

Haymarket attracting wide variety of visitors

Historic Lincoln area draws both young, old to shops, restaurants

By Nicole Sheets
Staff Reporter

From food to flowers, gifts to galleries, clothes to carriages, you will find it all in Lincoln's Historic Haymarket.

The roots of the Haymarket, located between Seventh and Ninth streets and O and R streets, can be traced to Lincoln's first decade. According to the "Haymarket Landmark District Walking Tour" booklet, the area was originally called "Market Square." It was an open-air market featuring produce and livestock and also served as a gathering place for locals with camping grounds for visitors.

Daily the streets were filled with machines, wagons and animals, along with land sharks, gamblers and inhabitants from the frontier town.

Today the Haymarket has recaptured the energy and vitality of years past.

Home to numerous bars and restaurants, more than 40 specialty shops, galleries, antique stores and booksellers, housing units and the restored Lincoln train station, the Haymarket has become a "hot spot" in Lincoln.

is the farmer's market, which runs every Saturday in May through October from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Along the streets, vendors offer fresh produce, baked goods, flowers, hand-made crafts and live entertainment, such as music and dancing.

"The Haymarket is a really nice location and ideal for a store," said Sherry Wirth, employee of From Nebraska, a specialty and consignment shop. "This is a growing area, and the ambience here makes stores like this work well."

Roland Brammeier, owner of Victoria's Cousin, an antique and gift store as well as a place for an afternoon cup of English tea, said he felt the Haymarket was a good place to have

“It's like a little village with so much to do and see. The crowd there is very young, and the area is very family-oriented.”

— Lower
Lazlo's employee

a business because of the varied clientele and the continuous expansion of the area.

"The Haymarket is a great place to be," Brammeier said. "It's really happening now, and it is exciting to see the new businesses coming in. We all seem to help each other out with business down here."

On weekends the Haymarket offers a variety of activities such as horse-drawn carriage rides, rides on bicycles built for two and rides on Molley the Trolley through the Haymarket and the surrounding area.

"There is so much to do there, and it is getting really popular really fast," said Steve Jimenez, manager of La Paloma restaurant. "People are beginning to make the Haymarket a tradition, and with more shops moving in and businesses growing, the Haymarket is going to keep growing and becoming more popular."

Heather Lower, a junior art history/architecture major and employee at Lazlo's Brewery and Grill, said she enjoyed the convenience and variety of the shops in the Haymarket and the uniqueness of the area.

"It's like a little village with so much to do and see," Lower said. "The crowd there is very young, and the area is very family-oriented. There are things there that you can't find anywhere else in Lincoln."

“We have a lot of tourists that come through, especially in the summer, and customers from ages 18 to 70.”

—Cook
store owner

"We have a lot of tourists that come through, especially in the summer, and customers from ages 18 to 70," said Cheryl Cook, owner of Sample Outlet, a discount brand-name clothing store.

"The nice atmosphere here draws in all kinds of people," she said.

One of the Haymarket's special attractions



Damon Lee/DN

A dinner crowd begins to gather at Lazlo's Brewery and Grill, 710 P. St., Saturday evening. Lazlo's is one of many popular dining establishments in the Haymarket area.

It may be the world of a dog, but adults and kids can enjoy it



J. Otto Seibold
and Vivian Walsh
Mr. Lunch Takes a Plane Ride
Viking Press

Is this a kids' book or what?

Well, it couldn't do them any harm. Even kids need a break from the moralistic dreck that most of us adults settle for every day. And if you feel in need of such a break, then maybe "Mr. Lunch Takes a Plane Ride" is for you, too, even if you're not a kid.

J. Otto Seibold's drawings are not what you'd expect in a book for little kids. His weird, almost eerie animation has appeared on MTV and has been showcased in the International Tournee of Animation.

His illustrations here don't seem conducive to little junior dropping easily off to sleep.

Hyperactive kids should be well medicated before being allowed to even turn the pages.

These drawings, though executed without perspective, are not flat. The characters, even the furniture, jump around the page in violent fits of impatience to get on with the story.

And the story is an odd one. Written by Vivian Walsh and her husband Seibold, this is the tale of a dog who travels by plane to be on a television program doing what he does best.

Not licking himself—that goes mercifully unmentioned—but chasing birds.

On the way he fools around with other people's luggage (he has to travel in the cargo hold—he's a dog, remember?) and really goofy things up.

Well, there is no moral to this dog's tale and hardly any reason to be telling it—except that its protagonist, Mr. Lunch, is so absolutely charming.

Why a dog? Why a dog named Mr. Lunch? Why a dog named Mr. anything? Does he have a first name, too?

And why, of all things, a dog chasing a bird on television?

That's just it. The world of Mr. Lunch is innocent of the evils of this world: local sponsors, sweeps weeks, sex that sells.

In a truly perfect world, you'd sit down to your TV and see just such a dog as Mr. Lunch chasing a volunteer bird and say, "Gee, look at Mr. Lunch go!"

You wouldn't ask why because to the innocent, there are no reasons and no need of them. The delight Mr. Lunch takes in chasing that bird and later in signing autographs for his many admirers is conveyed to the reader directly and simply.

It's been forever since a book came along that did that so well.

Maybe kids won't care about that. They hardly need to go out of their way to experience innocence (the little brutes) but maybe the rest of us will and do.

So after all, is this a kids' book or what?

What.

—Mark Baldrige

Concert-hopping offers way to catch rap, rock, country at State Fair

This year's Nebraska State Fair presents a smorgasbord of big-name entertainment headlining the Bob Devaney Sports Center—Garth Brooks, Billy Ray Cyrus, Alan Jackson, the Doobie Brothers and Kriss Kross, the loveable rappers wrapped up in their backward pants.

Everybody knows the Garth Brooks show sold out, but tickets may still be available to see Billy Ray Cyrus, the Kentucky native best known for his "Achy Breaky Heart." Cyrus, guaranteed to break a few hearts when he steps onstage, is currently promoting his latest release, "It Won't Be the Last," a compilation of country songs and love ballads.

Country singer Alan Jackson may have a reputation for being humble and shy, but that won't stop him from playing to the Sunday night Devaney crowd.

And, should the spirit of rock 'n' roll move you, you'll want to catch the Doobie Brothers at the Sports Center. The Doobies, a favorite band of the 1970s, are remembered for the classic singles "China Grove," "Jesus is Just Alright" and "Listen to the Music." After a 1982 farewell tour and 1987 reunion, the Doobies are still going strong.

If you're in a money pinch or too

time to consider concert hopping. Check the performance dates for your favorite band or artist. There may be one or two groups overlapping, so if you work your schedule right, you can catch more than one act a night.

late to purchase a ticket for a Devaney event, don't fret—you don't have to go without music. The free concerts in the Pepsi Open-Air Auditorium promise plenty of variety with a tight lineup of rock, bluegrass and comedy.

Appearing at the Open-Air Auditorium is the legendary country rock group, Poco, known for their sweet harmonies, stirring melodies, hard-driving beat and Rusty Young's steel guitar. The hit history of Poco includes "Crazy Love" and "Heart of the Night."

Alison Krauss, a national bluegrass singer will be fiddling free with her band, Union Station. This summer, Krauss became the first bluegrass artist in 19 years to be inducted in the Grand Ole Opry.

With all these acts packed into State Fair week, it might be a good time to consider concert hopping.

—Jill O'Brien

See FAIR SCHEDULE on 17