

Nebraska Brass to perform during festival

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

Little boy Blue, come blow your horn...

Well, the boys are neither little or blue, but they plan to blow their horns on Saturday at Summertime Nebraska.

The Nebraska Brass, the only professional brass quintet in the Lincoln and Omaha area, plays a mixture of classical, popular, Dixie and ragtime

music, said Dean Haist, trumpeter for the band. They play in the style of the Canadian Brass, he said.

"It's really been a fun group," Haist said.

The group, which practices in its members' homes, has performed about 20 times this year, he said.

And he anticipates that it will be even busier in the next year, Haist said.

Haist, a Lincolnite, said he is look-

ing forward to performing at Summertime Nebraska.

The Brass performed at First Night, Lincoln's New Year's Eve celebration. They are planning a Christmas series with organ accompaniment and another series in which they will invite other brass instrumentalists to play with them.

Other members of the group include Mike Anderson, trumpet player from Blair; Tim Anderson, French

horn player from Plattsmouth; Tim's brother Scott Anderson, trombone player from Omaha, and John Thomason, tuba player from Plattsmouth.

The Brass' members, all professional musicians, are active in other

bands as well, Haist said, ranging from the Strategic Air Command concert band to the Omaha Symphony.

The Nebraska Brass performs Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Great Hall of the Depot.

Reichenberg tells tale of cowboy poetry

By Cindy Wostrel
Staff Reporter

When Monte Reichenberg comes to town, cowboys and cowgirls of all ages will, too.

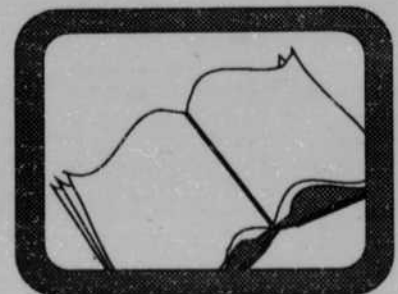
Reichenberg, 40, of Baird, will bring them to life by telling cowboy poetry Saturday and Sunday at Summertime Nebraska.

Reichenberg said he hopes that by telling the mixture of traditional and original cowboy poetry, he can teach people about it.

Reichenberg, who works with the Nebraska Arts Council's Artists in Schools and Communities program, said cowboy poetry began more than 100 years ago when cowboys on cattle drives sat around campfires and talked about their girlfriends and the drives.

One person would tell a story, another would put the story into a poem and another would set the poem to music.

The cowboys couldn't read or write, he said, so they had to remember the songs. If they forgot a word, he said, they would make up a rhyming word to fit the song. This caused regional variations in the songs, as different words were used in the same songs, and as different cowboys adapted the songs to their situations.



Most of the cowboys' songs had a moral or a lesson, he said, even when the songs were made just for fun.

Reichenberg said he plans to use one traditional cowboy song, but most will be his original work.

One of his songs is about the decline in the use of horses, he said. Cowboys now use fewer horses and more motorized vehicles than they used to, Reichenberg said.

The traditional song is about cooks, he said.

"They were mostly a disgruntled lot," Reichenberg said.

Cooking was a demeaning job, he said, and was done by men who were "too broken up or too old to ride."

He said he found the traditional poem in a book written about 1911 by Katy Lee, a singer and entertainer who gathered the songs from riders and gunfighters.

Although much of the cowboy poetry was sung, he said, he will recite it.

Reichenberg also will juggle, he said. He said he saw a friend juggle and decided he wanted to learn how. He said he hopes his juggling will show children that they can do anything that they want to do.

And although he didn't use a book to figure out how to juggle, he wants them to know they can learn to juggle or perform magic tricks from books.

"You can actually learn to do these things by reading," he said.

"I learned to snow ski by reading."

Reichenberg has more than just a passing interest in reading, as he has written a book, "It'll Feel Better when it Quits Hurting."

Reichenberg performs at the Hilton Hotel, 141 N. 9th St., Saturday at 1:30, 5:15 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 1:30 and 4:15 p.m.



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