

Honorary Degree for Nebraska Poet to Be Given by University

By A. EDWIN LONG.

The high literary accomplishment of John G. Neihardt of Bancroft, Neb., will be formally recognized by the University of Nebraska June 13. On that date the university will confer upon Mr. Neihardt the honorary degree of doctor of letters.

This is the highest honor a university can confer upon a man for literary attainment. For fifteen years Mr. Neihardt's poetry and fiction have attracted attention all over America and throughout the English-speaking world. Nebraskans, however, have hitherto been slow to recognize "the prophet in his own home."

The University of Nebraska has now come forward and invited the young genius to appear June 13 and receive this honorary degree.

Mr. Neihardt will thus be the only poet of his own generation to receive this degree. He is barely 36 years old. This honor seldom comes to a man before his fifties. William Dean Howells was nearly 60 when the degree was conferred upon him. Mark Twain was 66 when the University of Missouri gave him the degree.

Some of Neihardt's best known works are "The Song of Hugh Glass," "The Quest," "The River and I," "Man Song," "A Bundle of Myrrh," "The Lonesome Trail," "The Divine Enchantment," and others.

Lived with the Indians.

From 1901 to 1907 Neihardt lived largely among the Omaha and Winnebago Indians, studying their habits, character, legends, and philosophy. He stuck close to the oldest men in the tribe, and lay often half the night beside their fires with the scent of dog-stew in his nostrils, just to get the nucleus of a good story or legend. The result was that his Indian stories were a new departure in that line of work. They eliminated the scalping knife, and the massacre of whites, and went into the hardships, trials, tragedies and sorrows of members of the tribe themselves in the days before the whites appeared to tempt the red man with their scalps.

It is as a poet, however, that Neihardt looms largest in the literary world. In his "Song of Hugh Glass" he has immortalized the American fur trade period. Neihardt insists this period of American history has been shamefully neglected. "This fur trade period," said Neihardt "is an epic as great as the Siege of Troy. Yet, here we are in Nebraska schools still reading about Helen of Troy, about Hector, Priam and Achilles, though we had men a century ago in Nebraska and the northwest whose nerves of steel and whose deeds of daring would make Hector and Achilles look like lily-fingered duds."

Plenty of Romance Here.

Neihardt has dragged to light these powerful men of the northwest. His "Hugh Glass" is one of them and he follows him through his terrible journey from eastern Nebraska to the Yellowstone, crawling half the distance, dragging a broken leg, nursing a mutilated face, subsisting meanwhile on the flesh of bison rejected by the coyotes and ever creeping forward again at break of day, sustained by that furious purpose to overtake a foe on the Yellowstone. No one



John G. Neihardt

knows today whether the siege of Troy ever took place or whether Achilles really dragged Hector round the walls of Troy. Homer's imagination was powerful. Neihardt, however, knows of the case of Hugh Glass, for he has bought up a wonderful collection of the old musty journals kept by the post managers of the fur companies and these contain definite, though brief, records of all the principal events that occurred from day to day.

Studied in Universities. "The Song of Hugh Glass" is already being studied in some of the colleges and universities as a masterpiece of American literature and one college professor has made a cash offer to his class for anyone who could point out one superfluous word in the entire work. He has never been called upon to pay the price.

In his shorter poems Neihardt has interwoven philosophy, religion and heroism with a virile dash in such a way as to make his works appeal to men and women alike. He has employed tricks of music, rhyme, lilt and rhythm that never occurred to the musical Poe. He has employed vigorous plain English diction until his lines slash like a rawhide.

Nebraska Thunderstorm. In his "Prairie Storm Rune" he has gained for the Nebraska thunderstorm the recognition it deserves as a great elemental manifestation, frothing and flaming with the potential power of the Infinite. Here he has shown more vigor and imagination than Byron in his "Thunderstorm in the Alps," but because it was Byron and because it was the Alps we hesitate to believe his production could be equalled or excelled in Nebraska.

Mr. Neihardt appeared for a reading before the Omaha Fine Arts society at the Hotel Fontenelle last winter and before another society in Lincoln a few days later.

of lubricants that keep a car free from friction—Dixon's Graphite Automobile Lubricants.

Chalmers Car Makes Record In Running on Low Gear

The first low gear test of long duration to be made by an automobile was completed several days ago by a Chalmers five-passenger stock car, driven through the streets of St. Paul to Minneapolis. The test lasted twenty-four hours without the motor being stopped," says F. E. Spooner. "The trial was made under direction of W. F. Sturm, Chalmers' contest manager, and sanction No. 1027, was secured from the American Automobile association. I. A. Hildman, technical representative from Chicago, had charge of the test for the American Automobile association. The car averaged slightly more than ten miles an hour, covering 257.6 miles in twenty-four hours. Oil consumption was three quarts. Four gallons of water was used. Despite the adverse conditions of the test from the standpoint of economy possibilities, the car averaged 7.36 miles per gallon of gasoline.

"While Chalmers cars have been engaged in tests through traffic in various parts of the country, all previous trials have been made in high gear. In putting a car through twenty-four hours of continuous service with low gear only being used, and with second and high gears removed, the Chalmers Motor company of Minnesota, which conducted the latest test, has done something which is not only unique but which is considered daring as well.

"Ordinarily, low gear is used only in starting a car. A motor being run in low gear for any length of time has a tendency to heat and cause the water in the radiator to boil. In this test the chief idea was to prove the ability of the Chalmers to keep from overheating under the severest conditions. It was found that the water in the radiator did not boil at any stage of the run."

Argument for Employment of Convicts on Roads or Farms

The investigations of the national committee on prisons and prison labor into the reliability of convicts at work on roads or on farms show that the majority of the same and able-bodied men now confined in penal institutions, if properly handled, can be depended upon to perform the tasks set for them without the slightest fear of their escaping.

In Colorado prisoners in six large road camps are constantly employed in the construction of roads. In eight years they have built what Warden Tynan calls "500 miles of probably the most perfect highway in the world." They are also farming thousands of acres of land which produces food used by the state institutions.

There are, however, about 4,000 convicts in Colorado whom idleness is ruining in the various penitentiaries and they should be employed in building roads or on state farms.

The national committee on prisons and prison labor finds that throughout the country there is an increasing sentiment for the employment of convicts on roads and farms to assist in relieving the food pressure which, because of the war, confronts the nation.



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Meridian Hotel Bldg., Columbus, Neb.

Columbus Center Of Fine Country

Among the cities of first importance in Nebraska is Columbus, the county seat of Platte county. The city is located on the main line of the Union Pacific and is the terminus of four branch roads. It is an ideal distributing point, being the gateway to a large and prosperous farming country and numerous smaller towns. Railroads run to most all points of the compass, handling both freight and passenger traffic. The city is also at the junction of the Lincoln highway and Galveston-to-Winnipeg Transcontinental roads.

Platte county is one of the best agricultural counties in Nebraska, and that means in the entire country. Crop failures are unknown in this region. The county is well watered and the soil is rich and productive. The farmers are prosperous and their lands are well improved. Cattle and hog raising are big industries and diversified farming is carried on. Alfalfa is a good crop and can be grown on any farm in the county and is the best known beef and milk producer. Columbus banks have larger deposits than any other city in the state in proportion to the population. The city is the natural headquarters for commercial men making the North Platte territory and the local United Commercial Travelers' lodge has a large and growing membership.

The population of Columbus is 6,000; altitude, 1,492 feet; rainfall, thirty inches. The city has a municipal water plant and drainage system, pure water, electric street lighting system is now being installed. The city has an excellent electrical and gas service system. Of the four newspapers two are dailies. There are five banks, with deposits of \$2,500,000; five public grade schools and one high school, also three parochial schools. Practically all denominations are represented in the churches of the city.

Columbus is proud of its fine Young Men's Christian association building, public library, a large hospital, large government postoffice building and two theaters. One of the theaters, the Swan, is said to be as beautiful as any in the state. The following business concerns are worthy of mention: Large planing mill that makes interior work a specialty; two flour mills; one beverage company; wooden shoe factory; bottling works; brick manufactory, with a capacity of 20,000 brick a day; artificial ice plant; piano factory; veterinary hospital; terminal elevator, with a capacity of 250,000 bushels; fireproof warehouse and storage plant, two candy factories, creamery, four cigar factories; two telephone systems, excellent hotel facilities, two wholesale houses, a broom factory, oil distributing stations, marble and granite works, large wholesale establishments handling poultry and eggs, one greenhouse, two cement block factories, canning factory.

Two building and loan associations with assets of \$1,200,000 are both strong institutions. The city also has sewer system, three parks, fire department equipped with auto trucks and modern apparatus.

When you plan your trip to the Rockies this summer arrange it so that Columbus is one of your stopping points. Call on Charles L. Dickey, secretary of the Commercial club, and he will supply you with all desired information. You will find in Columbus everything in the way of auto garages, repair shops, hotel accommodations and amusement that you could possibly desire.

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BEE WANT-ADS BRING RESULTS

Seven Riders in Big Race Drive Home on Goodrich Tires

The 250-mile International sweepstakes automobile race at Sharonville Speedway, Cincinnati, O., May 30, was marked by victory for Goodyear cord tires, when the first seven drivers romped home on them, winners, Louis Chevrolet, in a Fréonette, took first place, after driving a race at the average speed of 102.18 miles per hour.

Ira Vail finished close behind Chevrolet in a Hudson. Tom Milton, Otto Henning, Eddie Hearne and Earl Cooper constituted the field that strung out behind Vail.

Ralph De Palma, in his Packard, did his best to prevent the race from becoming a Chevrolet joy ride and alternated in the lead with Louis and Gaston Chevrolet for 160 miles. But a splinter from the track, thrown by one of the other cars with great force, entered the radiator puncturing the water tank, and forced him from the race. De Palma's car rode on Goodyear's, also.

The success which Goodyear cord tires have attained in the two race meets that have been held so far this season, it is said, portends even a more successful year than last, when they entered a racing season that was nearly half over and won a majority of the remaining events.

Liberty Car Makes New Record for Shipments

Announcement is made of the election of the Liberty Motor Car company into membership of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, this concern having passed all the requirements imposed by the national body and is now officially in the "big league" of motor car manufacturers. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Liberty company shipped more cars during the last year than any motor car company building cars in the same price class ever shipped in the first year. No manufacturer of motor cars in the same class ever started so auspiciously as did the Liberty company, and none in its class, according to official records, produced and sold as many automobiles in its first year.

In less than ten months since the first Liberty car was shipped, the Liberty company has shipped more than 2,500 cars. This showing was made in spite of difficulties throughout the country. Because of these conditions, President Percy Owen of the Liberty company was compelled to limit in allotments and to turn down many opportunities.

Philadelphia Gets Ready To Get Into Racing Game

Philadelphia is now going in for speed in the automobile racing game. In the suburbs they are completing a motordrome, which will hold 80,000 spectators. Experts say that the two-mile track will be the fastest in the country, and they are buttressing the turns with heavy timbers to make the track withstand a speed of 140 miles per hour.

Probably this track will be the scene of many a record-breaking performance, with the big honors won by men who have yet to be heard from. There is one thing that is just about settled beyond all dispute. Practically every driver will use the one brand

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