

# UNL plans 'riverboat chautauqua'

By Kathy McAuliffe

UNL's College of Arts and Sciences, the Division of Continuing Studies and the Delta Queen Steamboat Co. of Cincinnati are taking the traditional idea of the chautauqua to the river.

They are planning a "Return to the River" Steamboat Chautauqua Program on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers from May 15-26.

The chautauqua, a popular event in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, offered lectures, plays and concerts to entertain and educate participants.

Other than taking place on the river rather than under the traditional tent, this 11-day cruise is no exception to the usual idea of the chautauqua.

Vacationing and learning are skillfully combined whether one sees or hears Richard Henzel's lively impersonation of Mark Twain, dramatic performances by students and faculty from the UNL English and theater departments or lectures by noted scholars from universities all over the country.

Featured appearances include Broadway singer-actress Edie Adams, jazz music by the Gene Ramey Trio featuring Jay McShann; Howard Platt, a stage actor best known for his role as a policeman in *Sanford and Son*; UNL concert pianist Audun Ravnan; UNL concert violinist Robert Emile; Mark Twain authority John Seelye from the University of North Carolina; Roger Abrahams, University of Texas, specializing in folklore, music and Afro-America; UNL theater instructor Rex McGraw, with a lecture on

"Showboating on the Mississippi" and David Madden, storyteller and author from Louisiana State University.

Poetry, literature, architecture, history and theater workshops will be offered by a host of scholars during the chautauqua. College credit for these workshops is available.

In addition to these activities, the Delta Queen will dock at Natchez and Vicksburg, Miss. and Paducah, Ky. These one-day stops will offer a schedule of tours, plays, lectures and concerts to passengers.

Depending on whether you travel deluxe or economy class, passage fare for the trip ranges from \$693 to \$1,133 per person, plus an education fee of \$300.

The fare covers the cost of a stateroom or cabin, passage, meals and entertainment.

Of special interest to UNL students, as well as to Nebraska residents, is a 12.5 percent discount on passage prices offered by UNL. In addition, the education fee will be reduced to \$100 for UNL students and \$150 for other Nebraska residents.

For every 16 passages sold, one passenger will be selected in a drawing to travel free of charge.

Originally built in the 1920s for \$350,000, the steamboat was restored in 1948. Restoration has continued since then in order to preserve the oak and mahogany paneling, the stained glass windows and the brass fittings of the steamboat.

For more information, contact the Office of Special Projects, 1216 Oldfather Hall.

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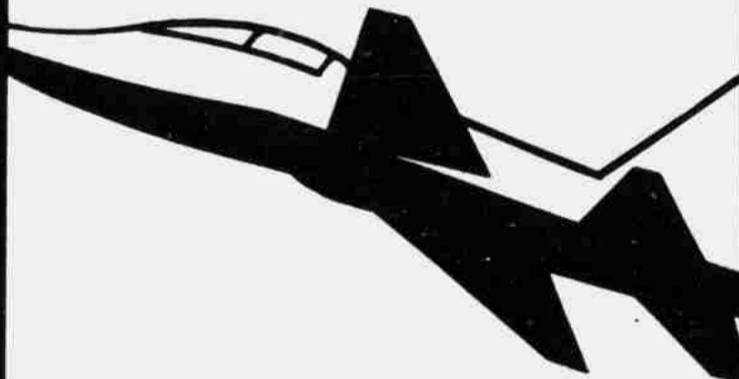
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