

Museum directs research at environmental problems

By Charles Hass

The University of Nebraska State Museum is expanding, developing, moving and planning for the future.

The moving is to transfer the museum's collections to the top two floors of Nebraska Hall. Exhibits and displays, however, will remain at the present site, in Morrill Hall.

The collections, of about three million specimens were at one time scattered in eight buildings on campus, said Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director of the museum. "For the first time, the museum is getting all of its collections in one place," he said.

According to Schultz, the entomology and botany herbarium divisions have already been moved. The anthropology division is being moved now.

Moving the anthropology division is a time-consuming process, he continued, because many of the specimens are old and delicate. Extra precautions are taken to limit

damage to the specimens, he said.

Since the new collection site is not finished, some specimens must be moved again, once within Nebraska Hall to accommodate construction work. Extra staff members have been hired to assist in the transfer, Schultz added.

Because moving the collections is a time-consuming job, Schultz said the museum is also planning now for its 1971 Centennial.

He said that new displays are being designed. "The new exhibits will be oriented to a changing environment of the great plains area, as well as of Nebraska," he said. Both the environment of the past and the present would be emphasized.

Research
On another environmental front, the museum is proceeding with the development of the Reller Natural History Research Area. This 30-acre piece of land, donated to the University by Mr. and Mrs.

Herbert Reller of Martell, will become one of a series of "ecological stations" which the museum hopes to establish throughout the state, Schultz said. The land is located south of Lincoln.

At these areas, research on the animals, plant life, and geology of the area will take place. Classes will be held at the nature centers, according to Schultz.

Concerning the museum's role in the future, Schultz said, "We'd better turn much of our research toward environmental problems. We must do research in problems relevant to society itself."

"We hope to educate the public on the problems of the environment, and problems concerning human beings themselves."

As an example of the museum's concern for the problems of society, Schultz said that the health sciences division is preparing a series of educational displays on the effects of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Several museum divisions plan to participate in a "dig" in Nebraska in search of early man. Such a dig is valuable, Schultz said, "because it encourages inter-discipline research."

He explained that in an archeological expedition, paleontologists, anthropologists, chemists, and other specialists work together to unravel the mysteries of man's past.

The funding of the research program and exhibits comes from private contributions and national foundations, he said.

Dwarf mammoth

One of the newest acquisitions of the museum is the skeleton of a dwarf mammoth. This animal, said Schultz, was an ancestor of the elephant, and measured only 42 inches high. The mammoth, found on the island of Sicily, is an adult, and is the first of its kind to be brought to the United States. It will go on display in Elephant Hall shortly, Schultz said.



City Hall, 1902

Lincoln's City Hall is historical site destruction faces opposition

by SISTER CAROL SARRAILLON

Demolition of Lincoln's old City Hall faces opposition on the national, state and local levels. Its placement on the National Register of Historic Places late in 1969 makes the possibility of destruction improbable.

Mr. John Q. Magie, curator of History at the Nebraska State Historical Society, nominated the old City Hall to be placed on the National Register. Why?

"Built from 1874-79, City Hall is a fine example of High Victorian Gothic architecture, and its importance is enhanced by the rarity of such examples on the Great Plains. One of downtown Lincoln's oldest buildings, City Hall is perhaps Lincoln's finest remaining example of nineteenth century architecture," he said.

"City Hall's distinction also derives from the fact that two of the most influential American architects of the late nineteenth century supervised its design: Alfred B. Mullett (1843-1890) and William Appleton Potter (1842-1909)."

Acceptance of the nomination on the National Register means "it has importance other than just local," says Mr. Marvin F. Kivett, director of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Mr. James Biddle, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, wrote a letter to Mr. Lawrence A. Enerson, chairman of the mayor's Committee on City Hall Uses. Biddle's national organization thinks that "demolition of this distinguished structure would be an irreparable loss to both the city and state."

Mr. Wodehouse, professor of Architectural History at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y., made a similar statement in the "Historic Preservation" publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Wodehouse agrees with Magie, since Mullett's and other builders from the Grant era are rapidly disappearing. "Even if one does not personally like the designs of this so-called 'Gingerbread Age,' this heritage must be preserved for future generations," says Wodehouse.

The federal government passed the National Historical Preservation Act in 1966. It states that properties should be preserved "that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture . . . and that with the 'ever-increasing extensions of urban centers . . . historic preservation programs and activities are inadequate to insure future generations a genuine opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the rich heritage of our nation . . ."

General Services Administration (GSA), landlord and property manager of all federal property has guaranteed

the city of Lincoln "every possible consideration" if it seeks to make the old City Hall an historic monument.

A. Sampson, GSA public building service commissioner, added that the title could be conveyed to the city "without monetary considerations."

However, nothing can be decided about the fate of old City Hall until there is a clear statement of title, according to the chairman Enerson. Instead of accepting the GSA offer, Lincoln will continue to seek a special act of Congress that will give the city clear title.

Meanwhile the city operates a couple

minor offices in the old City Hall to fulfill the terms of the 1906 deed. The federal government will repossess the building when it is not used by the city.

Enerson said he doesn't believe Congress will soon pass the act, which Representative Robert V. Denney has introduced. The Nebraska State Historical Society, city planners and private investors will have to wait beyond the summer before one of their groups will be given the green light to preserve, to remodel or to demolish old City Hall.

Classroom for anthro students will be 11 states, 4,500 miles

A University of Nebraska anthropology class will go on the road from July 22 to Aug. 5, visiting archaeological sites where artifacts are being uncovered and museums where these are being processed, catalogued and displayed.

The class, being conducted during the second summer session by Dr. Dale R. Henning, will travel about 4,500 miles and will visit sites in 11 states.

Thirteen students, all of them majoring in anthropology, have registered for the course. They will be full-time students and will receive six hours of academic credit. In addition to tuition, each student will pay his travel expenses.

Carl R. Falk, an instructor in anthropology and a Ph.D. degree candidate at the University of Missouri, will act as assistant director of the trip.

"What we intend to do is to see in the field things that we have been studying in class. It will be a strenuous trip but should provide a vital educational experience for the students enrolled," said Henning.

Some of the high points will include: A visit to the Big Horn National Recreation Area in Montana, where a number of sites are being excavated by Dr. Larry Lowendorf; to Weatherill Mesa, near Mesa Verde National Park in southwestern Colorado, where Dr. David Bretznitz is studying cliff dweller

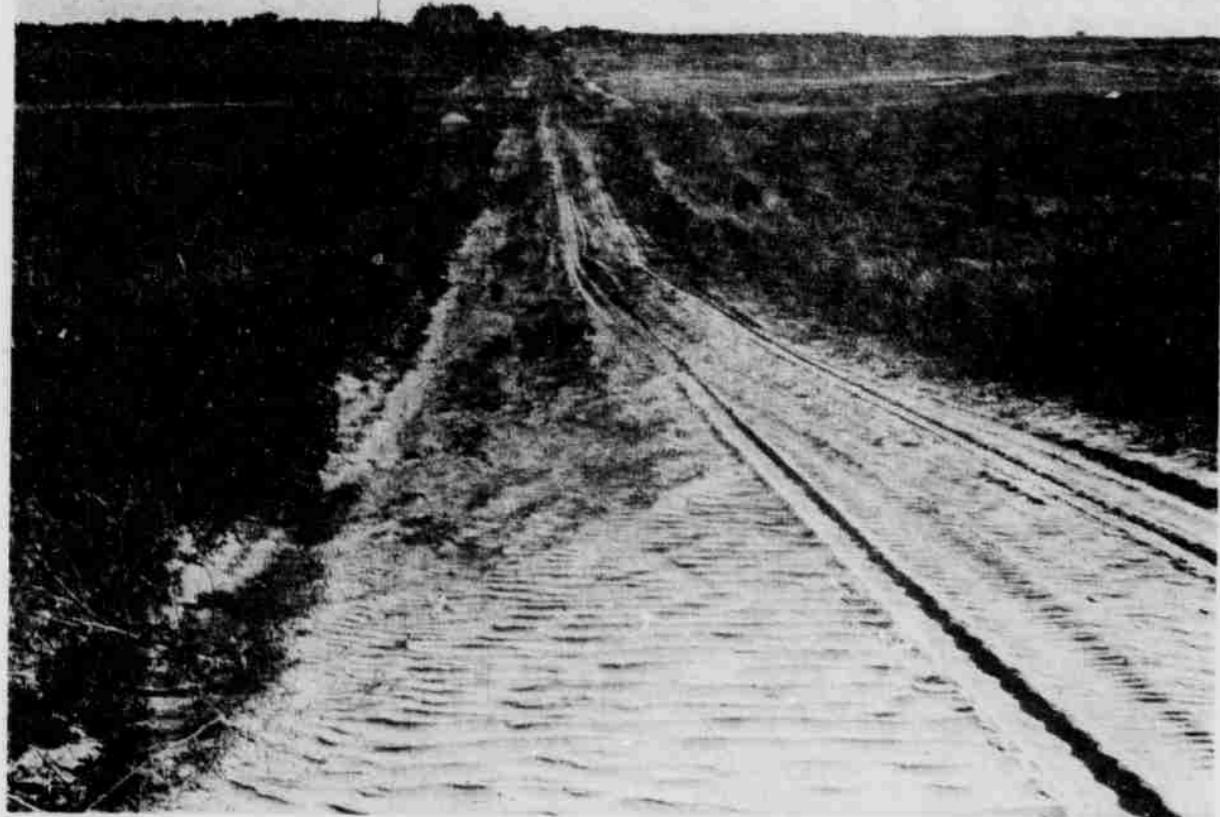
remains, and to Taos, N.M., where the students will see contemporary Indian pueblos, still in use after hundreds of years.

Moving east from New Mexico, the Nebraskans will visit the University of Missouri Field School near Marshall and will tour excavations of ancient Indian mounds and village sites in Missouri, ILLINOIS, Iowa and Wisconsin. On the return to Lincoln, they will see some Central Plains villages and historic sites in eastern Nebraska.

In addition to examining field work in progress, the students will visit museums in Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin.

"We expect to see some experimental research in progress, too," said Dr. Henning. "At Kampsville, Ill., for instance, Dr. Stuart Struever of Northwestern University is experimenting with new techniques for recovering data at an Indian site believed to be four to five thousand years old. Others are using similar techniques with modifications, so we will be in a good position to evaluate the techniques for our own use."

"It will be a very grueling schedule and I believe a very educational experience for students, reinforcing many of the principles they have studied in class by seeing them put to use," Dr. Henning concluded.



Escape

Family affair college education helps narrow the generation gap

By Sister Marie Carmel Dunning

Sons and daughters may meet mother or dad on their side of the desk during the summer at the University of Nebraska.

What happens to parents when students' rights appear in bifocals? When registration becomes a game of "next step three floors down and six doors over" played in variations for half a day? When flesh and brain appear behind a mask called beard?

Several mothers told their stories and sons and daughters added insights.

Margaret Gigax, Schuyler high school teacher, and her daughter Ann Louise, a senior, have both been students here. Mrs. Gigax was a student during the summer of '68 and was back this summer for a two-week workshop.

Everyone should go to a university, she said. It is not a cold indifferent place, but a collection of small colleges where a student can feel accepted, she added.

Mrs. Peg Tuomisto, a n Omaha teacher, said that being a student here the past two summers has strengthened

her confidence in young people. She has found them friendly, understanding and non-patronizing, she said. She can sympathize with the frustration from what often seems like poor organization, she added.

Mrs. Tuomisto said she experienced a "total sense of aloneness" (her daughter Nancy called it "non-personal affronts") when her scholarship check was not available and she was without sufficient funds last spring.

Nancy, a senior, discussed her feeling about having her mother as a fellow student: "Last year I was a little worried about her being around watching me. Now I'm glad. She sees my point of view."

One problem they both have, according to Nancy, "is the amount of study really required of us. I don't think Mother would have believed it if she hadn't experienced it herself."

"Then there is the amount of running demanded of a student just to get where she needs to be. And the frustration! Take registration for example. After three years I still

get angry each time I go through it. I know it's just part of the system, but I still get angry and fuss about it. Mother understands. We agree something needs revision, but neither of us has the answer. We just console each other."

A family educational plan appears in the Raul Rosell home where father, mother, and son are students at the University the year around.

Paul Rosell, Sr., instructor in the School of Languages, is studying for his doctorate. His wife Hortense, a former high school teacher in Cuba, is working on her masters degree. Raul, Jr., 21, a student in business administration, has spent three and one-half years sharing college life with his parents.

He said, "It just seems natural." He also recommends it because "it tends to make us have a deeper bond of understanding."

Professor to Poland

A University of Nebraska professor of pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry has been selected for a one-month visit in Poland within a program of exchanges of scientists supported by the United States National Academy of Sciences and the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Witold Saski will leave here in mid-August for a speaking tour which will take him to seven medical academies in Poland. The schools are in the Polish cities of Gdansk, Lodz, Warsaw, Lublin, Cracow, Posnan, and Wroclaw.

Saski will present a paper at the triennial scientific convention of the Polish Pharmaceutical Society and will participate in the dedication of the newly-constructed complex of buildings housing the School of Pharmacy of the Medical Academy there.

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