

A student takes a tour into the University's future...

By Eileen Babka

"Welcome, tourpersons, to the University of Nebraska Historical Museum," the voice said. The voice seemed to surround the room.

"I hope that your walk from the parking area was enjoyable. I would like to take a few minutes to inform you of our parking facilities. The parking lots where you have just come from are the original parking lots that students used prior to 'Proclamation Date.' The four convenient

humor

lots, located near Wahoo, Seward, Beatrice, and Mead are former river bottoms.

The university purchased the land in 1982 in order to solve the student parking problem. One unexpected benefit of locating parking lots in rivers was discovered in 1983 by Officer Jones of Campus Security. Jones observed that the areas did not require to be policed as often as in the past.

Students who parked their cars facing the wrong direction would find that the rivers carried the car downstream. By placing sub-stations near the mouth of the rivers, police could impound vehicles efficiently, thus allowing more time for coffee breaks."

Grandmother Jelioplinsk gazed at the room around her. She attended the University of Nebraska and was in the last graduating class. She was accompanied by her 18-year-old granddaughter, Jenny. Jenny was considering attending a 'traditional college', although very few existed since "Proclamation Date." Some of the colleges were able to adapt their facilities and overcome the devastation caused by the Proclamation.

The voice continued:

"Please deposit five one-dollar bills into the machine if you would like the recorded tour. Please return the ear-phones at the end of the tour."

Jenny wanted the recorded tour. Grand-

mother Jelioplinsk searched her purse for five 'ones.' She came up with four crisp bills and one slightly creased bill. The creased bill would not go into the machine. Grandmother reached into her purse and pulled out her hair curling iron—a remnant of the past that has become as handy as the old hair-pin.

Grandmother flicked on the switch and in a few minutes the iron was hot enough to smooth out the wrinkles in the bill. Seconds later, Jenny had a set of earphones. Grandmother put one ear-plug in Jenny's left ear, and kept the other for herself. The two women, arm-in-arm, ear-to-ear, began the tour.

Former Student Union

"Thank-you for joining our recorded guided tour," came the soprano voice over the ear-phone. "The building you are standing in is the former 'student union,' so named because the complex was supported by student fees..."

Jenny looked with amazement at all the boutiques and shops that filled the three-story building. The complex boasted 32 restaurants, 7 donut shops, 4 banks, 10 bookstores, 8 hair-style shops and 150 boutiques. Coin operated snack machines filled the hallways surrounding the shops. Jenny placed a half-dollar into the machine marked 'coffee'. Nothing happened.

"You must give the machine three kicks before it will work," said Granny.

Jenny kicked the machine three times, and the machine kicked out a half-cup of hot water.

"Nothing has changed much," said grandmother with a smile.

The tour found its way through the 'student union' and out into the fresh air.

"On your left is the Selleck Quad . . ." trailed the voice.

"Is this the place where you courted Grandfather?" asked Jenny.

30-minute meters

"Yes, my dear. The place hasn't changed much. And look, the thirty minute parking meters are still here." Grandmother stood in a dreamlike state for a few minutes, remembering her youth.

"Thirty minutes was enough time, even back in those days yes, 30 minutes is



just long enough."

"How did you and grandfather meet?"

"Oh, the usual way men and women meet in those days. He answered an ad I placed in the 'personals' column of the Daily Nebraskan, our school paper."

The tour was not heading towards Burnett Hall.

"The department of Psychology was located in this building," continued the voice. "It was the first department at UNL to conduct classes by computer. The classes were first introduced as an experiment for the benefit of the students in the 70s."

Study time could be reduced to 15 minutes per week, once the students learned to

memorize the answers that were programmed into the tests. The computer system of conducting classes spread quickly, despite protest from a handful of militant who believed they had a right to learn.

Instructors gone

"The university, backed by the Nebraska Legislators, won the battle by showing the taxpayers the benefits of eliminating instructors from payrolls. It was further pointed out that the students need not be confused with the differing views of the instructors.

Human errors were completely eliminated, at a cost reduction to the students. Thirty books were condensed into a 25-page 'Packet', at a cost of \$5. The 'Packets' were revised each semester in order that the department could collect royalties. As you may have guessed, no royalty checks are issued for the sale of used books."

Several other buildings were on the tour, but Grandmother and Jenny decided to skip these and walk over to the stadium.

On the south side of the stadium were three small buildings, one marked 'Marriages', another marked 'Tickets', and a third marked 'Divorces'.

"Why are these buildings here, Grandmother?" asked Jenny.

Memorial Stadium Province

"That's a long story. In 1985, Governor Divine, a former coach, proclaimed Memorial Stadium a province, separate from the state of Nebraska. I am not sure of the exact reason for his actions. Possibly, it was because of the pressure from the public. Some of the voters wanted to add on to the stadium so that they could get football tickets, and others, (probably those who had life-time season tickets) did not want to add on because of the theory of supply and demand. If more tickets could be bought, than the demand would diminish and so would the price of 'scalping'."

"Football was one of the biggest money making propositions in Nebraska and everyone tried to cash in on the profits. Students sold their tickets to the highest bidder. Married students were allowed to buy two tickets (one for their spouse, as

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