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## Recreation, cultural centers abound in and near Lincoln

By Chuck Jagoda

You may be in Lincoln for the summer but that doesn't mean you can't find anything new and interesting to do. There are numerous local attractions you may have overlooked.

The Omaha area alone has enough for several daylong trips. There are the Henry Doorly Zoo, the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, and the Desoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge for those who like to visit mammals, Fontenelle Forest for nature lovers and the Strategic Air Command Museum for the aviation fans. Those who enjoy historical attractions can visit the Sarpy County Historical Museum, Fort Atkinson, the Mormon Cemetery, the Western Heritage Museum, the Union Pacific Historical Museum, the Dodge House and the Lewis and Clark Monument. The culturally oriented have Joslyn Art Museum and the Orpheum Theatre to satisfy their tastes.

For the Lincoln-based outdoor vacationer, there are a number of state and federal camping areas, recreation areas and parks. To the northeast there are recreation areas at Louisville Lake (Louisville), Schramm Park (Gretna) and Two Rivers (Valley). To the east there is Arbor Lodge State Historical Park and Riverview Marian State Recreation Area, both at Nebraska City.

In the southeast part of the state Brownville is a popular spot. There are Missouri riverboat excursions, theatre in

the evening and workshops and fairs all summer. The Meriwether Lewis, a restored sidewheeler dredge, also is on display at Brownville.

To the south is the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice where visitors can see living history displays of cooking soap and candle making, farming and school teaching from the last century.

To the north is Ponca State Park, with scenery and family activities such as swimming and horse riding. Cabins also are available during the summer. Golf and boating are favorites at Niobrara State Park west of Ponca.

For recreation closer to home, there's plenty to do right here in Lincoln. The State Capitol is an architectural showpiece decorated with classic art depicting plains life.

Historical points of interest in Lincoln include the Statehood Memorial Society Museum. One of the most popular attractions in Lincoln is the State Museum (known as Elephant Hall for its archeological displays) and the Ralph Mueller Planetarium. For the cultural tastes there is the Sheldon Art Gallery and Sculpture Garden. A summer program of films in the Sheldon Film Theater is also available for the movie fan.

For additional information and suggestions on tourist attractions, the Travel and Tourism Division of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development has these toll-free numbers: in state, 800-742-7595; out-of-state, 800-228-4307.

## Big Mac summer to include world championship races

If you're into water sports, the Big Mac Spectacular 1982 Powerboat races will be July 24 and 25 at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala.

Brenda Glinn, executive director of the Big Mac Spectacular, said this year's race will include the World Champ Boat races. This is the first year the World Champ races will take place at Lake McConaughy, she said.

"There will probably be 25 to 30 boats from the U.S. and Europe," she said. "It's like the Indy 500 car race."

Tunnel-hulled high speed outboard motor race boats are used by the World Champ competition, which is raced marathon-style around the lake for about an hour and a half, Glinn said.

The boat races begin at 8 a.m. July 24, and continue until about 4 p.m. the next day.

"We will also have a ten kilometer foot-

race marathon sponsored by Diet Pepsi," she said.

Other attractions at the Big Mac Spectacular will include air and water shows and a hang glider race.

Last year's boat races featured boats from all over the United States, Glinn said. About 21 boats entered the competition in 1981, she said.

"There were no Nebraska boats. The closest boats that entered came from Denver."

The Big Mac Spectacular is sponsored by the Big Mac Trailblazers Boat Committee of the Ogallala Chamber of Commerce.

The Boat Committee is a nonprofit organization, Glinn said.

Ticket and registration information can be obtained by writing to No. 2 Stagecoach Inn, Room 201, Stagetrail, Ogallala, Neb., 69153.

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