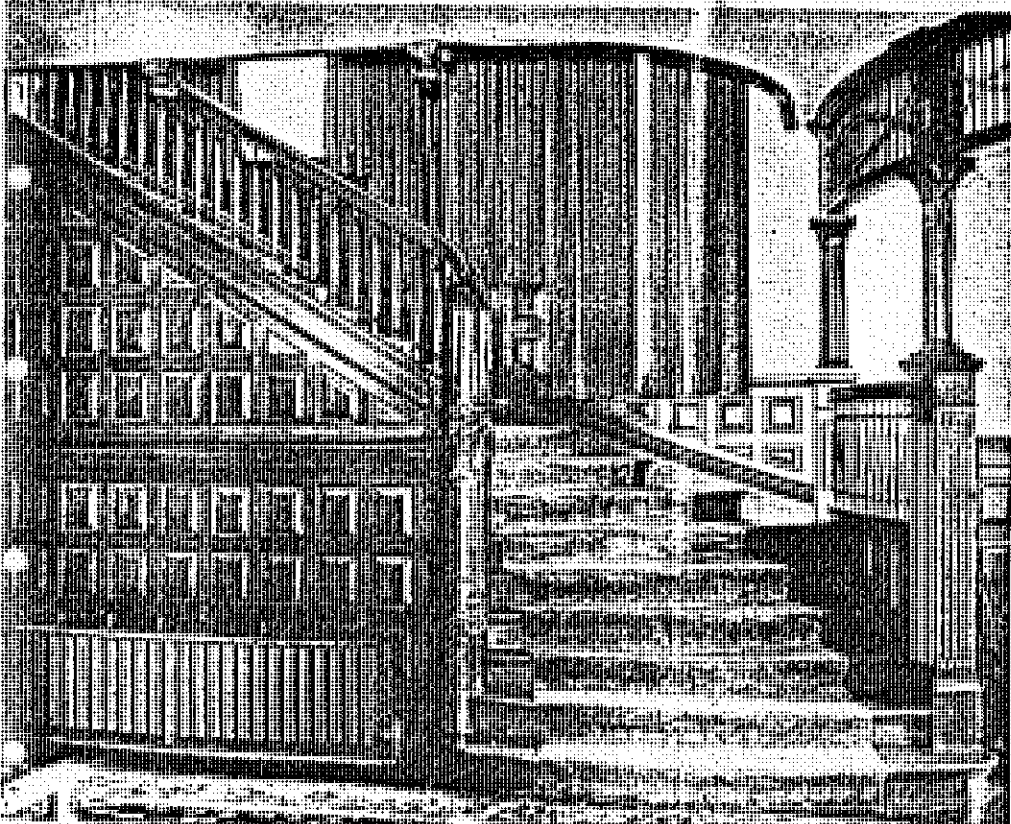
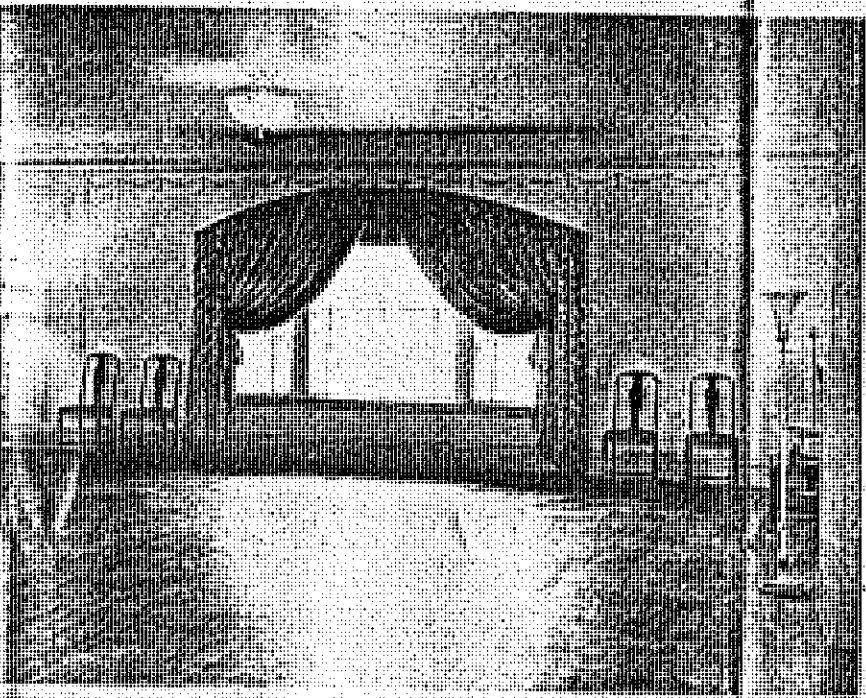
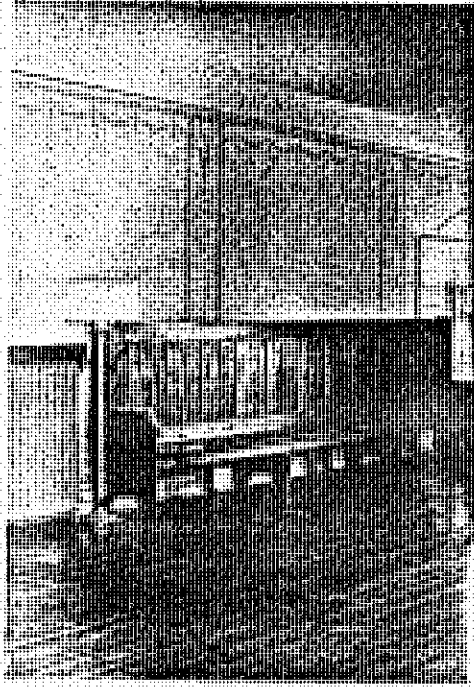


Color scheme of the dining room is rust and green. The twelve dining room chairs are rust and the draperies are green. The rug is rust and green. The wall paper is Mrs. R. L. Cochran's selection—a beautiful and famous Back Bay scenic and landscape design.



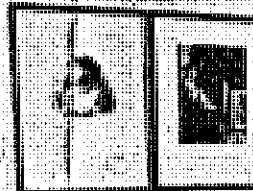
The Ciswold family, photographed at their home in Gordon two weeks before the inaugural. Left to right, Dwight Ciswold, Dwight P. Cochran, Mrs. Ciswold.

The executive mansion at 1445 H street, Lincoln. Four changes have been made in it in the last 40 years. An outstanding exterior feature is the huge double deck veranda, extending along the entire east and north sides of the house.

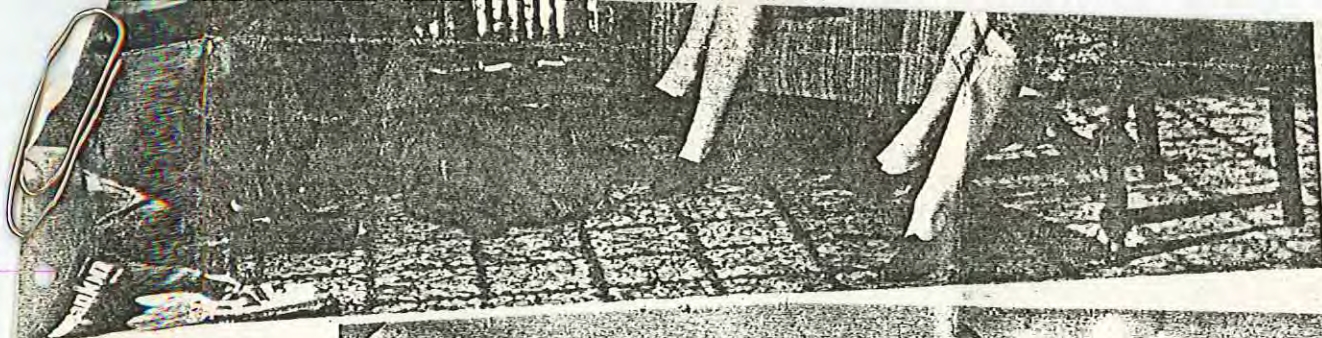


The ballroom runs the length of the house on the third floor. Most often used, it is reserved mainly for legislative receptions. In six years Governor and Mrs. Cochran have entertained 11 governors, two United States senators, one United States supreme court judge, a presidential candidate, four bishops, many state officials.

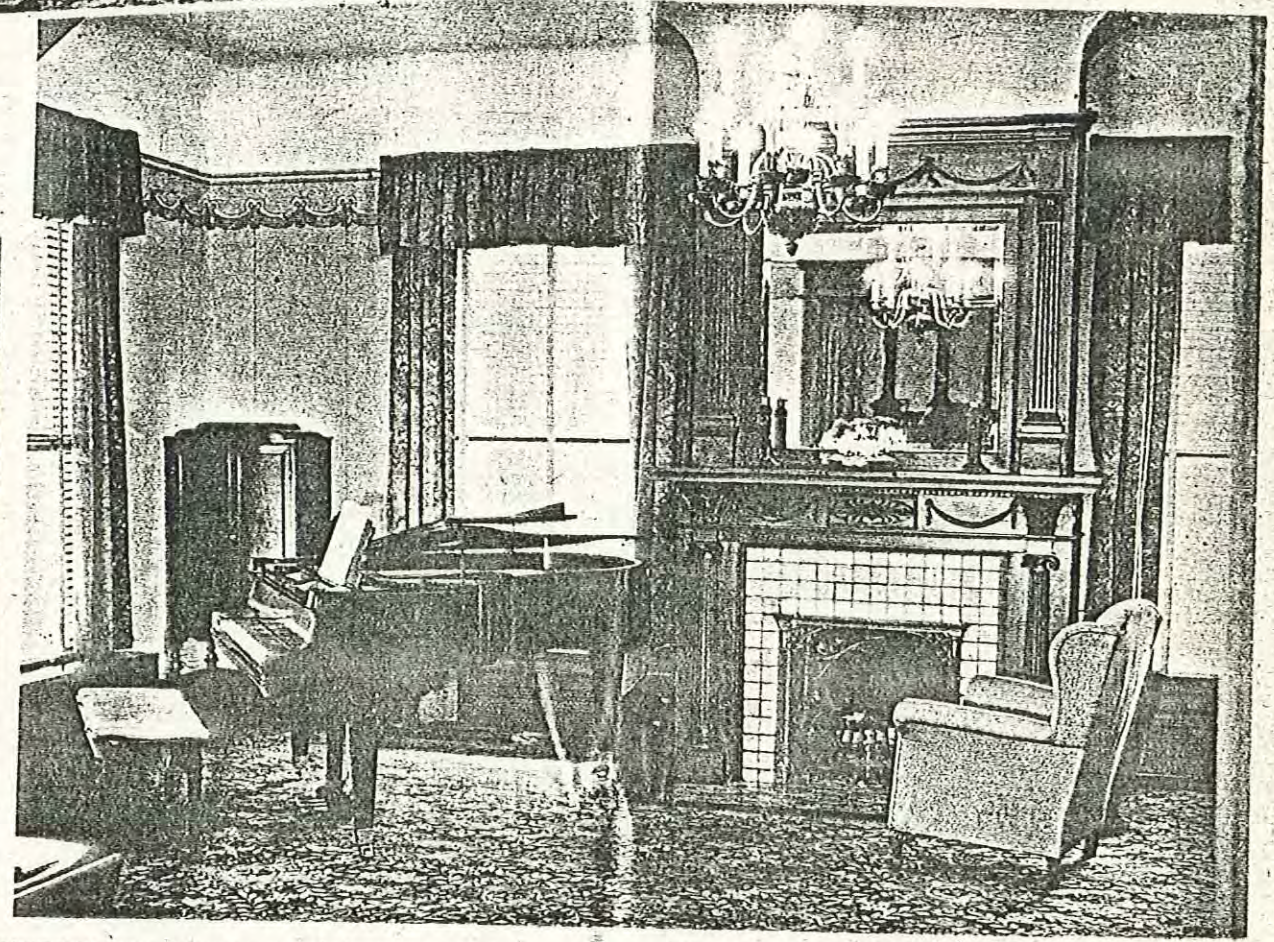
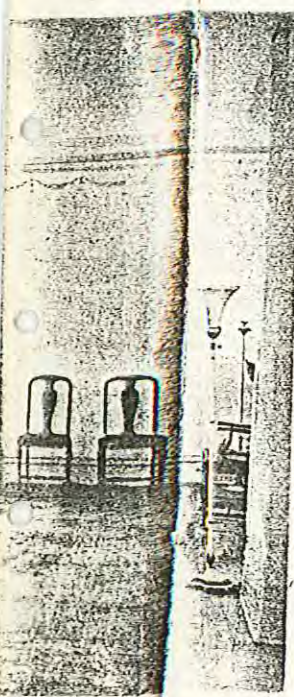
(AT LEFT) First view for a visitor is the dark walnut, heavily hand-carved staircase. The carpet is tan and the draperies rust. To the right is a small waiting room, to the left another fireplace.



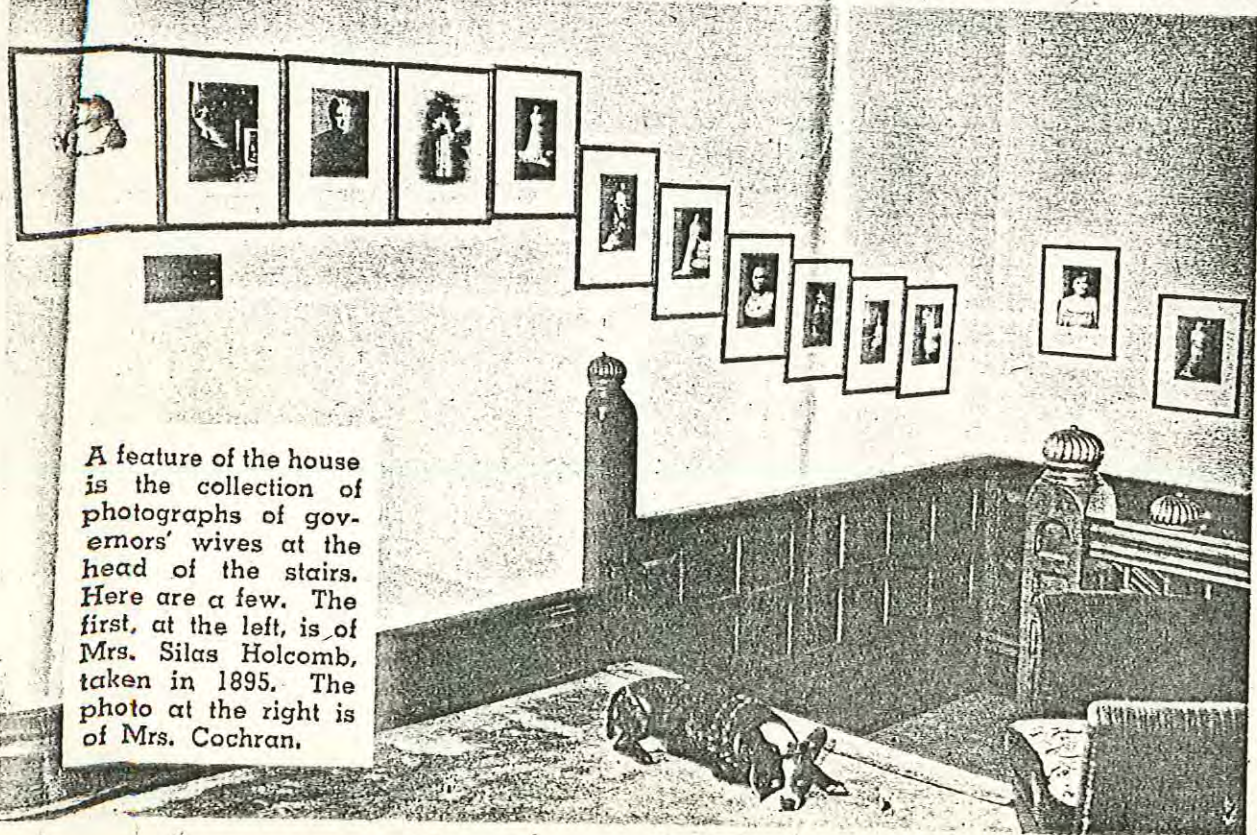
A feature of the is the collection of portraits' whose head of the Here are a list of the to Mrs. John H taken in 1880 photo at the of Mrs. Coch



photographed at two weeks before right, Dwight Griswold, Mrs. Griswold.



the
e on
Not
re-
leg-
. In
ri. Or
ran
11
ited
one
eme
resi-
la. e,
any



This is one portion of the living room, with one of the six fireplaces in the house. The piano and the chair belong to Governor and Mrs. Cochran. There has been no appropriation for furniture in years.

A feature of the house is the collection of photographs of governors' wives at the head of the stairs. Here are a few. The first, at the left, is of Mrs. Silas Holcomb, taken in 1895. The photo at the right is of Mrs. Cochran.

ur
nut,
ved
pet
tra-
the
cit-
left

336.45

Nebr.

#413

World Herald, August 23, 1941

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STATE HOUSE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Nebraska's Capitol

That New York reporter who made a tourist's examination of the Nebraska state capitol summed up pretty accurately its essential character. It is a staunch and sturdy structure, a thing of beauty, and it cost quite a lot of money, money which could undoubtedly have been saved had less expensive material gone into the trimming of it. The one thing he left unsaid was that it was paid for as it was built. It was a gift to their posterity by the generation that built it, not an incumbrance to be carried over from one year to the next.

The capitol was built during a period of cultural and spiritual uplift by the people of Nebraska. They wanted something that would combine modern utilitarianism with an expression of their state's growth from a pioneer frontier settlement to a civilized commonwealth with forward looking ideals of what constitutes good government. They were in a mood to pay for the best that money could buy, and they got it. *W.H. 8-23-41*

We doubt if very many Nebraskans deplore that extravagance, particularly since it was paid for on the spot. One of them the reporter happened to meet on the steps of the structure. He thought it a ramshackle structure, which is an error obvious to any one, and believed a large share of its cost had been dissipated in graft, a belief which he will find hard to substantiate by specific instance. We recall very little suspicion of graft during the building and none with any foundation. There was extravagance, yes, in the building, but not waste.

The consensus, we believe, is that the state got its money's worth in public building and decoration. It is something to point out to the stranger with pride rather than with unfounded and unintelligent abuse. Honest criticism is a jewel, but the assumption that whatever is wrong ceases to be a virtue.

336.45

Journal-Star, November 2, 1941

Neb.

#414

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STATE HOUSE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Just why Ernie Pyle, the roving reporter for a Washington newspaper, saw fit to start off the story of a visit to the Nebraska state capitol by quoting an unnamed old man whom he met on the steps as saying that the building cost 20 millions, of which 15 millions was stolen, when the facts were available to him from the state records can only be explained by the possibility that he is a survivor of the yellow journalism era.

Since practically a new generation has grown up in Nebraska in the years since the building was begun and the story of its building has grown dim in the minds of many others, a brief history of it should be interesting. The building did not cost 20 million dollars. It cost 19 millions, and never at any time was there any charge or hint of graft. The only charges made were by George E. Johnson, then state engineer, and these were largely based on claims that there was substitution of materials for those specified in the contract, that specifications were so drawn as to limit bidding and that costly acoustic material was put in.

A legislative investigation at the 1923

session gave a complete airing to the formal charges made by Mr. Johnson, and the committee report was critical of the architect in a number of matters. Forty house members later submitted a resolution demanding the resignation of the architect, Bertram G. Goodhue of New York, asserting that the Johnson charges and proof submitted indicated that favoritism had been shown and that costs were increased by reason of changes made, but this was tabled.

Construction of a new capitol was authorized at the 1919 session and the law creating the capitol commission limited the cost to 5 millions, to be raised by a special levy of one and a half mills over a period of six years. At the 1925 session the amount to be expended was increased to 9 million dollars and a levy of 22-100ths of a mill to run four years was made. The difference in the amount of the mill levies is accounted for by the fact that when the first one was made taxes were levied on the basis of a fifth of the assessed valuation, and this was changed to actual valuation by 1923, reducing levies a fifth. J-S, 11-2-41

At the 1931 session that levy was cut in half. The building was nearing completion at the time and it was evident that the cost would not exceed 10 millions. In fact, when it was finished there was \$200,000 left, and in 1933 this was appropriated for a new building at the Hastings asylum for the insane, \$10,000 going to repair and refurnish the governor's mansion. The building was paid for as it was being constructed. Under the Goodhue plans it was possible to continue the use of the old capitol building, which remained within three walls of the new structure until the last few years, building of the west wall being deferred until the materials of the old one were moved out thru the opening.

The north and south "U" shaped sections were first constructed, at a cost of \$2,562,000, of which \$687,281 was for stone. The second section was made up of the north, east and south wings, and cost \$3,018,000, of which \$845,000 was for stone. The J. H. Wiese company built these two sections. The tower cost \$1,487,000, of which the stone represented \$40,000. Peter Klewit's Sons built it, steel being the principal item of cost, \$238,000. W. J. Assenmacher built the west wing at a cost of \$704,000. Landscaping represented \$132,000. Lee Lawrie, noted artist, did the decorating and modeling of statues for \$33,000 and Edward Ardolino the carving for \$13,650. Furnishings and decorations added \$537,579 to the cost. Wrecking the old building footed up \$43,000. A railroad along H street over which the materials were transported from the yard added \$14,000 for construction, \$115,000 for operation and \$1,750 for removal of tracks.

Thomas L. Kimball of Omaha was architectural adviser. After viewing other state capitols, the commission held a preliminary competition limited to architects within the state. Three qualified. In the final competition, to these three, Ellery Davis of Lincoln and John Latenser and Sons and John and Alan McDonald of Omaha, were added seven from outside. The final award was made by three nationally-known architects who studied plans submitted only by number. They chose No. 4, that of Bertram G. Goodhue of New York, as showing the greatest utility, presenting a building 75 percent of the average size of those in the competition, and one free from binding traditions, referring particularly to the elimination of the usual dome. It was the only one which permitted the use of the old building while the new one was being constructed, saving the state \$750,000 in rentals.

(over)

Goodhue died in 1924 and the work was finished by his associates at a total architectural cost of \$453,000. Governor McKelvie and Marshal Joffre of France broke ground in April, 1922, and the final work, planting of trees and shrubs was done in 1934. A complete roster of the commission which supervised the work comprises Governors McKelvie, Bryan, McMullen and Weaver; W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, W. E. Hardy, Lincoln, Walter W. Head, Omaha, and State Engineers Johnson, Cochran and Lobdell.

336.45
Neb.

#415

Star, October 1, 1941

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STATE HOUSE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Open Invitation Extended For Bryan Statue Fund

S. 10-1-41

An invitation to Nebraskans to make voluntary contributions to a fund for a statue of William Bryan was issued Wednesday at the close of a meeting of the Bryan Memorial as-

sembly. The statue would be placed on the capitol grounds as authorized by a resolution of the legislature.

Several persons have already made substantial contributions to the statue fund, according to former Governor John Morehead of Falls City who is chairman of the commission.

"I am convinced that all that now is necessary is to call the matter to the attention of the people of Nebraska and they will want to have a part in it."

The plans are for Bryan's statue to be erected on the north side of the capitol building on Fifteenth street facing north. General Pershing's statue would be placed on the south side of the University campus on Fifteenth street facing south.

"This will not only beautify the avenue but will truly represent the ideals and traditions of the people of Nebraska," Mr. Morehead said. "Bryan's statue will be an inspiration to the rising generation in the years to come. It will live in the hearts of the citizens of the state. Their voluntary contributions will have furnished the funds to finance the statue."

Rudolph Evans of New York, the sculptor who has been en-

ployed by the commission was present at the meeting and gave the commission an outline of his idea of the kind of a statue that would best represent Mr. Bryan.

Mr. Evans is the sculptor who made the statues of Bryan and Morton that are now in the Hall of Fame in Washington. He has his work in many European and American collections. His statue "The Golden Hour" was purchased by the French government for the Luxembourg museum and a replica in marble is in the Metropolitan museum in New York. He was the sculptor of the McKinley memorial. His statue of Robert E. Lee is in the Virginia capitol and he has statues of Grover Cleveland, Frank A. Vanderlip, John D. Rockefeller, Thomas F. Ryan, Owen D. Young and many others. Mr. Evans said it will take about eighteen months to complete the statue.

After the legislature passed the resolution authorizing the erection of a statue of Mr. Bryan on the capitol grounds Governor Griswold appointed a commission consisting of former Governor Morehead, of Falls City; L. B. Fenner, Burwell; William Ritchie, Omaha; and Bruce Shurtleff and T. S. Allen of Lincoln who will have charge of securing the necessary funds to pay for the statue. It is the hope of the committee that a statue comparable to the Bryan statue in Washington will within the next few months be placed on the capitol grounds.

336.45

Ne.6.

#416

Journal, October 1, 1941

Sculptor gives his idea of Bryan statue

Rudolph Evans
meets commission

At a meeting of the Bryan Memorial Association Wednesday, ways and means were discussed for raising funds for the statue of William Jennings Bryan, which is to be placed on the 15th street side of the state capitol, looking north, in accordance with a commission created by a legislative resolution. The commission consists of former Gov. Morehead, chairman, of Falls City; L. B. Fenner of Burwell; William Ritchie of Omaha, Bruce Shurtleff and T. S. Allen of Lincoln.

Chairman Morehead said several persons had already made voluntary contributions and the people of the state and the city will be later given opportunity to participate in a memorial to its famous citizen. It is planned that the Bryan statue on the capitol grounds will face that of Gen. Pershing on south side of the university campus on 15th street.

Rudolph Evans of New York sculptor who has been employed by the commission, was present and gave the commission an outline of his idea of the kind of a statue that would best represent Mr. Bryan. It would take about 18 months to complete.

Mr. Evans is the sculptor who made the statues of Bryan and Morton now in the Hall of Fame in Washington. He came here from Kansas City, where he attended the unveiling of a statue of Jacob L. Loose, biscuit maker who left a park valued at half a million to the city.

Mr. Evans, who is here to look over the capitol grounds and get the setting for the Bryan statue, has work in many European and American collections. His statue "The Golden Hour" was purchased by the French government for the Luxembourg museum and a replica in marble is in the Metropolitan museum in New York. He was the sculptor of the McKinley memorial. His statue of Robert E. Lee is in the Virginia capitol and he has statues of Grover Cleveland, Frank A. Vanderlip, John D. Rockefeller, Thomas F. Ryan, Owen D. Young and many others.

STATE HOUSE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

336.45

Feb.

#417

Journal, October 13, 1941

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STATE HOUSE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

New honor given Bryan sculptor

Rudolph Evans, recently awarded the commission to execute the heroic statue of William Jennings Bryan to be placed on the capitol grounds in Lincoln, has been unanimously chosen sculptor for the statue of Thomas Jefferson to be placed in the Thomas Jefferson Memorial now about completed in Washington, T. S. Allen, secretary of the Bryan commission, said. The Jefferson statue will be 18 feet high and will occupy the center rotunda of the edifice on the tidal basin. Evans competed with 100 leading sculptors of the country, and the commission headed by the president found his model to be "dignified, simple and correctly proportioned." He expects to work on both statues at the same time and hopes to have both completed within 18 months. 510-13-41

336.45

Star-Journal, November 23, 1941

Nebr.

#418

Funds Raised for Wm. S. Bryan Statue

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STATE HOUSE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Funds Are Being Raised For

IN THE city to which William Jennings Bryan came as a young, unknown person, in the city on which worldwide attention was concentrated in the years of his golden oratory and of his leadership of his party, and in the city which was his home for 35 years, there is no statue of the Commoner.

He arrived in the booming Lincoln of the late '80s a lawyer of but few years experience. He left it, a man of fame, a city better known because of him.

There are only two statues to commemorate him. Both are in Washington, which may have been a city of unhappy memories for him. A too early liberal, possibly, he never was able to go up that long avenue to the White house occupant. He later was to the national capitol in another world conflict, a man strong enough to accept the denial idealism imposed upon him rather than to live with compromise.

Two Tributes.

In Washington alone are the two tributes to the man who has been all but canonized by his friends, reviled bitterly by his enemies. One is the William Jennings Bryan Memorial on River-drive, erected by the people;

the other was unveiled with that of J. Sterling Morton in the capitol, designed for its niche among the eminent of the land in National Statuary hall Distinguished men, as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Josephus Daniels, and Blair Lee, have spoken at the dedicatory ceremonies for those likenesses.

Yet Lincoln, to which he returned both in triumph and in vicissitude, has no full length likeness of William Jennings Bryan.

The last session of the legislature, blushing a trifle at the state's carelessness, approved a resolution for the erection of a Bryan memorial. In the resolution, it was stated:

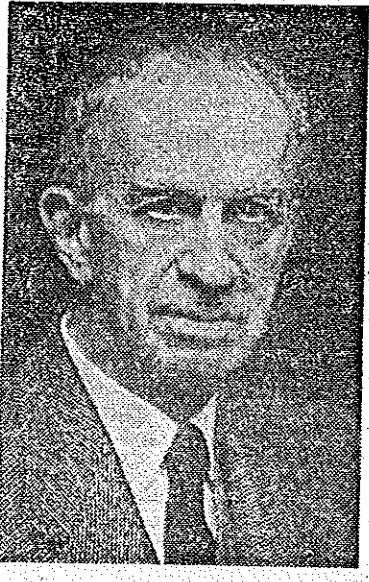
"Whereas, William Jennings Bryan was not only a distinguished citizen of Nebraska, but a national and international character held in high regard throughout the world, and

"Whereas, his idealism and moral stature are increasingly recognized and his masterful eloquence increasingly admired...

"...it is fitting and proper that a suitable memorial to him be erected..."

Committee Picked.

Governor Griswold and Dr. A. E. Sheldon, secretary of the historical society, who were to appoint the members of an unpaid memorial commission, chose



RUDOLPH EVANS

John H. Morehead, Falls City; L. B. Fenner, Burwell; Bruce Shurtleff, Lincoln; William Ritchie, Omaha; and T. S. Allen, Lincoln.

The resolution carried no appropriation, as it was thought the statue should come from the voluntary contributions of those who had known or admired Mr. Bryan. "The Spirit of this statue is to live in the hearts of the citizens of Nebraska in all the years to

come," ran the phrasing, and it was felt the citizens of the state that had been his so long would wish to pay this tribute, rather than making it a formal thing of tax monies.

Plans to secure the contributions are under way, and members of the commission are receiving gifts to finance the statue, as contemplated by the legislature. The commission feels that the many who believe today in the ideals Mr. Bryan advocated will want their share in a memorial that is to stand through the years. Incidentally, the commissioner of internal revenue has ruled that contributions to this fund may be deducted from income when next March 15 rolls around.

Positions Planned.

The members plan to place the statue on the mall the city planning board contemplates. The Bryan statue will be at the head of Fifteenth street on the north side of the capitol, facing north. The General Pershing commission will have its memorial at the intersection of Fifteenth and R streets, facing south.

The statesman and the soldier, two men in whom Lincoln can have much pride, will face each other at the end of a landscaped plaza, someday the center of civic life.

Rudolph Evans, of New York

City, v
Statua
latest
the Co
tive W
dents
the J
des B

His
was pu
ernme
marble
New Y
Among
are a
Simon
South
ton; st
of J. S
tional
Memor
of Gen
itol at
portrai
Green
Wadsw
the Ha

Mr.
number
tures
bronze
for Ne
bronze
a num
as Ow
Rockef
Vander

For William J. Bryan Statue

City, who designed the figure for Statuary hall, has received this latest commission. He studied at the Corcoran Art school in his native Washington, at the Art Students League in New York, and the Julian Academy and Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

Did Bolivar.

His statue, "The Golden Hour," was purchased by the French government for Luxembourg, and a marble replica has been placed in New York's Metropolitan museum. Among his better known works are a marble portrait of Gen. Simon Bolivar, "Liberator of South America," in Washington; statues of James Pierce and of J. Sterling Morton (for the National hall) as well as the Morton Memorial, and another, in bronze, of Gen. Robert E. Lee in the capitol at Richmond, Va.; and bronze portraits of two poets, John Greenleaf Whittier and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, both for the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Evans also has designed a number of large memorial sculptures in major eastern cities; a bronze portrait of Joseph French for New York university; and bronze and marble likenesses of a number of industrial leaders, as Owen D. Young, John D. Rockefeller, jr., and Frank A. Vanderlip.

The sculptor is a member of the Academy of National Artists, of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and of the National Academy of Design. He also has membership in the American Art Association of Paris and the Allied Artists of America. Mr. Evans has been awarded a bronze medal at a Paris salon, the Watrous gold medal of the National academy in New York and the French Cross of the Legion of Honor. King Victor Emanuel decorated the sculptor with Cavaliere Order of the Crown of Italy for an exhibition in Rome.

The commission has determined that the statue proper is to be 9 feet high, with a 6-foot high pedestal. It is to be cast in standard bronze, that is 90 per cent copper and 10 per cent tin and zinc. The Bryan Memorial commission approves both the preliminary sketch and the completed bronze.

To model so large a piece is not an overnight job. Members of the commission consider at least 15 months will elapse before delivery of the statue. Casual thought is that the Commoner's birthday, March 19, 1943, would be a suitable time for dedication ceremonies, but that is merely a contemplation of the moment.



THE William Jennings Bryan statue, "The Great Commoner," which was dedicated in the rotunda of the nation's capitol. It is the work of Rudolph Evans, who also is designing the new memorial.

336.45

Neb.

#419

Star, January 28, 1942

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STATE HOUSE
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Capitol's Waste Paper Is Worth \$100 Per Month

Thanks to the war salvage drive the state may receive \$100 a month from the sale of waste paper instead of paying \$15 a month to have it hauled away, C. E. Allen, state custodian, reported Wednesday to Governor Griswold. S. 1-28-42

Allen said waste paper sold from the state house during the past month—first of the salvage campaign—netted \$100. He added he thought the return would remain fairly constant in coming months. Until the campaign started, Allen said, the state paid \$15 per month for having the paper hauled out.

Governor Griswold said proceeds from the scrap paper sales will go into the general fund.

336.45

Journal-Star, July 19, 1942

Neb.

#420

Capital Guides

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

State House

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Capitol Guides: Their Work Is Ne

By PAUL DINNIS

"THOSE who would like to be shown through the capitol building, please follow me." J-S. 7-19-42

If you've been through the Nebraska state capitol building, the chant probably is familiar to you. It's the lead phrase that many a guide, down through the years, has used in collecting a gallery for a tour through the statehouse.

Now perhaps a guide's job never has appealed to you as being especially interesting or eventful. But surely you've wondered a bit in amazement as to how a guide can know so much about a place. And things keep popping up now and then that make the task of educating thousands of tourists yearly, a job anything but dull.

For a sketch of a guide's position, let's look into the experiences of the two current capitol guides, Dick Hunter of Hastings and Roy Sheaff of Lexington.

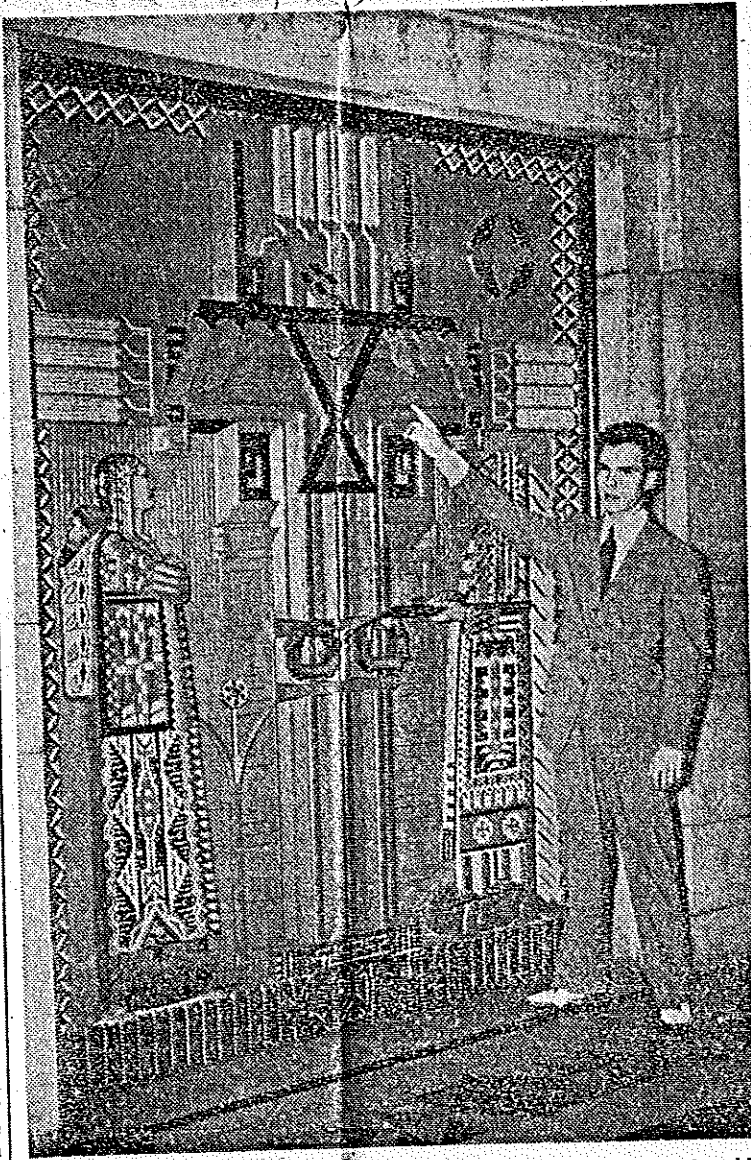
People are people, and people always are interesting. That's one reason the job is fascinating, says Hunter. Most of the people who are conducted through the building conform to a definite "type," as follows:

First, there is the "human" person who harbors a normal, genuine interest in the building and the story behind it.

Secondly, there is the onlooker who knows more about the place than the guide does. He's been through the building once or twice, perhaps, and doesn't waste any time proclaiming himself to be no ingnoramus. This is the fellow who plays havoc with the lecturer, asks technical questions and is quick to criticize and contradict.

There is the type, too, who, halfway through the tour, gets bored with it all. He would like to escape (you can tell by his furtive glances for escape methods) but is afraid the guild will see him, and his conscience gets the better of himself.

Then, there's always the person who has been to the tower in previous times but who is taking up a friend to give him the thrill of it. This person lets on that the little trip into the air is old stuff to him, while the guide knows from past experi-



Hunter relates the data concerning these doors which lead to the old senate chamber. He explains the symbolism of the various characters on the door. The general public, he finds, cares less about detailed data but is more interested in figures. Here people are most interested to learn that each door is carved from solid oak, weighs 700 pounds.

ences that this person will get the biggest thrill out of the ride. That's one reason the veteran wants to go up to the tower.

It's the latter type who is always cracking those age-old quips as the elevator starts down, "I'll bet these elevator boys have their ups and downs," and, "D'ya mind going back up after my stomach?" Cure for the latter remark is to stop the elevator and go right back up. It leaves the would-be joker somewhat aghast.

Fourth, there is the person who can't wait, and gets ahead of the

guide. Then when he does take heed of the lecturer, lo and behold he's looking at the wrong object. The guide finds him putting the words to the wrong tune.

There are other types, too, the appreciators of art, the convention revelers, the awe-struck kids—

Taken as a whole, the sightseers don't care a lot about the "how" and "why" of the mosaics, murals, etc. They are interested in things that are colossal, things which impress them.

The tourist is most awed with the rotunda. "It's a regular chorus of oh's and ah's when the people are told that the rotunda dome over their heads is so high in the air that a 10-story building could be built right within the rotunda itself and its top wouldn't scrape the home," declares Sheaff.

"They're amazed, too," he adds, "when they learn that the huge rotunda chandelier is made of a single-cast piece of bronze and is

Next, the embryo guide studies various textbooks for capitol data. Predecessors pass on helpful information. Hunter admits that he has even picked up valuable tips and parcels of information from the "rotunda squatters"—fellows who have been frequenting the benches in the capitol's center, day in and day out for years.

Guides have to keep absolutely on top of the situation at all times. New and different questions are asked of them every day. And they have to know the answers, too. It's very seldom a query finds them lacking in information.

Some of the most fantastic questions come the guide's way. Hunter was really stumped the other day when a high school youngster asked him which floor had the diamond-inlaid floorwork. Another fellow wanted to be taken to the thirteenth floor which, he had heard, was covered with Indian head pennies.

Sheaff could have been knocked over with a feather, he says, by the question an innocent old lady posed of him when he first took up his guide duties. She was standing in the rotunda at the time and asked, "Is it really true that inlaid pieces in the dome hang on the end of silk threads? She was serious, too.

There are numerous questions. The guides also have to furnish much information regarding the state as a whole. Tourists still ask about the "white spot" and can hardly believe that the capitol building is entirely paid for.

Don't think for a minute there aren't a lot of people who yearly go through the building. Last year 150,000 persons signed their names to the vestibule register. Guides' figures indicate that approximately 80 per cent, 120,000, were Nebraskans.

While native Nebraskans constitute most of the tour gallery they don't show the amount of interest in the capitol that out-state people do. Most of them content with signing the register to the tower, glimpsing museum—and they've seen capitol.

There still are thousands of Nebraskans who haven't seen the architectural pride and joy. You be surprised at the number of persons on the guide tour exclaim, "Why, I've lived here in Lincoln all my life. I've never dreamt that the building was like it is." There

Never Dull

thousands of Lincolmites, even guides aver, who have never been inside the building.

The influx of soldiers in the Capital City has added to total of appreciators. On each Sunday of late, nearly 300 soldiers from the Lincoln air base have been at the statehouse. Some are unusually interested in the building, others find the biggest item of interest in the tower trip.

The summer months draw the most tourists, though May, with its many high school "sneak days," is slightly the heaviest single month. Holidays bring the most people to the building, of course. Largest single crowd handled in the capital's history was last Labor Day, when approximately 9,000 persons were on hand.

Hunter and Sheaff, like other guides in the past, are university students. Besides being an interesting job, the guide's task is a fairly lucrative one. During the school year, it covers about half of their expenses. And the guides put in a 30-hour week.

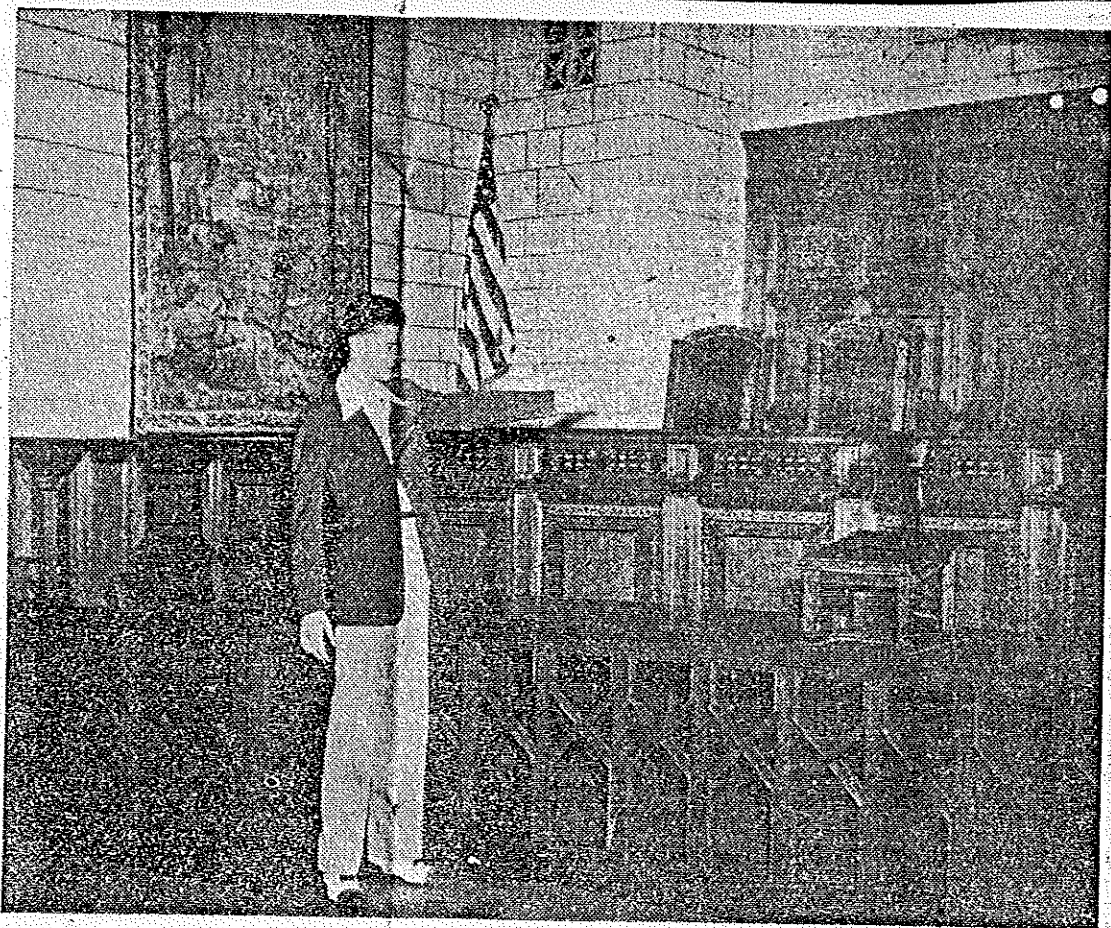
Being a good guide is an art in itself. Everyone has to be pleased, their questions have to be answered. A guide soon learns to be a quick, good psychologist. At the start of his tour he must instantly tune up his audience and adjust his speech and manner of presentation according to the type and number of his listeners. He also learns to meet all kinds of people and makes many good contacts.

If Sheaff has a pet peeve, it's the Louisiana tourist who, with chin in air, takes everything the guide has to say, but with a grain of salt. Of course Nebraska's capitol can't begin to compare with Huey Long's edifice.

Hunter finds his work happy but gets somewhat disgusted with the fellow who goes to sleep while he's talking in the sound-proof Supreme Court room, last stop on the conducted tour.

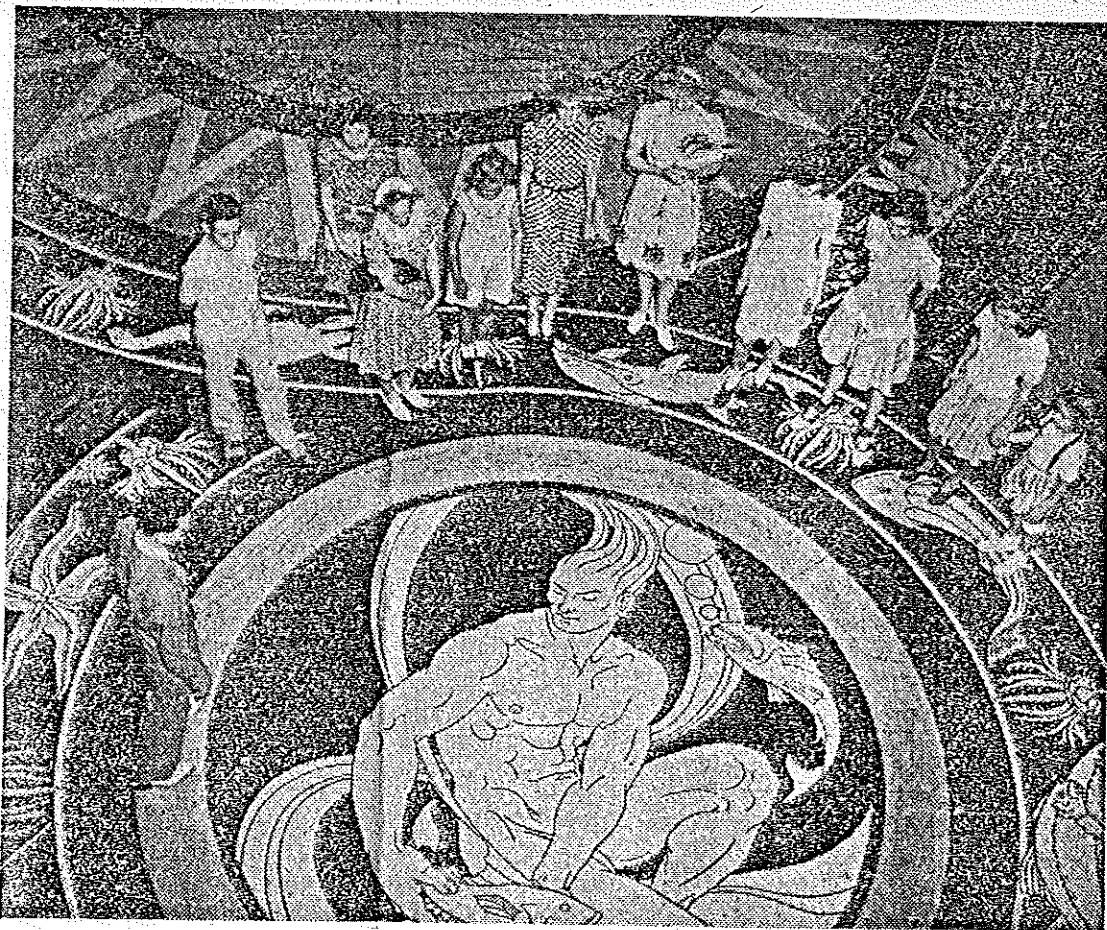
All in all, the two capitol guides have considered themselves fortunate to hold the jobs they have. It's about as good work as one can have while going to school. It is interesting for it offers an excellent panorama of life.

Hunter is a pre-law student at the university and believes the job will be of extremely useful experience to him. Sheaff has been a pre-law student but his army number is up and within the next two weeks he expects to go into the service.



Roy Sheaff, one of the two guides at the state capitol building, explains the history of the woodwork in the Supreme Court room in the statehouse.

Sheaff is a university student and hails from Lexington. His job requires about 30 hours per week and he carries a full scholastic schedule during the school term.



A small gallery listens to Dick Hunter describe this mosaic in the rotunda of the capitol. The subject

is the goddess of water, one of the elements vital to man. Hunter is a sophomore at the university.

336.45

Journal, February 5, 1943

Feb.

#421

Bryan statue must await end of present war

At the first meeting of the Bryan Memorial commission since the death of its president, former Gov. John H. Morehead, Friday, a report made of its doings for the past year. The legislature two years ago, recognizing William Jennings Bryan as a distinguished citizen of this state and a national and international character, increasingly admired, passed a resolution authorizing erection of a memorial to him on the capitol grounds.

The governor appointed a commission and a contract was entered into with Rudolph Evans, New York. The statue was practically completed, it was reported, except the pouring of the bronze. Before the sculptor was ready to pour the bronze, war was declared and the government commandeered all copper and bronze in the country, including his supply, for war purposes. Completion of the statue will necessarily be delayed now until after the war.

The financial report showed that the commission had paid the sculptor \$5,000 and has \$8,000 in cash in the bank and about \$2,000 in subscriptions not yet paid but all good. Secy. T. S. Allen said the commission feels that the remainder necessary to complete the statue will be easily raised.

J. 2-5-43

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
State House
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

336.245

Journal, April 22, 1943

Nebraska

#422

Approve plans for capitol dedication

336.45
Nebraska

Approving the idea but not the time the government committee of the legislature reported to general file Wednesday the resolution of

—LEGISLATURE—

Senator Jeffords proposing that fitting dedicatory ceremonies for the state capitol be held next Nov. 11. 3-4-22-43

Jeffords in support of his idea said that the building has never been officially accepted from the capitol commission and that it had not been dedicated even after having been completed for 21 years.

Dr. Corrine Larimore appeared before the committee with a suggested program. The committee, however, said that because of the war emergency it did not believe it would be wise to do anything at this time.

Gov. Dwight Griswold, earlier in the week, placed the dedication among non-essential activities and indicated that he was opposed to holding it.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
State House
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

336.45
No. b.

Star, January 13, 1944

#423

Bryan Statue Fund \$15,100

The William Jennings Bryan Memorial commission at a meeting today re-elected Bruce Shurtleff vice president and T. S. Allen secretary and treasurer. The committee decided to postpone election of a president to succeed former Governor John H. Morehead, deceased, until a later meeting.

Mr. Allen stated that the sculptor, Rudolph Evans, has the plaster paris cast ready for the bronze, but that because of the war all copper and bronze has been conscripted for war purposes and for that reason the statue cannot be completed until after the war. The statue will be seven feet three inches in height and will stand on a pedestal seven and one-half feet high. 3.1-13-44

The secretary reported that \$15,100 has been subscribed toward the erection of the statue, \$14,000 of which has been paid and the remaining unpaid subscriptions will be available when needed. The sculptor has been paid \$5,000 and there is \$9,000 on deposit in the bank to the credit of the commission.

The entire cost of the statue, including its placement on the capitol grounds, will be approximately \$18,000.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
State House
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

336.45

Neb.

#424

World-Herald, May 13, 1945

Governor's Mansion

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
State House
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



Nebraska's White House" . . . It really is a sort of decrepit gray.



The big window in the dining room (left) . . . The "first lady's" feet get cold . . . Mrs. Griswold comes down the winding stairway (right) from the second floor combination living room, study and bedroom.—World-Herald Photos by Earle Bunker.

Plans to Build New Governor's Mansion Sure to Start Heavy Discussions as to Location, Style and Costs

By James Keogh

Nebraska's "White House" which really is a sort of decrepit gray, probably will be a subject of much discussion in coming months.

For the Legislature last week appropriated 100 thousand dollars for the purchase of a site and construction of a new governor's mansion.

It also directed the Legislative Council to study the question with reference to site, design and cost.

In Lincoln there is already considerable discussion about what the new mansion should be like and where it should be. A good many persons believe that a

of the century, after the 1899 Legislature had appropriated 25 thousand dollars for that purpose.

The Legislature called for bids from persons who wanted to sell a house to be used for the Governor's residence. The State purchased and equipped the D. E. Thompson house just south of the Capitol for \$21,385.30.

It was considered a magnificent place when it was established, but it has seen its day.

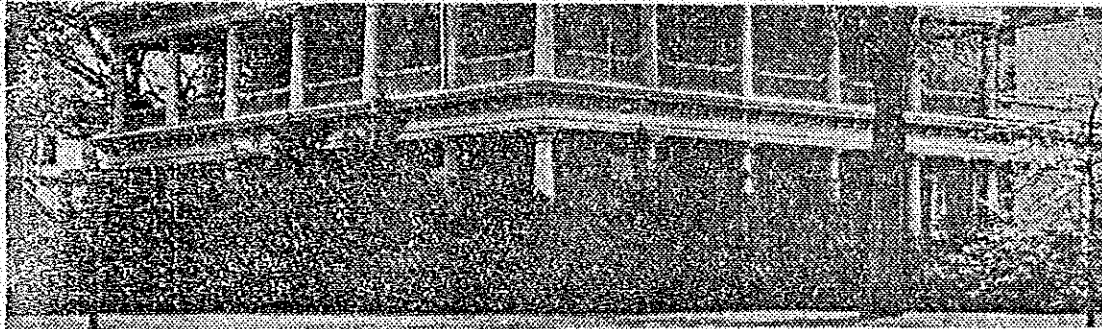
The windows have loosened with age. The curtains fly in the breeze when there is a strong wind. The Governor's wife, when there are guests for dinner, sits at the dining room table in front

Governor and Mrs. Griswold spend much of their time in a second floor room which serves as their living room, study and bedroom.

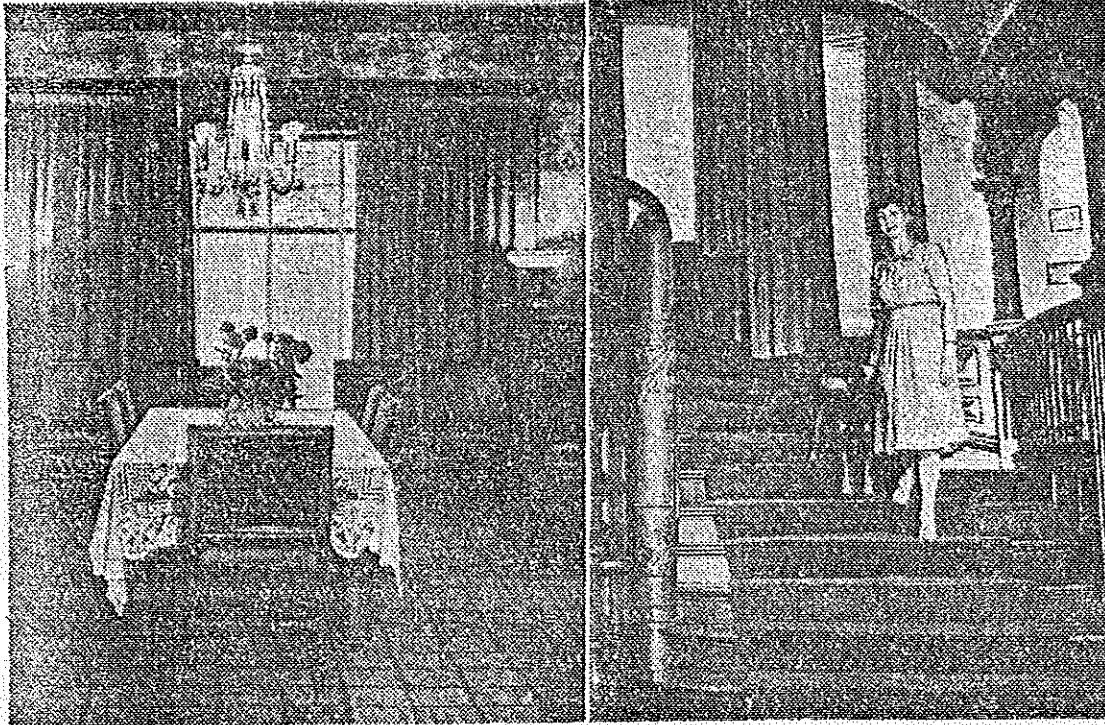
There are four bedrooms, not enough to accommodate the guests a governor frequently must house.

When the Griswolds' daughter, Dorothy, and son, Dwight, Jr., were home, and governors from other states or other house guests came, Dorothy and Dwight sometimes had to move out of the mansion for the night.

All of this has convinced Mrs. Griswold that the livability as well as the adequateness of the



Nebraska's White House" . . . It really is a sort of decrepit gray.



The big window in the dining room (left) . . . The "first lady's" feet get cold . . . Mrs. Griswold comes down the winding stairway (right) from the second floor combination living room, study and bedroom.—World-Herald Photos by Earle Bunker.

Plans to Build New Governor's Mansion Sure to Start Heavy Discussions as to Location, Style and Costs

By James Keogh

Nebraska's "White House" which really is a sort of decrepit gray, probably will be a subject of much discussion in coming months.

For the Legislature last week appropriated 100 thousand dollars for the purchase of a site and construction of a new governor's mansion.

It also directed the Legislative Council to study the question with reference to site, design and cost.

In Lincoln there is already considerable discussion about what the new mansion should be like and where it should be. A good many persons believe those questions will generate statewide interest.

On one point, almost everyone, who knows anything about the present "mansion," agrees. The new residence shouldn't be anything like it.

The rambling house at 1445 H Street was built for a private home more than 50 years ago. The State bought it at the turn

of the century, after the 1899 Legislature had appropriated 25 thousand dollars for that purpose.

The Legislature called for bids from persons who wanted to sell a house to be used for the Governor's residence. The State purchased and equipped the D. E. Thompson house just south of the Capitol for \$21,385.30.

It was considered a magnificent place when it was established, but it has seen its day.

The windows have loosened with age. The curtains fly in the breeze when there is a strong wind. The Governor's wife, when there are guests for dinner, sits at the dining room table in front of a big window. If the temperature outdoors happens to be about zero, her feet freeze.

While the big rooms on the main floor are not big enough to accommodate the crowds of three hundred or so that sometimes attend events there, they are too large for comfortable living quarters for the occupants of the mansion.

Governor and Mrs. Griswold spend much of their time in a second floor room which serves as their living room, study and bedroom.

There are four bedrooms, not enough to accommodate the guests a governor frequently must house.

When the Griswolds' daughter, Dorothy, and son, Dwight, Jr., were home, and governors from other states or other house guests came, Dorothy and Dwight sometimes had to move out of the mansion for the night.

All of this has convinced Mrs. Griswold that the livability as well as the adequateness of the new mansion must be major considerations — although most public attention probably will be centered on site and design.

There is some support for location of the mansion on the proposed site of the new Historical Society Building, just southeast of the Capitol Building, and moving to the historical building to University of Nebraska campus.

336.45

Feb.

#425

Journal, June 19, 1945

Selection of a site for new executive mansion discussed, alternatives offered

Selection of a site for the new executive mansion will be the first step taken by the legislative council's subcommittee assigned to that job. The five members, after an afternoon conference with Gov. Dwight Griswold, agreed that before other plans could be made it would be necessary to find a suitable location for the proposed building.

These possibilities have been presented: 6-19-45

PLACING THE new building on the same location as the present mansion, but enlarge the site by purchasing additional lots.

PURCHASE LAND at the north end of 15th street, give it to the State Historical society for its proposed building and construct the mansion on the northeast intersection of 16th and H streets which is now owned by the historical society.

PURCHASE LAND at 15th and K streets and trade that to the historical society for its property at 16th and H.

FOLLOW THE plan of the state capitol planning commission and purchase property at 15th and A streets and close that street from A to Washington.

THE COMMITTEE felt, however, that before any further steps could be taken it should consult the board of directors of the historical society as to whether or not it is willing to make any trade for its property and if so what location it would approve. Senators Dan Garber and Arthur Carmody were named to confer with the board members of the historical society.

Majority of the committee felt that the executive mansion

should be located south or east of the state house and that the historical building should be located in the vicinity of the capitol. That is a matter, however, which the historical society will decide.

* * *
GOVERNOR GRISWOLD

urged that the executive mansion, if built at the 16th and H street location, be built of the same exterior material as the capitol and the same general lines of architecture be followed. He also urged that adequate grounds be provided.

As to the razing of the present executive mansion and replacing it with a new one the governor indicated he did not consider the space adequate. He said that he favored the state retaining ownership of the present site, pointing out that at some future date it might be necessary for the state to build another building for offices.

Senator C. Petrus Peterson is chairman of the committee and other members are Senators Charles Tyrdik and Carl P. Jeffords.

LEGISLATIVE
State House
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

336.45

Neb.

#426

Star, June 19, 1945

Suitable Site For Governor's Mansion Sifted

4 LOCATIONS DEBATED BY
SUB-COMMITTEE, TO CONFER
WITH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Suitable location for a new governor's mansion was given consideration Monday afternoon when members of the legislative council's sub-committee on the construction of the mansion conferred with Gov. Griswold.

Selection of a site will be the first problem in the building plan to be undertaken by the governor, with consultation of the committee.

June 19 - 45
Four Sites Suggested.

The following sites have been suggested:

(1) Buy the land at the north end of Fifteenth street on R street, trade it to the state historical society for the society's new building and erect the governor's mansion on property at the northeast intersection of Sixteenth and H streets which the society now owns.

(2) Construction of the new mansion on the site of the present mansion with enlarged grounds.

(3) Place the new structure at the south end of the boulevard widened area on Fifteenth street, purchase property at Fifteenth and A streets, close Fifteenth street from A to Washington.

(4) Build on the historical society property on Sixteenth and H, but buy an area at Fifteenth and K streets to trade for the society's property.

Since several of the possibilities depend upon the viewpoint

of the historical society, the committee appointed Senators Dan Garber of Red Cloud and Arthur Carmody of Trenton to confer with members of the historical society board.

Urge South or East Site.

Several committee members expressed the hope that the historical society would be placed in the vicinity of the capitol but indicated they favored building the governor's mansion either south or east of the capitol building.

Gov. Griswold urged that adequate grounds be provided and suggested that the mansion be built of the same outside building stone and the same type architecture as the capitol building, if built in the same vicinity.

Considering the possibility of tearing down the present mansion, the governor said he thought the ground space was not adequate for a mansion, but suggested the state retain ownership of the property for future building needs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

State House

336.45
Feb.

Journal, June 26, 1945

#427

Authorize city committee on capitol beautification

Council approves realtors' request; will work with state authorities

A committee of three to work with state authorities on proposed plans for capitol beautification was approved unanimously by the city council Monday afternoon at its regular session. The action was taken following protracted discussion of proposals advanced in a communication by

the Lincoln Board of Realtors. Members of the committee will be the city engineer, a councilman and a member of the realty group.

Requesting the council's support, the realtors proposed, first, that the widening of 15th street north and south, and J street east to the Veterans' hospital be carried out, as originally planned.

SECOND, THAT EVERYTHING possible be done to to persuade state officials to locate the proposed new governor's mansion at A and 15th streets. *J. 6-26-45*

In regard to widening 15th street, attention was called by the realtors, to the location of the proposed new auditorium. Only 30 feet setback from 15th street is allowed, which permanently blocks the possibility of a wide mall, running from R street to the capitol building.

Fifteenth street north of K street is only 120 feet wide, it was pointed out, and the suggested width of the mall is 270 feet.

THE COUNCILMEN were urged to look at the unsightly tangle of unkept trees, telephone poles and cables, obstructing the view of the beautiful capitol building, gazing south on 15th from R street.

Recalling two other, earlier, asserted serious blunders in city planning, it was emphasized that a third great mistake could be

prevented if provision is made now for a proper setting for the capitol and other civic projects under consideration.

Possible change of the auditorium's location was discussed by the council, but it was generally agreed that altho its removal to another point might be advantageous, such a decision would have to be referred to the voters, who fixed the auditorium's present site in the bond issue approving its construction.

336.45

Keb.

#428

Star, June 23, 1945

Beautifying Capitol Area Asked By Lincoln Realtors

The setting of the Nebraska state capitol should be beautified as a means of making the city of Lincoln more attractive and as an inducement to returning veterans to make Lincoln their permanent home, a resolution passed by the Lincoln Board of Realtors and filed with the city council Saturday declared. 5,6-23-45

The resolution set forth as specific projects the widening of Fifteenth street both north and south of the capitol, and the widening of J street to the east as far as Veterans hospital, and also to the west.

Specific Plans.

In connection with widening Fifteenth street to the north, the resolution stated that a "mall north of the capitol should be at least 270 feet wide, and the widening should be undertaken before the proposed new city auditorium is set up." Plans for the auditorium call for only 30 feet of parkway to be left between

the building and the street, the resolution states, and the placing of the building would permanently block the widening of Fifteenth street.

Another point of beautification the resolution suggests is to "persuade state officials to locate the proposed new governor's mansion at A and Fifteenth streets."

At present, the resolution states, misshapen trees, stark telephone poles and cables obstruct the view of the capitol building from Fifteenth and R streets, and these should be removed.

The resolution is signed by Lucile Ledwith, secretary of the Lincoln Board of Realtors.

336.45

Feb.

#429

Journal, June 29, 1945

Interest revived in supplying state capitol suitable setting

By Burt James.
Capitol Reporter.
The Journal Newspapers.

Nearly two decades have elapsed since the legislature and the city council began negotiating for improvement of the setting for the state capitol, a world-noted piece of architecture, but other than the opening of 15th street little has been done except the formation of some general plans.

Interest in the development has been revived since the legislature authorized the construction of a new executive mansion together with a state wide levy for the purpose of erecting a Historical society building.

* * *

FIRST STEPS for improving the area around the capitol were taken in 1927, when with legislative approval, a committee was named to draw plans and make recommendations. That group had several meetings and drafted some suggestions. These were widely discussed and the chamber of commerce even went so far as to recommend to the city commission that bonds for carrying out a part of the program be issued.

There the matter stood until 1937 when two members of the Lincoln city council, Ernest L. Smith and John Aldrich, suggested to Gov. R. L. Cochran that the committee be revived. He named a committee composed of city and state officers and it in turn asked the state planning board, since gone out of existence, to study the proposition.

* A sweeping plan which would provide a broad landscaped setting for the capitol was proposed by the planning board's committee.

* * *

IT SUGGESTED a long range program and recommended:

The state purchase the 12 blocks immediately adjacent to the capitol.

Purchase of property between A and Washington and 14th and 16th streets as the site for a governor's mansion.

336.45

Feb.

#430

Star, September 11, 1945

Beautification Of Capitol Area Aim of Realtors

...Plea to Council

Beautification of the approaches to the state capitol to "provide that jewel of a building a proper setting" was advocated Monday by a delegation from the Nebraska Association of Real Estate boards, appearing before the city council. *S. 9-11-45*

Al Kennedy, Omaha, chairman of the capitol beautification committee, told the council that "it seems to us that a full mall should be provided up Fifteenth street to the north, the street should be widened, and a suitable building built at the north end of the street."

Kennedy also suggested straightening of J street to the east of the capitol, but that, he said, is a city problem and not properly one for the state.

"State Should Aid"

"The state should invest in proper land to give the proper setting for the jewel," Kennedy commended.

Pressed as to what sort of building would be the proper type to place at the north end of Fifteenth street, R. E. Harrington said that the committee suggests erection of the new state historical society building there. The new governors' mansion could be built south of the capitol on Fifteenth street, at A or B street, Harrington suggested. Both buildings were authorized at the last session of the state legislature.

Councilman Lester Dunn told the committee that its efforts might better be directed to the state legislature. He recalled that the state once appropriated funds to beautify the capitol building grounds, but the 1935 legislature turned the funds to relief purposes.

Members of the committee at the council meeting Monday were Henry Austin, president of the Nebraska Real Estate association; Harvey Rathbone; Ervin Luedtke, Nebraska real estate commissioner; and R. E. Harrington, all of Lincoln; and Kennedy and Hiram Manville, Omaha. Bert Howard, Scottbluff, also a member of the committee, could not attend.

336.45

Feb.

#431

Journal - March 8, 1946

Remodeling of senate lounge is frowned on

A proposal for remodeling the east senate lounge in the capitol to provide space for the liquor commission met with vigorous disapproval Friday at the hands of the legislative council. Upon hearing of the plan from Hugo Srb, clerk of the legislature, the council immediately ordered that a resolution be drafted ordering that the room be left as it is.

WILLIAM YOUNKIN, assistant capitol custodian, told Srb that the liquor commission, which now has office space on the east side of the building and is using part of the office of the state supreme court, has been asked to vacate some of the court offices. Younkin explained to Srb that any remodeling would be of a temporary nature and that the room could be restored to its present condition if later desired.

When this information was given to the council, Sen. Dan Garber remarked, "It has been my observation that temporary changes become permanent."

THE LEGISLATURE, when in session, uses the room for holding committee hearings. Sen. Lloyd

Kain pointed out that if this room is taken away from the legislature it would not be possible to accommodate crowds that attend the public hearings.

Gov. Dwight Griswold, by law custodian of the capitol with authority to make changes, said he had no comment when informed of the council's action.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
State House
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

336.45

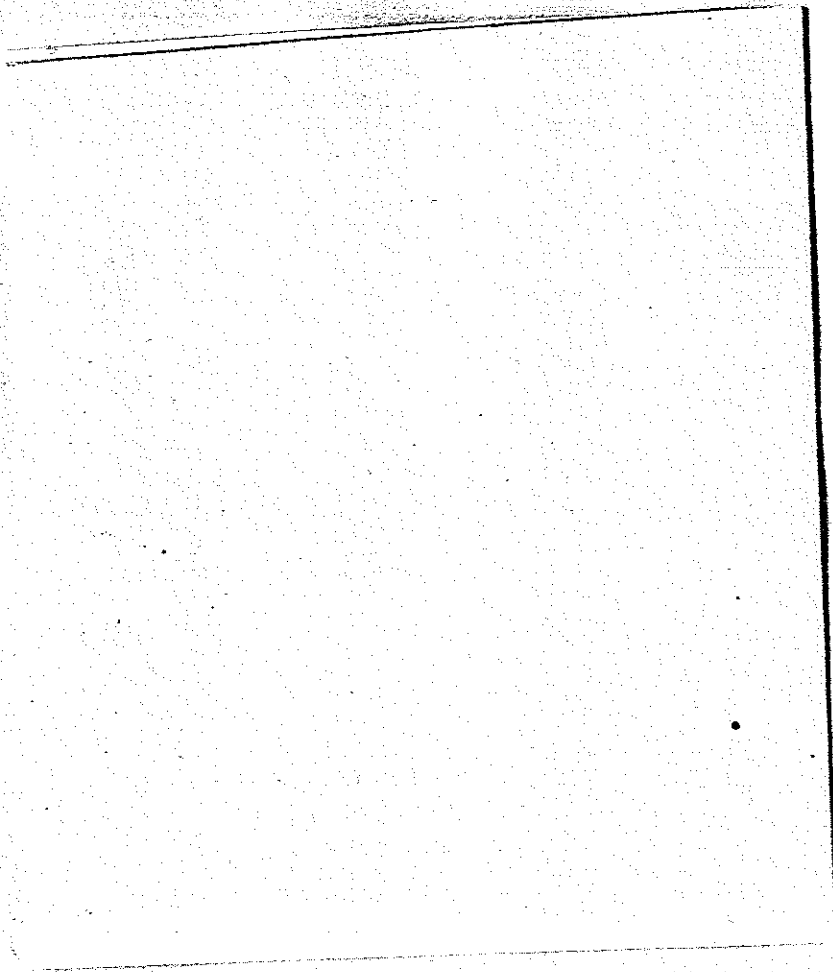
Feb.

#432

Star, February 11, 1947

Journal, February 17, 1947

Capitol Environs



Plans Laid For Capitol Area Group Kennedy Asks Bill Support

Plans for formulating a city committee on beautification of the state capitol environs were laid at a luncheon meeting sponsored by American Legion Post No. 3, at the Lincoln Monday.

Twenty representatives of civic and governmental agencies voted to instruct Legion Commander Edwin J. Faulkner to receive nominations to the committee from interested organizations.

A. C. Kennedy, chairman of the Nebraska State Real Estate association's legislative committee, asked the group's support for a bill being drafted for introduction in the legislature, setting up a nine-man capital environs commission.

THE COMMITTEE to be formed as an outgrowth of Monday's meeting, is designed to work with the proposed commission, or if the bill fails to become law, to act informally as an advisory commission.

D. L. Erickson, city engineer, outlined Lincoln's improvement plan for 15th street, north of the capitol. He explained that \$300,000 had been earmarked for the project and that \$257,000 had already been spent, leaving about \$42,000 still available.

Erickson said the city's "plans are complete and we're ready to go" on widening and resurfacing 15th from K to O.

Faulkner, who presided at the two-hour session, explained the Legion "has no axe to grind in this matter. We're trying to get all the interested groups together so we can co-ordinate the various plans."

ERNEST SMITH, chamber of commerce president, outlined the work of the chamber's planning commission, which contemplated the location of an auditorium, a library and a city county building, all along 15th street between K and O. Smith pledged the support of the chamber to the work of a community environs committee.

Similar pledges of co-operation were made by Chancellor R. G. Gustavson of the University of Nebraska; Chairman Chris Kuhner, of the Lancaster county board of commissioners, and Tax Commissioner Robert Armstrong, representing the state.

Kennedy, who in several speaking engagements has vig-

Capitol Development Group To Be Proposed In Bill

Planning of future building and other developments so as to bring out the full beauty of the capitol will be called for in a bill to be submitted to the legislature by the government committee, the group decided Monday afternoon. Senator Prohs was instructed to have a bill drafted to create a commission for development of a long range plan of beautification.

Senator Peterson of Lincoln told the committee of various plans that have been suggested and warned of the danger of repeating the over-ambitious programs of the past. He said that planning now would permit discussions on integrating city improvements with proposed state building.

Tells Proposed Buildings.

"The state will soon build a governor's mansion and a historical society building," Peterson said. "The city plans an auditorium and possibly a city-county building. If we do not plan, each will build independently and probably to the detriment of a beautiful setting for the capitol."

Suggestion for the planning commission came from Alfred Kennedy of Omaha, chairman of the legislative committee of the state real estate association. He advocated appointment by the governor of two members from each congressional district and one at large.

Kennedy called attention to the fact that investors have purchased property in the vicinity of the capitol and that they probably would build apartment houses unless of plan was developed. He said with a commission it would be possible for property owners to discuss with them plans that would not clash with a development plan.

The committee also advanced to general file a bill that would make all members of the legislature members of the legislative council. It was introduced by Senator Hoyt and the committee heard that some members were disgruntled because they had not been chosen council members.

To Reaffirm Principle.

Sentiment of the committee appeared to be to kill the measure in committee, but they finally compromised on a suggestion by Senator Seaton that it go to the floor for debate, "even though we do waste a day in talk." He said he thought it would be well for the legislature to "reaffirm the principle of the council."

The committee made no recommendations and the only open advocate of the bill was Senator

Pizer. Walter Raecke, speaker of the legislature and council chairman, spoke in opposition to the bill, pointing out the efficiency obtained from assigning duties to smaller groups.

The committee also voted to introduce a bill changing dates in election laws to the ones prevailing before the war. Principal change will be in lengthening the time candidates may file for office. The change was made to give more time for mailing ballots to men in the armed services.

the state capitol environs were laid at a luncheon meeting sponsored by American Legion Post No. 3, at the Lincoln Monday.

Twenty representatives of civic and governmental agencies voted to instruct Legion Commander Edwin J. Faulkner to receive nominations to the committee from interested organizations.

A. C. Kennedy, chairman of the Nebraska State Real Estate association's legislative committee, asked the group's support for a bill being drafted for introduction in the legislature, setting up a nine-man capital environs commission.

THE COMMITTEE to be formed as an outgrowth of Monday's meeting, is designed to work with the proposed commission, or if the bill fails to become law, to act informally as an advisory commission.

D. L. Erickson, city engineer, outlined Lincoln's improvement plan for 15th street, north of the capitol. He explained that \$300,000 had been earmarked for the project and that \$257,000 had already been spent, leaving about \$42,000 still available.

Erickson said the city's "plans are complete and we're ready to go" on widening and resurfacing 15th from K to O.

Faulkner, who presided at the two-hour session, explained the Legion "has no axe to grind in this matter. We're trying to get all the interested groups together so we can co-ordinate the various plans."

ERNEST SMITH, chamber of commerce president, outlined the work of the chamber's planning commission, which contemplated the location of an auditorium, a library and a city county building, all along 15th street between K and O. Smith pledged the support of the chamber to the work of a community environs committee.

Similar pledges of co-operation were made by Chancellor R. G. Gustavson of the University of Nebraska; Chairman Chris Kuhner, of the Lancaster county board of commissioners, and Tax Commissioner Robert Armstrong, representing the state.

Kennedy, who in several speaking engagements has vigorously rapped the appearance of the area surrounding the capitol, warned against too hasty action.

"I strongly urge your local committee to wait until the proposed environs commission is formed before undertaking any planning on your own," the Omaha realtor said.

Capitol Development Group To Be Proposed In Bill

Planning of future building and other developments so as to bring out the full beauty of the capitol will be called for in a bill to be submitted to the legislature by the government committee, the group decided Monday afternoon. Senator Prohs was instructed to have a bill drafted to create a commission for development of a long range plan of beautification.

Senator Peterson of Lincoln told the committee of various plans that have been suggested and warned of the danger of repeating the over-ambitious programs of the past. He said that planning now would permit discussions on integrating city improvements with proposed state building.

Tells Proposed Buildings.

"The state will soon build a governor's mansion and a historical society building," Peterson said. "The city plans an auditorium and possibly a city-county building. If we do not plan, each will build independently and probably to the detriment of a beautiful setting for the capitol."

Suggestion for the planning commission came from Alfred Kennedy of Omaha, chairman of the legislative committee of the state real estate association. He advocated appointment by the governor of two members from each congressional district and one at large.

Kennedy called attention to the fact that investors have purchased property in the vicinity of the capitol and that they probably would build apartment houses unless of plan was developed. He said with a commission it would be possible for property owners to discuss with them plans that would not clash with a development plan.

The committee also advanced to general file a bill that would make all members of the legislature members of the legislative council. It was introduced by Senator Hoyt and the committee heard that some members were disgruntled because they had not been chosen council members.

To Reaffirm Principle.

Sentiment of the committee appeared to be to kill the measure in committee, but they finally compromised on a suggestion by Senator Seaton that it go to the floor for debate, "even though we do waste a day in talk." He said he thought it would be well for the legislature to "reaffirm the principle of the council."

The committee made no recommendations and the only open advocate of the bill was Senator

Pizer. Walter Raecke, speaker of the legislature and council chairman, spoke in opposition to the bill pointing out the efficiency obtained from assigning duties to smaller groups.

The committee also voted to introduce a bill changing dates in election laws to the ones prevailing before the war. Principal change will be in lengthening the time candidates may file for office. The change was made to give more time for mailing ballots to men in the armed services.

336.45

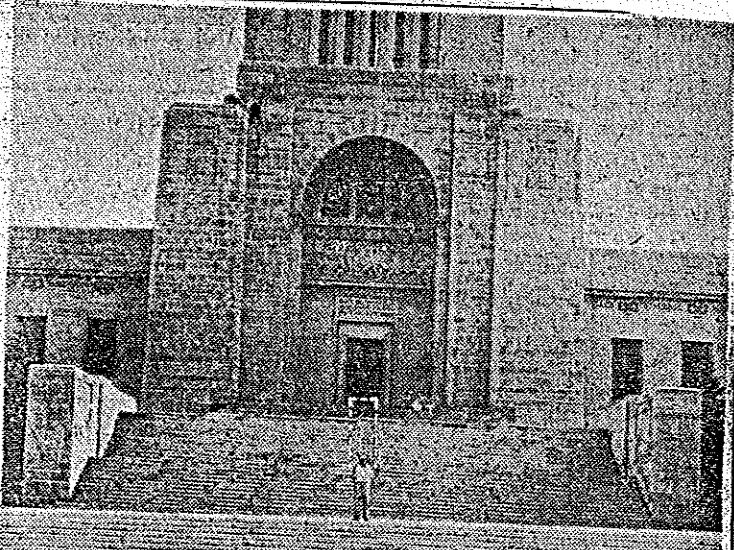
Neb.

#433

Bryan Statue

Journal, Aug. 8, 1947; Journal, Aug. 13, 1947;
Star, Aug. 14, 1947; Journal, Aug. 14, 1947;
Journal, Aug. 16, 1947; W. H. Aug. 17, 1947;
Star, Aug. 18, 1947; Journal, Aug. 18, 1947;
Journal, Aug. 19, 1947; Journal, Aug. 20,
1947; Journal, Aug. 21, 1947





SITE OF STATUE—Manuel Kahler, capitol yard foreman, stands on the site where the Bryan statue will be installed at the center of the first landing on the north steps leading up to the main entrance of the capitol. White lines indicate approximate height and width of statue. A seven feet deep concrete footing poured two weeks ago rests below Kahler's feet.

Bryan Statue Site Controversy Rages

The controversy on the location of a memorial statue to William Jennings Bryan on the north steps of the main entrance to the Nebraska capitol grew Thursday when protests of the location were made officially to Gov. Val Peterson by the Nebraska Architects association and by the Nebraska Art association.

A third organization, the Lincoln Garden club, registered disapproval of the site, and Thursday was discussing taking the question to the governor.

Dedication of the statue at the north entrance site, attacked by architects and art leaders, is scheduled for Labor day, Sept. 1.

Called "vandalism" by the Nebraska Art association, and termed "out of proportion," "like a telephone pole," "like an abandoned suitcase on the capitol steps" and "spoilation of the capitol" by architects, the statue site was defended by W. Bruce Shurtleff, chairman of the Bryan Memorial commission, as "one belonging to the public, not the architects, not the art groups, not the Bryan Memorial commission, but the entire state."



Mr. Evans, not the architects, not the art groups, not the Bryan Memorial commission, but the entire state.

SHURTLEFF Thursday charged that "most of the critics have been anti-Bryan most of their lives" and that some of the critics "would like to see the statue ditched in Salt Creek."

Art representatives, however, said the attack was not personal to Mr. Bryan, the statue, or its creator, Rudolph Evans, but was a question of the beauty of the



Allen Papers Reveal Initial Statue Site on Proposed Mall

The initial site planned for the William Jennings Bryan Memorial statue was on a mall contemplated by the city planning board for the head of 15th street on the north side of the capitol with the statue facing north.

This is revealed in the papers of the late Tom S. Allen, brother-in-law of Bryan, sponsoring member of the Bryan memorial commission, and largest contributor to the statue fund.

The proposed mall has never been constructed.

NONE OF MR. Allen's letters in 1941, made public Monday, make direct reference to the "north steps" or the "north entrance" as site for the proposed statue. The memorial resolution passed by the 1941 unicameral which specifically deleted the words "on the capitol ground" from the site location left the location merely "in the city of Lincoln."

According to Mr. Allen's letters it was four years after the mall site was discussed in 1941 until approval was obtained in October, 1945, from Gov. Dwight Griswold to locate the statue on the north entrance of the capitol.

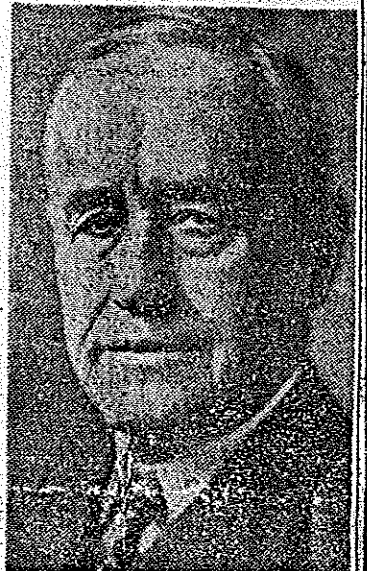
IN THE Nov. 23, 1941, Sunday Journal and Star feature section under the title "Funds are being raised for the William Jennings Bryan statue" appeared the following description of the location as first planned:

"THE MEMBERS (of the commission) plan to place the statue **ON THE MALL THE CITY PLANNING BOARD CONTEMPLATES. THE BRYAN STATUE WILL BE AT THE HEAD OF FIFTEENTH STREET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CAPITOL FACING NORTH.** The General Pershing commission will have its memorial at the intersection of 15th and R streets, facing south. The statesman and soldier, two men in whom Lincoln can have much pride, will **FACE EACH OTHER AT THE END OF A LANDSCAPED PLAZA, SOME DAY THE CENTER OF CIVIC LIFE.**"

A short, earlier story when the commission organized June 25, 1941, mentioned the statue "on capitol grounds" as "determined by the state planning board." Again on Oct. 1, 1941, when sculptor Rudolph Evans visited Lincoln, press reference described the statue as "on the 15th street side of the state capitol looking north."

NOV. 12, 1941, Allen wrote to Frank Woods, then president of the Lincoln Telephone company, stating the statue will be "placed at the head of 15th street on the north side of the capitol facing north."

Contacted Monday, Mr. Woods, former member of the city park advisory board and recipient of (See STATUE, P. 5, Col. 2)



FRANK H. WOODS: Never understood statue was to go on north steps.



PROF. PAUL GRUMMANN: in sympathy with an injunction against north step statue site.



Mr. Evans, not the architects, not the art groups, not the Bryan Memorial commission, but the entire state."

SHURTLEFF Thursday charged that "most of the critics have been anti-Bryan, most of their lives" and that some of the critics "would like to see the statue ditched in Salt Creek."

Art representatives, however, said the attack was not personal to Mr. Bryan, the statue, or its creator, Rudolph Evans, but was a question of the beauty of the capitol and a protest that the site had been selected without representation from the art and architecture groups.

Shurtleff appealed that the "public be good sports, allow the statue to be placed on the site as planned for the dedication, and if the statue when erected detracts from the capitol building to allow the legislature to move the statue to another location."

IN THE PROTEST of the Nebraska Architects association delivered to the governor Thursday on the proposed Bryan statue at the north entrance to the capitol, Fritz Vierk, vice president, wrote:

"The executive committee's action on this subject was an unanimous vote of opposition to the location of this or any other statue at the north entrance as proposed. The building was originally designed to have the sculpture an integral part of the whole, and for this reason any additional sculpture at the main entrance on the north would only serve to detract from the original conception.

"We sincerely recommend that a reconsideration of the proposed location of this statue be made."

Vierk concluded the letter with an offer to the governor that representatives of the Nebraska Architects association would be glad to confer with him if assistance in planning a new location was required.

IN ASKING the governor to reconsider location of the Bryan statue, Nebraska Art Association president, Mrs. J. C. Whitten, stated:

"We are asking the governor to reconsider the location of the Bryan statue in light of our previous protest Feb. 24 and his reply Feb. 28 in which he states that we 'will be given every consideration when considering the final placement of the statue.' This action is not based on any disrespect for Mr. Bryan and his principles. Regardless of the man our opposition would be just as strong."

THE NEBRASKA Art association over the signature of Mrs. E. E. Angle, then president, protested to Governor Peterson on



THE STATUE—Bronze statue of William Jennings Bryan by Rudolph Evans, Washington, D. C., sculptor who did the likeness of Bryan in the Hall of Fame in the nation's capitol. Eight feet high, and mounted on a six feet high Missouri marble pedestal, the overall cost more than 26,000 dollars. Well point, drive.

whom Lincoln can have much pride, will **FACE EACH OTHER AT THE END OF A LANDSCAPED PLAZA, SOME DAY THE CENTER OF CIVIC LIFE.**

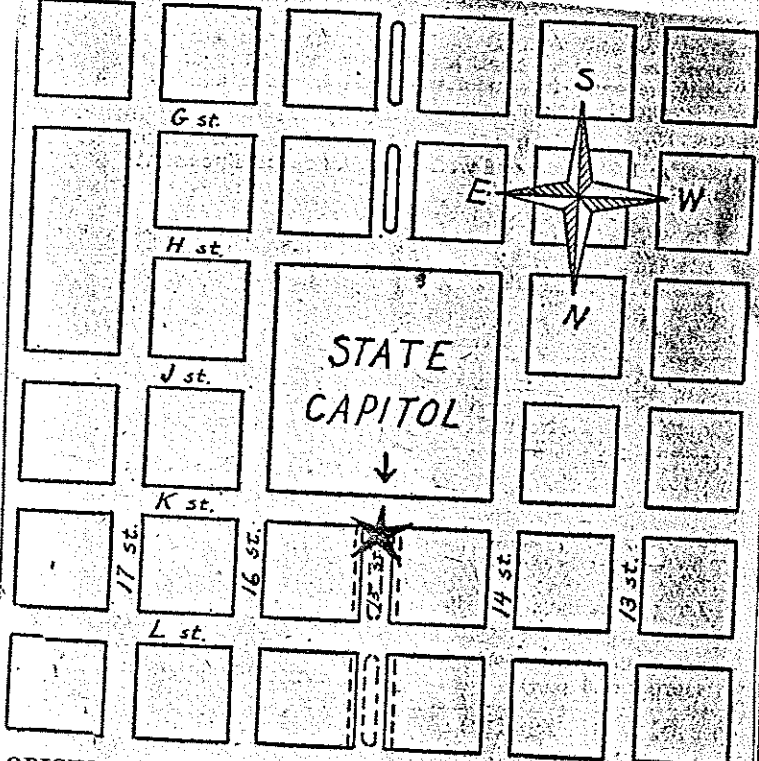
A short, earlier story when the commission organized June 25, 1941, mentioned the statue "on capitol grounds" as "determined by the state planning board." Again on Oct. 1, 1941, when sculptor Rudolph Evans visited Lincoln, press reference described the statue as "on the 15th street side of the state capitol looking north."

NOV. 12, 1941, Allen wrote to Frank Woods, then president of the Lincoln Telephone company, stating the statue will be "placed at the head of 15th street on the north side of the capitol facing north."

Contacted Monday, Mr. Woods, former member of the city park advisory board and recipient of (See **STATUE**, P. 5, Col. 2)



PROF. PAUL GRUMMANN: in sympathy with an injunction against north step statue site.



ORIGINAL STATUE SITE—Black star indicates the original site on the proposed mall north of the capitol where the disputed W. J. Bryan statue was to be erected. Arrow indicates the site presently being proposed which is under attack from art and architectural leaders.

as president.

"It Is Later Than They Think"

BY J. E. LAWRENCE.

Note: The 1947 Nebraska legislature met in Lincoln continuously in regular session from January 3, 1947, to early June. Why did not these people now protesting against the Bryan statue raise the issue then?

On the editorial page last week, under a heading, "Much Ado About Nothing," we suggested that some people discussing the Bryan Memorial statue apparently had very little knowledge of the facts of what actually had taken place. This article has to do with the correspondence of the late T. S. Allen, a member of the Memorial commission, widely-known Nebraskan.

It has been suggested that Mr. Allen and his associates withheld from the public vital information concerning placing of this statue. Provision for it was made by legislative resolution in the session of 1941. (That is only a matter of more than six years ago.) The commission was named by Governor Griswold (republican). The funds were collected, and detailed stories appeared in the newspapers at that time (more than six years ago). Work was under contemplation when the war came, and the war production board, in the shortage of metals, clamped down on the use of bronze. The late Mr. Allen wrote the late Senator George W. Norris in that connection.

Did Mr. Allen seek to suppress from the public the facts that the statue was to be placed at the north entrance to the capitol?

On Nov. 12, 1941 (more than six years ago) Mr. Allen wrote to Mr. Frank H. Woods, president of the Lincoln Telephone Co., and after explaining that he had tried to reach Mr. Woods by telephone twice, had been unable to do so,



THE LATE J. L. TEETERS
... He wrote of statue on Fifteenth street; willing to contribute more.

hence the letter, added in an appeal for funds:

"Because of Mr. Bryan's service to the state and nation the legislature thought it fitting that a memorial be erected to his memory by the people of Nebraska, and Rudolph Evans, one of the leading sculptors in America, has been engaged to do the work. It will take about a year to complete the statue... IT WILL BE PLACED AT THE HEAD OF FIFTEENTH STREET ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING FACING NORTH AND WILL BE AN INSPIRATION TO THE RISING GENERATION IN ALL THE YEARS TO COME."

To which Mr. Woods, a distinguished Lincoln citizen, enclosing a check for \$200, responded:

"Lincoln, March 20, 1942.

"Dear Tom: It's a pleasure to

enclose my check for \$200 payable to the Bryan Memorial commission. The memorial will be a very fitting tribute to the service which Mr. Bryan rendered to the state and to the nation.

"Sincerely,
"FRANK H. WOODS."

Mr. Woods is vacationing, but the correspondence shows very conclusively on its face there was no deception on the part of Mr. Allen about the plans.

Some solicitation was by telephone. Bruce Shurtleff, one of the commission's members, contacted John L. Teeters, Lincoln pioneer, civic-spirited leader, by telephone, and on December 10, 1941, Mr. Teeters addressed this letter to Mr. T. S. Allen:

"Dear Mr. Allen: In a telephone conversation with Mr. Shurtleff this morning I told him I would be pleased to make a contribution of \$100 to the fund being raised to pay for a statue of Mr. W. J. Bryan TO BE ERECTED ON FIFTEENTH STREET THIS CITY. (Fifteenth street opens on the north and south entrances to the capitol, and the south entrance never has entered into this discussion). If you would advise me when the money will be needed I will remit promptly, and if sufficient funds are not at hand, I will make another contribution.

"Very truly yours,
"JOHN L. TEETERS."

Mr. Teeters, now dead, generous benefactor of the Lincoln General hospital, was the recipient of the distinguished service award of the Lincoln Kiwanis club for outstanding public service, was interested in art, interested in the capitol, and interested in all of the good things pertaining to Lincoln.

S. 8-18-47

Did Mr. Allen and his associates

on the commission seek advice in connection with this statue? On June 26, 1941, there was a letter in Mr. Allen's files from Paul H. Grumann, who founded the University of Nebraska School of Fine Arts, participated actively in the affairs of the Nebraska Art association, a group which now is represented as protesting vigorously, and later director of the Society of Liberal Arts in charge of the Joslyn Memorial in Omaha. The exact site was then undecided:

"Dear Mr. Allen: I have been thinking over the problem of the Bryan Memorial statue and it seems to me that I agree with the sculptor you mention. Eight feet should be about the height both in relation to the base and from the standpoint of general appearance. Since the figure is to be out-of-doors, it can well afford to be somewhat higher than the one in Statuary hall. If there is anything more in this connection that I can do to be of assistance please do not hesitate to write me.

"Sincerely,
"PAUL H. GRUMMANN."

Did Mr. Allen seek the best artistic advice available before proceeding with the plans?

In his files was another letter, dated June 24, 1941, before final site action, from Dwight Kirsch, chairman of the department of art at the University of Nebraska, active in the affairs of the Nebraska Art association. It reads:

"Dear Mr. Allen: I was very much interested in your letter of June 21, 1941; (more than six years ago) in regard to the proposed statue of William J. Bryan. Although the type of base and its proportion are not regulated by any definite rules, it is generally best to have the base distinctly higher or lower than the statue which it supports. Your sculptor's suggestion, it seems to me, would be quite

to l
sat
Ge
for
CL
SU
TH
has
life
only
high
sho
helg
ter
shou
in k
as)
thro
"Cha
Mr.
clear
was a
near t
On

as president.

...an They Think // In View of the Bryan Statue Protest, a Review of the Letter Files of the late T. S. Allen

my check for \$200 pay-
the Bryan Memorial
sion. The memorial will
y fitting tribute to the
which Mr. Bryan ren-
the state and to the na-

Sincerely,
"FRANK H. WOODS."
Woods is vacationing, but
correspondence shows very
vely on its face there was
ption on the part of Mr.
bout the plans.

licitation was by tele-
Bruce Shurtleff, one of
mission's members, con-
John L. Teeters, Lincoln
civic-spirited leader, by
me, and on December 10,
Mr. Teeters addressed this
to Mr. T. S. Allen:

Dear Mr. Allen: In a tele-
conersation with Mr.
Shurtleff this morning I told
I would be pleased to make
contribution of \$100 to the
being raised to pay for a
e of Mr. W. J. Bryan TO
DIRECTED ON FIFTEENTH
STREET THIS CITY. (Fif-
th street opens on the north
st. th entrances to the capitol
and the south entrance
r has entered into this dis-
sion). If you would advise
when the money will be
led I will remit promptly,
if sufficient funds are not
hand, I will make another
contribution.

"Very truly yours,
"JOHN L. TEETERS."
Teeters, now dead, gener-
benefactor of the Lincoln
eral hospital, was the recip-
of the distinguished service
d of the Lincoln Kiwanis
for outstanding public serv-
was interested in art, inter-
in the capitol, and interested
all of the good things pertain-
to Lincoln. S. 8-18-47
and Mr. Allen and his associates

on the commission seek advice in
connection with this statue? On
June 26, 1941, there was a letter in
Mr. Allen's files from Paul H.
Grummann, who founded the Uni-
versity of Nebraska School of Fine
Arts, participated actively in the
affairs of the Nebraska Art asso-
ciation, a group which now is
represented as protesting vigor-
ously, and later director of the
Society of Liberal Arts in charge
of the Joslyn Memorial in Omaha.
The exact site was then unde-
cided:

"Dear Mr. Allen: I have been
thinking over the problem of
the Bryan Memorial statue
and it seems to me that I agree
with the sculptor you mention.
Eight feet should be about the
height both in relation to the
base and from the standpoint of
general appearance. Since the
figure is to be out-of-doors, it
can well afford to be somewhat
higher than the one in Statuary
hall. If there is anything more
in this connection that I can do
to be of assistance please do not
hesitate to write me.

"Sincerely,
"PAUL H. GRUMMANN."

Did Mr. Allen seek the best
artistic advice available before
proceeding with the plans?

In his files was another letter,
dated June 24, 1941, before final
site action, from Dwight Kirsch,
chairman of the department of art
at the University of Nebraska, ac-
tive in the affairs of the Nebraska
Art association. It reads:

"Dear Mr. Allen: I was very
much interested in your letter
of June 21, 1941, (more than six
years ago) in regard to the
proposed statue of William J.
Bryan. Although the type of
base and its proportion are not
regulated by any definite rules,
it is generally best to have the
base distinctly higher or lower
than the statue which it sup-
ports. Your sculptor's suggestion,
it seems to me, would be quite



MR. FRANK WOODS
... He thought it a fine memorial
to Mr. Bryan's services.

satisfactory for that reason.
Generally a piece of sculpture
for an out-door location, ESPE-
CIALLY WHEN IT IS NEAR
SUCH A LARGE BUILDING AS
THE NEBRASKA CAPITOL,
has to be scaled distinctly over
life size. If you had the statue
only seven and one-half feet
high, I should think the base
should be about five feet in
height, but this would be a bet-
ter proportion to use indoors. I
should be very much interested
in knowing more about the work
and the sculptor who is doing it,
as the commission is carried
through.

"Sincerely yours,
"DWIGHT KIRSCH,
"Chairman, Department of Art."

Mr. Kirsch is vacationing. But
clearly his own letter shows he
was aware the statue was to be
near the capitol.

On October 26, 1945, Mr. Allen

wrote to Rudolph Evans setting
forth the successive official steps
through which the commission
had moved. In part, bearing spe-
cifically upon the question of of-
ficial approval, Mr. Allen wrote
the sculptor:

"Dear Mr. Evans: We had the
approval of the board of public
lands and buildings, (solidly re-
publican) also of the state plan-
ning commission, (purely advi-
sory) with the exception of
the governor, (Governor Dwight
Griswold, republican) who
wanted to wait and go over the
matter with Mr. Younkin, su-
perintendent of buildings and
grounds. THE GOVERNOR
HAS NOW SEEN MR. YOUN-
KIN AND SUGGESTS THAT
IT IS ALRIGHT TO PLACE
THE STATUE IN FRONT OF
THE ENTRANCE WHERE WE
HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO
PUT IT. I am enclosing the
governor's letter."

What does the record show?
Dirty work at the crossroads? An
effort to slyly slip something
over?

On November 23, 1941, there
was a half page article in the Lin-
coln press, with three pictures to
illustrate, in which this language
appeared:

"The members (of the commis-
sion) plan to place the statue on
the Mall the city planning board
contemplates. The Bryan statue
will be AT THE HEAD OF FIF-
TEENTH STREET ON THE
NORTH SIDE OF THE CAPI-
TOL, FACING NORTH. The
General Pershing commission
(then seeking a memorial to
General Pershing) will have its
memorial at the intersection of
Fifteenth and R streets, facing
south. The statesman and the
soldier, two men in whom Lin-
coln can have much pride, will

(Continued on Page Two)

BRYAN STATUE

(Continued from Page One)

face each other at the end of a landscaped plaza, some day the center of civic life."

There are some things precious both to the flesh and to the spirit. Only the very thoughtless at this eleventh hour would ask this commission, of which Mrs. Allen is a member, to arbitrarily set aside and nullify labors upon which her husband, now dead, had been engaged for six years. It is quite an order. Mrs. Allen, temporarily lamed by an ailing knee, has gone to the hospital for a brief stay to rest.

The strange thing is that individuals assuming to speak for such organizations as the Nebraska Art association and the Lincoln Garden club never seemingly first undertook to find out the facts of what steps had been taken, and then to talk afterward. For a group to come to life six years late is sumpin'. For anybody to expect common agreement in the field of art also is sumpin'. For a man of former Governor McManis's stature to break out in print with such harsh words as "appalled" — "monstrosity" — and "outrage" is also sumpin'.

To invest this now with the spirit of hysteria in the light of newspaper publicity, careful compliance with every requirement of official action, and frank expression in the solicitation of funds for the statue likewise is sumpin' — call it childish, partisan, tardy, or what you will.

Former Republican Vice-President Charles Dawes, a close, intimate friend of the late W. J. Bryan, has made reservations for himself and for Mrs. Dawes at the Hotel Cornhusker. He can cancel them. Some other distinguished guests from out of Nebraska have indicated their desire to attend. They can rearrange their plans. When "ART" is to be served in Lincoln, it is in capital letters.

To return to the original theme of this flaring controversy — "Much Ado About Nothing" — as has been strenuously denied — nothing was to be gained unless partisanship was to be served. What is done can be undone. The memorial by the late D. E. Thompson on South Eleventh street, people will recall, was removed as a traffic hazard. This statue is not a traffic hazard. This statue is not a "monstrosity," and the circumstances attending it do not constitute an "outrage." Mrs. Allen is a gentle woman of cultivated tastes; the Bryan folk are gentle folk. They would not knowingly mar a magnificent building.

The sculptor came to Lincoln to study that north entrance; confer with members of the commission. He created that statue with the idea it would be placed on a certain site — and the site was not the Bryan Memorial hospital, or any other site than the one for which footings have already been laid under instruction by Mr. Younkin, now dead, long associated with the state capitol even back to the days of Mr. Goodhue, also dead.

Lincoln Architects Protest Location of Bryan Statue

Five members of the Lincoln Architectural association meeting at the chamber of commerce Wednesday noon protested placing of the William J. Bryan statue before the main entrance of the state capitol.

Dedication of the statue is scheduled to take place Labor day, Sept. 1.

The group decided erection of the statue would "certainly not be in keeping with the plans originally proposed by Bertam Goodhue, capitol designer, and another more suitable location should be found."

Ben F. Hemphill expressed the groups' views with the statement, "We certainly have no objection to a statue honoring William Jennings Bryan, but we certainly can't agree to the placing of a statue of him, or anyone else, smack in the middle of the main entrance to our state capitol."

Other members present at the discussion included Fritz Bierk, who presided, John Unthank, R. O. Freeman, and Martin Aitken.

"THE POWERFUL, magnifi-

cent splendor of the Nebraska capitol will be out of architectural proportion to an eight-foot statue of Bryan on a six-foot base" was the appraisal made Wednesday by Prof. Linus Burr Smith, chairman of the University of Nebraska department of architecture. "It would take a statue 30 feet high instead of 14 feet high to show up well in that location," he said.

Asked where the Bryan statue should be located, Professor Smith said "I don't believe the statue should be placed on the capitol grounds at all but if it has to be, it should be on the east approach where it will not detract from the statue of Lincoln and where it can look out on the Bryan home at Fairview."

One Lincoln architect stated he would contribute \$100 towards the moving of the Bryan statue from the capitol.

Fritz Craig, Lincoln architect, strongly opposed the location of Bryan's statue at the main capitol entrance and recommended the statue be located at the Bryan Memorial hospital.

McKelvie Hits Bryan Statue

Will Help Others Seek Restraining Order

(Reprinted from Saturday's late editions) Lincoln (I.E.) — Former Gov. Sam R. McKelvie Saturday was allied with the forces against erecting a statue of William Jennings Bryan in front of the Statehouse.

Mr. McKelvie said he was "appalled" at the plan of the Bryan Memorial Commission and "very definitely" will join others "in seeking a court restraining order."

The Nebraska Art Association, representing 1,500 citizens, the Nebraska Architects Association and others vigorously protested the Statehouse site. It would be "vandalism" and would mar the architecture of the building, it was said.

The commission, meanwhile, is going ahead with its plans to erect the statue — with ceremony — on Labor Day.

"If I had realized what an outrage was afoot I surely would have spoken long ago," said Mr. McKelvie, Republican Governor from 1899 to 1923.

So Much Ado— About Nothing

Recently there have been newspaper reports suggesting that some of the late William Jennings Bryan's friends have blundered badly in their lack of understanding of the finer things of life. Will they be forgiven on the ground that their "folly" was unintentional?

It does seem that some people are worrying, perhaps unnecessarily. Nebraska's capitol is one of the world's 10 outstanding buildings. Who would be so mean as to despoil it—to mar its beauty, its glory? On the basis of present discussions, some have said, the capitol will be marred as a result of placing at the north entrance a bronze statue of the Great Commoner; the work of a distinguished American sculptor, Rudolph Evans, who did the figure of Bryan which now occupies its niche in Washington's hall of fame. Evans, Who's Who in America discloses, did figures of Nebraska's J. Sterling Morton; John Greenleaf Whittier, the great American poet; General Bolivar, the great South American liberator; General Robert E. Lee, confederacy's most illustrious son; Owen D. Young, and Bernard M. Baruch, present-day beloved American elder statesman. It would appear that as a sculptor Mr. Evans isn't exactly a dub.

The work is done. It is here—in crates—in storage—ready to be placed. Perhaps common sense says it should be held in storage, and then again perhaps common sense says nothing of the kind. Perhaps common sense suggests that this is a badly blown-up, over-done pop-gun and paper-wad battle in temperatures that have ranged around 100 degrees.

This writer, president of the Nebraska State Historical society, had hoped the Bryan statue would be placed with the society in conjunction with its new building; he was not consulted; there was no reason why he should have been consulted. The new building was not in prospect then.

But if the Bryan statue does prove to be unsuited to its present location; it could be moved to a more appropriate place. All that would be necessary to move it would be the consent of the commission, created to erect it, and the trifling cost of transportation, plus the construction of new footings. All that would be lost would be the cost of the footings and transportation, trifling in themselves. Isn't that a sensible solution? If it proves out of place there, there isn't a thing that can't be undone very easily and without great cost, a cost borne by Mr. Bryan's friends. They would not want to disfigure the capitol or its grounds.

The case history is simple. The statue of Bryan was provided for by a resolution of the legislature, specifying the memorial be placed at the capitol. The legislature understood; otherwise there would have been no reason for its action. The decision was made by the members of the commission and by Governor Griswold with the aid of the capitol custodian, William Younkin, now dead, who actually prepared the plans for the setting. Mr. Morehead and Mr. Allen are dead, but Governor Griswold is alive, and if there is any curiosity about the facts a simple 2-paragraph letter to Governor Griswold would have brought them out fully and accurately?

Mrs. T. S. Allen lives in Lincoln. We hope that

Statuary is the subject of this column today, with two guest conductors, Earl Marvin, editor of the Beatrice Sun, and J. Hyde Sweet, editor of the Nebraska City News-Press. There follow, first, excerpts from Mr. Marvin's column, "The Upper Room."—R. A. McC., jr.

5-8-19-47
"Statues of great men oft remind us we should exercise great care, where we put imperishable memorials, lest some day the people wonder why we ever put them there. A controversy of major proportions is now in progress over the question of placing a statue of William Jennings Bryan at the north entrance of the state capitol. Associations of artists and architects have expressed their dissent. Former Governor McKelvie, a member of the original capitol commission, declares he will join others in seeking court action to prevent what he regards as a great mistake. The Lincoln Garden club registers its objection to the site, and Governor Peterson is hearing from other organizations and many individuals.

Marvin on Statuary

"It might be a good thing to look into the whole subject of statuary and its use. Statuary hall in the national capitol does not make a very good impression on visitors. Graven images stand about the room to be looked at. Some are there to preserve in memory men who are unknown to the average tourist. It must be embarrassing for the statue of an obscure hero to see, while other characters are readily recognized, the tourists look at his name and wonder what he had done or said worth remembering.

"William Jennings Bryan was an eminent politician, but it is uncertain whether history will give him higher rank than someone else. It takes a long time to fix a man's place in the life of a state or nation... Anyway, the whole subject of statues should be overhauled.

—E. M.

And now, J. Hyde Sweet does the talking, in his "Kick Column," of which the following are excerpts:

"The present idea is to put the Bryan Statue on the north STEPS of the state house. Abraham Lincoln, who possibly was a greater man than Bryan, is stuck away on the west side of the capitol. Nobody ever sees him unless a special attempt is made. The architect of the capitol, Bertram Goodhue, who died before his greatest work could be completed; and the man who succeeded him, to say nothing of members of the capitol commission, decided in the beginning there would be no statues, not even of Deity, close to the building, and that rule has been adhered to.

Sweet on Statuary

"Mr. Bryan WAS a great man. He brought fame, such as it was, to Nebraska. He brought thousands of people to Lincoln to see and hear him. He went to Lincoln a poor young lawyer without a brief. When he died, after having sold real estate in Florida, talked against "monkeys" in Dayton, Tenn., and delivered I don't know how many Chatauqua addresses thruout the country for big fees (he always spoke free in Nebraska), he left a million dollars plus...

"There are places on the capitol grounds other than the front steps for a Bryan statue. Indeed, there are places in Lincoln for one—Bryan Memorial hospital grounds, for instance. If a Bryan statue can be placed in front of a brewery in Washington, surely it would not be incongruous

In a Public Mind letter the other day Mrs. Will Open Jones, wife of the late distinguished editor of The Journal, protested the location of the William Jennings Bryan statue on the main north entrance of Nebraska's capitol. It would be, she said, contrary to the vision of the architect, Bertram G. Goodhue, with whom Mr. Jones was in close touch thruout the planning of the great building.

"My late husband," Mrs. Jones wrote, "knew that it was Mr. Goodhue's decision never to place statues anywhere in the building or grounds."

On this point there is in the files a letter written April 30, 1923, by Lee Lawrie, capitol sculptor who worked under Goodhue, to Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander of the University of Nebraska, under whose watchful eye the symbolism of the structure was worked out. Wrote Mr. Lawrie:

"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 of the statuary kind. It is a great satisfaction to know that someone is there who understands my aim and my problem perfectly....

5-8-8-47 "L. L."
In an article in the T-Square Club Journal of Philadelphia, reprinted in the Sunday Journal and Star of July 17, 1932, Mr. Lawrie quoted this letter to Dr. Alexander as "a statement of the sculptural intention."

Sculptural Intention

Goodhue, wrote Lawrie, had "constantly emphasized the beauty of simplicity as this work developed." It might be said Mr. Lawrie here was talking primarily of the sculpture on the structure proper, the tower and buttresses. But Mr. Goodhue's determination not to permit statuary anywhere on the building was well known. He said no, a thousand times no, one time when Gutzon Borglum proposed to fill the niches in the lobby with busts. And those who recall his repeated expressions on the subject would know Mr. Goodhue would not have tolerated "sculpture of the statuary kind" of Bryan or anyone else, on the building's main entrance, smack in the middle. (The Lincoln statue, on the west, is not on the building at all, but on the ground.)

The question is not whether the Great Commoner should be honored. He should be. The question is simply whether Goodhue's great architectural conception should be marred. It will be, if Governor Peterson permits present plans to be carried out.

name of same. Evans, who's who in America discloses, did figures of Nebraska's J. Sterling Morton; John Greenleaf Whittier, the great American poet; General Bolivar, the great South American liberator; General Robert E. Lee, confederacy's most illustrious son; Owen D. Young, and Bernard M. Baruch, present-day beloved American elder statesman. It would appear that as a sculptor Mr. Evans isn't exactly a dub.

5-8-14-47
The work is done. It is here—in crates—in storage—ready to be placed. Perhaps common sense says it should be held in storage, and then again perhaps common sense says nothing of the kind. Perhaps common sense suggests that this is a badly blown-up, over-done pop-gun and paper-wad battle in temperatures that have ranged around 100 degrees.

This writer, president of the Nebraska State Historical society, had hoped the Bryan statue would be placed with the society in conjunction with its new building; he was not consulted; there was no reason why he should have been consulted. The new building was not in prospect then.

But if the Bryan statue does prove to be unsuited to its present location; it could be moved to a more appropriate place. All that would be necessary to move it would be the consent of the commission, created to erect it, and the trifling cost of transportation, plus the construction of new footings. All that would be lost would be the cost of the footings and transportation, trifling in themselves. Isn't that a sensible solution? If it proves out of place there, there isn't a thing that can't be undone very easily and without great cost, a cost borne by Mr. Bryan's friends. They would not want to disfigure the capitol or its grounds.

The case history is simple. The statue of Bryan was provided for by a resolution of the legislature, specifying the memorial be placed at the capitol. The legislature understood; otherwise there would have been no reason for its action. The decision was made by the members of the commission and by Governor Griswold with the aid of the capitol custodian, William Younkin, now dead, who actually prepared the plans for the setting. Mr. Morehead and Mr. Allen are dead, but Governor Griswold is alive, and if there is any curiosity about the facts a simple 2-paragraph letter to Governor Griswold would have brought them out fully and accurately?

Mrs. T. S. Allen lives in Lincoln. We hope that in her pride of her brother she is not a sensitive person. This thing which has developed is a little distressing; a little more disgusting. Nobody has a monopoly in his love for the capitol. No group of architects, no single individual can claim any superior interest in it. It belongs to the people of Nebraska, who paid for it, and it was their legislature that approved what has been done. Mr. Goodhue, if the truth has to be known, did not want the Lincoln Memorial at the west entrance. He wanted his building supreme without statues around it. The people like that Lincoln Memorial. If the people like the Bryan Memorial where it is proposed it shall be placed, probably that's where it will be. If they don't like it there, probably it will be changed. It's their capitol. What is all this about, if anything?

at his name and wonder what he had done or said worth remembering.

"William Jennings Bryan was an eminent politician, but it is uncertain whether history will give him higher rank than someone else. It takes a long time to fix a man's place in the life of a state or nation... Anyway, the whole subject of statues should be overhauled.

—E. M."

And now, J. Hyde Sweet does the talking, in his "Kick Column," of which the following are excerpts:

"The present idea is to put the Bryan Statue on the north STEPS of the state house. Abraham Lincoln, who possibly was a greater man than Bryan, is stuck away on the west side of the capitol. Nobody ever sees him unless a special attempt is made. The architect of the capitol, Bertram Goodhue, who died before his greatest work could be completed, and the man who succeeded him, to say nothing of members of the capitol commission, decided in the beginning there would be no statues, not even of Deity, close to the building, and that rule has been adhered to.

Sweet on Statuary

"Mr. Bryan WAS a great man. He brought fame, such as it was, to Nebraska. He brought thousands of people to Lincoln to see and hear him. He went to Lincoln a poor young lawyer without a brief. When he died, after having sold real estate in Florida, talked against "monkeys" in Dayton, Tenn., and delivered I don't know how many Chatauqua addresses thruout the country for big fees (he always spoke free in Nebraska), he left a million dollars plus...

"There are places on the capitol grounds other than the front steps for a Bryan statue. Indeed, there are places in Lincoln for one—Bryan Memorial hospital grounds, for instance. If a Bryan statue can be placed in front of a brewery in Washington, surely it would not be incongruous to erect one near a hospital and only a stone's throw from the house in which Mr. Bryan lived in Lincoln and toward which thousands of adulating adherents of Free Silver turned their feet when he was running for the presidency. Indeed, that's the place for the memorial.

"I think Mr. Morton would have been the first to object had Arbor Day Memorial association, of which John W. Steinhart was the Spark Plug, determined to put J. Sterling's bronze likeness—by the same man who made the Bryan statue—at the front door of Arbor Lodge Mansion. It stands in an appropriate, artistic, shaded place in the park proper, where it belongs.

"Mr. W. Bruce Shurtleff, a Lincoln business man, says politics is behind the opposition. I think that is wrong. One of the strong objectors to "messing up" the capitol front steps with ANYBODY'S statue is a prominent Lincoln woman who still is one of Mr. Bryan's strongest adherents...

"Personally, I have no right to say anything about it at all because I did not contribute to the fund. But I do think the architectural purity of the State House, sometimes referred to as a Silo on account of its shape, should be preserved. The only things that should be permitted on those front steps are office-seekers, and lobbyists hurrying inside to see that those 43 senators vote as they should. No Bryan, no Norris, no Morton, no Furnas and no George W. Olsen or anybody else, please.

—J. HYDE SWEET."

Hospital Is Rejected as Statue Site

Invitation to place the statue of William Jennings Bryan on the grounds of the Bryan Memorial hospital, if the statue should be erected at a site other than the Nebraska state capitol, was officially extended by the hospital's board of trustees Wednesday, 5-8-21-47.

WHILE EXPRESSING "appreciation for this fine gesture, W. Bruce Shurtleff, chairman of the Bryan memorial commission said there would be "no consideration given to the action of the Bryan hospital board."

"We are unwilling to consider placing of the statue in such a remote location. We want the people who visit Lincoln and the capitol to be able to see this statue masterpiece obly Rudolph Evans," explained Shurtleff.

IN THE FORM of a resolution voted unanimously at a Monday meeting of the board of trustees, the invitation was made to members of the Bryan Memorial commission by Prof. H. Clyde Filley, president of the trustees. The resolution made by E. J. Faulkner and seconded by John E. Curtiss, read as follows:

"WHEREAS, the Trustees of Bryan Memorial Hospital have noted the suggestion in the public press that the statue of William Jennings Bryan originally contemplated to be erected on the grounds of the Nebraska state capitol may be placed elsewhere;

AND WHEREAS, the Bryan Memorial hospital situated at Fairview, the long time home of William Jennings Bryan, would provide a particularly appropriate site for a memorial to Mr. Bryan;

BE IT RESOLVED, that a cordial invitation be extended to the members of the Bryan Memorial Commission to place the statue of William Jennings Bryan on the grounds of the Bryan Memorial hospital, if said statue is to be erected at a site other than at the Nebraska state capitol.

Kelvie 'Appalled' At Plans for Statue

Sam R. McKelvie, former governor of Nebraska and chairman of the original capitol commission, Friday night said he was "appalled" at the plan to place the William Jennings Bryan statue on the north entrance of the capitol.

"If it can not be stopped otherwise, I will very definitely join with others in seeking a court restraining order," he added. *S. 8-16-47*

"I hadn't heard a peep about this monstrous proposition until recently," McKelvie said. "If I had realized what an outrage was afoot I surely would have spoken up long ago."

MCKELVIE was a republican governor of Nebraska from 1919 to 1923 and ex officio chairman of the capitol commission for that period during which the building was planned and construction begun. He is the only member of the commission still living in Nebraska.

"The capitol commission and the architect, Bertram Goodhue, felt it was not even well to put the statue of Abraham Lincoln on the building's north side," McKelvie said. "We felt this not only would have been architecturally unwise, but would have detracted very much from the view of the main facade. It was never even considered to put the Lincoln statue or any other statue on the steps."

THE BRYAN statue, to be dedicated Sept. 1, is to be placed in the center of the plaza breaking the ascent to the main north entrance.

McKelvie said he was "thoroughly proud of a fellow Nebraskan who had done well in national affairs."

"But at that," he added, "Bryan not outclass Abraham Lin-



SAM MCKELVIE—He is "appalled."

Lt. Gov. Crosby Against Statue On North Steps

Lt. Gov. Robert Crosby in Lincoln Wednesday said he "hoped some location other than the north steps of the capitol building could be agreed upon

for the Bryan Memorial statue." Unveiling of the statue which now reposes in a warehouse here is scheduled for Sept. 1.

The lieutenant governor, visiting from his home at North Platte,

said "my sole reason for this view is that such a location (on the north steps) would violate the architectural concept of the building." *S. 8-20-47*

"I am heartily in sympathy with honoring Mr. Bryan; my affection for his memory was aroused many years ago by my father's account of Mr. Bryan's generosity in entertaining law school students when my father was himself a student," Crosby ended.



Over-Age Houses, Tidy Apartments Surround State Capitol

Last week Alfred C. Kennedy, Omaha writer, called surroundings of the State Capitol an "Anchorage of old-age." He told members of the Legislature and other State officials they should take immediate steps to beautify the area around the building. The World-Herald used a photographer to photograph the Capitol surroundings. Here are the results:



This is the northern corner of 24th and H streets on the east side of the Capitol. There is the long uncompleted apartment of the State of Nebraska, known as "The Anchorage," surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Near by is an average brown house.



Along H Street, south of the Capitol, are some old but fairly well kept houses.



In front of the Capitol (on the north side) looking west on H Street from 24th and H streets are three gray, unattractive places in poor condition.





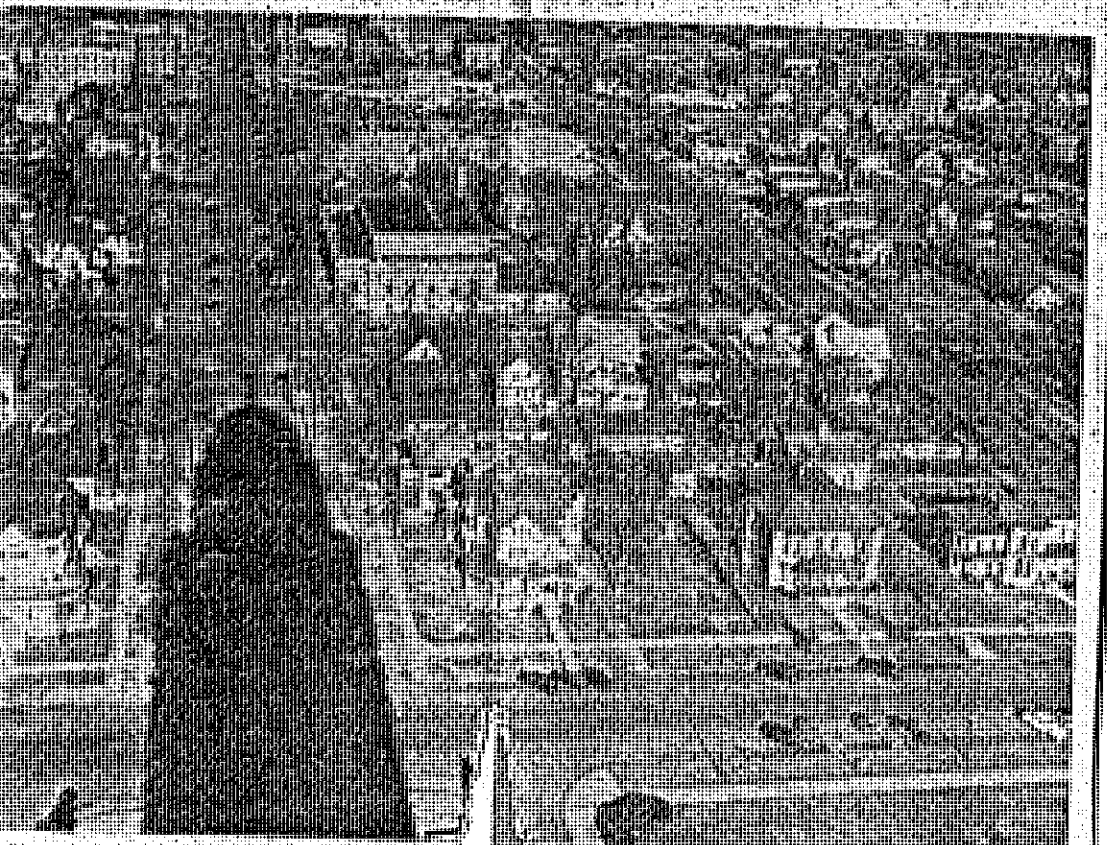
In front of the Capitol, seen from the north side, these gray, rain-soaked glass is poor condition.

Looking west on N. Street from State Street, also



Best section of the building's structure is in the west, along Fourteenth Street, where these apartments are located.

along Fourteenth Street, where these



Here, the shadow of the Capitol falls over the front of the Capitol—the heart of the city.

South Street, on the corner, records a general scene of the building.

336.45
Feb.

#434

Journal-Star, August 10, 1947

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

State Editor

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

ing which belongs not to Nebraska nor to the politicians, but to all the people of the world who honor the pioneer spirit it embodies, that a statue of Mr. Bryan should be placed so conspicuously on the capitol's main entrance. Mrs. Will Owen Jones is quite right (Public Mind, Aug. 6) when she says it was Bertram Goodhue's decision never to place statues anywhere on the building or grounds.

I personally know this to have been Mr. Goodhue's very determined attitude. My late husband for 15 years was vice-chairman of the capitol commission (the governor was chairman, ex-officio), during the building's planning and completion, and was in constant and intimate touch with Mr. Goodhue and the capitol sculptor, Mr. Lee Lawrie. It was Mr. Goodhue's habit to visit very often at our home during his stays in Lincoln, and I often heard him express quite positively his views that statuary anywhere on the

building or grounds would be contrary to the spirit and plan of the structure.

I am appalled at the thought that Mr. Goodhue's great vision should be so ignored, and the statue of any man be enshrined, as tho' the structure itself were his memorial, on the capitol's main steps.

Surely this spoliation can be halted before it is too late.

MRS. WILLIAM E. HARDY.

Spoiling the Capitol

LINCOLN.—In the Aug. 6 Public Mind, Mrs. Will Owen Jones brings up a subject that I, too, thought Mr. Goodhue opposed—placing monuments of any kind on our capitol grounds and spoiling the beauty of the landscape.

If one is allowed now, in years to come more may follow.

As a matter of sentiment rather than politics, why not place Mr. Bryan's statue out at Fairview alongside the beautiful flag staff he had erected and was so proud of?

C. F.

Desecrating the Capitol

LINCOLN.—I have always been a "Bryanite" and I consider it quite fitting that William Jennings Bryan should be honored by a statue appropriately located in our city and his.

But I also consider it a desecration of Nebraska's great build-

336.45
Neb. #435

Star, August 22, 1947

Agreement Reached On Bryan Statue

Following is the memorandum of agreement on a site for the William Jennings Bryan statue. It is signed by Val Peterson as governor of Nebraska and ex-officio custodian of the state capitol and member of the Bryan Memorial commission by W. Bruce Shurtleff, chairman; Mary B. Allen, secretary, and Harold J. Requarte, treasurer.

This agreement, made this 22nd day of August, 1947, is between Bryan Memorial Commission, hereinafter called "the Commission," and the Honorable Val Peterson, Governor of the State of Nebraska; and ex-officio Custodian of the State Capitol of Nebraska; hereinafter called "the Governor."

The circumstances giving rise to this agreement are as follows:
1. The Bryan Memorial Commission was created by the 55th session of the Legislature of the State of Nebraska in 1941 and empowered to provide a memorial statue of the late William Jen-

nings Bryan. The Commission engaged a sculptor and caused the making of a suitable statue. It secured the approval of former Governor Dwight Griswold to the placing of the statue near the north end of the walk leading to the steps rising to the north entrance of the Capitol and about 20 feet from the intersection of 15th and K streets. Acting under this authority, the Commission has there constructed a footing for the statue and prepared a dedicatory program to give the statue to the State of Nebraska on Sept. 1, 1947.

2. Certain persons and organizations have objected to the proposed site for the statue, as disclosed by recent discussion in the press.

3. The Commission wants the statue erected in a suitable location and earnestly wants to fulfill the wishes of all segments of public opinion insofar as possible. THEREFORE, it is agreed:

(a) The commission will erect the statue on the footing now installed, will dedicate the statue, but will not vest title therein in the state of Nebraska for the reasons hereinafter set forth.

(b) Should the board of directors of the Nebraska State Historical society erect a building to house its archives and exhibits and indicate a desire that the Bryan statue be placed in front of such building, and if funds for a suitable stone background be contributed to the commission by public subscription and such background be erected, the commission shall remove the statue from the capitol grounds and restore the walkway near Fifteenth street to its original condition. To approve the size and design of such stone background, the commission, the Historical society and the governor shall each appoint one architect, and the three so chosen shall serve

as an advisory committee.

(c) Should the capitol environs committee of the Lincoln chamber of commerce or other civic organization, of the city of Lincoln carry through the projected plan of widening Fifteenth street north of the capitol so as to provide a parkway or plaza north of the capitol between K and L streets, and indicate a desire that the Bryan statue be placed in such parkway or plaza, and if funds for a suitable stone background be contributed to the commission by public subscription, then the commission may remove the statue from the capitol grounds and restore the walkway near Fifteenth street to its original condition. To approve the size and design of such stone background, the city of Lincoln or civic organization sponsoring the plaza, the commission and the governor shall each appoint one architect, and the three so chosen shall serve as an advisory committee.

(d) Should both the Historical society and Fifteenth street plaza sites become available, the commission shall choose between them.

(e) Should neither the Historical society nor Fifteenth street plaza sites become available, then the commission may remove the statue from the capitol grounds and have it erected at any point in any city or state which the commission thinks a suitable location, it being the intention of this agreement that the legal title to the statue does not pass to the state of Nebraska because it is temporarily erected on the walkway leading to the capitol until it is determined whether the Historical society site or the Fifteenth street plaza site becomes available.

(f) The state of Nebraska reserves the right, through its constituted authority, to direct the removal of the statue at any time, and in the event of such order, the commission agrees to promptly comply therewith.

Signed this 22nd day of August, 1947.

VAL PETERSON,
As Governor of Nebraska
and ex-officio Custodian
of the State Capitol of
Nebraska.

BRYAN MEMORIAL
COMMISSION,
By W. Bruce Shurtleff,
Chairman,
Mary B. Allen, Secretary,
Harold J. Requarte,
Treasurer.

336.45

#426

Star: 2-13-59

\$5,000 Would Cut Mansion Vibration

Brooks Releases Independent Report To Capitol Building Commission

By Don Walton *Star* 2/13/59

Estimated cost of reducing the vibration in the floors of the Governor's Mansion is about \$5,000, Gov. Ralph Brooks told two members of the Capitol Building Commission Thursday.

The recommended structural remedy, the governor said, is placing of a covering of sheet lead and a one-half inch thick sponge rubber pad over the "trembling" floors.

Cost estimate on the first floor reception room, Brooks said is \$3,625 which includes \$3,250 worth of sheet lead and \$375 for a sponge rubber pad.

Decision Later

No estimate has been arrived at for remedy of the second floor family room, the governor said. He suggested total cost would be about \$5,000.

Due to the resignation of Jack Windle of Nebraska City and the inability of two other members of the Commission to attend Thursday's session, Brooks decided to call another meeting at a later date at which a decision will be made on what action should be taken.

Present at the initial briefing were State Engineer Roy Cochran and State Sen. Joe Vosoba of Wilber.

Independent Report

Brooks released the independent architectural report which he had asked of the Leo A. Daly Co., of Omaha.

Written by Chief Structural Engineer Ted A. Balderson in consultation with a New York bar joist construction specialist, the report said:

"I would like to suggest that a covering of sheet lead over the concrete (first) floor may give the desired deflection through added weight and that a pad of one-half inch thick sponge rubber may serve as a spring support to give the isolation necessary."

However, Balderson pointed out that contract plans and specifications were in compliance with standard specifications for open web steel joist construction.

Further, he said, selection and spacing of the joists was in compliance with the building code of the city of Lincoln.

If the suggested remedy is (Continued on Page 2 Col 2.)

to be undertaken, the Commission intends to invoke the construction bond so that cost will not be borne by the state, Brooks, Cochran and Vosoba agreed.

Explanation

Balderson's explanation of the vibrations:

"This type of floor being light in weight will vibrate with light impact loads and especially so on the longer spans.

"It is desirable to limit vibration to the extent that it will not be objectionable to building inhabitants.

"The objectionable levels of vibration depend to some extent upon each individual's level of perception.

"I have checked all available sources and can find no adopted standards of levels at which vibration becomes perceptible and also objectionable. However, it has been shown that these levels are a function of both amplitude and frequency.

"To decrease the frequency it is necessary to increase the statical deflection by adding weight, or as a last resort it may be necessary to provide some form of isolation such as spring supports."

Thus, the recommended sheet lead and foam rubber pad.

Other Commission members unable to attend the meeting because of prior commitments are William Fraser of Omaha and A. Q. Schimmel of Lincoln.

#437

Sunday Journal - 4/26/59
Capitol (Centennial News)

The Day a Colt Revolver Ruled the

Continued from Page 7A

County still would have lacked the one vital element—an existing town.

As the curtain rang down on the Civil War Apr. 26, 1865, it rang right back up again for the continued drama of the Territory of Nebraska's battle for the capital. The plot had a new twist. Since statehood before too long was a certainty, the prize took on lustre. The fight was now for a state capital. Before there could be a state capital, however, there had to be a state.

After statehood had been twice rejected by the territorial voters, a group of legislators met secretly in 1865 and drew up a new proposed state constitution. This was pushed through the territorial Council and House, and placed on the ballot June 2, 1866.

Even though Lancaster still was a struggling village, both the constitution and the approaching vote were important to it. This constitution's weaknesses would later plague Lincoln. That 1866 election, both close and contested, would bring charges of fraud. For years it would be used as a legal and emotional argument that the subsequent location

of the capital
The terr
prove the stat
in case the co

The camp
(south of the
that backed o
Sterling Morte
headed the D
posed the con

Butler wa
out of a total
stitution by a
Cries of
County precin
thrown out b
really residen
ty at Plattsn
been allowed
Republican so

If the san
votes, the crit
stitution v
have been de
waited.

But the el
whose reappo
Lincoln's last
Andrew Johns
Nebraska's pr
State Legislat
"white" in th
disfranchised

Although
braska bill, th
statehood act
Legislature m
Congress' sign
lucantly sign
37th state in t

For his ve
later became
ceedings of s
State Journal

Partisanship

In Omaha
ing the script
tal?" The pro

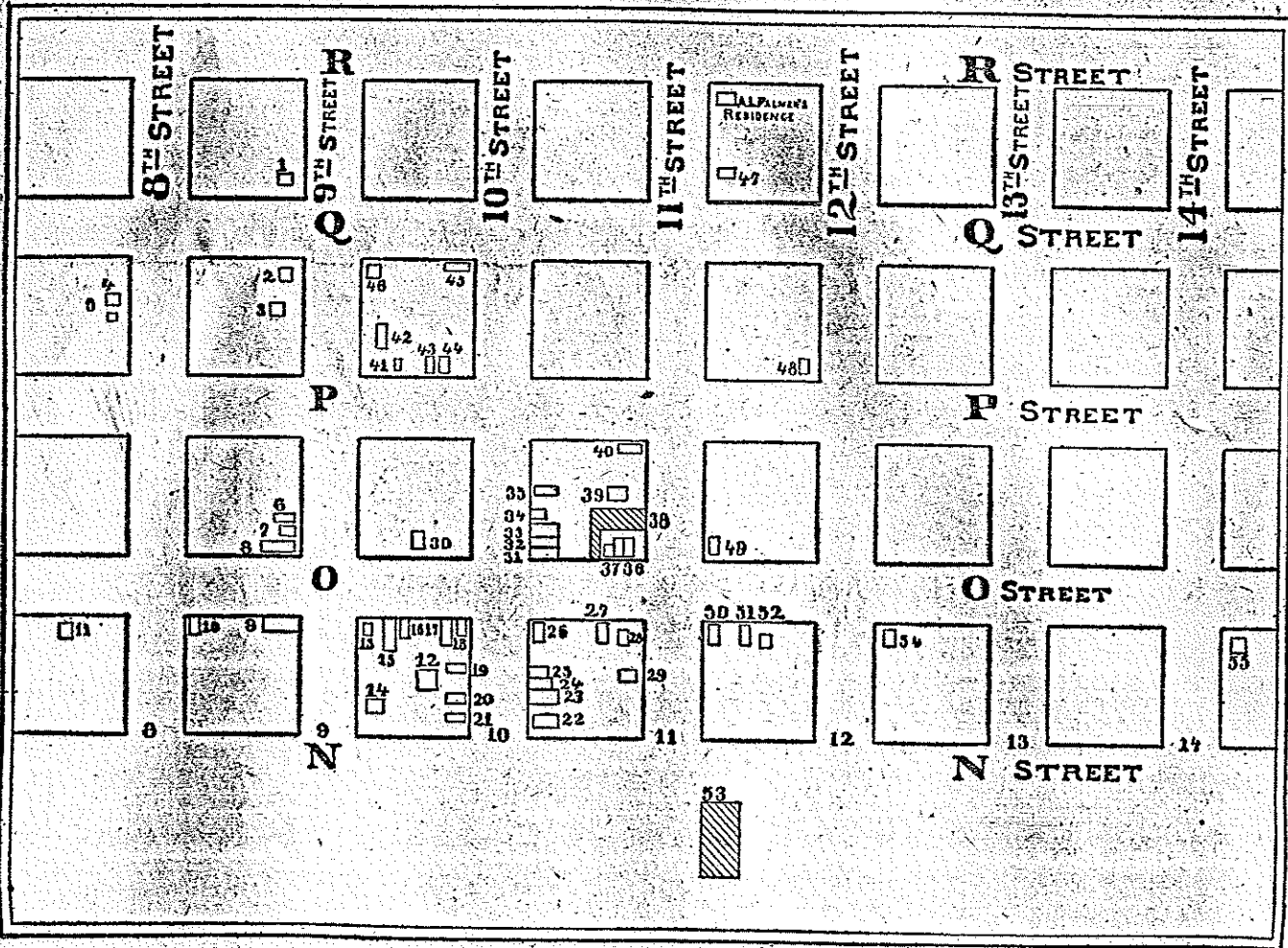
South-of-th
at reapportion
to control the

This time
south-of-the-P
over the choic
The Senators v

After seve
shifted to the
the reapportion
the vote of or
because of ill
mined that th
because they
chamber were

Lincoln in 1868—One Year After Becoming State Capital

A. B. Hayes and Sam D. Cox, authors of a history published in 1889, compiled this diagram of the Lincoln of 1868.



EXPLANATION OF PLAT.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Simon Benadom's cottonwood frame house. | 19. David May—clothing. | 38. Monell & Lashley—first lumber yard. |
| 2. H. S. Jennings's residence. | 20. R. R. Tingley—drug store. | 39. A. J. Cropsy's residence. |
| 3. Capt. W. T. Donora's residence. | 21. C. F. Damrow—tailor shop. | 40. Dr. Scott's drug store. |
| 4. John Langdon's log residence. | 22. Shirley's boarding house. | 41. Monteith's shoe shop. |
| 5. Langdon's milk house—first jail. | 23. Cox—grocery and boarding house. | 42. Cadman House—old stone seminary. |
| 6. _____ | 24. _____ | 43. Pound & Robinson's law office. |
| 7. Dr. H. D. Gilbert's residence. | 25. Bain's land office. | 44. S. B. Galey—county clerk. |
| 8. Gilbert's drug store and Humphrey Bros.' hardware store. | 26. Bain Bros.—clothing—first in Lincoln. | 45. Methodist Church—built in 1867-8. |
| 9. Dunbar's livery stable. | 27. Joe. Hodge's beer saloon—first beer sold. | 46. Pioneer House—first hotel in Lincoln. |
| 10. _____ | 28. Tom Robert's harness shop—(in dispute.) | 47. Old stone school house—built in 1867. |
| 11. Jacob Dawson's old log house, built in 1864. | 29. Commonwealth office—by Carder. | 48. Seth Robinson's house. |
| 12. Jacob Dawson's new house, built in 1867. | 30. Squire Blazier's meat market. | 49. Leighton & Brown's drug store. |
| 13. Moore's barber shop—first in Lincoln. | 31. Sweet & Brock's bank. | 50. Wm. Rowel's harness shop. |
| 14. L. A. Scoggia's residence. | 32. A. C. Rudolph—groceries. | 51. J. P. Lantz—land office. |
| 15. Rich & Oppenheimer's store. | 33. Pfing Bros.' store. | 52. William Guy's residence—first house in new town. |
| 16. Moll's Grocery. | 34. Walsh & Putnam—land office. | |
| | 35. Williams Bros.— | |

the Legislature

of the capital at Lincoln was also illegal.

The territory's voters of 1866 were asked both to approve the state constitution and elect the first state officers in case the constitution passed.

The campaign was hot. David Butler of Pawnee City (south of the Platte) led the Republican ticket on a platform that backed the constitution and immediate statehood. J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City (also south of the Platte) headed the Democrats. His party, for the most part, opposed the constitution and preferred delaying statehood.

Butler was elected 4,093 to 3,984—a margin of 109 votes out of a total of 8,077. He carried with him the state constitution by a scant 100 votes—3,938 to 3,838.

Cries of "fraud" were almost immediate. In one Cass County precinct 107 Morton votes and 50 for Butler had been thrown out because the voters were military men—not really residents. Yet, the critics claimed, in the same county, at Plattsmouth a large pro-Butler military vote had been allowed to stand along with an almost unanimously-Republican soldier vote at Ft. Kearny.

If the same yardstick had been applied to all military votes, the critics reasoned, Butler would have lost; the state constitution would have been defeated; statehood would have been delayed; and capital location also would have waited.

But the election stood. Territorial Gov. Alvin Saunders, whose reappointment in 1865 was believed to be President Lincoln's last official act, notified Republican President Andrew Johnson of the election results. Congress approved Nebraska's proposed constitution with a provision—that the state Legislature should immediately affirm that the word "white" in the document did not mean anyone would be disfranchised because of race or color.

Although Republican President Johnson vetoed the Nebraska bill, the Republican Congress passed the Nebraska statehood act over his veto Feb. 9, 1867. The Territorial Legislature met in special session Feb. 20 and agreed to Congress' stipulation. On Mar. 1, President Johnson reluctantly signed the proclamation making Nebraska the 37th state in the Union.

For his veto of Nebraska statehood President Johnson later became a favorite target during his impeachment proceedings of some Lincoln location supporters and of The State Journal newspaper.

Partisanship and Reapportionment

In Omaha the last Territorial Legislature was finishing the script for the long-run play, "Who Gets the Capital?" The props included guns and ammunition.

South-of-the-Platte forces decided to have one last shot at reapportionment in the Territorial Legislature in order to control the geography of the first State Legislature.

This time politics were injected into the usual north v. south-of-the-Platte battle, since both parties were concerned over the choice of the first U.S. senators from Nebraska. The Senators would be chosen by the first State Legislature.

After several Democrats from south of the river had shifted to the northern camp in the senatorial maneuvering the reapportionment fight was so close that it hinged upon the vote of one man whose attendance was unpredictable because of illness. Omaha forces took drastic action, determined that the vote should not wait for the sick legislator, because they knew he was against them. The doors of the chamber were shut and Omaha guards posted. A series of



tie votes quickly showed that the combatants were at a stalemate.

All other pressing business was stymied. In their fight against reapportionment, the Omaha backers were determined that the session would not even adjourn for the night.

As evening turned into night, liquid refreshments were brought in, as well as smuggled guns and ammunition. None of the representatives was allowed to leave.

About 10 p.m. Augustus F. Harvey, a Democrat from Otoe County, moved that Speaker William F. Chapin be deposed and replaced.

The Otoe County man then declared his motion carried by voice vote. He approached the speaker's platform, followed by his faction.

As he placed his foot on the first step, the speaker drew a Colt revolver. The rule of the House, he told the mutineers, was the Pythagorean proposition—two bodies cannot occupy the same place at the same time.

Harvey and his backers hesitated for a moment, and that was all it took. In that instant the speaker declared the House adjourned on the parliamentary rule that "disorder reigned." With a rush to the door by one faction, the guards were overpowered and the doors burst open.

Next day both sides admitted that they were at a stand-off and they agreed to complete the rest of the business and go home.

Reapportionment had been defeated again, but it seemed certain to be an issue for the first State Legislature.

New Regime, Old Problems

Along with the honor of being the state's first governor, Republican David Butler in 1867 inherited the territory's knottiest and naughtiest problems—reapportionment capital removal.

He could not even issue a call for a special session. Legislature at Omaha without deciding whether to discuss these topics. In an attempt to compromise with the D.

Continued on Page 9A

County
take up
location
Butler
was to
the del
tionme
ernor i
clude b

The
climac
naming

A f
it seem
both ca
On

"vide fo
of Nebr
at."

[The k
exact s
retary
signate

The
within
of Saur
Lancas

The
capital
as one
peniten

As
that the
of the c
Dougl
from a
Omaha
town to

How
Omaha
psychol
Democr
during
the war

tha
na
the
ha

'Most Important \$1,000 in Lincoln

It Ended Lavender's Holdout, Cleared City's Site

Continued from Page 8A

County legislators, Butler told them if they would agree to take up reapportionment, he would not include the capital location on the legislative agenda. Omaha refused to trade. Butler then turned to that key Otoe County delegation. He was told that if he would put capital removal on the call the delegation "would march right up and vote for reapportionment." Failing in his own compromise attempt the governor issued the call for a special session at Omaha to include both issues.

The final revival of "Who Gets the Capital?" was anticlimactic. It had only one high point of melodrama—the naming of Lincoln as the capital.

A few days after the first State Legislature convened, it seemed that reapportionment and capital relocation would both carry. Reapportionment was quickly approved.

On June 4, a bill was introduced in both houses "to provide for the location of the seat of government of the State of Nebraska and for the erection of public buildings thereat."

The bill called for a capital commission of 3 to select the exact site and Gov. Butler, Thomas P. Kennard, the secretary of state, and John Gillespie, state auditor, were designated as members.

The Legislature limited the commission's choice to land within "the County of Seward, the south half of the Counties of Saunders and Butler, and that portion of the County of Lancaster lying north of the south line of township nine."

The same act also provided for locating at the new capital the state university and agricultural college, "united as one education institution," and for the building of a state penitentiary.

As the bill moved rapidly toward passage, it appeared that the Omaha backers had decided not to fight relocation of the capital—which for 13 years had been at Omaha. One Douglas County viewpoint was that the location "50 miles from anywhere" would certainly fail. Another was that Omaha was simply too busy growing as the area's largest town to worry about the capital.

However, just before final passage, the Douglas County-Omaha delegation made a last attempt to derail it. Reverse psychology was applied to certain of the south-of-the-Platte Democrats, whose sympathies had been with the rebels during the Civil War and who still felt bitterness toward the war-time President Abraham Lincoln.

The capital relocation bill initially proposed that the new seat of state government should be named "Capitol City." With an eye to angering those Democrats south of the Platte who possibly had Southern sympathies to the point they might vote against capital relocation, Sen. J. N. H. Patrick of Omaha offered an amendment: Change the name, he suggested, to Lincoln, in honor of the wartime Republican President.

This reverse psychology backfired as the south-of-the-Platte Democrats voted for the name of Lincoln in order to remove the capital from Omaha.

As a parting shot, Omaha newspapers charged that capital removers got votes from north of the river by supporting a land grant to the North Nebraska Airline Railroad. Incorporators of the road, critics claimed, were virtually all state officials and members of the Legislature from north of the Platte.

Be that as it may, after a decade of strife, relocation was an accomplished fact June 14, 1867.

The Capitol commissioners could proceed with their task.



As Result Of a Trick New Capital City Was Named for Abraham Lincoln

However, there was one obvious problem. The Capitol had to be located on state-owned lands. The title to the Lancaster lands had not been confirmed by the federal government. Since lack of a clear title could mean delay and even failure, Lancaster backers decided to take no such chance. Although Elder Young's school had burned in 1866, the Lancaster Seminary Assn. remained. The association offered to donate to the state the land for the new city.

It was not that easy. While residents of the area quickly offered more than 700 acres, the whole plan hinged on 3 vital holdings in the center of the site—the farmlands owned by Jacob Dawson, John Giles and Luke Lavender. They

were to be given
This was the sto
dealt with Lavend

"What do you
"Acre-for-acre
plied Lavender.

The "\$1,000 to b
age of 30 people. T
as "rope necktie"
among other induc

Lavender, the
actual site and wh
didn't care what h

"Rather than
ing for my improv
go to the Blue Riv

Then came the f
punctuates Lincol
who did it, but fro
settlers came the
history. Lavender
ers were assured t

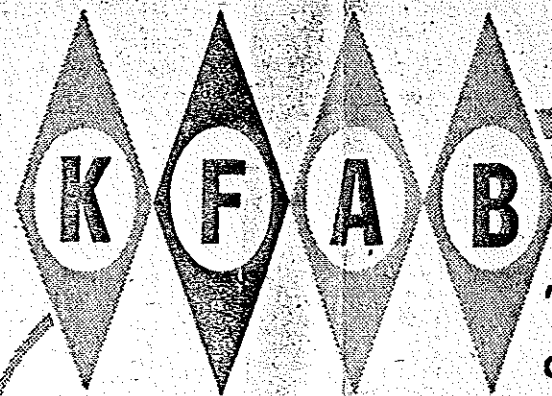
On that hot af
sioners met in Do
one for Lancaster

The pair cited,

Gillespie voted
was sufficient wat
ably was satisfying
Ashland.

No matter what
esting to note that
from wells near th

Having fulfilled
it unanimous for I



For thirty-five ye
KFAB. Down thr
household word
to depend on the
ertainment . . .
as a small 200 w

Lincoln's History' 1871 Mayor W. F. Chapin Was Leader in State GOP

were to be given other land, but Lavender still held out. This was the story as told later by Charles Wake, who dealt with Lavender:

"What do you want?"

"Acre-for-acre compensation and \$1,000 to boot," replied Lavender.

The "\$1,000 to boot" was a lot of money in 1867 in a village of 30 people. There was angry muttering. Such phrases as "rope necktie" and "tar and feathers" were suggested among other inducements to bring Lavender around.

Lavender, the man who was first settler on Lincoln's actual site and who would become a probate judge, said he didn't care what happened to the capitol.

"Rather than move away from my home and get nothing for my improvements," he insisted, "I'll let the capitol go to the Blue River or elsewhere."

Then came the first example of a kind of civic action that punctuates Lincoln's history. There are no records to show who did it, but from somewhere among the far from wealthy settlers came the most important donation in Lincoln's history. Lavender got his \$1,000 and the Capitol commissioners were assured that the land was available to the state.

On that hot afternoon of July 29, 1867, as the commissioners met in Donovan's attic, the first vote was two to one for Lancaster with Butler and Kennard voting together.

The pair cited, among other reasons, the salt prospects.

Gillespie voted for Ashland, saying he doubted there was sufficient water supply at Lancaster. Actually, he probably was satisfying his Plattsmouth backers, who preferred Ashland.

No matter what Gillespie's real reasons were, it is interesting to note that most of modern Lincoln's water is piped from wells near the Platte River east of Ashland.

Having fulfilled his political obligations, Gillespie made it unanimous for Lancaster on the second ballot. The com-

William F. Chapin—attorney, farmer, member of first State Legislature, Lincoln mayor, receiver of Land Office, candidate for governor and speaker of the House.

In 1860 and became Speaker of the House. In 1861 Chapin went into the freighting business but gave it up in 1864 because of the troublesome Indians.

To Lincoln Office The first year the Chapin family lived in Lincoln, Chapin was appointed receiver of the Land Office and held the position until 1872.

At the 1871 Lincoln city election, Chapin was elected mayor.

He became a prominent candidate for governor in the next Republican state convention but was defeated by 4 votes. Robert W. Furnas was the man who beat him.

Upon Chapin's retirement from the Land Office, he returned to his Saunders County farm where he continued farming and his law work, especially land cases, until his death Nov. 14, 1885, in Grand Island.

Chapin was a losing candidate for the Territorial Legislature in 1858. However he was elected to the Legislature

missioners came down from the hot attic and outside to the waiting villagers. Standing in the shade on the east side of the house, Butler made the curtain speech for the play, "Who Gets the Capital?"

Lancaster, by state legislative action to be named Lincoln, had been chosen. Its future seemed assured. In 8 years after the 1859 meeting under the elm, Lincoln had become a town, a county seat, and a state capital.

te
ck
ital
The Capitol
to the Lan-
eral govern-
ay and even
a chance.
66, the Lan-
ffered
area quickly
inged on 3
nds owned
nder. They

"... 50,000 watt voice of the Midwest Empire"

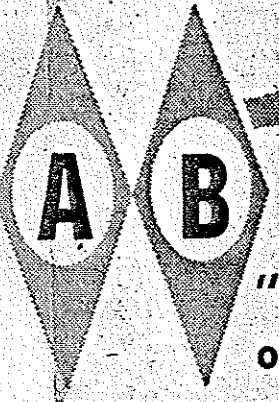
For thirty-five years Nebraskans have listened to KFAB. Down through the years KFAB has been a household word and two generations have learned to depend on it.

he Lan-
govern-
n" even
chance.
he Lan-
offered

quickly
ed on 3
s. wned
r. They

The pair came, among other reasons, the
Gillespie voted for Ashland, saying he doubted there was sufficient water supply at Lancaster. Actually, he probably was satisfying his Plattsmouth backers, who preferred Ashland.
No matter what Gillespie's real reasons were, it is interesting to note that most of modern Lincoln's water is piped from wells near the Platte River east of Ashland.
Having fulfilled his political obligations, Gillespie made it unanimous for Lancaster on the second ballot. The com-

was elected to the Legislature
missioners came down from the hot attic and outside to the waiting villagers. Standing in the shade on the east side of the house, Butler made the curtain speech for the play, "Who Gets the Capital?"
Lancaster, by state legislative action to be named Lincoln, had been chosen. Its future seemed assured. In 8 years after the 1859 meeting under the elm, Lincoln had become a town, a county seat, and a state capital.



**"... 50,000 watt voice
of the Midwest Empire"**

For thirty-five years Nebraskans have listened to KFAB. Down through the years KFAB has been a household word and two generations have learned to depend on the big station for news, features, entertainment . . . farm service . . . Founded in 1924 as a small 200 watt . . . KFAB today is a giant in the industry, by far Nebraska's most powerful station. Its powerful signal is heard throughout the middlewest.

Most important of all . . . Nebraska people consider KFAB "their station." Families throughout this great state keep their radio dials tuned to "1110" day and night. This is the greatest compliment bestowed on any broadcaster.

ACTION: Village of 30 Transforms

The news spread over the new state—a tiny village that was hardly a village at all had been made the state capital!

Some Nebraskans laughed, others jeered. If the commissioners were not then aware of the political burdens they had assumed, within 3 years they would know from bitter experience.

Omaha had already given its opinion of the new capital—"50 miles from anywhere."

Even the more kindly asked, "What sort of a place is Lancaster in Lancaster County?"

In 1867 the honest answer had to be, "Not much that you can see." There were:

Two stores—Pflug Brothers and Max Rich & Co.

One shoe shop—Montieth's.

Six or 7 houses—no better or worse than most pioneer homes of the day.

About 30 residents in the town, plus others in the Salt Basin.

What town there was clustered around 8th and 9th and P and Q Streets. Donovan's home, in which the commissioners had met, was near 9th and Q. Lavender's cabin, the first on the town site, was at about 14th and N. The second home was Jacob Dawson's, also housed the post office. The Pflug brothers actually were the second owners of their store, bought early in 1867 from Linderman & Hardenbergh.

A name that was to become famous in Nebraska and the world was associated with the Max Rich & Co. S. B. Pound's brilliant children would give Lincoln an international reputation.

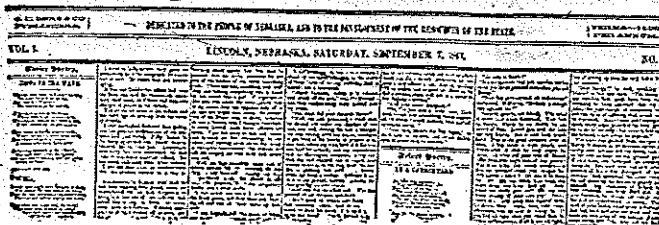
Pound started the little store in 1866, and sold part interest to Rich in 1867. A year later he sold out to enter a law practice and ultimately a distinguished judicial career.

This, in 1867, was the setting for Nebraska's State Capitol. With few exceptions Lancaster had little to do with making every one of Elder Young's prophecies: that Lancaster would be a town, a county seat and a capital come true.

Each major step had been realized by political accidents or maneuvers by those outside the community.

Now, with a new name, a new title, and a new job, the

The Nebraska Commonwealth



No. 1 of Vol. 1 of C. H. Gere's Nebraska Commonwealth.

village called Lincoln had new responsibilities and new enemies.

Success or failure would depend upon the men and women who must now turn the village into a city.

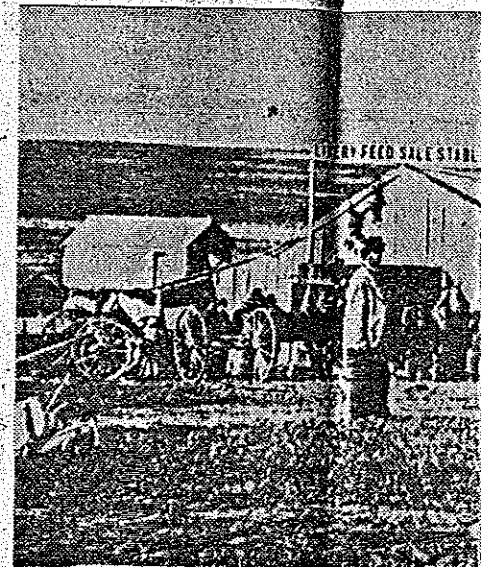
August, Month of Action

Things happened in a hurry after the commissioners' decision in Capt. Donovan's attic on July 29, 1867.

On Aug. 1 the Lancaster County Board gave its inter-



C. H. Gere . . . editor of The Journal — Lincoln's first newspaper.



At 9th and O in 1868 . . . (1) Dunbar

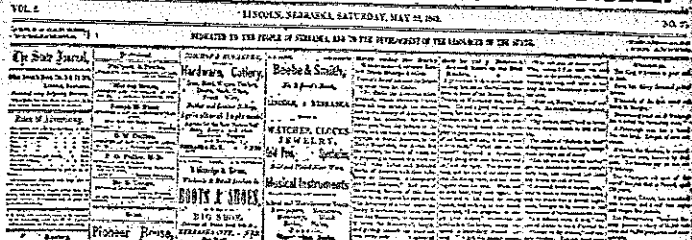
At the same time, Jacob Dawson announced in the Nebraska City News, that he, too, would start a newspaper to be called The Nebraska State Journal. Dawson's newspaper never got beyond the announcement stage, but Gere later adopted the name.

Number 1, Volume 1, of Gere's The Commonwealth was published Sept. 7, 1867, in the Nebraska City Press plant. Number 2, Volume 1, of The Commonwealth was printed Nov. 2 in S. B. Gale's office on the north side of Lincoln's Government Square, just across the street from the paper's permanent location at 9th and P. W. W. Carder of Nebraska City provided the printing facilities and was listed as publisher. Gere edited the paper from Omaha until May, 1868 when he moved to Lincoln.

The founding of The Commonwealth was more than the addition of another business in the new capital. The newspaper, that became The Lincoln Evening Journal and Nebraska State Journal—and its editor—became militant supporters of Lincoln.

Gere's is also the only newspaper founded before the turn of the century to survive to see the city's 100th birth-

NEBRASKA STATE JOURNAL



May 22, 1869 first issue of the Nebraska State Journal.

day. Lincoln's other contemporary newspaper, The Lincoln Star, was founded in 1902.

So widely known were The Commonwealth's pro-Lincoln arguments that it and Editor Gere received an almost-unique backhanded compliment from his opponents. Anti-Lincoln forces in Omaha prepared a pamphlet detailing the whole legal case against the location of the capital.

The cover proclaimed that "this pamphlet is true" and "the Nebraska Historical Society is requested to place this

The

no railroad, isolation an

Action V

The cap bring indust Legislature

"Altho in the actu yond quest have, with inexhaustib article. It wealth to t estimate."

While th already had and the othe would point graphical an "That 'rich braska Histo but lawsuits day is a sal city."

In 1867 Capitol to fi done rapidly

They fea in time for t might still

First the location act new Capital that the firs the month in

● A cha lect monev.

forms Itself Into a State Capital



in 1868 . . . (1) Dunbar & Bailey's Livery Stable; (2) Culver's Boarding House; (3) St. Charles Hotel and Lancaster Post Office.

They Primed Pump to Start Money Flowing

no railroad, no steam wagon, nothing. It is destined for isolation and ultimate oblivion."

Action With the Sense of Urgency

The capitol commissioners, certain that the salt would bring industry, were unshaken. Addressing the first State Legislature in Lincoln on Jan. 7, 1869, Butler said:

"Although comparatively little has been accomplished in the actual production of salt, that little has settled beyond question, if indeed further proof is needed, that we have, within sight of this hall, a rich and apparently inexhaustible supply of pure and easily manufactured article. It will be directly and indirectly a source of wealth to the state whose great value no one can fully estimate."

While the first governor could not know it, the salt already had made its major contribution in swinging his and the other commissioners' votes to Lincoln. Historians would point out that Lincoln had developed in every geographical and economic direction, but around the salt flats. "That 'rich and inexhaustible supply,'" University of Nebraska Historian James C. Olson wrote, "produced nothing but lawsuits, and the only tangible evidence remaining today is a saltwater swimming pool at the west edge of the city."

In 1867 the commissioners had a city to lay out and a Capitol to finance and build. Both, they felt, needed to be done rapidly.

They feared that if they could not complete the Capitol in time for the 1869 Legislature to meet in Lincoln the cause might still be lost.

First they had to raise money, which, according to the location act, was to be done through sale of lots in the new Capital City. On Aug. 17 the commissioners announced that the first sale would be held in Lincoln on Sept. 17. In the month intervening the new capital faced:

- A challenge of the commissioners' legal right to collect money.
- A threat of an injunction.
- And an effort to frighten prospective lot buyers from investing in Lincoln's future.

attack to reach a climax just before the lot sales. "The capitol commissioners have no legal right to collect money or spend it," they announced.

The charges against the commissioners were based on the capitol removal act, under which each commissioner was required to qualify himself and post a bond with a judge of the Supreme Court within 10 days after the act's passage. The bonds were then to be filed with the state treasurer.

Investigation showed, the critics said, that the commissioners had posted their bonds in time, but the bonds had not been filed with the state treasurer within the 10-day limit. If lots were sold on what was purported to be the town site of Lincoln, the critics warned, Republican State Treasurer Augustus Kountze of Omaha, would have to withhold the money to pay for the capitol building. As a clincher, Lincoln's enemies threatened to seek an injunction should the treasurer try to pay out any money.

The commissioners recognized the threat for what it was—window dressing to frighten away prospective lot buyers. Butler, Kennard and Gillespie had worked out an extralegal solution. They would keep the money and pay it out without going through the state treasurer.

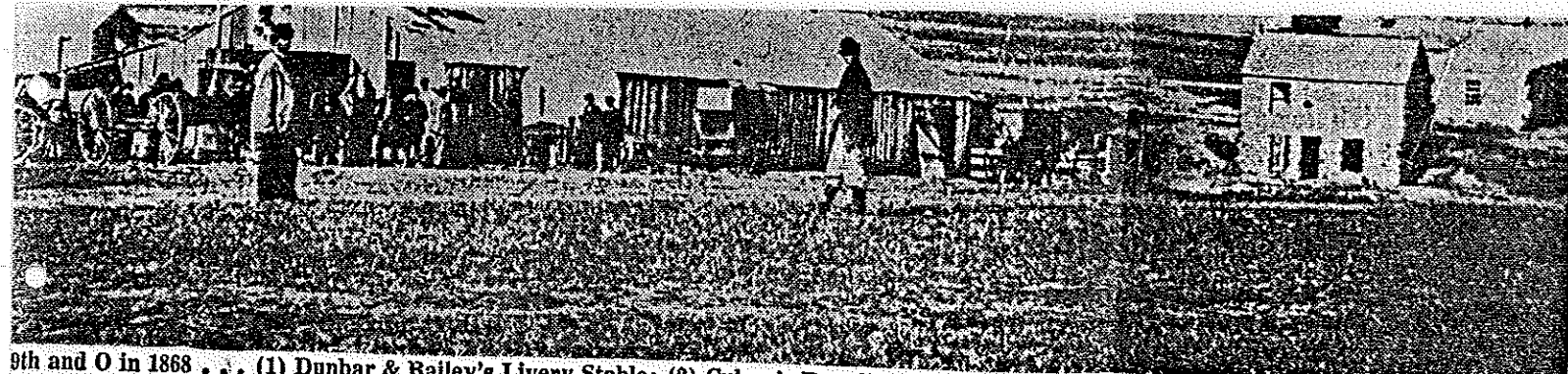
Nonetheless, the charges against the commissioners had the desired effect. Those who had planned to invest in Lincoln's future acquired economic jitters. And an act of faith by the 3 commissioners served only to increase the doubts. Gillespie, Kennard and Butler had agreed to promote the sales but not to invest personally, thus hoping to avoid adding more powder to their enemies' cannons. But their refusal to bid made the bidders suspicious.

Despite the dismal weather and doubts, a good crowd assembled Tuesday morning, Sept. 17, 1867, the first day of sales.

There was even a band which, C. H. Gere remarked later, "played as well as any band ought to play so far from civilization."

Band or no band, nothing helped the auctioneer, handsome and in good voice, as he started his work. The first lot sold for 25c on an appraised value of \$40.

"Why," the prospective bidders asked, "should we invest when the commissioners don't have enough faith in the project to invest their own money?" By evening the sales totaled just one-tenth of expectations.



9th and O in 1868 . . . (1) Dunbar & Bailey's Livery Stable; (2) Culver's Boarding House; (3) St. Charles Hotel and Lancaster Post Office.

announced in the
start a newspaper
d. Dawson's news-
nt stage, but Gere

ne Commonwealth
braska City Press
Commonwealth was
the north side of
s the street from
P. W. W. Carder
facilities and was
per from Omaha
In.

as more than
new capital. The
ning Journal and
-became militant

ounded before the
city's 100th birth-
JOURNAL.

a State Journal.
r, The Lincoln
alth's pro-Lincoln
eived an almost-
opponents. Anti-
mpHlet detailing
of the capital.
hlet is true" and
ted to place this
est letters on the
y C. H. Gere."

ere Nebraskans
n the new cap-
noticed hamlet

braska City, the
s attack by the

as been re-
coln in the Salt

erald and Re-
er. J. Sterling

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

They Primed Pump to Start Money Flowing

no railroad, no steam wagon, nothing. It is destined for isolation and ultimate oblivion."

Action With the Sense of Urgency

The capitol commissioners, certain that the salt would bring industry, were unshaken. Addressing the first State Legislature in Lincoln on Jan. 7, 1869, Butler said:

"Although comparatively little has been accomplished in the actual production of salt, that little has settled beyond question, if indeed further proof is needed, that we have, within sight of this hall, a rich and apparently inexhaustible supply of pure and easily manufactured article. It will be directly and indirectly a source of wealth to the state whose great value no one can fully estimate."

While the first governor could not know it, the salt already had made its major contribution in swinging his and the other commissioners' votes to Lincoln. Historians would point out that Lincoln had developed in every geographical and economic direction, but around the salt flats. "That 'rich and inexhaustible supply,'" University of Nebraska Historian James C. Olson wrote, "produced nothing but lawsuits, and the only tangible evidence remaining today is a saltwater swimming pool at the west edge of the city."

In 1867 the commissioners had a city to lay out and a Capitol to finance and build. Both, they felt, needed to be done rapidly.

They feared that if they could not complete the Capitol in time for the 1869 Legislature to meet in Lincoln the cause might still be lost.

First they had to raise money, which, according to the location act, was to be done through sale of lots in the new Capital City. On Aug. 17 the commissioners announced that the first sale would be held in Lincoln on Sept. 17. In the month intervening the new capital faced:

- A challenge of the commissioners' legal right to collect money.
- A threat of an injunction.
- And an effort to frighten prospective lot buyers from investing in Lincoln's future.

Music, Auction and Poor Bids

The anti-Lincoln forces struck effectively, timing their

attack to reach a climax just before the lot sales. "The capitol commissioners have no legal right to collect money or spend it," they announced.

The charges against the commissioners were based on the capitol removal act, under which each commissioner was required to qualify himself and post a bond with a judge of the Supreme Court within 10 days after the act's passage. The bonds were then to be filed with the state treasurer.

Investigation showed, the critics said, that the commissioners had posted their bonds in time, but the bonds had not been filed with the state treasurer within the 10-day limit. If lots were sold on what was purported to be the town site of Lincoln, the critics warned, Republican State Treasurer Augustus Kountze of Omaha, would have to withhold the money to pay for the capitol building. As a clincher, Lincoln's enemies threatened to seek an injunction should the treasurer try to pay out any money.

The commissioners recognized the threat for what it was—window dressing to frighten away prospective lot buyers. Butler, Kennard and Gillespie had worked out an extralegal solution. They would keep the money and pay it out without going through the state treasurer.

Nonetheless, the charges against the commissioners had the desired effect. Those who had planned to invest in Lincoln's future acquired economic jitters. And an act of faith by the 3 commissioners served only to increase the doubts. Gillespie, Kennard and Butler had agreed to promote the sales but not to invest personally, thus hoping to avoid adding more powder to their enemies' cannons. But their refusal to bid made the bidders suspicious.

Despite the dismal weather and doubts, a good crowd assembled Tuesday morning, Sept. 17, 1867, the first day of sales.

There was even a band which, C. H. Gere remarked later, "played as well as any band ought to play so far from civilization."

Band or no band, nothing helped the auctioneer, handsome and in good voice, as he started his work. The first lot sold for 25c on an appraised value of \$40.

"Why," the prospective bidders asked, "should we invest when the commissioners don't have enough faith in the project to invest their own money?" By evening the sales totaled just one-tenth of expectations.

This caused another historic meeting in the home of

Continued on Page 11A

Estimate on Capitol Was \$49,000, Actual Cost \$75

Continued from Page 10A

Capt. William Donovan. This time the 3 capitol commissioners talked earnestly to a group of businessmen from Nebraska City.

"You should bid," one of the Nebraska City men told the commissioners.

"You should bid," the commissioners replied. "You are largely responsible for this plan."

Heads shook sadly. Outside Donovan's home it was raining. It was very damp and very dark, but no more so than Lincoln's future. The weather seemed to have teamed up with Lincoln's enemies to defeat the whole venture before it started.

Finally an agreement was reached to "prime the pump" when the lot sales opened again the following day.

The Nebraska City men formed a syndicate under the leadership of James Sweet. The syndicate agreed to bid the appraised value of every lot, up to \$10,000 worth of lots. In case of competition for any lot, the syndicate was to bid as high as "seemed safe," or let the lot go to anyone bidding more than the appraised value. In turn, the commissioners agreed to bid personally to show their confidence.

Both sides agreed that unless \$15,000 worth of lots were sold in addition to the \$10,000 invested by the syndicate, the whole thing would be called off. With this gamble, the future of Lincoln was placed on the auction block.

Wednesday, Sept. 18, the most crucial day in the young

capital's short history, dawned still rainy, but the pump priming of the commissioners and the syndicate brought in a gusher.

At the end of the 5-day sale \$34,342.25 had been collected as lots sold for \$40 to \$150. Sales within two weeks at Nebraska City and Omaha brought another \$19,750.50 more. The gamble had paid off.

Once again a group of men had come to Lincoln's rescue. While the Nebraska City men had helped their own bank accounts, the commissioners had vindicated their earlier decisions; the combined results saved Lincoln.

In 1868 The Commonwealth's newspaper contemporary, The Lincoln Statesman, put it this way: "We may add in regard to this whole business of Lincoln lots, that if Gov. Butler, John Gillespie, Tom Kennard and James Sweet had not come up to the scratch and bid off lots at prices above appraisement, Lincoln would have fizzled—died aborning."

With money on hand, the commissioners were ready to build, and as in the past, haste was an ex officio member of the board. Gov. Butler felt it imperative that he be able to proclaim the Capitol completed in time for the legislative session to convene in January, 1869. The governor feared that if the legislature had to meet in 1869 in Omaha there would be renewed efforts to relocate the relocated capitol.

There were no architects in Lincoln and Omaha's architects ignored the commissioners' advances. Finally

an advertisement in from James Morris

The years have Historian A. J. Saw architect "who could writer, James C. O. braska, said more k imposing; but it was accepted."

Morris proposed wings that could be needed within a sho

Bids for constructi Ward of Chicago sai the commissioners a

Among the first building. The com with limestone dona of town. Before long ready had spent se geted just to quarr added, it was of inf near Beatrice, but i bridges not yet buil the hauling job, but was not the only pr

Co

Actual Cost \$75,000

but the pump
dicate brought
an advertisement in the Chicago Tribune produced a plan
from James Morris of Chicago.

The years have not been kind to Morris or his plan
Historian A. J. Sawyer referred to him as a "fifth rate"
architect "who could obtain no work in" Chicago. A later
writer, James C. Olson, historian at the University of Ne
braska, said more kindly that Morris' plan "was not very
imposing, but it was the only plan received; so it was
accepted."

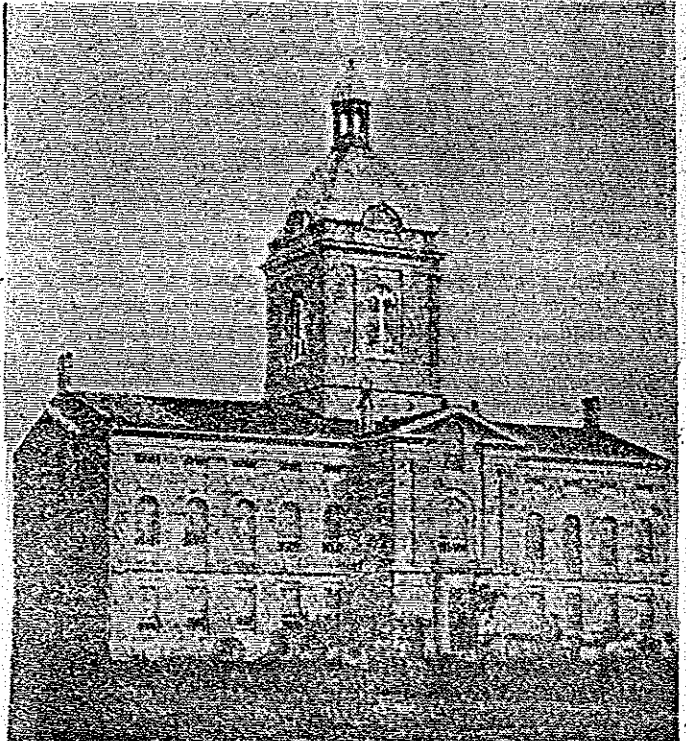
Morris proposed a central structure with provisions for
wings that could be added as needed later. What would be
needed within a short time would be a brand new building.

Bids for construction brought only one response. Joseph
Ward of Chicago said he would do the job for \$49,000. Again
the commissioners accepted the single bid.

Among the first problems was locating stone for the
building. The commissioners thought they had solved it
with limestone donated from a quarry just 12 miles south
of town. Before long, the contractor complained that he al
ready had spent several thousand dollars more than bud
getted just to quarry and cut the stone. Furthermore, he
added, it was of inferior quality. Better stone was located
near Beatrice, but it had to be hauled 40 miles over some
bridges not yet built. Every available team was hired for
the hauling job, but it was slow work and expensive. Stone
was not the only problem. Workmen from the east found

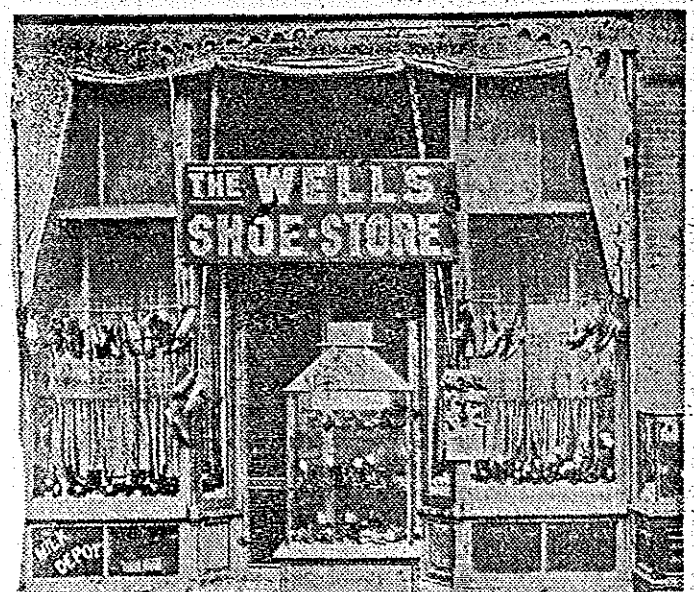
Continued on Page 12A

First Capitol—Built in 1868



Building was demolished in 1882 when the second Cap
itol was partially built.

and growth



Midnight Ride of the State Library

Continued from Page 11A

summer weather too hot. Six weeks of rain soaked and slowed construction in the fall.

Despite the delays, the building was completed Dec. 1, 1868, with a month to spare. On Dec. 3 Butler proclaimed the Capitol ready for occupancy. Its construction had cost \$75,000 instead of the \$49,000 bid.

Moving such governmental equipment and records as the territorial and state library still had to be done. Gillespie hired J. T. Beach of Lincoln for this mission.

Secrecy shrouded their plans in anticipation of Omaha objections. At midnight, Beach and his helpers started moving desks, books and other equipment into two wagons. At 4 a. m. they were loaded and by the time most Omahans got up, the last official remnants of the Omaha Territorial Capitol were miles along the road to Lincoln.

The wagons reached the Platte River at Plattsmouth in a blinding snowstorm and at the Kimball Brothers Ferry ran into an obstacle—the Kimball brothers. Beach later insisted that the brothers intentionally broke a pulley wheel to delay the movers and hike the fare.

Help came in the form of a desperado of the times, Tom Keller, later killed at Elkhorn. Keller volunteered his services to Beach, and the Kimballs gave in.

The heavily-loaded ferry started across in the snowstorm. At midstream a huge chunk of ice drove the ferry onto a sandbar from which the wagons were driven on across the two-foot deep, ice-filled water.

It was 3 days before Omahans discovered that the Capitol fixtures had been spirited away. John R. Meredith, prominent Omaha churchman, then wandered into Gillespie's office in Omaha.

* * *

"Where has the library gone?" he asked.

"To Lincoln," replied Gillespie.

"Who sent it?" demanded Meredith.

"I sent it," Gillespie replied calmly.

Meredith stormed out and returned with Gen. S. A. Strickland who repeated Meredith's questions and got the same answers.

"By the eternals," the general shouted, "that library is coming back here and it's coming right away."

* * *

The general insisted that since the library was a territorial library, only the U. S. secretary of the interior could order its removal. Gen. Strickland admitted later to Gillespie that a letter to the secretary of the interior brought no help for Omaha's case.

Lincoln Puts Itself on Map

In Lincoln the new Capitol, complete with library, was ready in January, 1869, for the legislators who, with little quibbling, legalized the shortcuts taken to get the town organized and the Capitol built.

Almost as quickly the Legislature enhanced Lincoln's prospects by providing for the University and Agriculture College, the state hospital, and the penitentiary. These, too, were financed by lot sales which, within two years, netted \$316,000.

Sale of these lots, plus those for the Capitol, totaled about \$370,000.

C. H. Gere, also a member of the Legislature as well as editor, wrote later,

"It was not a bad investment for young Nebraska, but its success as a real estate speculation was almost

houses grow up like mushrooms in a day, but unlike mushrooms they remain up. . ."

Though the Statesman's estimate of 700 persons may have been a trifle high, there was no disagreement from enthusiastic Lincolnites. By Aug. 5, 1870, The Nebraska State Journal, the new name given The Commonwealth in 1869, announced: "Lincoln will be the first city in Nebraska in population and in wealth. Who longer doubts it?"

The Journal's estimate, too, was a trifle optimistic, although the growth in two and a half years to 2,500 in 1870 made it seem plausible. In 1867 Luke Lavender had endangered capital removal to Lincoln with his demand of "\$1,000 to boot" for his land. Three years later Lincoln's private property was appraised at \$456,956. And by 1874 Lincoln would claim 7,000 residents.

Young Town for Young Men

Lincoln, a young man's town, still was a little raw for the old. Shortly after 1870 a family coming to Lincoln met a prairie schooner headed east. An old woman cried out, "Go back, good friends, go back." Asked how long she had lived in Lincoln, she replied, "I've wintered here and I've summered here, and God knows I've been here long enough."

Historian E. P. Brown wrote, "It is often said that it is the boys that fight the wars. It is also true that it is the boys that settle frontiers."

Take the case of young Adam Boy, who wanted to start



North
chartered
founded by
Elder
of the ear
and rebuilt
wood boug
renamed i
While
name of i

Strickland who repeated Meredith's questions and got the same answers.

"By the eternals," the general shouted, "that library is coming back here and it's coming right away."

The general insisted that since the library was a territorial library, only the U. S. secretary of the interior could order its removal. Gen. Strickland admitted later to Gillespie that a letter to the secretary of the interior brought no help for Omaha's case.

Lincoln Puts Itself on Map

In Lincoln the new Capitol, complete with library, was ready in January, 1869, for the legislators who, with little quibbling, legalized the shortcuts taken to get the town organized and the Capitol built.

Almost as quickly the Legislature enhanced Lincoln's prospects by providing for the University and Agriculture College, the state hospital, and the penitentiary. These, too, were financed by lot sales which, within two years, netted \$316,000.

Sale of these lots, plus those for the Capitol, totaled about \$370,000.

C. H. Gere, also a member of the Legislature as well as editor, wrote later,

"It was not a bad investment for young Nebraska, but its success as a real estate speculation was almost wholly due to the energy and pluck of the commissioners, that led them from time to time to overleap technical obstacles and defects in the law, and to take desperate political and financial chances as the alternative of ignominious failure of the schemes."

The commissioners' "overleaping" brought praise from Lincoln, but within two years the "overleaping" would be evidence in the governor's impeachment trial and again threaten Lincoln's future.

To the original settlers, Lincoln in 1868 was a growing town, building right along with its Capitol, even if some newcomers found it less than grand. One observer wrote:

"In 1868 to call Lincoln a village is a misnomer. The Magic City of the Great American Desert was altogether in the imagination of the real estate agent. . . It had not more than 75 houses, built anywhere, regardless of the points of the compass, with nothing to show which was the front and which the back door or to define the street line; no school or church, a few small stores about the post office square, the office itself in a dwelling house and the postmaster himself very curious over the few letters."

Yet, to others who remembered the hamlet of 6 or 7 houses the year before, the growth was fantastic.

On Oct. 17, 1868, The Nebraska Commonwealth described it this way:

"Building is going on with a vim this week in Lincoln. (Jacob) Dawson is hurrying up his stone business house on the south side of Market Square. A. Andrews, the furniture man, is putting up a warehouse on the north side of O Street, not far from his old establishment. The Congregational Church is progressing finely; dwelling houses too numerous to mention are in various stages of progress in all parts of town."

By 1868 the population had mushroomed from 30 to 500, bringing cheers from those on the scene.

"Real estate prices are up," the Nebraska Statesman announced May 16, 1868. "There are now by actual count 143 houses in Lincoln. . . Settlers are coming rapidly and

Lincoln in 1875—Beyond the 7,000 Mark

ibrary

day, but unlike mush-

e of 700 persons may
no disagreement from
1870, The Nebraska
The Commonwealth in
most city in Nebraska
ger doubts it?"

as a trifle optimistic,
half years to 2,500 in
57 Luke Lavender had
ln with his demand of
ears later Lincoln's
\$156,956. And by 1874

Men

ill was a little raw for
oming to Lincoln met
old woman cried out,
ed how long she had
ntered here and I've
I've been here long

t is often said that it is
also true that it is the

or who wanted to start



Northwest view from the Capitol . . . University of Nebraska's first building is at extreme right background.

chartered Feb. 24, 1871. It succeeded a private bank
founded by Judge Amasa Cobb and J. F. Sudduth.

Elder Young's burned seminary location became one
of the earliest hotels when John Cadman bought the site
and rebuilt the ruins into the Cadman House. Nathan At-
wood bought it from Cadman, put up a brick front, and
renamed it the Atwood House.

While the Capital Hotel of 1959 retains little but the
name of its

industry began to stir. In 1870 H. P. Lau started his who-
sale grocery business. His grandson, Robert Lau, is no
president! Two years later, in 1872, the Raymond brothers
Isaac and Aaron S. opened a wholesale grocery business
that operated until 1951. The Raymonds eventually ex-
tended into meat packing and banking.

Miller & Paine started as a country store with Ca-
I. W. Winger proprietor. Later it became Winger's

Daring Style Lifted Eyebrows, Changed Face and Spirit of City

Sunday, June 27, 1920 was another of those hot days on which so many vital Lincoln decisions had been made. Again 3 men were meeting. But this time they did not meet in Capt. William Donovan's hot attic to pick a capital site. The commission of 1920 met in the comparative luxury of the Governor's Mansion to choose an architect for the replacement of the old Capitol across H Street.

While the new Statehouse would be the property of the state, the Capitol could not be separated from the Capital city. The new building would become a jewel for which the city must provide a setting. The jewel, in fact, would name the setting until it, too, would be recast in a more fitting design.

A later Journal Editor, Raymond A. McConnell Jr., explained the connection:

"You may say a mere building can't change a city or a state. Its skyline, perhaps, but not its character and spirit. But this building, dominant new fact of the Lincoln of the past quarter century, has done so. Skyline and spirit both. Beauty does that to people, to cities, to states, when it is above, about, and of, them."

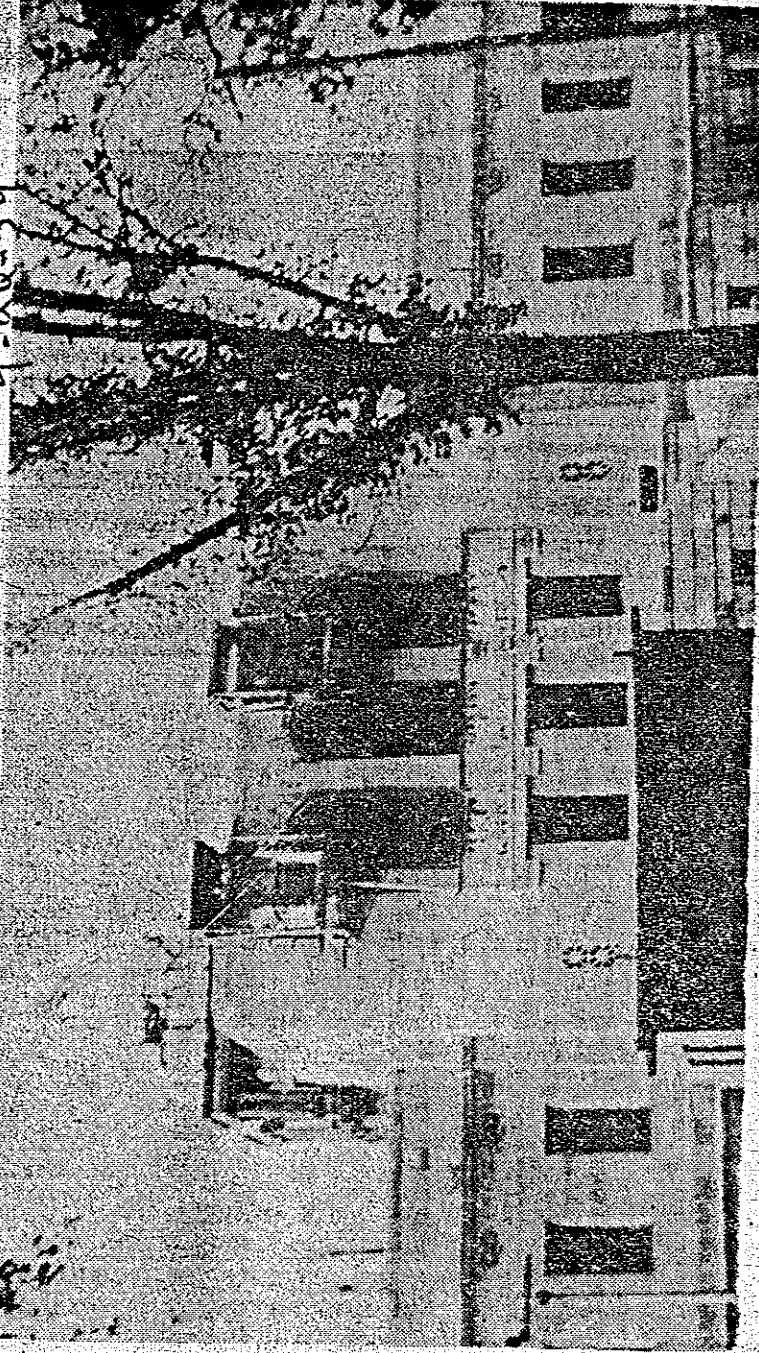
This meeting of 3 of the nation's leading architects and jurors had been carefully plotted. The Legislature, in an most unprecedented action, eliminated its own members from membership on the Capitol Commission. The original commission, whose membership would change over the years, included Gov. Sam McKelvie, a native of Lincoln and publisher of the Nebraska Farmer; State Engineer W. Johnson and 3 lay citizens—W. E. Hardy of Lincoln, Walter W. Head of Omaha and W. H. Thompson of Grand Island.

Architect Selection Method Unprecedented

The commission's first job was choosing an architect. The successful candidate would have to: 1. Design a "practical working home" for the state government. 2. Make it an inspiring monument worthy of the state for which it stands." 3. Do all this "without friction, scandal, extravagance, or waste."

The requirement that there be no scandal meant that Commissioners well recalled he hastily planned, poorly supervised building of the first Capitol in 1868 and the subsequent impeachment of Gov. David Butler. However,

4-26-59



New Capitol under construction . . . dome of old building was being dismantled when this photo was taken. the 10-year job ahead would not be completed without friction and charges of scandal.

The Commissioners, with the help of the American Institute of Architects, in 1920 devised this plan to pick their man. First a competition limited to Nebraska architects singled out 3 firms: Ellery L. Davis of Lincoln, John and Alan McDonald of Omaha, and John Latenser and Sons of Omaha. Then 7 firms from outside the state were invited to submit designs. The architectural candidates were started when told that the judges would not be chosen until all the entries had been delivered in Lincoln. "How," they asked, "can we design a building when we don't know the names of the men who will judge the drawings?" Came the frank answer:

"It sets you free to use all the brains you have—not trying to capture the jury by playing up to the known

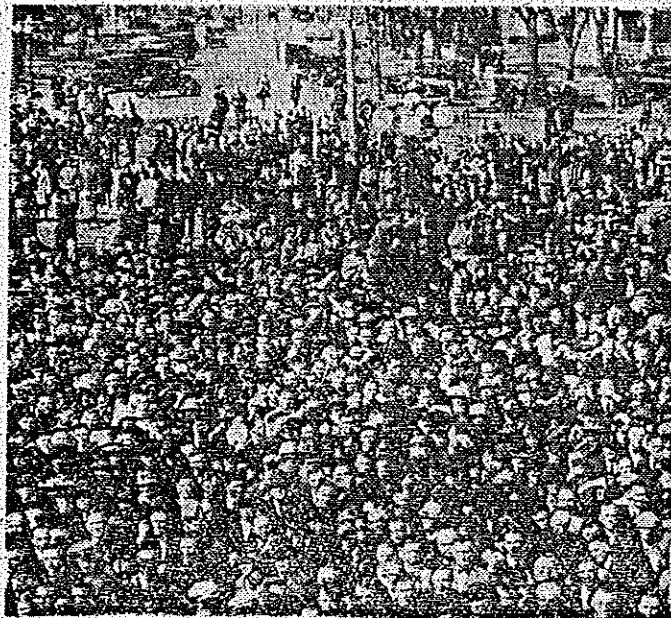
BUILDING THE TOWER

preferences of its members—but by designing a building in the same spirit with which any competent craftsman sets out to contrive anything for a purpose. The purpose here is a Capitol."

By June 19 all 10 designers' plans were in a vault. Only numbers identified the plans; separate sealed envelopes contained the architects' names and plan numbers.

The Capitol commissioners picked one juror, Wadde D. Wood of Washington, D.C. The competing architects picked another, James Gamble Rogers of New York City. The two judges picked the 3rd member, Willis Polk of San Francisco.

Practical Capitalism? Architecture



A multitude looked on as . . .



. . . Gov. McKelvie broke ground.

Goodhue's Masterpiece Paid for But Not Sold

Continued from Page 2C

vacy of the Governor's Mansion. The Sunday Journal of June 27 reported:

"Not a hint of the nature of the designs submitted in the Capitol competition has been allowed to stray beyond the doors of the Governor's Mansion, where the jurymen are at work making their selection . . . Public curiosity is naturally at a high pitch. . . ."

Excitement in Lincoln had been high ever since the Legislature first took up the subject in 1919. Some legislators wanted to put the new building in another part of the city. One suggested a "terminus of O Street" at 27th and O. Others wanted to save the old Capitol.

A few took the opportunity to suggest moving the Capitol out of Lincoln—farther west in the state. But all those proposals were discarded in the 1919 session.

Having kept the Statehouse, Lincolnites felt anxious about the building design which would do much to determine the character of their city.

After long hours of deliberation, the jury completed its work on this June Sunday and announced the winner—Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue of New York City.

His plan was revolutionary for public building design. It omitted the huge, conventional squat dome. It resembled no other state or national capitol, or, for that matter, anything that had its origin in the 7 hills of Rome. It was a tower that rose sharply but simply above the plains it was to symbolize.

How did Lincoln accept the boldness of Goodhue? Very cautiously at first. Even 12 years later when the building was completed some doubt lingered. Writer McConnell described it this way: "Goodhue's masterpiece . . . still had to win the acceptance of Nebraska plains people. It was all paid for but not all sold."

The morning after the Sunday decision, The Lincoln Journal cautiously wrote, "It must be remembered that the final plan . . . may be something entirely different from the Goodhue design which was accepted: The only result thus far . . . is the selection of an architect."

The Lincoln Star's comment was similarly restrained:

*Bertram
Grosvenor
Goodhue,
Designer
Of the New
Capitol*



membered that there is yet time to modify the style of the proposed building and to perhaps evolve a style . . . less unusual and freakish.

"There are many good points in favor of the design . . . and these must be weighed in criticizing the ungainly appearance . . . The payment of a fee of 6% of the cost of the building . . . is regarded by many as being exorbitant."

The judges themselves were delighted that Goodhue was their winner. Before breaking the seals on the envelopes matching the numbers and names they had tried to guess. "No. 4 is Goodhue," one said. "He has beaten me in 4 competitions and I ought to know."

The judges afterward agreed: "We got the greatest architect in the world."

Members of the jury would not, or could not, name the style of the startling design. One suggested jokingly, "Neo-Nebraskan." Another called it "Here and Now." The New York Times found a name for it—"prairie style of capitol."

One Tower Calls for More

Continued from Page 3C

the architecture." With carefully hedged praise the Times wrote:

"Either it will be a building of impressive force that will stretch its power milleniums in the future, or it will be a stern-browed reminder of the money that could have been spent in better ways. Certainly, it will be no non-entity—no timid copy of dead art. Nebraska has been brave—has dared—where other states have bought their capitols more or less ready-to-wear; of the standardized Washington model."

Others more skeptical saw it as a New York skyscraper not "appropriate here in Nebraska where land is plentiful."

Another reaction was typical of the approach more Lincolnites would take in coming years: "The more one looks at Mr. Goodhue's design, the more one's unfavorable impression disappears."

Lincoln's Ellery Davis, who had also submitted a design for a tower, applauded the choice as the "best one presented. If I had been on the jury," he said, "I would have made the same award."

Of course, Lincolnites had a little fun over their new tower. C. J. Guenzel, of Rudge & Guenzel and noted as a duck hunter, suggested he be allowed to stretch nets from the 400-foot tower and use an airplane to chase ducks and geese into the nets.

Death of Great Commoner

Letters to the newspapers in 1920 laid a base for a community squall in the 1950's by suggesting that a statue be placed at the foot of the steps leading to the Capitol entrance, honoring the Great Commoner, William Jennings Bryan.

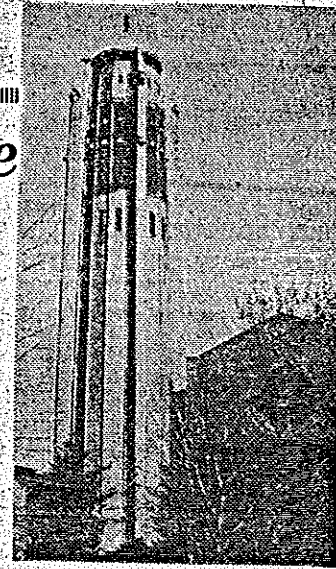
The "boy orator" was no longer a boy, yet he was more than simply a man. He was a symbol of his beliefs. At the Prohibition Party national convention in 1920 a minister prayed that "the blessings of God be upon Brother Bryan." In 1922 crowds filled the First Baptist Church at 14th and K and overflowed onto the sidewalks to hear the silver tongue attack the theory of evolution as the "greatest menace" of the day.

Not all of Lincoln agreed with Bryan, but all of Lincoln mourned when he died at Dayton, Tenn., in 1925. Bryan died just a few days after the famous Scopes trial in which he tested the teaching of evolution in schools against an almost-equally famous adversary, attorney Clarence Darrow.

The architectural judges made one suggestion regarding statues—that the statue of Lincoln should be removed from its place west of the building and placed inside the new Capitol. But Lincoln's statue was to stay where it was, its bared, bowed head facing the bright westerly sun. Behind it Gov. Sam McKelvie plowed the furrow at the official groundbreaking on Apr. 15, 1922.

The statue also would watch construction equipment carrying the name Assenmacher pull onto the Statehouse grounds to begin the first phase of the pay-as-you-go Capitol.

Construction equipment became a common sight over the city in the 1920s. Contractors spent a busy decade trying to live up to a slogan the Lincoln Chamber of



First Plymouth Congregational Church . . . another departure from traditional style.

merce had espoused in 1915—"A New Skyline Every Morning." Skyscrapers, department stores, new churches, all joined the new Capitol in its climb toward the sky.

Those Who Did the Building

These contractors behind this skyline were all long-time Lincoln firms. Assenmacher's was founded in 1878 by Peter Assenmacher. Stonemason Charles Olson founded Olson Construction Co. in 1914. Abel's started as a 1907 partnership of George Abel and Charles W. Roberts. The partnership was dissolved in 1915, resulting in two firms—Abel Construction Co. and the Roberts Construction Co. (later bought in 1953 by the Olson's). Kingery Construction Co. was founded in 1904 by W. H. Kingery and O. E. Kingery Sr. Dobson Construction Co. was founded in 1912 by Arthur A. Dobson; in 1921 Gayle G. Robinson joined Dobson in the Dobson-Robinson Construction Co., partnership. L. H. Chambers started Chambers Construction in 1924.

All of this skyscraper and concrete construction required steel. Brown's Blacksmith Shop that served the village in 1873 became the Westover Steel Co. on West O in 1921 with R. N. Westover as president. In 1929 it was sold to Lincoln Steel and Frank Daugherty was its president until 1945 when Earl Luff took over. General Steel Products at 19th and Dudley was formed in 1930 as one of the George Abel enterprises. In 1945 John H. Snyder and J. Vaulx Risser formed the Midwest Steel Works at 703 N. Snyder had formed the Midwest Manufacturing Co. in 1941 after purchasing Havelock Maintainer Co., founded by Carl O. Johnson in 1918. Chester K. Ward started the Capital Bridge and Steel Co. in 1923.

While the Capitol made its 10-year-climb into the sky, these contractors were among those who altered the rest of Lincoln's skyline. New skyscrapers went up—The 12-story Federal Securities Building at 13th and N in 1927 for the Federal Trust Co.; the 16-story Sharp Building just across the street, also in 1927, financed by a realty syndicate which included W. E. Sharp, Lincoln Traction Co. head, and Charles Stuart; the 12-story Stuart Building at 13th and P, built in 1928 by Charles Stuart, financier and partner of the Sidleses in the Nebraska Buick enterprise. All made the 6-story Nebraska Buick Building at 13th and Q of 1920 look small.

And new churches added their spires to the sky: First Presbyterian at 17th and F was designed in 1925; Westminster Presbyterian at Sheridan and South in 1925; First Plymouth Congregation, as unorthodox in church construc-

tion as the Capitol was in capitol construction at 20th and D in 1931.

First Plymouth Church's was the second notable tower for Lincoln. Later would come a 3rd—The Mueller Tower on the University of Nebraska campus, where students would irreverently call it "the singing silo." And then a 4th kind of silo would be prominent on Lincoln's perimeter in the 1950's—the tall cylinders, beautiful in their smooth, white, simplicity and as utilitarian as a barrel—the grain elevators. And finally the air traffic control towers and TV transmitters towers of the late 1950s.

No part of Lincoln's economy hung back as the city's skyline expanded in the 1920's. Hotels, department stores, and those who supplied the bricks, mortar and steel joined in the building upward and outward.

its white stone face looked up 15th Street, to remind the Capitol of Nebraska's past.

The Capitol itself, just a quarter of a century after its dedication in 1932, already was crowded and overflowing. South of town where Highway 77 intersects Highway 2, two new buildings went up—to house the State Dept. of Roads (1958) and the Safety Patrol (1949).

Further south on Highway 77 the Penitentiary looked in 1959 much as it had when it was built. There the only one major change outside the yellow stone walls was a new trusty building located west of the main structures. Inside the walls were new buildings put up after prison fires and riots in 1955. For again in the 1950s the state prison had gone through a series of troubles. Three guards were held hostage for 65 hours in the old prison "hole" by rebelling inmates. In August of the same year all of Lincoln watched as flames swept over the walls in a night of fires and rioting that ended in an estimated \$100,000 worth of damage. New construction included a "maximum security building" to replace the old and often-criticized "hole" used for solitary confinement.

West of the Penitentiary on the road to Pioneers Park the State Hospital had expanded and modernized into a \$10.6 million complex. Among the additions were a tubercu-

More Building by the State 2-26-59

State improvements and building were also changing the face of Lincoln in the 1950s. The State Historical Society was moved from the basement of the Capitol to a \$575,000 building where 15th Street dead-ends on R Street. This building, planned and constructed while Star Editor James E. Lawrence was president of the State Historical Society, ended a long site search. Originally land was designated in Lincoln's old Market Square. Later new land was provided in Haymarket Square and finally the Legislature appropriated \$25,000 to the City of Lincoln on the condition that a location for the Society be provided. In 1908 the City Council gave the Society \$27,000 to purchase the northeast corner of 16th and H in order to clear its right to the site where the Municipal Building now stands. Over the years nothing was done with the site, and finally the Historical Society acquired and built on its 15th and R location, where

lois building administrat in 1871, but completed.

North o held every was drawn improvements —first major constructed grounds, v where thous were the p 13,000 autor ing lot.

The sta progressed placement o north entra back as the state at the Great Com

its white stone face looked up 15th Street, to remind the Capitol of Nebraska's past.

The Capitol itself, just a quarter of a century after its dedication in 1932, already was crowded and overflowing. South of town where Highway 77 intersects Highway 2, two new buildings went up—to house the State Dept. of Roads (1958) and the Safety Patrol (1949).

Further south on Highway 77 the Penitentiary looked in 1959 much as it had when it was built. There the only one major change outside the yellow stone walls was a new trusty building located west of the main structures. Inside the walls were new buildings put up after prison fires and riots in 1955. For again in the 1950s the state prison had gone through a series of troubles. Three guards were held hostage for 65 hours in the old prison "hole" by rebelling inmates. In August of the same year all of Lincoln watched as flames swept over the walls in a night of fires and rioting that ended in an estimated \$100,000 worth of damage. New construction included a "maximum security building" to replace the old and often-criticized "hole" used for solitary confinement.

West of the Penitentiary on the road to Pioneers Park the State Hospital had expanded and modernized into a \$10.6 million complex. Among the additions were a tubercu-

losis building, a maximum security building and a new administration building. Old Main, built after the tragic fire in 1871, burned in 1958 just as its replacement was being completed.

North of the business district the city's biggest show held every fall on the State Fairgrounds (acquired in 1901) was drawing bigger crowds every year. Among the improvements were an administration building and a coliseum—first major building projects since the grandstand was constructed in 1929. By 1959 there were 63 buildings on the grounds, valued at \$6 million. The familiar tent cities where thousands camped in early Fair days were gone, as were the parades of special Burlington trains. Now some 13,000 automobiles could park in the state's largest parking lot.

The state's building and beautification program had not progressed without controversy. Disagreement arose over placement of the statue of William Jennings Bryan on the north entrance of the Capitol—a location debated as far back as the 1920s, when an architect's sketch suggesting a statue at this point through proposals that it be that of the Great Commoner, Bob before and after, the statue was

Continued from Page 100

placed. Good many Nebraskans got into the act. There had been one effort to put it at the new Historical Society building and another to place it a Bryan Memorial Hospital. One Republican writer put it this way:

"When the Bryan admirers won assent to locate Rudolph Evans' statue of the Great Commoner 'temporarily' on the Capitol's steps, there were anguished cries. One critic said it looked like someone's forgotten suitcase. The Bryanites stuck William Jennings 'temporarily' fast in the concrete."

The Legislature in 1953 said no statutes could be moved without its consent.

The later affair of the Capitol murals' "square bull" was well condensed in this cryptic, contemporary comment:

"When Kenneth Evatt, completing the rotunda murals, painted a bull as ordered ('architectural in feeling' . . . and nowhere realistic') . . . a state senator who had never seen a purple cow complained that he had never seen a square bull."

Controversy also flared over the design of the new Governor's Mansion. There were those who objected to locating in 1958 a "modified Georgian Colonial mansion" just across the street from a Capitol of such distinctive design.

There was friction again in 1959 when Democratic Gov. Ralph Brooks moved into the mansion dedicated in 1958 during Republican Gov. Victor Anderson's administration. Said Brooks, "The floors shake."

In 1959 post-war discussion that the state acquire further land for expansion around the Capitol led to the Legislature's possible authorization of funds for purchases in two blocks south of the Capitol.

Some said the neighbors' wash 15 feet from the governor's dining room was incongruous.

SUMMIT, 1930 STYLE: Sower C

Over at the new Capitol a crucial day—Apr. 24, 1930—arrived. It was sunny and without a breath of wind. Conditions were just right. It had taken 3 days to rig 5,000 feet of cable. There had been no publicity.

Perhaps as few as 150 people watched Lee Lawrie's 8½-ton Sower being hoisted 400 feet to the top of the almost-completed Capitol. Within a half hour the Sower rested on his side on a 3-foot steel disk. About a week later he was uprighted to his present familiar stance.

Finally, in 1932 Lincolnites watched the new Capitol's dedication after a decade of construction.

The Capitol, its tower reaching toward the sky, had pointed the way to a new city. But the growth was more than steel, stone and brick of skyscrapers. It was a health-

er, bett
city.

The
a city f
ments i

The
settled
served
those w



These are the steps the sower (above) took to reach the summit. After being uncrated (below), cables were attached and trip to summit readied (right). He was hoisted 400 ft. into the air (left) and then anchored to his perch atop the capitol.



Power Goes to His Perch Atop Capitol

pr. 24, 1939
in of what
to rig 4,000

er Lincoln's
p. 1 1934 of
the power
and a week
started.

er Capitol's

he sky, had
is was more
as a health-

lar, better educated, better serviced, and better planned city.

The keeper of the new "Tower on the Plains," was a city filled with pride—pride tempered by solemn mementos in Lincoln's 100 churches.

The new Capitol immortalized the pioneers who had settled Lincoln and Nebraska. Indeed, the pioneers deserved the honor. But did they deserve credit more than those who had followed the pioneers—the builders who had

taken a pioneer town in an unlikely location and built it into a solid city on the plains?

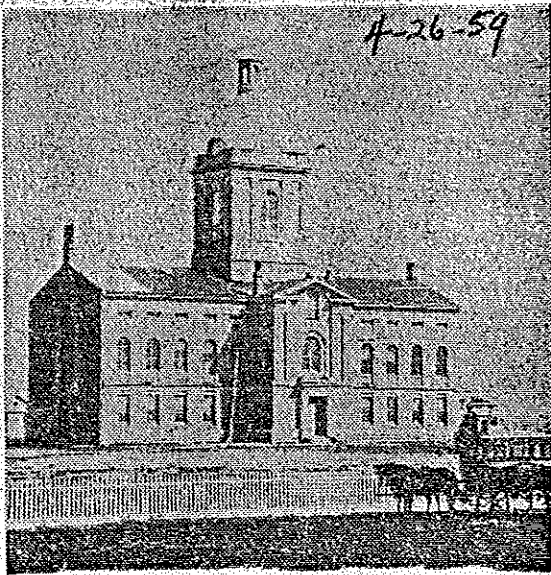
At the end of the 1930's many saw the Capitol as a symbol of what was noble in the plains spirit. Through the 1930s—longest depression and drought in Lincoln's history the Tower on the Plains would be burned by unrelenting heat, whipped by hot winds off dehydrated hills, and obscured by dust storms—the product of too much sun, too much wind and too much farm production.

April 24, 1939

Second Capitol in 20 Years



Nebraska finished building its second capital in 1939 . . . The dome of the building was 191 feet above the first floor.



First Lincoln tower . . . Capitol, 1869.

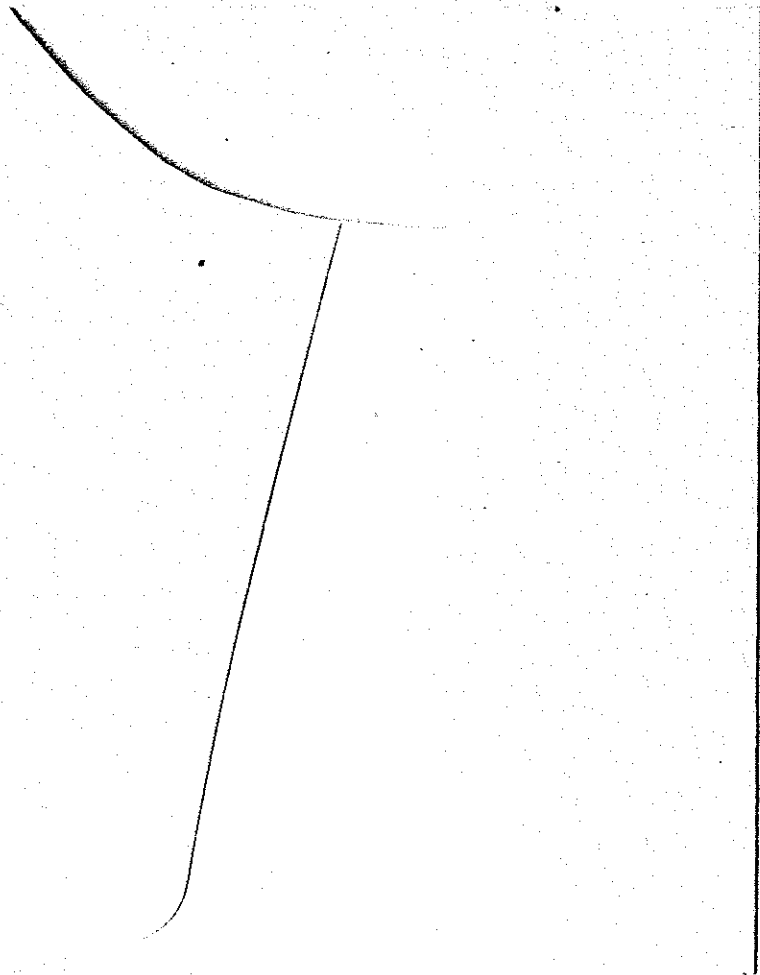
From his pedestal atop the Capitol, the Sower could note that the seeds of the Capitol environs plan and the spirit of Bertram Goodhue's architectural symbolism—broadcast in the early '30s—had sprouted, "headed out" and borne a crop in city beauty.

Lincoln was undergoing the face-lifting of the '50s. In every direction there was commercial building. The Capitol environs plan was at last progressing. The city itself was learning to express a message in stone and murals.

At the base of the Capitol stood the Woodmen Accident and Life Insurance Co. building with Lawrence Tenney Stevens' stone sculpture, "Protective Hand," symbolizing insurance's contribution to each member of man's family. Two blocks away, its colors glinting in the afternoon sun, was the largest ceramic tile mural in the United States. Decorating the entrance of Pershing Municipal Auditorium, this 38 by 140 feet design of Leonard Thiessen and Richard Hammond, portrayed the city at play. Nearby, inside the Continental National Bank, Jimmy Ernst was painting the largest mural in oils (12 feet by 96 feet) in the United States. Its title—"The Riches of Nebraska." Almost 4 miles east, the lobby of the Bankers Life Insurance Co. of Nebraska was enhanced by a mosaic tile mural depicting insurance's role in modern living.

#438

Capitol Building Commission
August, 1960



Emergency Capitol for State Planned

Underground Building Would Be Near Guard Armory in Lincoln

Lincoln (AP)—Plans to build a 300-thousand-dollar "emergency operating center"—an underground building to serve as the seat of the State Government in the event of an enemy attack—were disclosed here Tuesday.

The bombproof building would be located in the vicinity of present National Guard buildings on a site at Fourteenth Street and Military Road in Lincoln. That's roughly 1 1/4 miles north of the Capitol Building.

Plans for the structure were disclosed at a meeting of the Capitol Building Commission at which use of funds from the state institutional building levy to pay half of the cost was approved.

Would Get U. S. Aid

The remaining 150 thousand dollars would come from Federal funds available under a civil defense matching program.

Deputy Civil Defense Director Austin Bacon said the facilities would be the first of their kind for state government in Civil Defense Region 6, an eight-state area.

Preliminary plans and sketches of the building shown to newsmen Tuesday night depicted a building safe from bombs, from fall-out and from bacteriological attack.

Own Power Plant

The building would have its own power plant and other utilities and would have food, water and medical necessities to take care of besieged occupants for 14 days.

The plans call for a build-

ing 120 feet square by 10 feet high. The floors and ceilings would be formed of slabs of 3 1/2-foot-thick reinforced concrete and five feet of earth would overlay the top. The "roof," being at ground level, might serve as parking space or as a helicopter landing and take-off area.

Inside, space and facilities would be provided for the Governor and his staff, the Legislature, Attorney General, Judicial Branch, Treasurer, Health Department, Safety Patrol, Aeronautics Department, Civil Air Patrol, Civil Defense, Military Department, communications section, kitchen, latrines, medical facilities and utilities.

Interior partitions would be movable.

No Early Start

Because of the many steps involved in pre-construction procedure, no construction start can be expected before next summer, said Maj. Gen. Lyle Welch, State Adjutant General and civil defense director.

Also approved at the commission meeting was a plan to build a fall-out shelter in the basement of the Governor's mansion at a cost of 24 hundred dollars.

The commission also authorized the Attorney General to acquire by eminent domain the remaining privately owned lots in the block in which the Governor's Mansion is located, and authorized James Delehant, Superintendent of Capitol Building and Grounds, to obtain price quotations on air conditioning for the capitol.

State To Acquire Land For Mansion Grounds

The Capitol Building Commission Tuesday authorized the attorney general to institute eminent domain proceedings to acquire the remaining property located on the south half of the block behind the Governor's Mansion.

Acquisition of the property will provide a full block for the setting of the chief executive's residence and permit completion of plans for the grounds surrounding the Mansion.

Properties to be acquired are located on 14th and 15th and G. Appraisal of the land and properties indicated an estimated market value of about \$130,000.

A total of 7 properties are located on the land.

Two Accept

Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds James R. Delehant said two of the property owners already have accepted the appraisal and signed their property to the state.

Of the 5 remaining properties, Delehant said "one or two more owners" have indicated they may be willing to accept the appraisal.

After the notice of eminent domain is filed, property owners will have 10 days in which to decide whether they want to accept the appraisal before proceedings are instituted.

After purchase has been completed on the properties, owners will have 90 days before they must leave their homes.

The buildings then will be put up for auction, Delehant said, and the purchasers may dispose of their acquisitions as they see fit — either removing to another site or dismantling on the premises.

Appraisal 2-3 Done

Robert Conrad, administrative assistant to the gover-

nor, said the Commission also was informed that appraisal of properties located in the block directly east of the Mansion block is two-thirds completed and continuing on the remaining one-third.

No action will be taken on acquisition of this block until the appraisal is completed. The 1959 Legislature approved its acquisition as a possible site for an additional state office building.

On another matter Tuesday, the commission gave its approval to sending letters of inquiry to engineering firms asking them to quote a price on an air-conditioning system for the State Capitol Building, Conrad said.

Journal 8-24-60

Underground Capitol Set

Would House Authorities In Event of Nuclear Attack

Nebraska is planning an underground State Capitol designed to withstand the horrors of a nuclear warfare.

Plans for the \$300,000 building were announced by the Capitol Building Commission. The bomb-shelter capitol will be at 14th and Military on state property now used by the National Guard.

Austin Bacon, deputy director of state Civil Defense operations, said the underground capitol will be just east of the present U.S. Purchasing and Fiscal Office building in the Guard complex. This is west of the State Fairgrounds.

The new building would become the seat of state government in case of enemy attack. The governor, Legislature and key state offices would move from the Statehouse 1½ miles north to the bomb-proof capitol.

Bacon said the building would withstand 30 pounds per square inch overpressure.

This is regarded as strong enough to withstand anything but a direct hit even from a nuclear blast of 20 megatons—as large as any known missile can deliver.

What Would Occur

This is what would happen in a hypothetical war emergency situation:

Civil Defense officials figure the U.S. would have at best a 15-minute warning of attack.

When the warning comes, the governor and other officials would drive from the Statehouse to the underground capitol.

Should the Legislature be in session, senators would go along. Other agencies given space in the new building would be the attorney general, state treasurer, Health Department, Safety Patrol, Dept. of Aeronautics, Civil Air Patrol, Civil Defense, Military Dept., judicial officers and communications.

These men would then "button up" in the building for a period of as long as 14 days.

Maj. Gen. Lyle Welch, state adjutant general and director

of Civil Defense, said the building is blast-proof and also safe from radioactive fallout and bacteriological attack.

Inside, there would be a power generator, water purification and air filtering systems, and 14-day supplies of food, water and medical supplies.

The structure will appear as a concrete slab from above. It is 120 feet by 120 feet with a 3½-foot reinforced concrete floor and ceiling.

The state's share of the cost will come from the special levy for institutional buildings. The state share will be matched dollar for dollar by federal money.

Welch and Bacon said the building would not be a "white elephant" but would be put into full-time use.

The state Civil Defense headquarters would be housed there. Bacon noted the building could be used as headquarters for a disaster control operation like last spring's "Operation Alert" flood battle.

Construction is not expected to start before the summer of 1961.

The Building Commission approved construction of a fallout shelter in the Governor's Mansion at 14th and H. It will cost an estimated \$2,400 and will utilize one room of the servant quarters in the Mansion basement.



ernment in case of enemy attack. The governor, Legislature and key state offices would move from the Statehouse 1 1/4 miles north to the bomb-proof capitol.

Bacon said the building would withstand 30 pounds per square inch overpressure.

This is regarded as strong enough to withstand anything but a direct hit even from a nuclear blast of 20 megatons—as large as any known missile can deliver.

What Would Occur

This is what would happen in a hypothetical war emergency situation:

Civil Defense officials figure the U.S. would have at best a 15-minute warning of attack.

When the warning comes, the governor and other officials would drive from the Statehouse to the underground capitol.

Should the Legislature be in session, senators would go along. Other agencies given space in the new building would be the attorney general, state treasurer, Health Department, Safety Patrol, Dept. of Aeronautics, Civil Air Patrol, Civil Defense, Military Dept., judicial officers and communications.

These men would then "button up" in the building for a period of as long as 14 days.

Maj. Gen. Lyle Welch, state adjutant general and director

building is blast-proof and also safe from radioactive fallout and bacteriological attack.

Inside, there would be a power generator, water purification and air filtering systems, and 14-day supplies of food, water and medical supplies.

The structure will appear as a concrete slab from above. It is 120 feet by 120 feet with a 3 1/2-foot reinforced concrete floor and ceiling.

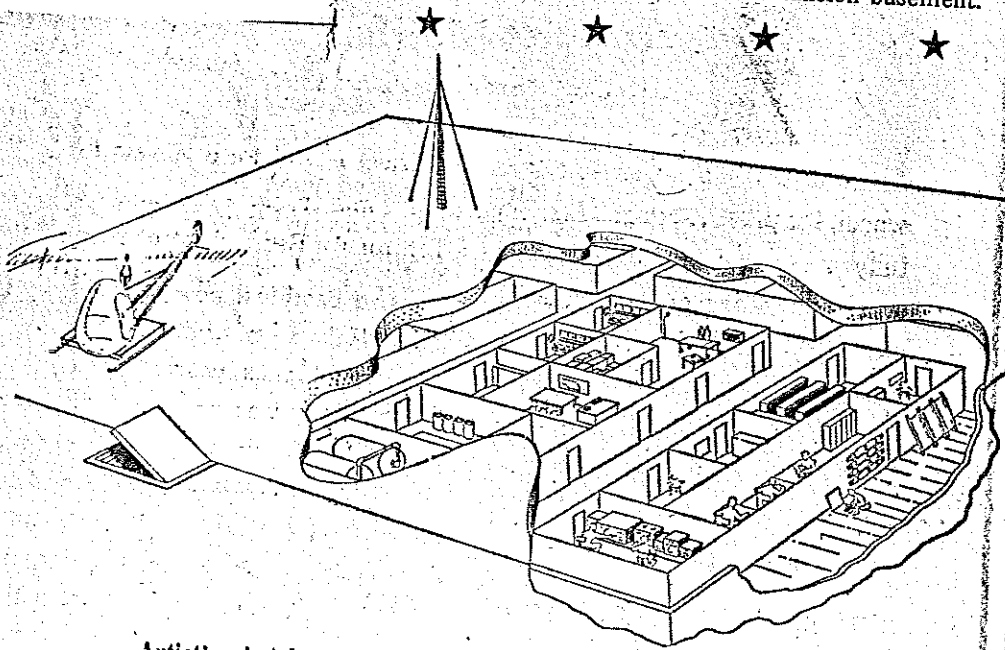
The state's share of the cost will come from the special levy for institutional buildings. The state share will be matched dollar for dollar by federal money.

Welch and Bacon said the building would not be a "white elephant" but would be put into full-time use.

The state Civil Defense headquarters would be housed there. Bacon noted the building could be used as headquarters for a disaster control operation like last spring's "Operation Alert" flood battle.

Construction is not expected to start before the summer of 1961.

The Building Commission approved construction of a fallout shelter in the Governor's Mansion at 14th and H. It will cost an estimated \$2,400 and will utilize one room of the servant quarters in the Mansion basement.



Artist's sketch of what underground facility would look like.