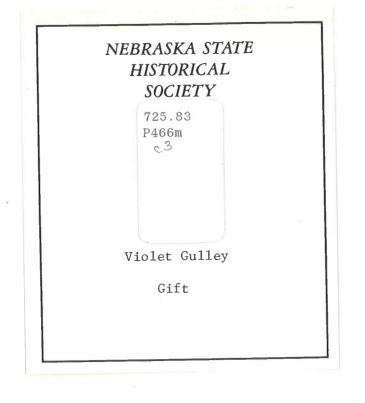
PERSHING MUNICIPAL $\star \star \star \star \mathbf{AUDITORIUM} \star \star \star \star$

725.83 P466m

C.3







With great pride, Lincoln chose in the naming of its new auditorium, to honor one of the city's and state's outstanding military leaders and statesman, the late Gen. of the Armies John J. Pershing. His illustrious career, including commander in chief of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe during World War I, ended with his death in 1948 at the age of 87. His connections with Lincoln and Nebraska are many and the old Pershing family home at 1748 B still stands, although it has passed now into other hands and uses.



Fire swept with destructive force through the old red brick Playhouse at 13th and M in the early hours of April 15, 1928.

But this burning of Lincoln's memorable auditorium was not to be the end of the many things it meant to the city. Rather, 11 years later, the fire proved but a spark igniting within the citizenry a spirit of achievement culminated today in the magnificent Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

However, 19 years elapsed between 1938, when the first thoughts of a new auditorium developed within the membership of the American Legion, and the 1957 opening of Pershing Municipal.

At the request of the Legion, the City Council submitted to the voters on May 2, 1939, a proposal to levy a tax of \$75,000 annually for the next 10 years for an auditorium and to open 15th Street.

Voters endorsed the proposal but the funds proved insufficient. Authority was sought and received on May 6, 1941, for a proposal providing the same \$75,000 annually but extended over 20 years.

The city's first Auditorium Advisory Committee was appointed Feb. 13, 1940, and consisted of J. W. Kinsinger, Dr. Charles H. Arnold, T. B. Strain, Charles Elce and Frank H. Woods. Shortly thereafter, John K. Selleck was also appointed.

The year 1941 was one of hope and progress as the 15th and N site was purchased, the 15th Street opening was pushed and plans submitted for a \$900,000 auditorium.

Following the plans by six months, World War II suspended auditorium

activity. The postwar era brought increased costs and voters responded May 3, 1949, with approval of an additional \$1.5 million for the auditorium.

During this period, the city had the active help of an American Legion committee composed of Dr. Charles H. Arnold, John F. Lawlor, Myron D. Noble, George X. Smith, James D. Reed and Clarence L. Clark. Their work followed the efforts of such other Legionnaires as Rolla Van Kirk, A. C. Eichberg, Virg Kittrell, Sam Smith, John Curtiss, Oakley Cox, Bernie G. Clark and many others.

But disappointment seemed predestined when, in October of 1950, a combination of low bids for the new auditorium totaled \$2,623,888. Exceeding the city's estimate, the bids had to be rejected.

Once again, the Council turned to the voters but on June 17, 1952, was denied authority to issue another \$750,000 in bonds.

Another stumbling block, an acute steel shortage, lasted until Jan. 7, 1953. The following February the City Council appointed a new Advisory Committee composed of Flavel Wright, Grace A. Trott, Archie J. Baley, Dean A. L. Forrest and Myron D. Noble. The City Council also employed Benjamin Moore of Spokane as a consultant.

The group recommended abandonment of previous plans for a theater and sports arena combination building. Committee studies led to submission by the architects in September of 1954 of plans for a multi-purpose structure.

It was March 22, 1955, when final plans for the Pershing Municipal Auditorium were adopted by the City Council. Approval in May of 1955 of contracts totaling \$2,093,689 for construction of the building was the final climax to the past 17 years of dreaming and working.









Fulfilling a long-felt need, Pershing Municipal Auditorium brings to Lincoln the facilities to attract many great local and national events.

Multipurpose in design, the building can accommodate a highly diversified variety of activities. It is hoped the new auditorium will soon assume its rightful place in the community as a center of activity in the fields of religion, culture, education, entertainment, agriculture, industry and government. Its ultimate success rests with the support of the entire community—not only from the standpoint of attendance at attractions, but also in the full use of the building by local groups as well.

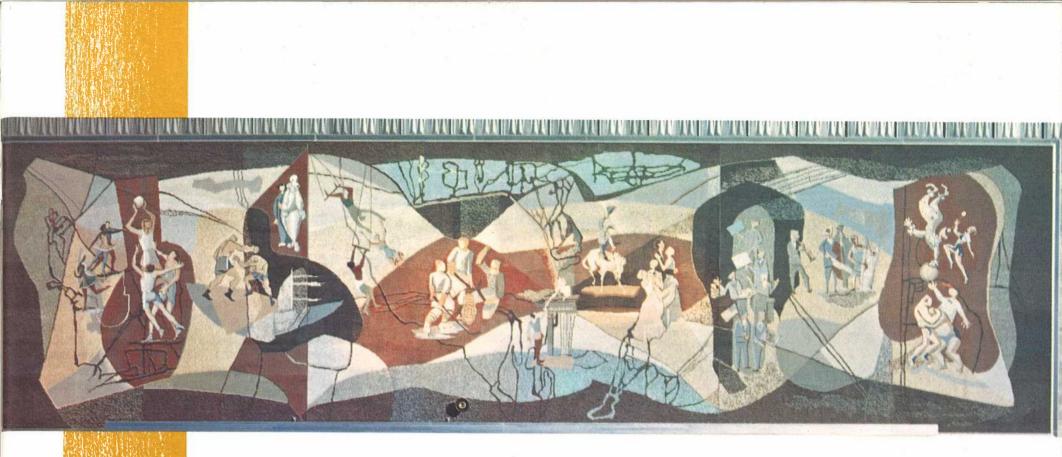
The beautiful arena is designed to bring to Lincoln area residents stage attractions, legitimate music, conventions, expositions, trade shows, sports events, and many other types of entertainment. It should also serve as a gathering place for large local meetings by church, civic and political groups.

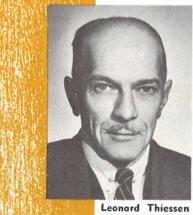
There can be little doubt the new auditorium will have considerable effect on the economy of the community. Major attractions such as Ice

Capades, the Auto Show, Home Show and others are expected to bring many thousands of people to Lincoln throughout the year. Of equal importance, the excellent facilities for conventions should also see the influx each year of many new delegates to attend state, regional and national conclaves here. Many conventions which have not met in Lincoln in the past are expected to avail themselves of these fine facilities. Other conventions, because of the large exhibit area in the building, are expected to demonstrate a steady growth in the years to come.

The purpose of the auditorium is simple. It is a well-designed, highly versatile structure capable of performing a broad variety of services to the public. It stands as a monument to the con-

fidence and faith of Lincoln residents in the future of their city—built for their use and pleasure, and of many generations to follow.







William Hammon

To be known in the future for many things, the Pershing Municipal Auditorium already occupies a place of distinction among buildings of its class.

This point of pride for Lincoln is found in the ceramic mosaic tile mural which decorates the front of the auditorium. Measuring 140 feet, 8 inches wide and 38 feet, 3 inches high, the mural is the largest work of its type ever undertaken in the United States.

In their creation the mural designers, Leonard Thiessen and William Hammon of Omaha, present a montage-type of work depicting the many activities to be seen with the building.

More than 763,000 individual pieces of tile, each of them one square-inch in size, went into the mural. The panel was constructed by the Cambridge Tile Co. of Cincinnati, O.

Some three months were spent in construction alone. The mural was assembled in one by two foot sections and shipped to Lincoln.

Working from numbers on the back of each piece rather than sight of the picture, tile setters mounted the sections against a plaster base on metal channels projecting out from the building.

Installed for little more than the cost of stone, the mural has a life expectancy equal to that of the building.

Forty different shades of color, delicate and subdued, are found in the design. Mural builders have confidently predicted the work of art will be widely copied.







From the time bulldozers removed the first tree from the building site until workmen applied the final touch of the paint brush, construction of Lincoln's sparkling new auditorium had lasted nearly 22 months.

Interested citizens watched the activity in anticipation of future shows which would be scheduled in the new Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

Construction work got underway shortly after the City Council approved the final auditorium plans in April of 1955.

The first equipment moved into the 15th and N Streets location on May 4 and began removing trees and old sidewalks.

Huge earthmovers began excavation of the basement early in June and by the end of the month had left a gaping hole in the square block area. Work proceeded on laying footings for the concrete walls.

The basement walls began taking shape early in July and were completed by mid-August. Construction workers then started work on the basement flooring.

Plumbing and heating facilities were installed during this time, and by late February the basement was virtually completed.

Then acrobatic work that found sidewalk superintendents and photography fans working overtime got underway.

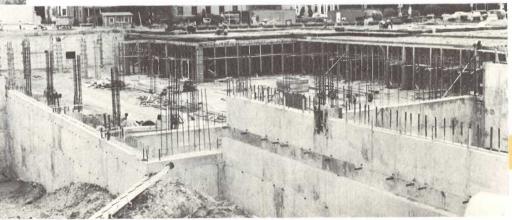
Trucks began carrying huge sections of structural steel down Lincoln streets towards the auditorium on March 2, 1956.

And as men and machines put the girders in place, the steel skeleton of the city's new auditorium took its place in Lincoln's skyline.

The framework was approximately half completed by April 1 and the steelwork operation was finished by the first of May.

Meanwhile, workmen started laying concrete for seating and platform beams in the arena. Masonry work on the outside of the building got underway.

The buff-colored brick at the stage end of the structure was put in place.



April 23, 1956, a Monday, dawned cool and wet in Lincoln. But despite the rain, it was Auditorium Corner Stone Laying Day and a significant date in the Capital City's history.

Mayor Clark Jeary and Dr. Charles H. Arnold, a member of the original American Legion Auditorium Committee, were principal speakers.

The red granite cornerstone put in place on the northwest corner of the building weighs 300 pounds and is three feet high and five feet wide.

A copper box inside the stone contains a picture of the artist's conception of the auditorium, building specifications, microfilm reproductions of clippings on the auditorium history, the day's official weather forecast, lists of the 1939 and 1956 City Council members and the American Legion Post No. 3 committee names, newspaper clippings of the ceremonies and a tape recording of remarks made at the dedication.

Work progressed on the outside of the building. The mural was started early in September and was completed in approximately a month.

By December 1, as winter closed in, the auditorium exterior was completed and work inside progressed rapidly.

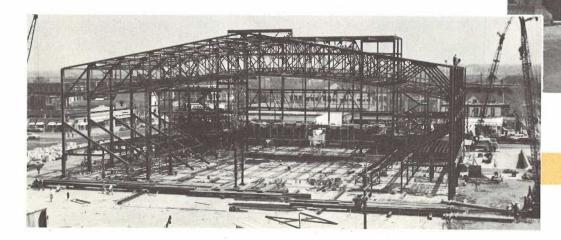
The ice floor had been completed in mid-October and the last section of the aluminum ceiling was put in place and installation of permanent seating completed by January. The permanent seats in the arena were all installed in February.

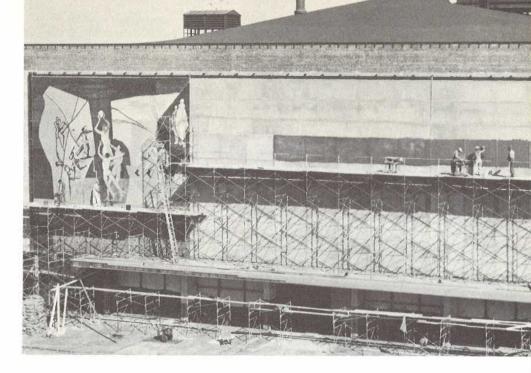
Then the finishing touches that make a building beautiful.

The arena and exhibition hall were painted. The concourse was sprayed with Vitro Glaze cement enamel—tile was laid in the front lobby.

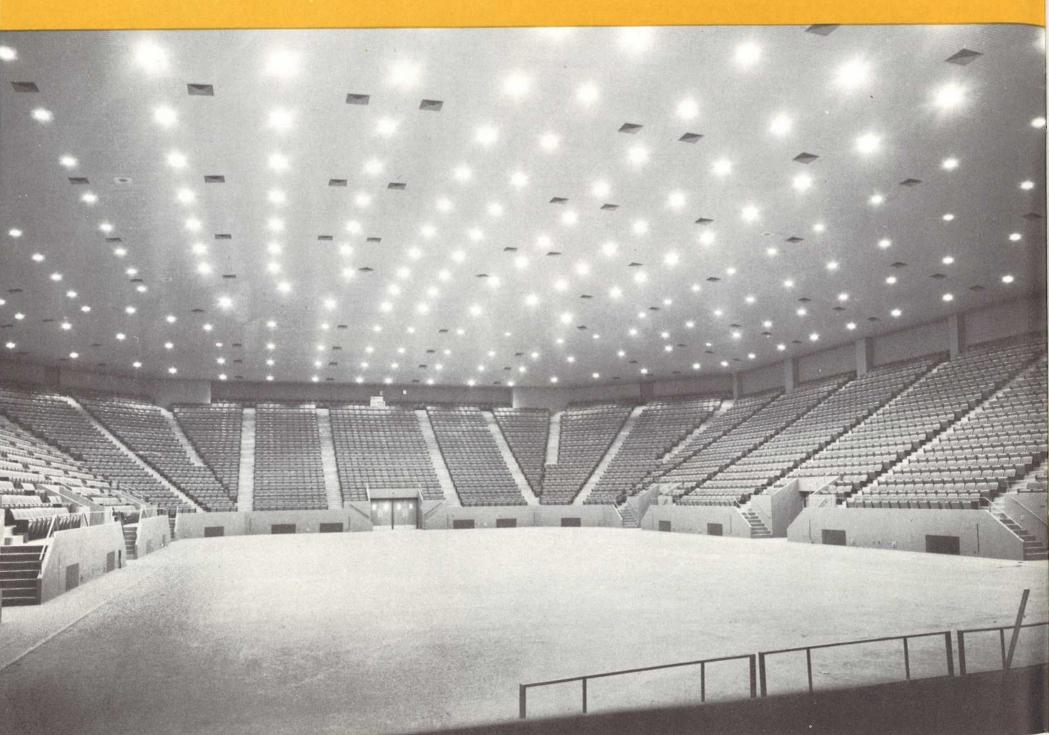
Auditorium Manager Don Jewell experimented with making the first ice and gave other equipment a final check.

Then opening day, a dream realized. The modern building opened for public inspection. And Lincolnites attended the first show in Pershing Municipal Auditorium.





THE ARENA



The heart of Pershing Municipal Auditorium—the multipurpose arena—displays none of the coldness so common to arenas of such size. The light ceiling, pastel green walls, padded seats and excellent lighting system all combine to present a warm, theater-like atmosphere which will heighten the enjoyment of stage shows, sports events and other auditorium activities.

Most important, the acoustics are virtually perfect.

The fixed seating capacity surrounding the main auditorium floor is 4,570. Another 2,250 chairs can be set up on the flat floor and the stage will hold 800 chairs, making a total auditorium seating capacity of 7,620. With the use of risers on the main floor, however, as many as 8,000 persons will be able to watch a boxing match at one time.

Virtually any type of auditorium activity can be staged in the arena. The building is equipped to handle road shows, legitimate stage productions, opera, musical concerts and a variety of athletic events.

Even the circus hasn't been neglected. The floor is 90 feet wide by 181 feet long, allowing sufficient space for a three-ring show. Ring and trapeze inserts in the floor and walls and the 50-foot high ceiling make a circus event possible.

The ice floor, 80 feet wide by 165 feet long, is adequate to handle any traveling ice show and ice ballet productions. For commercial skating and hockey events, the floor will be surrounded by wood protective barriers and protective screens.

Ice is made by circulating cold brine through a maze of eight miles of pipe under the concrete floor and spraying the area with water. The process takes about 24 hours.

To remove the ice, the brine is heated and circulated through the piping. A tractor with a cultivator-type tool on the rear loosens the ice from the floor. Two pusher blades, each eight feet wide and two feet high, are mounted on the tractor and a jeep to push the broken ice toward the stage and into two traps on either side of the stage. The openings are eight feet wide and two feet high and the traps 17 feet deep and 12 feet wide.

Steam heat units melt the ice and the water is drained away. The removal process takes approximately one hour.

Portable goals and a basketball floor will be set up to handle ball games. The floor contains inserts for the erection of equipment for tennis, badminton and volley ball events.

Lights in the aluminum ceiling can be pre-set in a variety of arrangements to provide any degree of lighting on the arena floor. The fixtures for 120 bulbs of 1,500-watt power each and 168 bulbs of 500 watts can provide up to 85 foot candles of light on the arena floor.

House lights are controlled by an operator seated at a console table at the top and rear of the arena.

An excellent Altec-Lansing sound system will carry words and music to all parts of the arena simultaneously and at a common level. All the speakers in the arena are located behind the wooden screens above the 70 by 25 foot proscenium opening of the stage and are directed at different sections of the audience.

The sound can be piped to public portions of the building and to the dressing rooms where artists will receive their cues. A phone system connecting the console table with the stage will permit the console operator to advise the stage manager of reception at the rear of the building.

The auditorium also is equipped with a phone cuing system. Ten outlets in different parts of the arena will permit employees to plug in earphones to receive instruction from backstage about throwing spotlights on the stage and floor.

Stage footlights have been replaced by a battery of 16 overhead spotlights in the ceiling in front of the stage. Other illumination is provided by four portable spots, four border lights and another eight portables which may be plugged in at different parts on the stage.

Adequate dressing room facilities are provided in the stage wings. There are 13 group dressing rooms, two star dressing rooms and two team dressing rooms.

The stage itself is 40 feet deep, 110 feet wide and 60 feet high and is equipped with 40 sets of lines to control six curtains.

A center trap in the floor measures 45 by 24 feet and is built in 36 panels which can be removed separately or in combinations. The trap can be used in scenes in which an actor disappears into the floor and is large enough to contain a swimming pool.

The orchestra pit is $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep and is directly below the three attic tone chambers for the electronic organ donated for the auditorium by the late Nebraska Governor Samuel McKelvie.

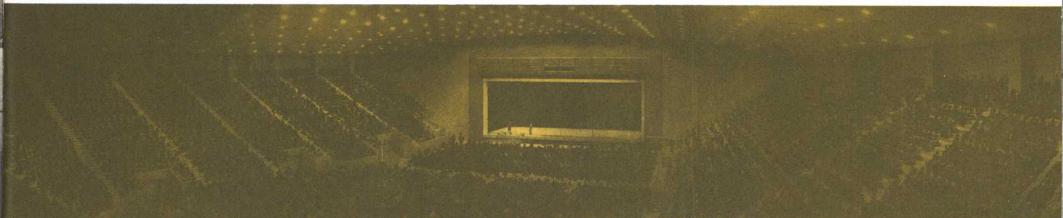


Exhibit Halls

Multi-purpose has become a term synonymous with the new Pershing Municipal Auditorium and is symbolized in the variety of special meeting areas found within the building.

In addition to the many other facilities located off the concourse surrounding the arena are two main meeting rooms, each 40 by 21 feet and seating from 50 to 75 persons. Above the lobby on the west side is another larger room measuring 21 by 88 feet and seating from 250 to 300 persons.

The west mezzanine room may be used as a single meeting hall or divided into two smaller rooms.

All of these facilities are specially equipped to accommodate the showing of films.

Should demand for meeting facilities call for it, the utility of other parts of the auditorium may be brought into play. The 40 by 110 foot stage is easily converted into two or more meeting rooms, as are the 19 different stage dressing rooms.

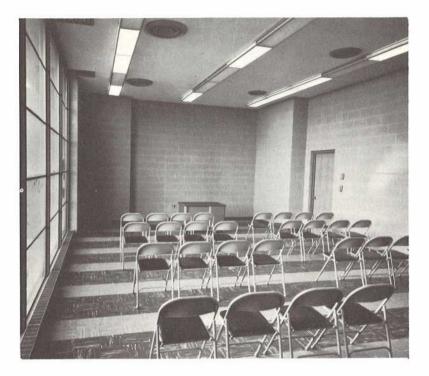
With curtains or portable dividers, the basement exhibition hall can also serve as another four or more meeting rooms.

Any conceivable combination of large and small gatherings can thus be accommodated in the auditorium. Political gatherings or professional conventions could meet en masse in the exhibition hall or arena, devote the other area to displays and still find ample quarters for smaller sectional meetings.

Expected to be popular attractions for small Lincoln groups are the three main meeting facilities around the concourse and above the lobby. Business, civic, professional, religious, charitable and many other types of organizations—all will find the auditorium a convenient and pleasant meeting place for their every demand.









Facilities

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Meet Your Auditorium Manager

Don Jewell, 36-year-old business manager of Pershing Municipal Auditorium, came to Lincoln highly recommended for his position.

In 1953, when he was managing the Shrine Auditorium in Billings, Mont., he was selected by the International Association of Auditorium Managers as one of four outstanding managers in the nation.

And in 1956, he was featured in Billboard after his project for putting the Shrine Auditorium basement to better use and providing banquet facilities for large conventions proved more than successful.

Jewell is a native of Springfield, Ill., a Navy veteran and ex-newspaperman. He attended Taylorville High School near Springfield and Illinois College in Jacksonville.

After spending four years in public relations work with the Navy, Jewell joined the staff of the Billings Gazette as sports editor, a job which kept him busy nights but left him time to do free lance writing for a number of magazines.

He was named manager of the Billings auditorium in 1950 and held the post until accepting the Lincoln position in September, 1956.

Jewell's fine work at the Shrine Auditorium did much to make Billings a popular location for road shows, sports events and conventions. He founded the Midland

Advisory Board

Empire Golden Gloves boxing tournament, the Billings Home Show and other attractions staged annually in the building.

The annual Jaycee Varieties Show which he wrote and directed was a popular hit.

Jewell was hired by the Lincoln City Council in September, 1956, to manage the Pershing Auditorium. He returned to Lincoln in November with only four months remaining to see the building put in final shape and to make arrangements for opening attractions.

He also spent many hours outlining the auditorium's facilities to many Lincoln civic groups.

Jewell stresses that the Lincoln auditorium must be a community service.

The future of the building, he says, "depends on the support we receive from Lincoln and neighboring communities."

Nebraskans will hear more from the young manager as the variety of activities depicted on the huge outdoor mural become a reality.

Jewell has brought some talent of his own to the Capital City. He played a euphonium in high school, but plays a slightly smaller instrument—the musette in the Lincoln Shrine's Oriental Band.

He and his wife, Elaine, have one daughter, threeyear-old Kerby. The Jewells are building a new home at 2520 Stockwell.



While under the direct management of Don Jewell, policy matters regarding the operation of the auditorium are determined by the Auditorium Advisory Committee. This group, subject to the final authority of the City Council, was appointed June 4, 1956. Appointed for six-year terms are Archie Baley, Sam Haupt and Richard W. Chapin. Serving four-year terms are John E. Curtiss and Philip S. Hardy, Committee chairman. Mrs. Richard W. Smith and Verner Meyers, now resigned, were appointed to two-year terms.

Recommendation to the City Council of an auditorium manager was the Committee's first task. Many long hours were spent by the group in screening of candidates before a final selection was made.

Since that time, the Committee has functioned in an advisory capacity on the purchase of some equipment items, including the seating, and the determination of operational policy matters. The group has engaged in establishment, with Jewell, of rates for use of the auditorium, of early programming of events and other matters concerning the beginning of activities within the structure.

Intended as a permanent group, the Committee will continue as needed to assist the auditorium manager and advise the City Council on major operational questions.

Advisory Committee, left to right: John Curtiss, Philip Hardy, Richard Chapin, Mrs. Richard Smith, Sam Haupt and Archie Baley.

A Word from Your Mayor . . .

It is my happy privilege to be Mayor when Lincoln's new Auditorium finally is completed and dedicated. However, the seven previous Mayors who served during the eighteen years which have elapsed since the first constructive step was taken in 1939 deserve the credit for giving Lincoln this fine, modern and beautiful new facility. Each Mayor wrestled with the problem, complicated by two wars and inflation, but I honestly believe that my predecessor, the Honorable Clark Jeary, contributed the most in shaping the final, happy result. Great credit, too, is due to our veteran finance director, Theo Berg, whose astute management of the Auditorium funds for nearly two decades provided a goodly share of the \$2,500,000.00 invested in the building. The Pershing Auditorium, being dedicated as Lincoln approaches its 100th birthday, should serve not only our own citizens, but also those of our surrounding area, for most of the Capital City's second century. This is a truly happy occasion for all Lincoln-land, and I am proud to have the honor of representing all our people in this memorable dedication.



Bennett S. Martin Mayor

Your City Council





Reese Wilkinson





Hugh Thorne



C. Kinsey



Pat Ash

Ray Osborn

Joe Fenton



Clark Jeary

Realizing the citizens of Lincoln had waited nearly two decades for the event, the Auditorium Dedication Committee placed special emphasis on plans for the dedication.

Proposing an elaborate dedicatory program, the committee selected as general chairman, former Mayor Clark Jeary—a man recently was so closely associated with construction of Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

To assist in creating the program, Jeary called upon citizens from all parts of Lincoln. Nearly 100 men and women were organized into committees and sub-committees required to create an event of this magnitude. The fruits of their efforts are seen in this March 10, 1957 opening.

While the program, music and special guest com-

mittees were busy arranging details of the formal ceremonies other groups were concerning themselves with additional features of the day. The Brochure Committee produced this 40-page souvenir of the occasion. The Display Committee developed an outstanding exhibit of materials, equipment and supplies used in the building.

Still more committees arranged for decorations, building inspection and publicity. Assisting as necessary to bring realization to over-all committee plans were the vital finance and executive committees.

Through the scheduled tours and activities of Dedication Day it was hoped that all the people of Lincoln and their neighbors from nearby communities would come to know the auditorium and gain an appreciation of the many advantages it offers them.

DEDICATION COMMITTEE



Equipment

Costing \$2,093,689 for construction alone, the Pershing Municipal Auditorium is equipped at a cost expected to approach \$350,000 when all expenses are met.

In equipping the building, officials kept two things uppermost in their minds — the pleasure and convenience of patrons and economy of operation.

There was \$67,290 spent on permanent seats padded for comfort—and \$25,000 for portable wooden folding chairs which can be erected and taken down with a minimum of time. A major job, the stage was equipped for \$41,937, providing facilities to meet the demands of any production.

A 250-ton air compressor for freezing the ice rink floor and cooling the basement cost \$48,694 and the acoustical ceiling for perfect hearing was installed for \$32,684.

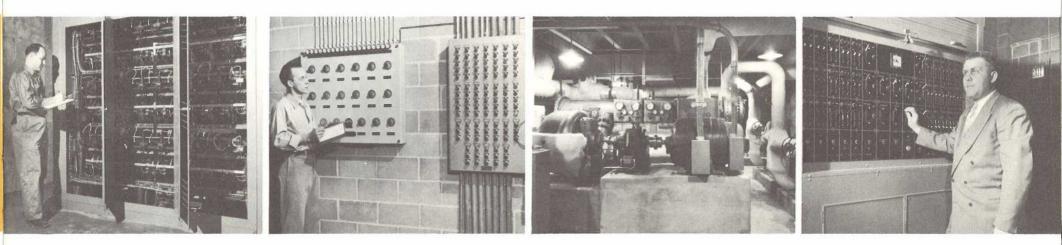
In addition to this, there were a host of other items needed to complete the building. The equipment list includes such things as risers for seating on the arena floor, concession materials, the sound system, freight elevator, hand trucks, a jeep and tractor for ice floor work, turnstiles, painting, lockers, refrigerators, janitor supplies, clocks, freezers and office supplies.

Some 40 firms were called upon for supplying auditorium equipment.

All purchases were handled through City Purchasing Agent Wayne Harvey. Invaluable assistance was given him by Steve Cook, project architect.

Don Jewell, auditorium manager, took an active part in purchasing upon his arrival on the job. Many hours were also given by the Auditorium Advisory Committee in the equipping process.





The Architects

An unique organization was formed in Lincoln in 1939—the Associated Auditorium Architects —and from it has come the structure pictured on the front cover.

Quick to sense the opportunity of performing a historic service to the community, four Lincoln architectural firms combined their skills to produce the finest auditorium their years of experience could conceive.

The group was composed of the firms of Fritz Craig, Hazen & Robinson, Schaumberg & Freeman and Davis & Wilson. From 1941, when the first auditorium plans were submitted, to this day, the architects have worked hand in hand with city officials on a variety of building proposals and bid considerations.

Construction of the auditorium was nursed through to completion by Steve Cook of the firm of Davis & Wilson. Willing at all times to go beyond his normal responsibilities, Cook was an invaluable help to the city, not only in guiding work on the building according to plans, but in the purchase of all equipment.

It was first in the minds of the architects to provide as flexible an auditorium as possible to permit a great variety of uses. Both the main arena and the basement exhibition hall are designed for maximum utility—permitting one use now and an entirely different use within a matter of hours.

Auditorium patrons are certain to notice, in addition to the utility of the building, these three major points achieved through the design of the structure:

- 1. The best possible accoustical treatment—complementing an elaborate sound system assures perfect hearing in every single square foot of the arena.
 - 2. A seating arrangement, both on the main floor and in the permanent tiers, assuring comfort and good vision for all types of spectator productions. Portable risers will provide sloped seating on the main floor for improved sight lines toward the stage.
- 3. Adequate artificial lighting throughout for exhibits and all types of entertainment.

Never forgotten during the years of planning for this building was its setting near the State Capitol. The exterior of the building with its Bedford Stone rising from a granite base is in character with the State Capitol at the south end of 15th and the State Historical Society building to the north.

Jim Tippery (Natkin & Co.) Steve Cook, Supervising Architect (Davis & Wilson Architects) Bud Jensen (Commonwealth Electric Co.) George Alt (Olson Construction Co.)



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA CAMPUS

Centrally Located

The Finest Hotel Accomodations

Certain to prove an essential factor in the success of Lincoln's new auditorium is its strategic downtown location.

The structure will be as well a complement to what has long been planned as a mall along 15th Street from the State Capitol to the State Historical Society. From both its physical aspects and use, the auditorium will blend perfectly with other public or semi-public structures now located on 15th or planned for the future.

Auditorium patrons will find the building near the hub of the city's mass transportation facilities. They will find it offers, only a few blocks away, the convenience of the finest shops and restaurants in the Middle West.

Modern off-street parking garages, ground-level lots and curb parking provide the motorist with parking convenience within a close radius of the auditorium.

Lincoln guests at auditorium functions will find that no other such facility offers more than Pershing Municipal in proximity to modern living accommodations such as hotels and motels. All of the city's finer hotels are within easy walking distance of the auditorium.

In the 15th and N location, there has been provided a rare combination of aesthetic appeal and practical convenience.



HOTELS

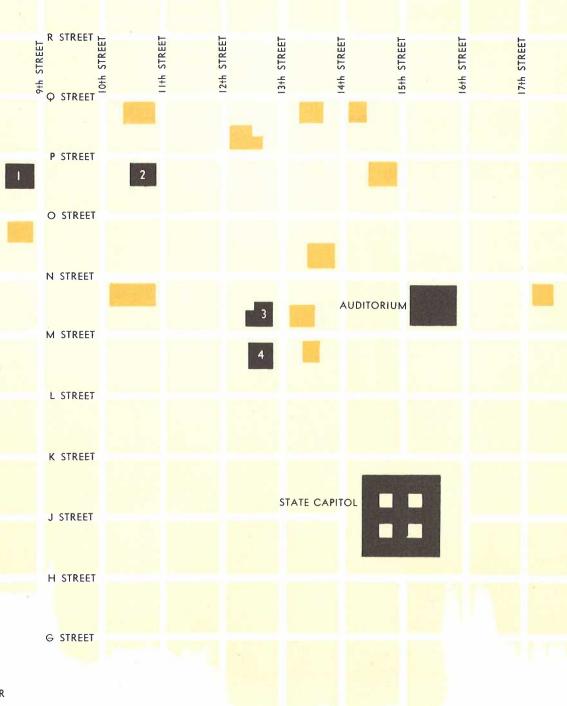
I HOTEL LINCOLN 2 HOTEL CAPITAL

STREET

8th

3 HOTEL LINDELL

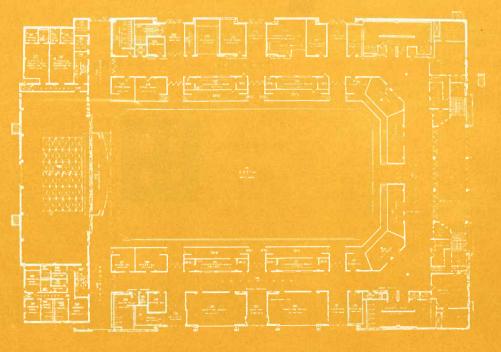
4 HOTEL CORNHUSKER

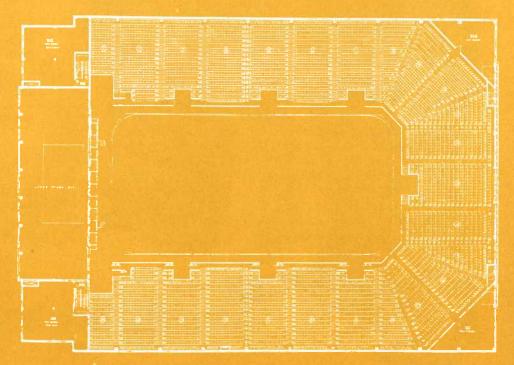


NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL BOCIES



EXHIBITION HALL





FIRST FLOOR

ARENA FIXED SEATING

Specifications

It took determination, foresight and planning to bring about the realization of Lincoln's new auditorium, but it also took an enormous amount of raw materials.

Specifications for the building called for the use of materials which, if used in other ways, would have provided the means for erecting a substantial part of a large housing development.

The 6,500 cubic yards of concrete which went into the building would have provided for many a residential driveway. The material would cover six square city blocks with a layer of concrete four inches thick.

A wall seven miles long and four feet high could have been built with the 167,000 concrete blocks which went into the auditorium.

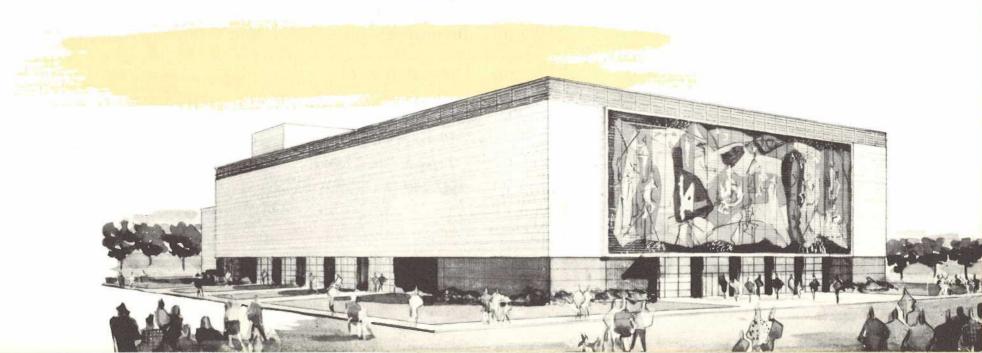
There is enough steel in the building to manufacture 700 automobiles.

Insulation is another important feature of the auditorium. There is a two-inch layer of cork in the roof and a four-inch layer under the ice floor—enough cork, shipped to Lincoln from Portugal, to completely fill two average three-room houses.

Electrical service to 200 homes could be provided with the 4,000 amp service installed in the auditorium. These homes could be more than adequately served with plumbing with the eight miles of piping in the ice floor.

Free movement into and out of the auditorium is assured through the total of 46 doors around three sides of the building.

The quantity of all materials as well as the method of construction and obligations of the contractor are spelled out in the specifications—a 225 page document about one and one-half inches thick which took three months to prepare.



DEDICATIO

1:30-2:00 p.m.	Organ Music	
2:00 p.m.	Call to OrderMr. John E. Curtiss	
2:01 p.m.	Presentation of ColorsAmerican Legion Drum Corps	
	Presentation of Pershing Rifles and Honor Guard of the MilitaryMajor Gen. Guy N. Henninger	
2:08 p.m.	National Anthem— Audience SingingCaptain Walter Kennedy	
2:10 p.m.	Invocation Rabbi Wolfgang Hamburger	
2:12 p.m.	Presentation of Distinguished GuestsMr. John E. Curtiss	
	Governor and Mrs. Victor E. Anderson Judge and Mrs. John W. Delehant Mr. and Mrs. Warren Pershing	

N P R O G R A M

2:25 p.m. Address Hon. Robert G. Simmons Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Nebraska

2:45 p.m. Prayer of Dedication Dr. C. Vin White

2:50 p.m. Presentation of Key to Auditorium...... Mr. Clark Jeary Acceptance of KeyMayor Bennett S. Martin

3:00 p.m. Benediction Rt. Rev. H. B. Hart

3:30-4:00 p.m. Lincoln Symphony Orchestra Mr. Leo Kopp, Conductor

Ι.	Prelude to the MeistersingerWagner
II.	Bugler's HolidayAnderson
III.	Pizzicato PolkaStrauss
IV.	Thunder and Lightning PolkaStrauss
V.	Overture to the Merry Wives of WindsorNicolai
VI.	National Emblem MarchBagley
VII.	Stars and Stripes ForeverSousa

4:30-5:00 p.m. Organ Music

The City of Lincoln ...

Nebraska's magnificent capitol building, a hallmark of architectural imagination and genius, pushes its way 400 feet into the sky. At its top is the giant bronze Sower, typifying the nation's breadbasket.

Around the base of the towering building lies Lincoln—capital of the state, seat of Lancaster County, and commercial, industrial, educational and cultural center for surrounding counties.

Technically, the year 1959 marks the city's 100th birthday. More practically, its centennial might well be 1967, a full century after Nebraska became a state and the village of Lancaster was renamed Lincoln and selected as the state capital.

The first interest in the present location of Lincoln, lying some 50 miles west of Nebraska's Missouri River eastern boundary, was caused by the unusual surface salt deposits—a natural resource of great economic value from 1853 to 1888.

The salt industry never materialized, but the village was platted and named the county seat in 1859 by a group of salt prospectors working claims.

The first true impetus toward a great city was establishment of the state capitol. In one year, the population jumped from 30 to 500.



In December of 1868, the first of three capitol buildings was rushed to completion. The first state Legislature convened in early 1869 and established the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Other state institutions located here in succeeding years included the College of Agriculture, the State Fair, penitentiary, reformatory and mental and orthopedic hospitals.

Nearby towns sprung up. Three developed around denominational colleges—University Place with Nebraska Wesleyan University, Bethany with Cotner College and College View with Union College. Havelock developed around the Burlington Railroad shops, and today all these communities are a part of Lincoln.

The city has continued to grow and in 1957 had a population estimated at 128,000.

Reactivation of the Lincoln Air Force Base in 1953 had a major impact on the economy of the city. The proposed construction of an atomic power plant in southern Lancaster County is expected to bring new industry and new residents to the Lincoln area.

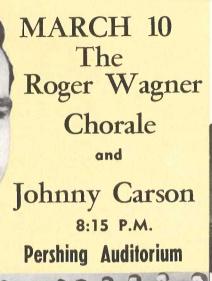
The Capital City's newest facility, Pershing Municipal Auditorium, will serve as one more symbol of a community dedicated to service of its state.

COMING EVENTS

A wide variety of events await citizens of Lincoln and neighboring communities during the Dedication Festival of Events at Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

Many of these attractions are listed on the following pages. Other activities at the new auditorium include the Nebraska Funeral Supply Salesman's Club Convention, Nebraska Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star and a basketball game featuring the Peoria Caterpillars versus Kitlow Business Institute.

June will see the opening of public skating in the arena. The 1957-58 fall and winter schedule will include the Passion Play, Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, American Ballet Theater, stage shows, dances, concerts, sports attractions plus a number of conventions.







17th Annual Festival Square Dancing MAY 3-4, 1957 Pershing Municipal Auditorium

Sponsored by LINCOLN FOLK AND SQUARE DANCING COUNCIL

The University of Nebraska's **KOSMET KLUB**

Rogers and Hammerstein's

Presents

SOUTH

PACIFIC

MAY

24-25

Pershing Municipal Auditorium Adapted from James A. Michener's Pulitzer Prize Winning

"Tales of the South Pacific"

WATCH YOUR DAILY NEWSPAPERS FOR TIME AND ADMISSION PRICES!

Hailed by critics as the finest singing group in America today, the Chorale makes their first appearance in Lincoln for the opening of the Pershing Municipal Auditorium. Headed by its dynamic French-born director, the 24-voice chotus will present a program of songs varying from classical and religious music to folk songs. This unique ensemble has earned its name through record-ings, TV, films, and on the concert stage. They have toured Europe as well as the United States and participated in the Coronation Festivities in London. Adaptibility to any form of music is the hallmark which has won for this ensemble the title of the nation's most unique singing group.

STECHER-HOROWITZ

Duo-

Pianists

Stecher-Horowitz, the talented duo-pianists, will be featured with the Chorale. The two became familiar to the public after a spectacular stint of 80 performances in Radio City Music Hall.

LINCOLN'S FIRST modern

CARS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW SPONSORED BY NEW CAR DEALERS ASS'N. OF LINCOLN, INC.

FEATURING

* GUY MITCHELL*

the "Singin' the Blues" Star AND A HOST OF OTHER TOP TALENT

2 SHOWS DAILY

Auditorium-MAR. 13-17

MARCH 26-31 JOHN H. HARRIS PRESENTS

12th Edition

ICE CAPADES

FEATURING

JUST ONE OF 10 **EXCITING PRODUCTIONS** AND 20 STARRING ACTS

PERFORMANCES:

March 26, 27, 28, 29, 30-8:30 p.m. March 30-2:30 p.m. March 31-1:30 and 5:30 p.m.

Aja Zanova, Czechoslovakian beauty, who was twice world's champion figure skater.

PRICES:

Evenings and Sunday-\$3.00, \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50; Saturday matinee (non reserved) children 90 cents; adults \$2.00.

THE INCOMPARABLE

Greater than ever-returning to the United States after a triumphant tour of Europe-acclaimed as America's Ambassador of Jazz. Satchmo will bring his real, live New Orleans music to Lincoln's new Pershing Municipal Auditorium . . .

8:30 P. M. FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Jeaturing : 🛧 Velma Middleton, Vocalist ☆ Trummy Young, Trombone

🛧 Barret Deems, Drums

🔆 Edmund Hall, Clarinet

☆ Squire Gersh, Contra Bass

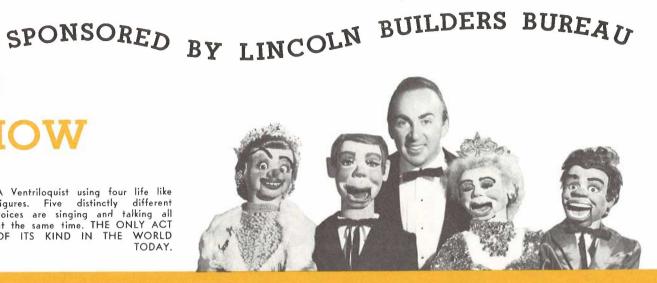
☆ Billy Kyle, Piano

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE MAIL ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED

> Reserved Seats \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.50 (TAX INCLUDED)

LINCOLN'S HOME SHOW

A Ventriloguist using four life like figures. Five distinctly different voices are singing and talking all at the same time. THE ONLY ACT OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD TODAY.



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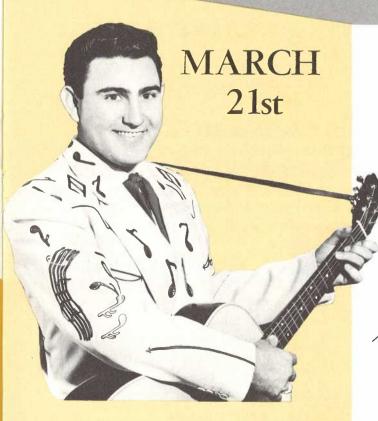
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APRIL 2-7

Recently Steve Allen Show, Super Circus, Garry Moore Show, Featured Attraction Cleveland Sportsman's Show.

Admission: $50 \neq$ CHILDREN UNDER 12 WITH PARENTS FREE.

See tomorrow's home ideas today, everything for modern and gracious living



"GRAND OLE OPRY"

STARRING WEBB PIERCE and an ALL STAR SHOW

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Watch Your Newspaper for Admission Prices . . .

10th-11th, 1957

3500 CUB SCOUTS, BOY SCOUTS and EXPLORERS, DEMONSTRATING SCOUTING SKILLS in a THRILLING TWO HOUR SHOW!

BOY SCOUT

CIRCUS

Pershing Municipal Auditorium

Admission

MAY

Adults	 .50¢
Children	 .25¢



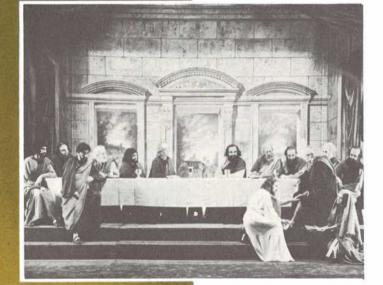
Miss Nebraska PAGEANT

PERSHING MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

JUNE 1st

SPONSORED BY NEBRASKA JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BLACK HILLS PASSION PLAY September 29, 30 October 1, 2, 1957



The Passion Play is a nondenominational religious presentation which starts with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and goes through the resurrection. The play consumes two hours and thirty minutes, and has twenty-two scene changes.

Price of Admission:

For the Sunday Matinee and all evening performances, Reserved seats, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, and \$3.00 Plus tax.

Passion Play Headquarters, Latsch Brothers, 1124 O St. will be open from September 2, 1957 till opening day. Phone 2-6466. Exchange tickets will go on sale in advance of this date.

Sponsored by: Women's Division, Chamber of Commerce and Lincoln Junior Chamber of Commerce September 29, September 30, October 1 The men, women, firms and organizations listed in these pages have sponsored and financed the publication of this Souvenir Brochure. Members of the Women's Division, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, provided the leadership and the arduous personal effort required. The Dedication Committee suggests that you keep this Brochure as a reminder of a significant milestone in Lincoln's history, and that you mail copies also to your friends in other communities. A supply is available at the Pershing Municipal Auditorium offices.

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