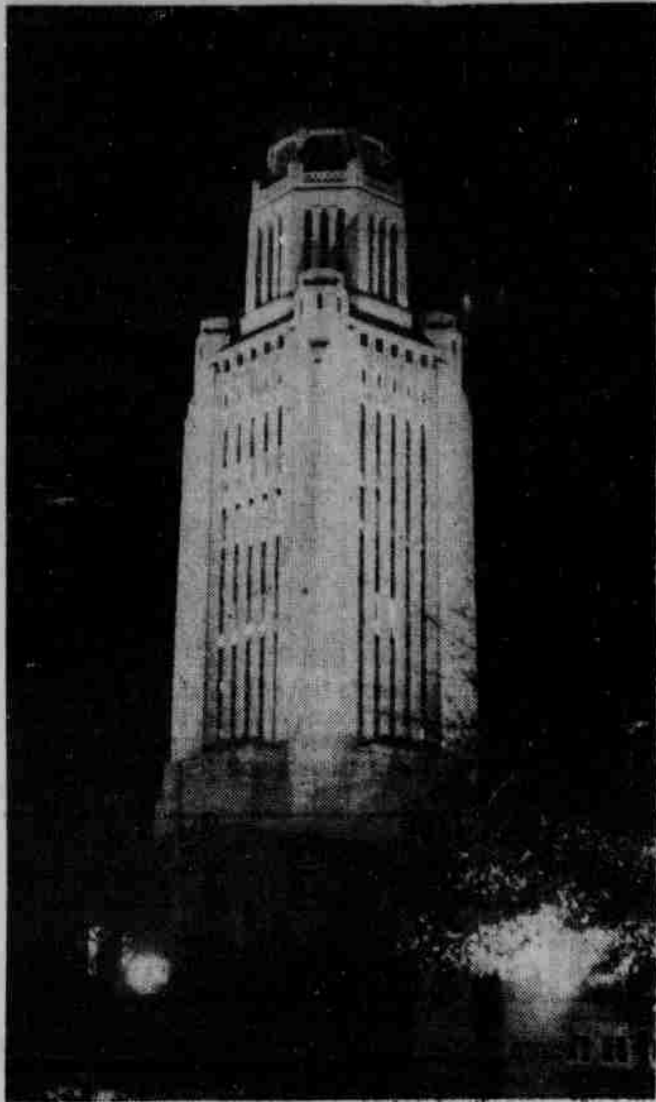


Spirit of People

Sower of Gold

State Capitol, Historical Society Welcome Visitors



NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL

A quick tour of the Nebraska State Capitol can be both entertaining and informative. In 20 minutes, one is impressed — even awed — by the grandeur of the building. This magnificent edifice, built at a cost of \$10 million on a "pay-as-you-go" plan, was completed in 1932. It is rated by 500 of the world's outstanding architects as the 4th most beautiful building in the world.

Structurally, the building stands 432 feet high, including the well-known golden Sower statue. Its length and width are both 437 feet, and the grounds cover 4 square blocks.

Capitol Commission
A Nebraska Capitol Commission was appointed in 1919 to set up a competition to choose architectural plans. The winner of the competition was Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue.

Although the state capitol building was to be designed after the national capitol, Goodhue's radically different plans won the unanimous approval of the judges.

This building houses the state's governmental officers, with elected officers working on the second floor and appointed officers on the first floor.

Over 1,800 people work at the capitol, with about 50 different state departments conducting business there.

The capitol has a complete symbolic scheme worked out, making it an artistic unit. Around the outside of the structure are engraved the names of the counties in the state.

Mosaics
Inside, the theme of the mosaics, tile domes and ceilings is the principle of man's life as shown by his activities. Imported stones and woods exemplify the thought, care and consideration that went into the architectural masterpiece.

The height of the rotunda to the beautiful dome is 112 feet, comparable to a 10-story building. The observation tower which is located on the 14th

floor of the capitol is the same height as a 22-story skyscraper. The view from the observation tower affords one a magnificent vantage point from which to scan the rolling hills of Nebraska. Decoration of the capitol is still not complete. Murals were added in 1955, and additional murals are now being planned.

Visitors
Tourists from all over come to see the capitol. On one day the guest register might include names of visitors from Mexico, Michigan, Illinois, California, Oregon, Texas and Oklahoma.

Guided tours are available Monday through Friday at 9, 10, 11 in the morning and at 1, 2, 3, and 3:45 in the afternoon. The observation tower is open from 8:30 to 11:20 in the morning and 1:15 to 4:20 in the afternoon on weekdays.

The tour begins with a swing through the governor's reception room, through the beautiful halls, a glance at one of the four enclosed gardens, a view of the rotunda, a look at the Unicameral and the old Senate chambers. The trip is concluded in the Supreme Court Room.

In addition to the beauty of the building, expert guides supply detail and color making the tour informative as well as entertaining.

Most aptly describing the capitol are the words from a booklet, published in 1926 by the Nebraska Capitol Commission:

"The new Capitol of Nebraska represents the most vivid and original concept ever thought out in the field of American art. It is not only a creation but it is an expression of Nebraska's purpose and ideals."

Pool Available
The Coliseum swimming pool is available for women students Monday through Friday from 4-5 p.m. during the summer. Suits and towels are provided for a 10 cent fee. A swimming permit from Student Health is required.

'Nebraska Place-Names' Tells When a Crick Becomes a Stream

What have become of Enterprise and Opportunity, Nebraska? How is Beatrice pronounced? Was Ogallala an Indian tribe? Why is Tecumseh named for an Ohio Indian? When does a "crick" become a stream or a river? What is the difference between a hill and a butte? What does Dakota mean?

The answers to the what, where, why and how of Nebraska names are given in the book, *Nebraska Place-Names* by Lillian L. Fitzpatrick, recently published by the University of Nebraska Press.

According to this book, towns and counties in Nebraska are named for everything ranging from village sayings to cattle brands, from famous scientists to Indian legends.

The five distinct classifications of Nebraska place names are:

- (1) those named after local geographical features,
- (2) those named after people,
- (3) those given foreign names,
- (4) those given Indian names and words,
- (5) those named for miscellaneous things.

Geographic
Towns named after local geographic features are in the majority. Newman Grove received its name from a grove of cottonwoods owned by Newman Warren.

Just outside the village of Table Rock is a peculiar, large, flat-topped rock shaped like a table.

Scottsbluff is named from a ridge or bluff which had been named for a mountaineer, Hiram Scott, whose body was found at the foot of the bluff.

Also in this category are towns named for animals and flowers which once abounded around their present sites. Beaver City is located on a river where scores of beavers lived; Primrose and Roseland were once fields of wild roses.

Many places are named after people—the founding fathers, the first post-master, railroad officials, or nationally or internationally famous people.

Huxley carries the name of the English biologist, Thomas Huxley. Horace in Greeley County, honors Horace Greeley who is credited with the saying, "Go West 'young man' and grow up with the country."

Strang was named for A.L. Strang, a local business man who presented the city with a windmill which served as a source of water for many years.

Foreign Places
Many names have been transferred from foreign places. Immigrants from Czechoslovakia settled in east-central Nebraska and called their village Prague after the capital of their home country.

Danebrog was labeled in honor of the Danish flag.

Farwell was originally called Posen by

its Polish inhabitants. Later, when the Danish people began to outnumber the Poles, the name was changed to Farwell, a play on a Danish word for goodbye meaning "goodbye Posen".

Indian words and legends have had a great influence in Nebraska names. Omaha has a very significant meaning of "Upstream stream, upstream people, or above all others upon a stream." This showed the tribe's social standing.

Wives Wept
French explorers called what is today "Weeping Water" "l'Eau qui Pleure" which means "the water that weeps." An Indian legend told of the abduction of the beautiful daughter of a chief by a neighboring tribe. In the pursuit many were killed. The wives of the dead warriors wept so long that their tears were said to have formed a river.

An early settler, Isaac Pollard, chose the name Nehawka because it was an Indian name easy to pronounce although its meaning "rustling water" had nothing to do with the village.

Nebraska has a number of original or coined names which show ingenuity and imagination. Macy is the shortened form of the original name, Omaha Agency. Enola is the backwards spelling (with the first letter dropped) of the name of its founder, T. J. Malone.

An old German immigrant who lived in the northeast corner of the state used to answer all questions with, "Why not?" The children and later the adults took up the saying. When it became time to name the town someone quipped, "Why not call it Whynot?" The idea caught on, and we now have Wynot, Nebraska.

Two factions battled over a railroad station site. The side which won named the place, Winside.

Horsefoot and Keystone are two towns bearing cattle brand names.

Future
The future of a town was sometimes considered in choosing a name. Magnet was so named because it was to "draw people toward the town as the magnet stone draws iron." Banner County was to become the banner or leading county, while Garden County was to be a "garden spot." The junction city of Alliance was so named because it would be near the head of an alphabetical list of the towns of the state.

The name of one town is a mistake. The people on the north fork of the Elkhorn River decided to call their town Norfolk. When the post office department received this name they thought it had been misspelled so changed it to Norfolk.

And the name of Nebraska itself comes from the Indian word "Nibthaska" which means "fat water"—the broad flat water of the Platte River which crosses the state.



NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The next time you're walking west on R Street on your way to the Union, stop and take a look at the modern, two-story structure directly east of it.

Inscribed on the front of the building are the words, "The spirit of a people lives in its history. Here open to all is the history of this people."

"This people" means Nebraskans.

Although Nebraskans as a rule spend little time dwelling on the merits of their home state, much less describing them to others, we do possess a heritage that is as interesting and exciting as that of many of our more outspoken neighbors.

The Nebraska State Historical Society is just the place to discover this heritage. The amount of information available there is almost overwhelming to the first-time visitor and the continual changes provide something new each time for the frequent visitor.

Panorama
Immediately upon entering the first floor foyer of the building, the visitor is greeted with a panoramic view of Nebraska. By means of displays arranged chronologically and viewed through curved glass panels, the history of Nebraska unfolds, beginning with Folsom man, who lived here almost 10,000 years ago, continuing through the plains Indians, the coming of the white man, the first settlements, the era of the Nebraska cattlemen, and the recent progress in conservation, irrigation and crop improvement.

The remaining two galleries on the first floor are elaborations of the panels in the foyer.

The Indian gallery traces Indian culture in Nebraska from the arrival of the nomadic hunter from Siberia to the tragedy of Wounded Knee (the end of the great Indian tribes in Nebraska) in 1890.

Here the visitor can see how various plains Indians—Cheyenne, Pawnee, Oto, Arapahoe, Omaha and others—cooked their food, buried their dead, and fought their wars, as well as what the Indian brave wore to war and how the young maiden dressed to successfully catch the eye of the brave.

Showmen Display
There are also displays of the cavalymen, the buffalo hunters and Nebraska's first showmen—Buffalo Bill Cody and Omaha Charlie Bristol. The land was the magnet which attracted settlers to

this country of monotonous prairie and climatic extremes. The Pioneer Gallery shows where these first settlers came from, who they were, how they came and how they lived after they had arrived.

Three-dimensional displays depict the Indian trading in the general store and the life of the Nebraska cowboy. There are also displays of early Nebraskans' clothes, household furnishings and schools, as well as pictures and information about Nebraska's first towns, the establishment of the University and a display of famous Nebraskans in the fields of business, entertainment, sports and politics.

As in the Indian Gallery the Pioneer Gallery presents a complete and chronological picture of the white settlers' development in Nebraska—ranging from a display of Fort Atkinson in 1819 to the military installations at LAFB in 1960.

The basement of the Historical Society houses Collectors' Lane, a series of exhibits of items such as glassware, guns, knives, dolls and china, commonly collected by hobby enthusiasts.

Part of the second floor is devoted to complete replicas of four period rooms in Nebraska: a colonial bedroom, a parlor, the interior of a sod house and an average living room around the turn of the century.

Library
The remainder of the second floor is occupied by an excellent reference library composed of books, manuscripts, archives, newspapers, genealogical materials and photographs related to the history of Nebraska and the West.

According to Dr. John B. White, director of the library and archives, the Historical Society Collection contains approximately 45,000 books; 26,000 bound volumes of Nebraska newspapers, including an additional 6000 feet of microfilm and newspapers dating from 1854 on; 75,000 photos of Nebraska scenes; and hundreds of thousands of other manuscripts.

Among these are the official correspondence of all of the recent governors of Nebraska, the papers of Senator Hugh Butler and the official documents and diaries of J. Sterling Morton.

On merely one of the six different levels of stacks in the library, it is possible to find information ranging from the 1892 edition of the Nebraska Farmer to the blue-

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