

'The Jewel of the Loup River'

Stapleton is Nebraska's hot vacation spot hidden in the sand

For Thanksgiving vacation, most UNL students went to their grandparent's house, ate turkey and watched TV. Not me, though. I went to the hottest vacation spot in the northern hemisphere. I went to Vacationland U.S.A. where the rich play. I'm talking about that little-known hideaway for the rich and famous, Stapleton, Neb. Yes, the opulent Stapleton. A name synonymous with rest, relaxation and unadulterated hedonism.

Most "common folks" don't know about Stapleton, located 30 miles north of that teeming metropolis, North Platte. But for us *bons vivants*, Stapleton has long been known as "The Jewel of the Loup River." Located on what some call "The Nebraskan Riviera," Stapleton has long been a favorite getaway for those wanting to avoid the hassles of fame and all its trappings. Since Stapleton is located in the Sandhills, the beach stretches on forever — in fact, way past the horizon.

When we rich and famous types get tired of lounging around on the beach, we retire to Stapleton's famous night clubs. The Hard Rock Cafe has just opened its latest club in Stapleton.

Like all of the Hard Rock Cafes, many items of rock memorabilia are on display. C. W. McCall's first CB, Little Richard's eye makeup and best of all, Jerry Lee Lewis's favorite guitar, the very one he played in all his performances.

Stew Magnuson



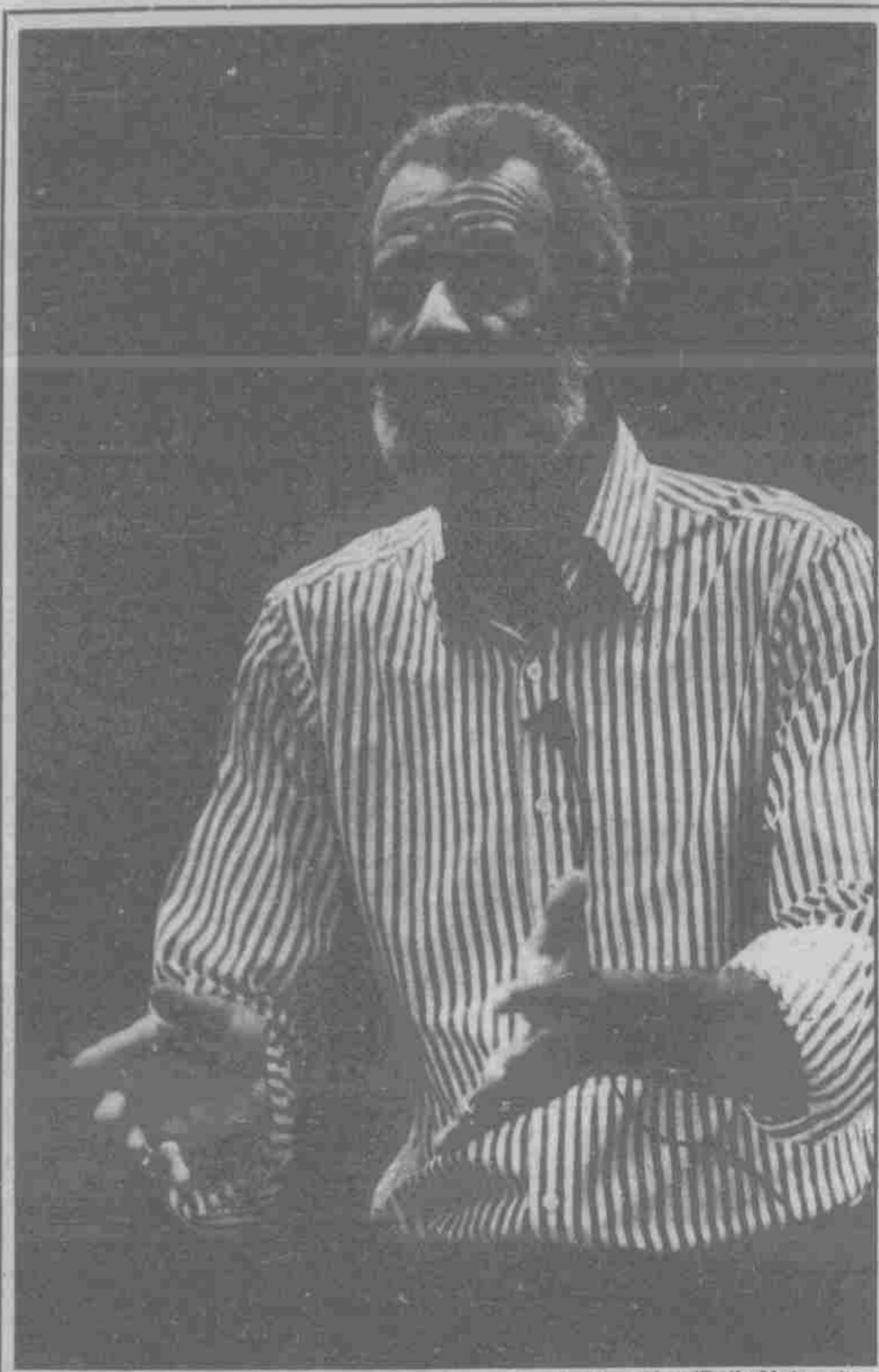
The other hopping nightclub is the very exclusive VFW. You have to push a button to get in. Membership is very hard to come by. Members are required to spend a little time overseas shooting at people during police actions. The VFW features Stapleton's only shuffleboard table, one of the reasons the bourgeois line up outside hoping to get in. Once a week, the VFW club opens its doors to the lower classes for charity fund raising.

On Wednesday, the covered dishes and high-stakes bingo games get the rich and famous over hump night.

But behind all the glamour of Stapleton there is a sad part of the city. Stapleton is, of course, still tied to the farm economy. All the people in the agriculture community are very down and depressed due to the recent crisis in the farm community. I'm talking, of course, about the departure of Buck Owens from the cast of "Hee Haw."

"There's a hole in our lives," a native Stapletonian recently told me. "I don't know how we'll ever survive Buck's departure. All the money in the world can't help us now."

Still, the people of Stapleton will survive. Especially when the hordes of tourists like me invade the town for Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Even now, I can close my eyes and remember Stapleton. The yachts cruising up and down the Loup River, the bathing beauties on the beach wearing their skimpy overalls, and the high-stakes betting at the famous cow-chip throwing contest. Ah, Stapleton, that's the good life.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Famous Amos talks

Cookie king Wally Amos talks about success and careers in the Centennial Room Tuesday night.

Student composers to present works

Student composers in the UNL School of Music will present original compositions in a concert at 8 p.m. next Wednesday in Westbrook Recital Hall.

The students study composition under Professors Robert Beadell or Randall Snyder. Their works will be performed by both faculty and student performers.

Two works will be performed by the Faculty String Quartet, whose players are Arnold Schatz, Liza Watkins, Harold

Levin and Priscilla Parson of the UNL School of Music faculty.

A prize-winning work by David Sharp, a graduate student of composition who studies with Professor Beadell, will be performed during the recital. The work, "Six Pieces for Brass Quintet," was awarded first prize at a national competition that was part of the University of Colorado Music Festival.

The concert will be open to the public without charge.

Betty J. Henke Colbert of Unadilla, a graduate student in music and musical director and board member of the Loft Community Theatre near Weeping Water, will give a graduate recital at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Westbrook Music Building.

Her recital, open to the public without charge, is presented in partial fulfillment of a masters of music degree in musical performance.



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