

## Life depicted in I-80 sculptures

Twelve sculptures depicting life in Nebraska will be set up along Interstate 80 during the next two years as part of Nebraska's contribution to the bicentennial celebration, according to project director Art Thompson.

The project, known as the Nebraska Interstate 80 bicentennial Sculpture Project, is to help America celebrate its 200th anniversary and also to work at giving Nebraska a distinguished cultural heritage, Thompson said.

"This is a statewide effort," he said. "We want all Nebraskans to help and become involved in this."

The sculptures, to be designed and constructed by 12 separate artists yet to be selected, will be set up in rest areas along Interstate 80, and will try to depict the area where they are placed, Thompson said.

According to Thompson, to accomplish this, the artists will take up residence in the counties and observe the land and the people they are to depict. Thompson said he is pleased with the areas chosen.

"I have seen all the sites where the sculptures will be," he said. "Some are more beautiful than others, but they are all amazing."

The sites chosen are: Platte River, York, Kearney, Grand Island, Blue River, Brady, Cozad, Ogallala, Chapel, Sidney, and Kimball.

Thompson began the job as director Sept. 16. Before that he worked six years at the Nebraska Union, first as program advisor, then as assistant director for programs.

"I liked what I was doing and what I'd done, but I wanted to look around too," he said.

As director, Thompson is responsible for sending out applications, letting artists know if they have been selected, raising money and mainly, according to Thompson, "making sure the sculptures are set up by July 4, 1976."

Thompson works through Sheldon Art Gallery and says the University has become involved in the project because they provide his office space and also an accounting system for the project.



Art Thompson, project director for the Nebraska Interstate 80 bicentennial Sculpture Project, displays styrofoam peanuts used for packing the sculptures.

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