

Welsch confers with Smithsonian officials

By Deb Gray

Sitting in his office in Centennial College, Roger Welsch leaned into a hands-locked-behind-head position to discuss two subjects: his recent trip to Germany and his candidacy for Lancaster County's Weed Commission.

Recently, the UNL assistant English professor has traveled on a fact-finding mission for the Smithsonian Institute, an educational research and resource center located in Washington, D.C. In August, the 37-year-old folklorist left Lincoln for a three-week trip to Germany.

Last weekend he conferred with Smithsonian officials in Washington. Monday he announced plans for two more trips to Germany this year.

His European visit, Welsch said, was financed by the Republic of Germany. The German people, he said, are interested in participating in America's bicentennial celebration, but they did not know how to get involved. So they elicited American folklorists to advise them.

While most of his colleagues were bicentennial-bound, Welsch said his mission was geared toward the Smithsonian Institute's 1975 Folk Festival.

Since 1964, Welsch said, the Smithsonian Institute has sponsored the American Folk Festival, which is held on the mall between the Washington and Lincoln Memorials. The fair portrays the roots of American tradition, he said.

In 1975, Welsch said the fair will revolve

around an "Old Ways in the New World" theme.

"We want to include the countries that have been instrumental in developing American tradition," he said. "We want to spotlight some Old World traditions and show what happened to those traditions in the American environment."

Welsch said his trip was partially successful. Although he didn't locate musicians and artists representing Old World tradition, he did contact people who could help him.

Welsch's trip centered in northwest Germany. He said he visited with officials in Bonn, Berlin and Frankfurt. He said these cities were "not the place to go" for a complete picture of German tradition.

"Most of the customs we are familiar with are from the southeastern part of the country," he said. "It's from this area that the German settlers migrated."

Welsch said the 1975 folk fair will spotlight the German wedding, depicting the ceremony's dances, food and traditions. In future visits, Welsch will finalize arrangements for German participation in the Smithsonian exposition.

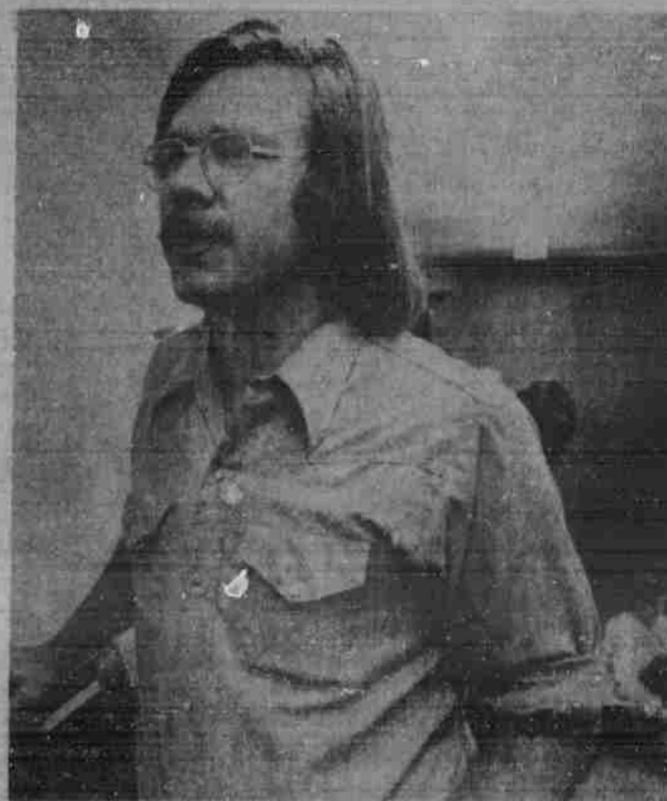
Welsch said the recent Washington turmoil has delayed bicentennial preparations.

"There were people who should have been appointed to work on this long ago," he said. "But Nixon was busy with other things and right now the bicentennial is the least of

Ford's worries."

The direction of the national celebration is undecided, Welsch said. It could fall victim to what he called "ethnic chauvinism."

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Assistant Professor of English and Lancaster County Weed Commission candidate Roger Welsch.

New parking lot to open soon

By John Kalkowski

Repair work has begun on a 259-space parking lot which UNL has leased from the Missouri Pacific Railroad, Ray Coffey, assistant business manager of business and finance said.

The parking lot lies between 14th and 16th Sts., one-half block north of "W" St., near the Harper-Schramm-Smith Residential Complex.

According to Coffey, the parking lot was leased to help accommodate commuter traffic and to help eliminate some parking problems faced by students.

The leasing of the lot was necessary because construction of the Life Sciences Building on the site of parking area 13 forced faculty parking to be moved to the commuter parking lot west of 10th St., Coffey said. The new parking lot will make a significant difference in the number of parking spots open to commuting students, he said.

Before work could begin on the parking lot, it was necessary to move student's cars parked in that area, Coffey said.

Students had been parking in the lot

for some time and the university could not have them clear the lot until UNL held the lease, Coffey said.

"We did not want to issue any tickets or tow any cars away," he said. A notice was published in the Daily Nebraskan so students would move their cars and repair work could begin, Coffey said.

The university is clearing away residual parts of buildings on the lot and placing barriers to keep cars away from the railroad tracks, Coffey said.

Work on the lot is being done by contractors and should be finished in about a week, he said.

"Our layout shows that 259 cars can be parked in the lot," Coffey said. There have been counts of 150 to 170 cars in the lot and it seemed packed, he said, but efficient use of the lot will enable 259 cars to be parked there.

The parking lot is a solid base with concrete slabs in some places, Coffey said. He added that the university will not hard-top the lot because it is leased land.

The city of Lincoln had leased the lot before and used it as a street and asphalt plant, according to Coffey.



Proud calls session; Exon calls 'fool'

By Ivy Harper

Speaker of the Unicameral Richard Proud of Omaha, acting as governor Tuesday, called a special session of the legislature to discuss the problems of home buyers, lenders and sellers.

The speaker of the Unicameral takes over when both the governor and lieutenant governor are out-of-town, as was the case Tuesday.

One solution Proud has proposed is to raise the maximum interest rate.

This will encourage people to keep their savings in Nebraska, Proud said, and therefore the money available for loans will increase.

Upon hearing of the surprise proclamation, Gov. J. James Exon said he will veto any increase in interest rates. He said Proud was a "fool" for calling the session.

"It takes one to know one," Proud said in response.

Proud said realtors are being forced out of business because people can't get loans to buy homes.

The tight money problem needs attention now, Proud said, not in January, when the legislature is supposed to convene.

Exon, who returned Tuesday night said he plans to rescind the order.

Proud said if Exon rescinds the order, "that is his business, but it will force him to take a stand."

He said the reason Exon does not want the special session is because it is an election year.

"People who are campaigning don't like these issues to be brought up."

Proud said his term ends in January and he is not running for office again and he has "no political motives."

Asked about the constitutionality of the order, Secretary of State Allen Beermann said Sec. 8, Article 4 of the Nebraska Constitution gives the governor power to convene the legislature for extraordinary business.

Proud said he is acting according to the letter of the law but now the question is whether the governor has the power to rescind the proclamation.

He said if the attorney general rules that he does, Proud said, "I will have to accept it."

Ultimately, Proud said, the only way this can be settled is through the courts.

He said he does not have the money to go to court and that it is time-consuming.

But he said the real issue is that Exon is doing nothing for people who want to buy homes, lenders who want to lend money and sellers who want to sell.