

White Man Had No Pioneering Monopoly

Item: Mr. and Mrs. James Arthur Patrick, 2410 Holdrege St. in Lincoln, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 25, 1968.

Mr. Patrick has vivid memories of the family homestead in Nebraska's Hamilton County, near Aurora. The family, in fact, still has the original homestead papers, signed by President Chester A. Arthur.

Mr. Patrick's father, David Patrick, was a former slave from Missouri during the Civil War.

Item: The 9th and 10th Calvary units of the U.S. Army during the 1880's were entirely black, except for white officers. The Negro soldiers were employed during the Indian uprisings of the period.

The Negro units were stationed at Fort Robinson in northwest Nebraska.

Item: Slave auctions were held at Nebraska City, and in the archives of the Nebraska State Historical Society can be found the names of Nebraskans who searched the adjoining Iowa countryside for "their rightful property."

The point is, at a time when the various media of the country are searching historical records for references to the role of the black man in building the United States of America, evidence that blacks had a role in the building of Nebraska is abundant.

National television, notably Columbia Broadcasting System's "Of Black America," and the American Broadcasting System's "Time for Americans" has given prime evening time to the history of the American Negro. Textbooks, magazine articles, and newspaper stories recall his role in the development of sugar refining, open heart surgery, his allegiance to the country in time of national crises.

Pioneer Heritage

And for many Nebraskans, whose heritage is steeped in the folklore of the Old West — of homesteading, cowboys, and cattle drives — the fact that the Negro has played a part in the history of Nebraska not unlike the white pioneer comes as a mild shock.

"Nebraskans are generally surprised to hear that the Negro did not just arrive in Nebraska 25 years ago, looking for a place to go," said Richard Booker, a history teacher at Union College in Lincoln. "But the most important effect of this surge in interest of black history comes to the Negro: he learns as much about himself as do whites about blacks."

Originally from New Jersey, Booker came to Lincoln to study history and was graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1967. He worked for the Nebraska State Historical Society for two-and-a-half years, and has become very much involved in the Nebraska Negro Historical Society, based in Omaha.

Booker said that the new emphasis on Negro history accentuates the lack of identity that a black American has had while trying to find an equal place in society.

"People need tangible proof that they belong," he said. "They must feel like they're part of the 'in crowd.' Nothing is worse than a people who feel they don't belong."

And that is what Booker thinks has been the frustration of the black population during this century:

"For years he has been a misnomer . . . an alien. Most everyone would have been happy if he had just faded away."

"The Negro didn't know about his own struggles, his own contributions. This new interest in Afro-American culture establishes the fact, to him, that 'I was a part of the western movement,' 'I was associated with the cattle movement.' In other words, all of the things that are a part of the American way of life, he can say he was a part of, too."

Black parents did not have the information to tell their children about the folklore of the west in the past, as white parents did, he said, but gradually this is changing.

Not Slighted

Part of the information is gathered by the Nebraska State Historical Society. Marvin Kivett, director of the society, does not think the Negro has been slighted by the NSHS.

"A close study of our publications reveals that we have always covered the Negro's role in the development of the state," he said. "We have used photographs in many articles to re-emphasize that he was there."

"The fact of the matter is, that this informa-

tion did not register with most people before now."

The NSHS has also had displays in its museum pertaining to Negro history, and new displays are being planned. And the state group was instrumental in forming the Negro Historical Society, "to aid in building pride, seeking out the achievements of the Nebraska Negro," Kivett said.

Kivett also recalled that, when the Negro group was being formed, the Historical Society was accused of discrimination.

"Membership is open to anyone," he explained, "so it is not discriminatory."

Problems

One of the problems involved in preparing displays on Negro history is the lack of artifacts available to use in the display cases at the museum.

"We are having to rely on photograph to use," Kivett said, explaining that the displays will be done in the ethnic style of other groups (Czechs, Scandinavians, Germans, etc.) which are featured in the museum. He noted a lack of articles which could be specifically attached to the Afro-American.

"The truth is," Booker explained, "that what was brought from Africa was very meager. Most of the blacks brought only themselves, and often came naked. There just aren't going to be many artifacts to account for."

Booker also does not feel that the Nebraska State Historical Society should be blamed on any lack of information on early Negro pioneers.

"The blame should be directed to society at-large," he said. "Many Nebraskans are upset with the current unrest in the Near North Side in Omaha these past few years, but few want to talk of the 1919 riot in Omaha during which the Court House was set on fire and a black man was hanged for allegedly raping a white woman."

"Racial unrest now is not just a product of these years," he continued, "It has been around for a good many years. Today's unrest is just

a testimony to unwillingness of the country to solve the problems."

The basic approach of the media, in instructing the white and black communities in Negro history, has been to single out black men who have made some contribution to American life, no matter how insignificant.

The approach has not met the favor of all historians.

Dr. Robert H. Manley, former NU history professor and currently head of the history department at The Hiram Scott College in Scottsbluff, is one dissident.

"I can't see taking the role of the Negro out of white society in America," he said. "I like to teach that the Negro was a part of American society, a minority group which offered as much as a minority group could offer."

"I feel that a lot of what is being presented now is woefully artificial," Manley continued. He was referring to a number of history books devoted to the Negro.

He thinks some of the points being made are bordering on absurdity.

"It's like saying 'This Negro was the first on his block to put his shoe on his left foot first.'"

"Seriously," he continued, "it is a very touchy situation. There are many problems, and I don't know the answer. The Negro has always faced an identity crisis and I agree with Dick (Booker) that he must have an image to follow. I just don't think he should be separated from white society."

Exaggeration

But many blacks disagree. Bill Cosby, the actor, narrated the first CBS "Of Black America" special. After noting that a black man was with Washington crossing the Delaware, that the first man shot in the Boston Massacre was black, that the first doctor to successfully perform open heart surgery was black, and infinitum, Cosby said that the white community must let the blacks "exaggerate" their history now, just as the whites had exaggerated history to suit them in the past.

Booker agrees with Cosby:

"I think we need more written of the social history of the blacks. Everyone needs to know what they have done, from the lowest menial job to the highest achievement."

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Summer Nebraska

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New Chemistry Facility Offers Challenge to State's Industry

When the State of Nebraska decided to build a workable, efficient office building it got a \$10 million, debt-free monument to itself and to the people of Nebraska.

Now, as the state is erecting its second most expensive building in Nebraska history, it is quite possible that the benefits from it will be as significant as some of the legislative products which have come from the Capitol.

The Cliff S. Hamilton Hall of Chemistry will cost just slightly less than \$8 million when it is completed in the fall of 1969. Its approximate size of 200,000 gross sq. ft., will triple the space that the NU Department of Chemistry now occupies in its present headquarters at Avery Hall on the City Campus.

With the added space and the new facilities, including the most modern research equipment available, the enrollment of the NU graduate program in chemistry should expand by 70 per cent, according to department officials. The undergraduate program will also be enlarged and the faculty will continue to grow.

But the state as a whole will also get returns on its large capital investment. Dr. Norman H. Cromwell, chairman of the NU Department of chemistry, explains:

"The Legislature realized that a venture like this is a gamble," he said. "To improve the state one has to spend money to make money. And we are hopeful that the addition of this new chemistry facility will aid in bringing better economic balance to Nebraska."

New Industry

Cromwell said that expansion of the chemistry department should be an attraction for new industry to the state.

"We fully expect a significant development in science and technology education in the state," he said. "Technically orientated industry should find its way to the area and possibly, Nebraska could become the home of more government facilities."

Cromwell noted the trend in industrial expansion in the past. He said that "first come the great universities, then industry follows." He cited the Boston-Cambridge area in Massachusetts, the Chapel Hill-Durham area in North Carolina and the Palo Alto-Berkeley area in California, as places when vast amounts of governmental and private industry research centers have located where large university-complexes are found.

"And there is no reason why it can't happen in Nebraska," he emphasized.

Cromwell added that this location is not just because of the technological and intellectual environment, but because of people.

"People to man the factories," he said. "Industry needs troops, not just leaders. Even the 'drop-

outs' find good jobs because with one or two years of a college education they have an edge over the rest of the population."

Plans Laid

Officials in the Chemistry department began to lay plans for the new building in 1963, but construction did not begin until the summer of 1967. The re-enforced concrete framework is expected to be finished within a month.

The building was financed partly by a federal grant of \$2.6 million from the Office of Education, Health, Education and Welfare Department. A "Department of Excellence Award" was given to the University of Nebraska by the National Science Foundation totaling \$830,000. Cromwell said that the grant was given to establish "a center of excellence in chemistry, to provide additional staff, improving the faculty-student ratio, and to fill in the gaps in our ability to teach and direct research in some areas of chemistry."

He said that the department has

Figures Surpass Estimate

With an expected enrollment of 2,500-2,700 students for the second summer session, the total student population of the University of Nebraska will exceed 9,500.

Dr. Frank E. Sorenson, director of NU's summer session, said that 714 students attended the first session which was completed last week, representing a new school record.

"We had over 2,700 worksheets filled out during registration," he said, "but we can expect some cancellations to bring the total down."

Breakdown of the first session enrollment reveals a two-to-one ratio of men to women: 4,310 men (62 per cent) and 2,804 women (38 per cent).

Last year's post-session, which followed an eight week session, had only 276 students.

"Some people ask if this is just an end or a beginning," Sorenson said. "I predict that enrollment of the first half of the 1969 session will increase by 1,000, while the second half increases by a minimum of 1,500 students."

He said that by then the university can offer a completely air-conditioned campus since most of the buildings now under construction will be finished and older buildings on the City Campus will be temperature controlled.

"By then there should be peace and quiet and it will be cool — it should be the greatest summer for the university," Sorenson concluded.

already acquired some much needed equipment with money from the grant. Most, however, will be used for Hamilton Hall.

Dr. Henry E. Baumgarten, professor of chemistry, worked on a department committee which assisted the architects in the design of the building.

"The building has been designed to be an adaptable building, enabling it to keep up with trends in the chemical world," he said.

Baumgarten feels that the most important aspect of the building is the opportunity that NU now has in offering the very latest in chemical education, and therefore being of service to the entire state.

There is also evidence that the new building will put NU's department at the forefront in national chemical education. Cromwell feels, said, "as shown by our ability to attract outstanding young people to our staff."

Morale Factor

The building is also a great morale factor in keeping the present staff from drifting to other departments, he said, because of the promise for a new building, which is rapidly taking shape. It will be eight stories high, with a penthouse (containing room for special research on for some utility-housing) on the roof.

But Cromwell and Baumgarten both agree that since the state has taken the initial steps in setting up a top-flight chemistry department at the University, it is still responsible for any future benefits to be derived from the department.

"It should be stressed that this expanded facility with require larger amounts of large and small equipment," Cromwell said. "Audio-visual aids and expanded library facilities are in urgent need. We hope to obtain funds from outside sources, but we will always need help from the budget committees in the future."

"Our job will be determined by the state," Baumgarten concluded, "by its cooperation in providing funds to run a modern facility."

But the \$8 million already designated for Hamilton Hall is taking shape: giant cranes are lifting pre-formed slabs of concrete, to the sides of the T-shaped framework, and the building is beginning to take a shape of its own.

In a year, the laboratories will be filled; the classrooms will be utilized; and a new era of chemical education in Nebraska will begin.



The architects' drawing of the Cliff S. Hamilton Hall of Chemistry

Lincoln Campus Is Training Center For OEO Migrant Worker Program

Fifty Mexican-Americans, ranging in age from 17 to 22, and all from migrant worker backgrounds, will arrive on the University of Nebraska campus on Aug. 1, to have another chance at education.

These students will take part in an Office of Economic Opportunity program designed to train "especially talented youngsters who show leadership ability and potential" who can become leaders in their own communities, according to Gale Muller, head of the NU training center.

One of 13 centers in the nation, the Nebraska branch is operated through the Nebraska Human Resource Research Center, located in Love Library. It is being financed by an OEO grant.

"This is not a remedial program in any sense," Muller said, explaining that the students are, generally, high school drop-outs who have shown the capacity to finish their secondary education and continue on to college, vocational training or business school.

Muller explained the plight of the migrant worker and why the government thought it was necessary to aid them:

"Most of the migrant worker population lives in poor housing, ranging from old buses to dilapidated shacks. The growing season of the type of products which are harvested by the migrant worker is relatively short. Therefore, the money he makes must last a whole year. Many have large families, so the money does not last long.

"Now, automation is taking its toll with these people. Machines are now being developed (many are in use) to take away the jobs of these people. The effects are already showing up, so somehow they had to be helped."

The program on the Nebraska campus is part of HEP — the government acronym for High School Equivalency Program. A staff of five, including three teachers and two social advisers, will care for the 50 students at

NU. All will be housed in university dormitories.

Two members of the staff were brought by the OEO to Nebraska for the program.

Betty Everett came from the College of Liberal Arts in Chichasa, Okla., and Alma Vasquez from Texas Women's University in Denton, Tex.

Miss Vaquex had worked with OEO last summer, noting that "something was being done (to help the migrant worker) and I wanted to continue to be a part of it."

"Usually these programs are always for the youngsters," Miss Everett said. "and I am glad that finally work is being done with the older child."

Other members of the staff include Muller, Larry Johnson, and Ken Rethmeier, all of the regular NU staff.

Many of the students brought to Lincoln will come from Nebraska, particularly the Bayard-Scottsbluff areas, Muller said. But some will come from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Muller said that a prospective student is "recruited" by community action groups in his locality. An application from NU is sent to him upon recommendation by the community group.

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