

## Modern chimney sweep has Dickens of a cleaning job

By Mary Fastenau

A chimney sweep is a character transported from the world of Mary Poppins and flying umbrellas. A man who dances across rooftops, dressed in top hat and tails. A lucky man, "as lucky can be."

Russell (Rusty) Dodworth is a chimney sweep and a lucky man who combines nostalgia and reality and loves every minute of it.

Chimney sweeping is the latest addition to Dodworth's list of professions.

Dodworth is ready to be cast as a turn-of-the-century chimney sweep in his black suit and tails. He waves his black top hat with a smile that could only come from a man who loves what he is doing.

"I like to just sit on top of a roof and look at the chimneys around me," he explained. "It is just like a forester would look at trees or a boot black look at shoes on a rainy day."

Dodworth smiles a Mary Poppins smile, nods his sandy brown head and admits you have to be "a little foolish" to crawl on roofs in tops and tails.

### Waves top hat

He said there is a "method in his madness" as he waves his hat from the rooftops to every passer-by. He said he is trying to establish himself as part of the neighborhood.

The 40-year-old sweep said his actions are good publicity. For example, he said if a family is driving down the street and the children see a funny man atop their friends' house, they are going to demand an explanation and a performance on their rooftop.

Instead of an umbrella, Dodworth uses a 1949 van to get around. The van is painted a metallic rust color with "Town Chimney-sweep" and a silhouette of a chimney sweep adorning its side.

Dodworth admits technology has taken its place in the chimney sweeping business.

From the back of the van emerged a large red barrel which Dodworth introduced as his soot vacuum. The arm of the machine is a large black rubber hose which he said fits inside the fireplace.

### Wire brush

Dodworth then produced a large round

## Red tape delays credit

Full-swing operation of ASUN's credit union may be delayed because of red tape concerning the deposit of student activities money, ASUN President Ken Marienau said Friday.

Miles Tommeraaen, UNL vice chancellor for business and finance, has decided to not transfer the student activities account, which holds the money for all student organizations, from a bank to the credit union, Marienau said.

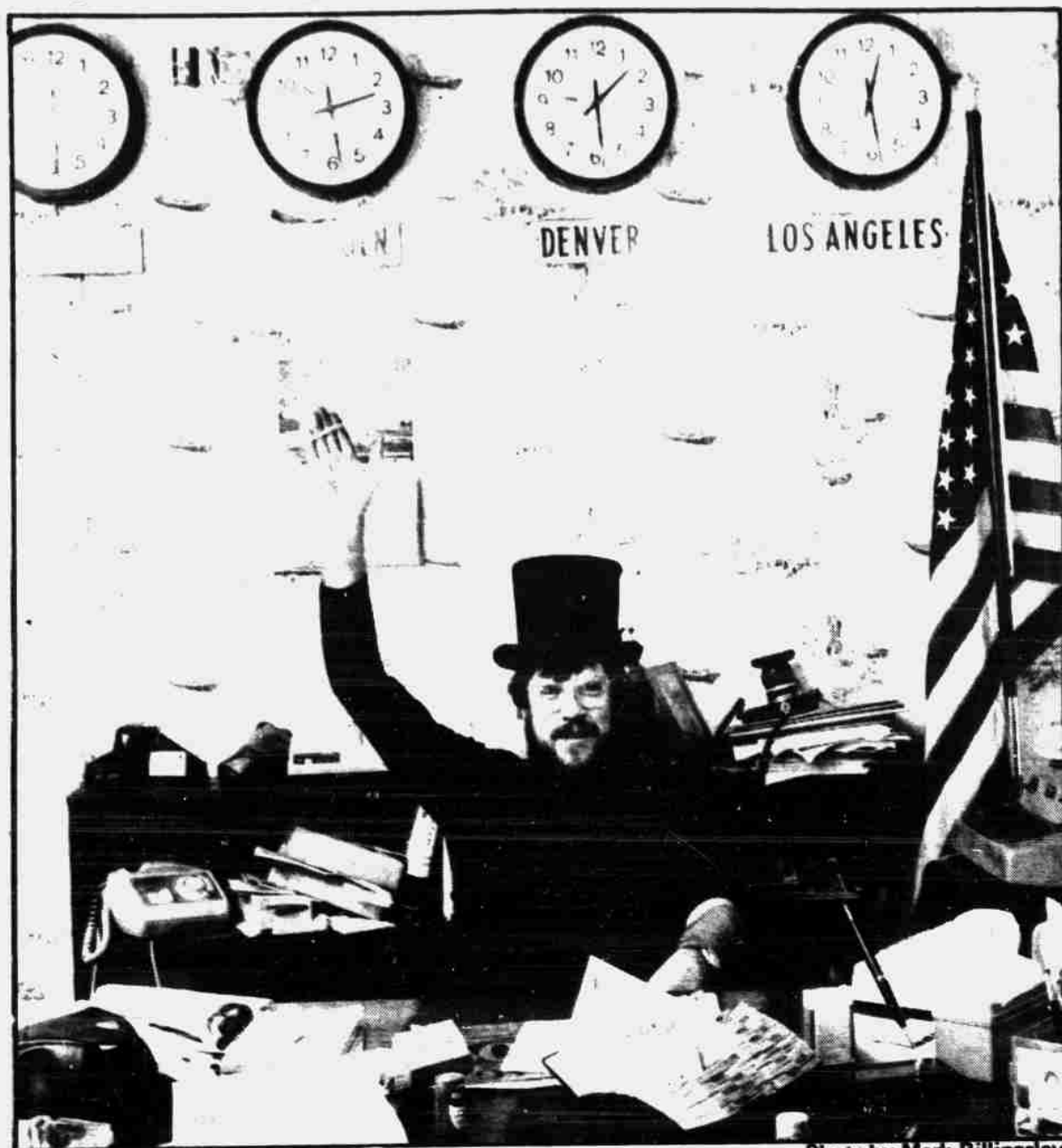
Although the union is sufficiently insured and "everyone says we're clear," Marienau said, Tommeraaen did not want to make a decision involving a major change on campus.

The matter probably will end with the business affairs committee of the NU Board of Regents, Marienau said.

In the meantime, some deposits have been made by students and one fraternity which can be used to begin making loans, Marienau said.

## inside monday

**Midnight madness hits downtown:** Balloons, belly dancers and bed races are among the third annual Lincolnfest activities . . . . .page 6  
**Outer limits:** Mueller Planetarium show, "Imagination" appeals to science fiction fans . . . . .page 8  
**That's life in the Big Eight:** Big Eight Conference football teams lived up to their reputation this weekend . . . . .page 10



Rusty Dodworth, the "Town Chimneysweep," says his profession keeps him lucky, despite the intrusion of chimney cleaning technology.

wire brush which he attached to fiberglass poles. He said he puts the poles up the chimney to loosen the debris. The poles are flexible enough to bend to the contours of the chimney, he said.

Dodworth admitted he does most of his cleaning from inside the house. He said he likes to climb on the roofs but does not want to take risks because of his wife, Jean and son, Cameron.

When he does make a rooftop appearance, Dodworth often uses the more tradit-

ional "scandiascope." This piece of equipment is a large, steel bristled brush attached to a rope with a 15-pound lead ball on the end.

He said he drops the ball down the chimney and retrieves it, then repeats the process. He said this method had some limitations with curved chimneys.

Safety is one of the main reasons for the revival in chimney sweeping, he explained.

According to the January/February

1978 issue of *The Mother Earth News*, there were 40,000 chimney fires in the United States last year which caused an estimated loss of \$23 million.

Dodworth explained that the reason for the fires was a buildup of creosote, made from wood tars. He said this substance builds up in the chimney and is highly combustible.

The kit also includes follow-up conferences and advice Dodworth said.

Dodworth said he got into the chimney sweeping business by ordering a kit. He explained that two men from Connecticut became interested in sweeping chimneys and decided to develop a program. Their kit, known as the "August West System" sells for \$1,385 and includes all the tools a chimney sweep will need.

### Many professions

The bespectacled eyes twinkle as he tells of his life in the Merchant Marine from 1957-68 and his trips around the world.

For nine years he said, he lived on a 38 foot cruiser which was anchored in Manhattan.

The diplomas and licenses that decorate his walls reflect the changes in his life. He has been a cab driver in New York City, piano tuner, chauffeur, disc jockey, public relations man, notary public and newspaper reporter.

Dodworth explained that while in New York City, he was the editor, publisher, printer, photographer, reporter and make-up editor for a newspaper that was written for and by nine to 16-year-old children.

He said the paper, "Mother Goose News," folded after one issue as did his magazine "The Overground Press," which lasted two issues.

He was noted by Congressman Jonathan B. Bingham in the Congressional Record for his innovative ideas and newspaper columns in the New York Voice and Murray Hill News.

Dodworth said he just seems possessed with an extra amount of ambition that keeps him changing and keeps him "lucky as can be."

Dodworth has decided that "in this whole wide world there is no happier bloke" than a chimney sweep and idea collector.



A "motorcycle mama" sorority pledge splashes her way through the water hazard during the first annual Phi Psi 500 Tricycle race Saturday sponsored by Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity. Winners of the event were members of Delta Gamma Sorority.