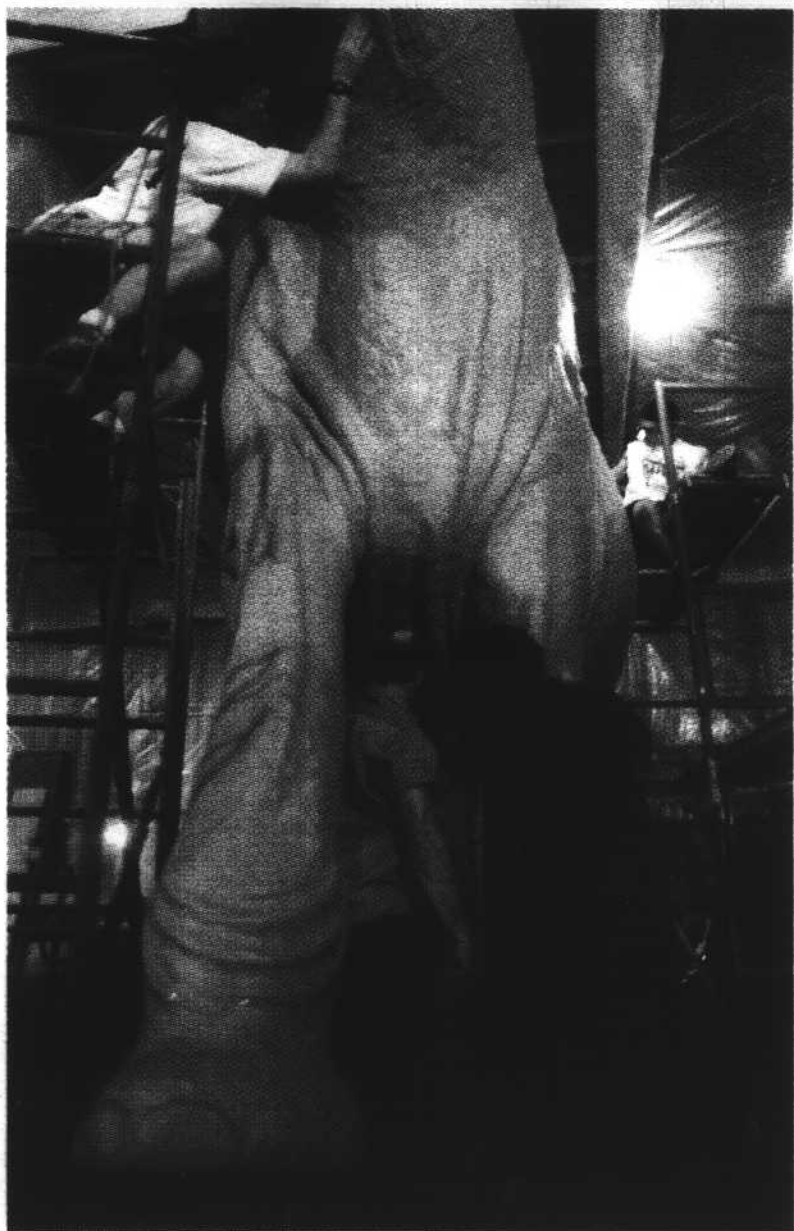




# The Making of Archie

(Clockwise from top)  
**FRED HOPPE**, the artist who started the Archie the Mammoth project, makes some adjustments on the trunk of the mammoth's clay form.  
**THE HANDS OF RON PIKE** shapes the clay that will become Arche the Mammoth's eye.  
**VARIOUS VOLUNTEERS** work on the 3,000 pounds of clay that will be used to shape the finalized bronze statue.



Story  
 and  
 photos  
 by  
**Daniel  
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Thousands of years ago, mammoths populated the area now occupied by Nebraska.

Three years ago, the creation of a statue of Archie the Mammoth began. And in November, Archie's replica will stand outside Morrill Hall.

Archie the Mammoth, just one of the ten pachyderm skeletons held by Morrill Hall, is a famous skeleton of the now-extinct elephants that roamed these fruited plains more than 23,000 years ago.

Fred Hoppe, a Lincoln Artist, started construction on the life-size bronze replica three years ago. He wanted to draw "badly needed attention to Morrill Hall."

"Most Nebraskans have no idea of the treasures we have there,"

Hoppe said.

In the last three years, Hoppe and some friends, including Robin McConnell, have done research on exactly how they believed the Mammoth looked as it grazed these plains. Construction on the project began in February of this year.

The casting of the sculpture will cost \$100,000, and will be cast in Hoppe's shop located Northwest of Lincoln. To raise money for the project, Hoppe created 100 smaller replicas of the Mammoth sculpture. These replicas were sold by the Friends of the State Museum. They will be honored by their names being placed on the base of the statue. On the other side of the base will be information about Archie the Mammoth and the

other pachyderms that are exhibited within Morrill Hall.

The casting of the mold will be done in Hoppe's shop, and then the cast will be delivered to Wyoming to be poured. The project began as a small model. From that model a wooden frame was built to hold the three thousand pounds of clay and Styrofoam that make up the statues skin and muscles. The creation of the wooden frame alone took five months. In these last several weeks, more than 15 volunteers have donated their time and effort in texturing the clay.

The statue of Archie the Mammoth is expected to be completed and installed in front of the Museum in November.