

American Heart Association

On the Cover

PHOTOGRAPH BY DARREN IVY/DN
JOCKEY DENNIS COLLINS visits with fans after winning the eighth race Friday at the State Fair Park. Rains the previous night made for a muddy race.

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DailyNeb

Ground broken for arrival of Archie the Mammoth

TOM FOSTER
Staff Reporter

There was a time when a great hairy beast walked this land. Larger than a cow, a buffalo or even an offensive lineman, the mammoth ambled about the prairie, its powerful trunk and tusks leading the way.

This fall, the mammoth will return, making his home in front of Morrill Hall on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

On Tuesday, a crowd of at least 100 people watched as ground was broken for a newly-landscaped plaza that will become the foundation for a life-size bronze mammoth sculpture named Archie.

James Estes, director of the University of Nebraska State Museum, said if weather permitted, he expected the project to finish quickly.

"I think (Archie) will be standing in front of the museum on the first day of class this fall," he said.

The statue, which is already complete and waiting in Cody, Wyo., to be shipped when the plaza is complete, was created by Fred Hoppe of Malcolm. Hoppe, a bronze-worker and taxidermist, created Archie based on observations of modern elephants and mammoth remains.

Archie's head is back and his trunk thrust high, trumpeting, Estes said. He stands 20 feet tall at the shoulder and 25 feet at the peak of his tusks. He'll be

standing on a 5-foot-8-inch concrete base.

Estes said Archie's ancestors lived approximately 30,000 to 70,000 years ago. Like most grassland mammals, they often ran in herds with one bull and a number of females and youngsters.

"It's hard to know the numbers of them," Estes said, "but they were incredibly abundant across Nebraska."

Evidence of those mammals can be found almost anywhere, he said.

"I think (Archie) will be standing in front of the museum on the first day of class this fall."**"**

JAMES ESTES
NU State Museum director

"If you dig a hole in Nebraska, there's a fairly good chance you'll find fossil mammoth remains," he said.

Suggesting there are remains literally under the university, Estes said diggers found two skeletons when they built the UNL Health Science Center. That makes Archie an especially appropriate addition to the museum, he said.

In addition to general landscape improvements, two stone benches and several granite markers with donors' inscriptions will complete the plaza.

UNL Chancellor James Moeser said the plaza would provide "an inviting front porch to Nebraska's past."

Estes said the \$250,000 project was funded entirely by donations, some from the sale of 100 miniature Archie sculptures. Also, Tuesday's ceremony honored the Tanner family, who made a large donation. Lloyd Tanner was a long-time employee and curator of the museum, and the plaza will bear his name.

Also bearing his name will be the Lloyd Tanner Lecture Series, which is still in the planning phase, Estes said.

"It's all part of what we're calling the year of the

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