

THE CAPITOL SOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | VOLUME FOUR | NUMBER TWO | JUNE 2012

Celebrating 100 Years Nebraska's Lincoln Monument



The Lincoln Monument on the grounds of the second Capitol.

In 1867, when Nebraska became the first state admitted to the Union after the Civil War, the new capital city was named after Abraham Lincoln. While naming the new capital city after the deceased president was a political maneuver, citizens of Lincoln and Nebraska soon began to celebrate the name. In 1903 the Nebraska Legislature created the Abraham Lincoln Centennial Memorial Association of Nebraska. In 1908 the A.L.C.M.A. of N. began their work to commission a sculptor and create a fitting monument to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Nebraska's Lincoln Monument, designed by sculptor Daniel Chester French and architect Henry Bacon, was dedicated

on September 2, 1912. Ten years later, in 1922, as Nebraskans were beginning construction of their third Capitol, French and Bacon's more famous Lincoln Memorial was being completed on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The Office of the Capitol Commission, with funding in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Nebraska's Lincoln Monument with a program and ceremony on September 2, 2012. The public is invited to attend and help recognize this major piece of American sculpture and celebrate the monumental achievement of the Abraham Lincoln Centennial Memorial Association of Nebraska. 

Nebraska Capitol Commission Membership

Dave Heineman

*Governor
Chairman*

Mike Flood

*Speaker of the Legislature
Vice-Chairman*

Janice Walker

Court Administrator

Kim Wilson

*Dean
College of Architecture, UNL*

Michael Smith

*Executive Director
Nebraska State Historical Society*

Bryce Neidig

Congressional District 1

Stan Meradith

Congressional District 2

Jim Cudaback

Congressional District 3

Robert C. Ripley

*Administrator
Office of Capitol Commission
Secretary*



The People of the
OCC
 Office of the Capitol
 Commission

EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

ADMINISTRATION

Bob Ripley, *Administrator*
 Tom Kaspar, *Architect*
 Matt Hansen, *Architect*
 Mark Tonjes, *Capitol Manager*
 Tammy Honnor, *Facilities
 Construction Coordinator*
 Cecilia Curtis-Beard,
Administrative Assistant

ARCHIVE

Karen Wagner, *Archivist*

CARPENTRY

Brett Daugherty, *Shop Supervisor*
 Ron Dulas, *Furniture Conservator*
 Roger Frink,
Hardware Conservator
 Steve Janssen, *Furniture Finisher*
 Phil Lagoni, *Mason*
 Mike Marshall, *Cabinet Maker*
 Bill McClurg,
Furniture Conservator

CUSTODIAL

Perry Shuman,
Capitol Conservation Supervisor
 Richard Mallam, *Custodial Leader*
 Rich Naber, *Custodial Leader*

GROUNDS

Mike Hoppmann,
Arborist/Groundskeeper
 Don Pracheil, *Mechanic*

MAINTENANCE

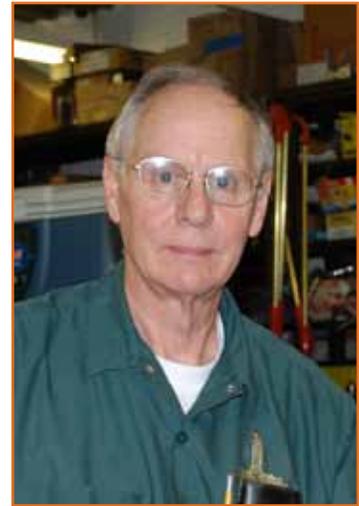
Michael Jordan, *Shop Supervisor*
 Jerry Allen, *Plumber*
 Kent Bonebright,
Sheet Metal Fabricator
 Tahir Karimi, *Electrician*
 John Steele,
Maintenance Technician

TOURS

Roxanne Smith,
*Tourism Supervisor/
 Special Events Coordinator*
 Gloria Witherspoon,
Tourism Aide
 Jamison Wyatt,
Tourism Aide

The Office of the Capitol Commission would like to thank long time staff member Jerry Allen for his service and wish him a happy retirement. After almost 30 years of service to the State of Nebraska, Jerry Allen, the Capitol's plumber, will retire this summer. Jerry served in the Navy as a utilities specialist where he learned his trade. A licensed plumber, Jerry began his state service with the Department of Corrections. Since coming to the Capitol, Jerry has been an important part of the maintenance team taking care of our building's infrastructure.

Jerry has participated in numerous renovation projects including the restoration and installation of lavatories as part of the wardrobe restoration phase of the 1989 Interior Office Renovation project. His expertise in maintaining and repairing the numerous pumps and valves within the Capitol's steam and chilled water HVAC system has kept Capitol staff warm in winter and cool in summer.



Jerry Allen

Everyone at the Capitol, visitors and staff alike, has benefitted from Jerry's expert maintenance of the 40 restrooms in use every day. Jerry has also used his skills in service with his church helping with Katrina relief and on missions to help rebuild Joplin, Missouri. Upon his retirement in August, Jerry will devote time to his hobbies : traveling, camping and fishing. The Office of the Capitol Commission wishes Jerry a very happy retirement. 🏠

Capitol Commission Notes

The Nebraska Capitol Commission welcomes Kim Wilson, Interim Dean of the College of Architecture and thanks former Dean Wayne Drummond for his service on the Commission. The Dean of the College of Architecture is an institutional member of the Commission and, following Drummond's return to teaching, newly appointed Dean Wilson will begin service on the Commission

with the June 7, 2012 meeting. Dean Kim Wilson received her Bachelor's of Science in Landscape Architecture from Pennsylvania State University and her Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of Michigan. She was in professional practice for 25 years before beginning her career in academia teaching community and regional planning, urban design and landscape design. 🏠

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Protecting a National Treasure

Since the dedication of the Lincoln Monument on the grounds of the second capitol in 1912, Daniel Chester French's bronze statue has endured the elements associated with Nebraska's hot summers and freezing winters. Bronze is the preferred medium for outdoor sculpture because it is durable and will stand up to the elements. However, bronze statues need care and conservation to maintain their beauty and extend their life. The Office of the Capitol Commission monitors the condition of the Lincoln statue and undertakes conservation when necessary.

Bronze is an alloy of copper and other metal, usually with at least 85% copper content. The untreated color of bronze is bright gold with a red tint. But the copper in the metal quickly changes color when exposed to the elements or a chemical patina. Natural patination by rain and atmospheric chemicals turns bronze black and green, the same green a copper penny turns when left outside. Applied chemical patination can turn bronze brown, black, gold, red, blue or green. These applied color changes, patina on the bronze surface, need a barrier or coating to protect the finish from the elements.

Frequently artists, such as French, choose a brown finish for their work; unmaintained this finish wears away and statues turn green. Nebraska's Standing Lincoln statue, when unveiled in 1912, was a rich brown color. By the late 1960's the statue was corroding and appeared green and black all over. In early 1980 Office of the Capitol Commission staff determined conservation was necessary and chose to restore the Lincoln statue to French's original brown patina. In preparation for replicating the original finish, the conservators used a low pressure micro-glass abrasion technique to remove the corrosion. Once the bronze was clean of corrosion and fractured patina, a chemical patina was applied to reproduce the original brown coloration of the sculpture. Lastly a lacquer coating was applied to slow deterioration of the new finish.

Earlier this spring, Jensen Conservation of Omaha was called to inspect the statue in anticipation of the rededication. After 30 years in Nebraska's extreme weather conditions, the statue was again showing signs of corrosion. But the corrosion was limited and easily reversed. Spending two days on the project, the conservators removed the active corrosion on top of the statue's head and shoulders and applied patina in these small cleaned areas. The entire statue was again treated with a lacquer coating for protection. Now ready for the rededication ceremony on Sunday, September 2, Nebraska's Lincoln statue appears as French created it over 100 years ago. With continued care and maintenance the statue will remain an important part of the Nebraska Capitol grounds for hundreds and hundreds of years. 



Corrosion appears on the top of the Lincoln statue's head after 30 years.



Conservator Rob Jensen applies a protective coating to French's Standing Lincoln statue.



Elevator Renovation

Keeping up with technology

*Up and down,
the life of an
elevator at
the Nebraska
State Capitol.*

The tower of the Nebraska State Capitol rises from the prairie as a landmark guiding citizens to their government. Bertram Goodhue, the Capitol's architect, incorporated the latest construction technology, a skyscraper with elevators, into his monumental structure built between 1922 and 1932. The steel framed tower of the Capitol rises on four huge concrete and steel piers which support the tower structure and also contain the elevators. Two of the four elevators rise to the observation decks and Memorial Chamber on 14th floor, the other two are for staff use and stop at the 12th floor. All four will undergo modernization as part of the Capitol Tower Elevator Renovation Project begun this spring.

A 2006 life cycle analysis funded by the 309 Task Force for Building Renewal indicated that much of the elevator equipment had minimal useful remaining life or had exceeded its useful life expectancy. The elevators do not meet all current requirements of the Safety Code for Elevators. This will be the third elevator upgrade since the Capitol was completed. The first elevator project, in the 1950's, upgraded the controllers, machines, motor generators and selected hoistway equipment. Three of the four cabs were replaced with 1950's style interiors. A second modernization in 1980 installed the current equipment in service and reconditioned what was not replaced. All four cabs were replaced with reproductions based on the one remaining Capitol original cab design.

The current project will address code deficiencies as well as several maintenance related issues that affect elevator performance. A major component of this project

is the replacement of the old logic relay control system. Interior cab modifications are expected to be minimal. The Capitol contains multiple historic architectural features and structural limitations which will limit options for full compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. However, the elevator renovation project will incorporate the latest in life safety technology, elevator controls and equipment.

The elevator project is expected to take two years. Each of the four tower elevators is scheduled to be out of service for a period of six months. Starting at the top, the elevator machine rooms will be renovated to meet high-rise fire protection code, then, outdated mechanic-electrical controls will be removed and replaced with computerized controls. Within the shafts, obsolete equipment will be removed and fire suppression equipment upgraded. Cables, brakes and door controllers will be replaced. Cab interior finished will be repaired and new control panels will increase security and ease operation for fire rescue personnel. Sump pumps will be added to the elevator pits in the basement.

Because of modifications in the elevator vestibules in the tower, the project will require plaster repair and repainting in these spaces. Elevator cab position indicators will be added to the southeast elevator tower vestibules, and capitol original stair light fixtures returned to service. Staff and visitors using the elevators will notice these improvements as well as reduced waiting time due to the increased travel speeds associated with the new technology. 

BEHIND THE SCENES Elevator Cab Restoration

Bertram Goodhue, Capitol architect, paid great attention to the smallest decorative detail within the Nebraska State Capitol. The tower elevators were no exception. The original cabs were finished in American Walnut wood with geometrically inlaid accent wood. Capitol Administrator Robert C. Ripley, AIA, was involved in the second elevator modernization project in 1980 and replicated the original elevator cabs as part of that project. These cabs have served their purpose for over 30 years, but are showing the wear associated with hundreds of passengers each day. Fortunately, in the expert hands of the Office of the Capitol Commission's conservation staff, these second generation elevator cabs will be returned to service in fine condition.

The walnut veneer on the interior of the cabs responded to the temperature and humidity changes of Nebraska's climate by delaminating and in some cases cracking. Surface wear from people and materials being moved up and down the elevators also damaged the veneer and finish of the wood. Restoration will include reattaching veneer and touching up any damaged finish. The elevator cabs will not be completely stripped and refinished. As each elevator is taken out of service OCC staff will remove the cab doors for restoration in the shop. The other three interior surfaces of each cab will be restored in place. In the shop, staff will separate the wood panel skins from the door and reglue all loose veneer. Then the skins will be reattached to the metal doors. Each panel will be reglued in small sections. Pressure blocks and clamps will be used to flatten out the warped and loose veneer. This task will be much easier in the shop where clamps will do the work. Staff will build propsticks to apply outward pressure within the cabs. Once the veneer is flattened the door finish will be touched up and door skin panels reattached the metal cab doors. 

OCC conservation staff will repair and selectively refinish veneer damage in the elevator cabs. Photos at right and below, show cracks and loose walnut veneer on the elevator doors.



Door repair begins with the disassembly of the door components, rubber bumpers and wood panel veneer skin, below.



Knives and shims are used to raise the veneer where the glue failed, left, and glue is then inserted. Below, pressure blocks are clamped to flatten and reapply the veneer.



Left, a small section of the elevator door after the veneer has been flattened and reglued. Once the veneer is repaired OCC's finish shop will get the doors and the process of refinishing only the sections missing finish or scratched will begin.

WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

Nebraska Symbol

The Capitol

Professional Advisor to the Nebraska Capitol Commission Thomas R. Kimball, FAIA, identified the concept for the new Capitol in the competition documents--"The Capitol of a state is the outward sign of the character of its people". Since the Capitol's completion in 1932 state agencies, as well as private entities, have featured the Capitol in their promotional materials. The Office of the Capitol Commission seeks out these images for inclusion in the Nebraska Capitol Collections. Such artifacts document the significance of the Capitol as a symbol of the state and provide historical information via the images. The Nebraska



Department of Roads has issued maps featuring the Capitol. The Capitol

Archive recently acquired a copy of the 1967 state road map with an evening view of the main north entrance. The Nebraska State Capitol has appeared on several different license plates issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Capitol Commission recently acquired a 1941 Nebraska license plate with a very stylized capitol image. The Nebraska State Patrol chose to use that image on a commemorative 75th anniversary plate



which is being used on patrol cars during this special celebration. The Capitol Commission has acquired one of the commemorative State Patrol plates and will add it to the collection as an example of an iconic image of the building being reused by subsequent generations. 

National Symbol

Lincoln Monument

When the United States Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp on November 19, 1948 to recognize the 85th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address they chose to use the sculpture of Lincoln created by Daniel Chester French for the Lincoln Monument at the Nebraska State Capitol. The Office of the Capitol Commission has examples of the stamps in its archive collection. 



CAPITOL EVENTS

Girl Scouts Girl Awards Ceremony

June 2, 2012

The Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska Council will hold its awards ceremony in the 2nd floor Rotunda at 1:00 p.m.

Children's Mental Health Awareness

Week Pony Express Ride

June 2, 2012

The Nebraska Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health will stop at the north plaza at 2:00 p.m. during their statewide ride.

Cornhusker Girls State

June 7, 2012

The American Legion Auxiliary will hold the Girls State Gubernatorial Swearing In Ceremony in the 2nd floor Rotunda of the Capitol at 2:00 p.m.

Cornhusker Boys State

June 8, 2012

The American Legion Boys State government office visits will begin with a brief orientation in the 2nd floor Rotunda at 1:00 p.m.

Nebraska Teacher Exchange

Recognition Ceremony

June 18, 2012

The Nebraska Department of Education will honor visiting teachers from Mexico at a 10:00 a.m. program in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Sunrise Prayer Ceremony

June 19, 2012

The National Congress of American Indians will have a ceremony on the north plaza at 6:00 a.m. as part of a national day of prayer to protect native sacred places.

Independence Day

July 4, 2012

The Nebraska State Capitol will be open for hourly guided tours between 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Nebraska Environmental Trust Display

July 9-13, 2012

The Nebraska Environmental Trust celebrates 20 years of preservation in Nebraska with a display in the 1st floor Rotunda.

Rededication Ceremony

September 2, 2012

At 2:00 p.m. in the Warner Chamber of the Capitol, the Office of the Capitol Commission will present a program sponsored in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council celebrating the 100th anniversary of the of the Lincoln Monument.

Swearing In Ceremony for Attorneys

September 11, 2012

The Nebraska Supreme Court will hold the ceremony to swear in newly admitted members of the Nebraska State Bar Association at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor Rotunda.

Jr. Duck Stamp Exhibit

September 17 - October 5, 2012

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service will showcase 36 pieces of art to recognize the winners of the 2012 Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest in a 1st floor Rotunda Display.

Annual Awards Ceremony

September 27, 2012

The Nebraska Department of Corrections will recognize excellence in service of their staff in the 2nd Floor Rotunda of the Capitol at 2:00 p.m.

The Governor will sign Proclamations at 10:30 a.m. in the Warner Chamber on June 13, July 11, August 15, September 13, October 17 and November 14 and December 12.

For proclamation information please contact Sarah in the Governor's Office at (402)471-2256.

All events at the Nebraska State Capitol are free and open to the public. 

Nebraska State Capitol

Guided Tours are offered Monday-Friday hourly from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, except at noon. Saturday and Holidays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, except at noon and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Please call 402.471.0448 or visit www.capitol.org for more information.

The Office of the Capitol Commission will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the dedicaton of Nebraska's Lincoln Monument on September 2, 2012 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Warner Chamber of the Nebraska State Capitol. Nebraska State Historical Society Director Michael Smith will discuss the founding and early years of Lincoln and conservator Mayda Jensen will discuss Daniel Chester French and the commissioning of the Standing Lincoln statue. Following the program in the Warner Chamber, a brief rededication ceremony featuring proclamations and the reading of the Gettysburg Address by Chief Justice Mike Heavican will take place at the Lincoln Monument. The public is invited to join the celebration of Nebraska's Lincoln Monument. 

In 1908, the Abraham Lincoln Centennial Memorial Association of Nebraska was tasked with commissioning a sculptor and building the Lincoln Monument. Frank Hall, an art collector and founding member of the Nebraska Art Association—now the Sheldon Art Association—was instrumental in accomplishing this task. From June 8 to September 16, 2012 the Sheldon Museum of Art presents *A Legacy of Giving: The Anna and Frank Hall Collection*, which offers a rare glimpse into the couple's private collection and artworks purchased for the museum from their charitable trust. Daniel Chester French's plaster model of the Lincoln Monument will be part of the exhibition at the Sheldon, located on the University Campus at 12th and R Streets. 



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Nebraska Capitol Commission

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Capitol Architect
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, 1869-1924

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The Capitol Sower, published by the Office of the Capitol Commission, is available on line at www.capitol.org. Contact the Tourism Supervisor at roxanne.smith@nebraska.gov for more information.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments about the content. All images property of the Office of the Capitol Commission.

THE OFFICE OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION

SHINES SOME LIGHT ON THE

LINCOLN MONUMENT

AT THE
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 2, 2012



This program is funded in part by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.