

THE CAPITOL SOWER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSION | VOLUME SIX | NUMBER ONE | FEBRUARY 2014

New Plaque Unveiled Medal of Honor Recipient Attends Ceremony

Over 200 people attended the unveiling of an updated Nebraska Medal of Honor Plaque in the second floor rotunda on November 11, 2013. At the Veteran's Day program sponsored by the Nebraska Capitol Commission, the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission and the Nebraska Military Department Lt. Col. Charles Hagemeister, (Ret.), one of Nebraska's two living Medal of Honor recipients, and Governor Dave Heineman unveiled the plaque and Chief Justice Michael Heavican read the names of the 72 Nebraskans who have received the nation's highest honor for military service "distinguishable by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty." Prior to the unveiling Maj. Gen. Daryl Bohac, Nebraska Adjutant General, and Governor Heineman spoke of the sacrifices made by Nebraska's citizen soldiers.

The ceremony concluded a two year project to cast an updated plaque. Jim Potter, Associate Editor and Senior Research Historian with the Nebraska State Historical Society, and Matt Hansen, Preservation Architect with the Office of the Capitol Commission, reviewed historical documents, online data bases and government records to

compile the most current and accurate list possible. Matt Hansen oversaw the casting of the plaque which includes oversized replicas of the three Medals of Honor. The plaque is now installed in the 14th floor Memorial Hall, the most fitting place to honor Nebraskans who have earned the United States of America's highest award for military valor. 



Above, Maj. Gen. Bohac addresses the audience prior to the unveiling. Below, Lt. Col Hagemeister and Governor Heineman after the unveiling.



Nebraska Capitol Commission Membership

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Chairman

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Speaker of the Legislature
Vice-Chairman

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Chief Justice Supreme Court
Vice-Chairman

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Congressional District 2

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Congressional District 3

Robert C. Ripley AIA
Capitol Administrator
Office of the Capitol Commission
Secretary



The People of the OCC Office of the Capitol Commission

ADMINISTRATION

Bob Ripley, *Administrator*
Tom Kaspar, *Architect*
Matt Hansen, *Architect*
Mark Tonjes, *Capitol Manager*
Tammy Honnor, *Facilities*
Construction Coordinator
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ARCHIVE

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

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

GROUNDS

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Arborist/Groundskeeper
Don Pracheil, *Mechanic*

MAINTENANCE

Michael Jordan, *Shop Supervisor*
Kent Bonebright, *Metalsmith*
Tahir Karimi, *Electrician*
John MacKichan, *Plumber*
John Steele,
Maintenance Technician

TOURS

Roxanne Smith,
Tourism Supervisor/
Special Events Coordinator
Gloria Witherspoon,
Tourism Aide
Daniel Hutt, *Tourism Aide*


Experience and Service

When Bill McClurg came to the Office of the Commission he brought with him a lifetime of experience working with antique furniture. It was this knowledge of finely crafted furniture that set him above all other applicants. While at the Capitol he has excelled in furniture restoration. Many of the staff within the three branches of government are using Capitol original walnut desks and chairs as a result of his skills. Bill has enhanced OCC efforts to take misused and damaged original walnut chairs and desks, restore and return them to offices. With his ability to match color and finishes, Bill has returned furniture purchased for the Capitol during the 1920 and 30's to nearly original condition.



Bill McClurg uses his experience in antique finishing to reapply color and finish to original Capitol chairs. Above right, window blind restoration was an eight year project.

Presented with the opportunity to set a goal for himself while at the Capitol, Bill chose a seemingly impossible task, restore all the window blinds in the building. To meet his goal the entire carpentry shop, the cabinet maker, the finisher, the machinist and the mason, became involved. With their support, in eight years, he rebuilt 682 blinds. Ranging in size from the tower's two and a half feet wide by fifteen feet tall blinds to the courtyard's eight and one half feet wide by eight and one half feet tall blinds and every size in between, Bill assembled the replacement blinds using thousands of slats and miles of tape and cord. During the 2008 Norris Legislative Chamber renovation project Bill supported the team by assembling the new blinds they created for the Chamber.

The Office of the Capitol Commission is grateful that Bill chose to spend the years before he retires at the Capitol. Prior to coming to the Capitol, Bill was in the military, worked for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and had his own antique business. In his spare time Bill likes to hunt, fish and spoil his grandchildren. While retirement may beckon, Bill continues to do his best for Nebraskans as a valuable member of the Capitol's carpentry shop. 

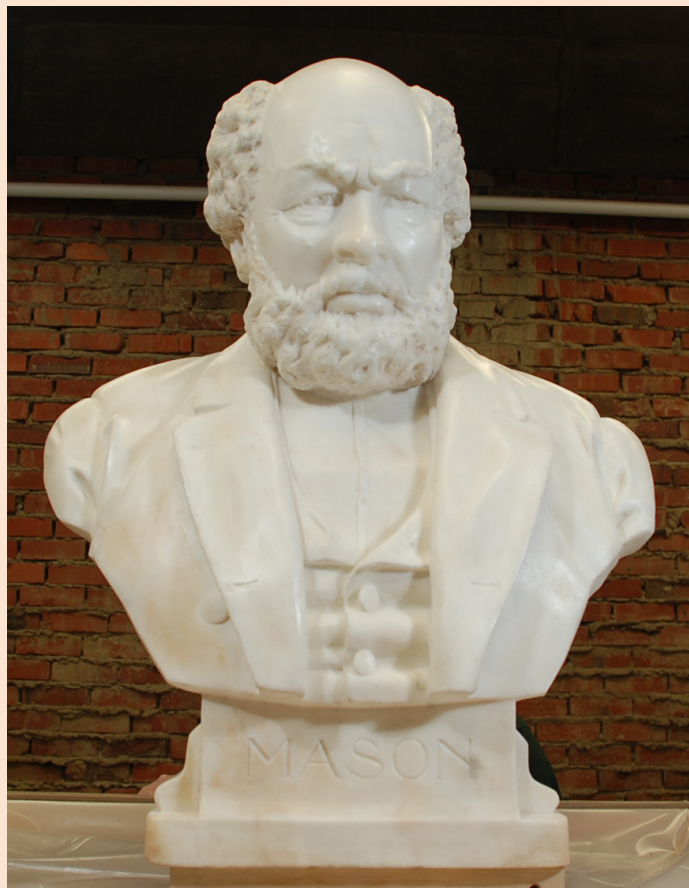
The Nebraska Capitol Commission has set its 2014 meeting schedule. All of the Tuesday meetings are open to the public and are held in Hearing Room 1507 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Meetings will be held on February 11, June 10, August 12, and November 18, 2014. The November meeting is a joint meeting of the Nebraska Capitol Commission and the Capitol Environs Commission. Separate meetings of the two commissions will follow at 10:00 a.m. For more information about the Nebraska Capitol Commission please contact the Office of the Capitol Commission at (402)471-6691 or visit www.capitol.org. 

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

1898 Portrait Bust Cleaned

The seven Justices of the Nebraska Supreme Court share their Consultation Room with Nebraska's first Chief Justice, Oliver P. Mason. The portrait bust of Justice Mason who served on the Supreme Court as Chief Justice from 1867-73 was commissioned in 1898. Fred L. Kimball, a local Lincoln, Nebraska sculptor best known for his many beautiful monuments in Wyuka Cemetery created the bust in white marble. On display in the second and current Capitol, the bust was showing the accumulation of 120 years of soiling. The Office of the Capitol Commission brought in Mayda Jensen of Jensen Conservation Services, Inc. of Omaha had previously worked on the restoration of the Lincoln Monument's Abraham Lincoln statue by Daniel Chester French.

Using surface cleaners and a poultice Jensen was able to remove dust, soiling and stains. The remaining imperfections in the color and veining of the stone were much diminished by the cleaning. After a final application of wax the bust appears much whiter and brighter. Jensen commented on the talent of sculptor Kimball. Noting his fine carving skills she pointed out the detailed modeling of his curly hair, the wrinkles and details on his face, and the drape of the fabric in his jacket and vest. The bust will be returned to the Consultation Room once Office of the Capitol Commission staff has restored the bust's historic oak pedestal.



Cleaning and polishing the bust of Oliver P. Mason, Nebraska's first Chief Justice, reveal a formidable member of the bench.



Preliminary test cleaning of the hair and base of the bust revealed the extent of soiling.



Memorial Hall Improvements

Small projects add up to big difference.


The Memorial Hall on the 14th floor of the Nebraska State Capitol has never looked better. In 1996, Omaha artist Stephen C. Robert's murals of public heroism were installed to complete the original 1920's thematic program guiding art in the building. In preparation for the mural installation the entire chamber was cleaned and vacuumed. The Guastavino tile dome was cleaned of the dirt and grim which had accumulated on the red and gold glazed tile, allowing these features to once again shine like the sun they were meant to represent. At that same time the chandelier was cleaned and rewired. The 1998-2010 Exterior Masonry Project included reglazing the amber glass clerestory windows. The current Elevator Upgrade Project improved the mechanical rooms on the floor which required temporary replacement of the original walnut doors with construction doors. This allowed Capitol staff to restore those doors. The elevator project also included the return of original elevator floor dials. The two

1929 bronze plaques which commemorate the sacrifices of the Grand Army of the Republic have been cleaned. The installation of the Medal of Honor Plaque is the most recent activity in the process to restore and upgrade the floor. To provide visitors with seating, the Capitol Commission's master craftsman Mike Marshall created eight new compatible benches for the chamber. These leather padded benches are smaller than the Capitol's original benches, but built with the same materials and design standards. The placement of the benches on the pilasters opens up floor space in front of the plaques and uncovers the beautiful bronze vents at the marble floor. With every project, the Memorial Hall comes closer to the intent of the Capitol architect to have a chamber with quiet dignity where visitors have a place to contemplate citizens in service of others. 



BEHIND THE SCENES

Capitol HVAC Repair

From the perspective of Capitol office staff, heating and cooling comes from the induction units along the window walls in their offices. When an office gets cold, Office of the Capitol Commission maintenance staff come into their office, replace the coil unit and the problem is solved. Earlier this heating season, not just one office, but the entire northeast quadrant of the Capitol's base got cold. When an entire quadrant of the Capitol gets cold, it's usually still a coil replacement, but on a much different scale. Fresh air is brought into the Capitol via courtyard air shafts and then heated or cooled as necessary via induction units which carry steam or chilled water. A concealed system of pumps and ducts move steam, chilled water and air throughout the building to individual offices. 



Left, John MacKichan, OCC Plumber, has opened up an office induction unit and has crawled inside to replace a leaking coil unit. Upon completion, the office once again has heat. The small 4 inch silver foiled duct on the right brings in outside air which has already passed through one set of coil units in the basement or tower mechanical rooms. That air is further conditioned via the induction units in the offices.

Right, Kent Bonebright, OCC Metalsmith, has walked inside an air intake shaft in the basement to repair a damaged coil. The air handling units which first heat or cool the outside air are 12 feet by 6 feet and made of many individual coils. This job required the repair of just one of the coils. Behind Kent are the dampers which open and close to bring in outside air from the courtyards. This fresh air passes through filters before reaching the coils. These huge vents, one in each courtyard, provide fresh air to each quadrant of the Capitol's base. Similar smaller vents located at the base of the tower supply fresh air to the tower offices. Fortunately for Kent, the unit was shut down to allow for the repair. Temperatures in these basement steam coils reach over 180 degrees and the flow of outside air through the unit can be over 50 miles per hour.

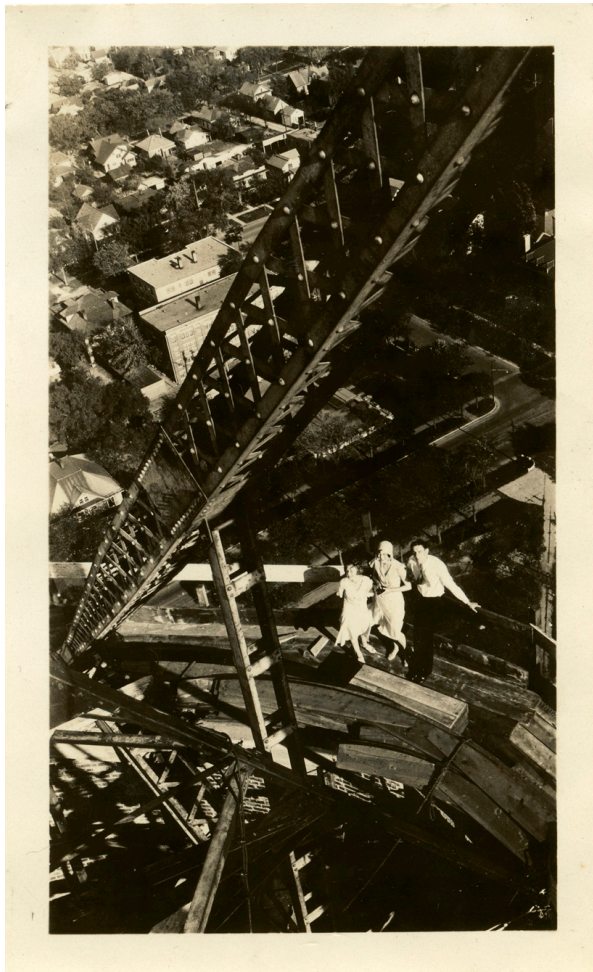


WHAT'S OLD IS NEW

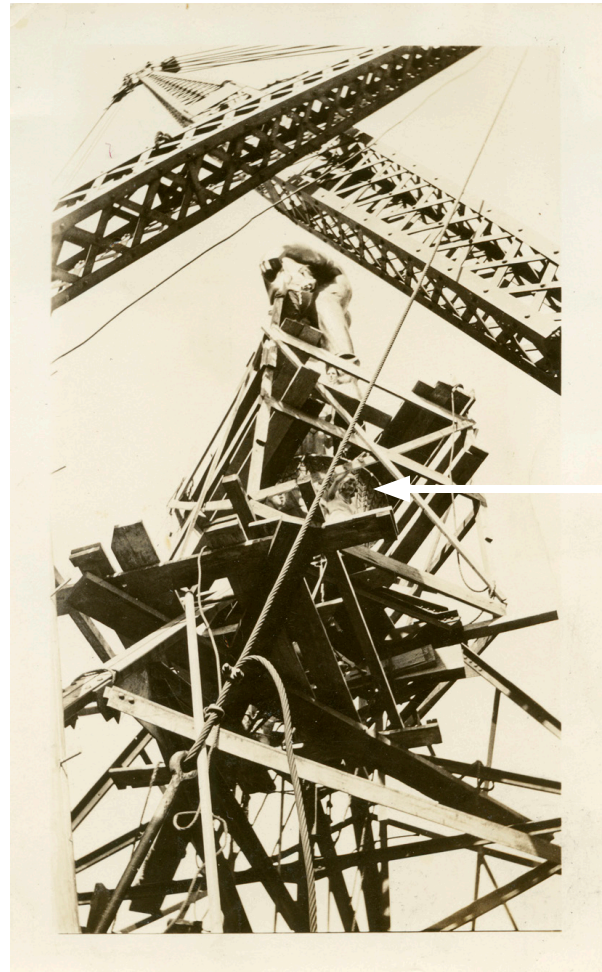
Fabulous Find

Ever vigilant in her search for Capitol related information, Capitol Archivist Karen Wagner scans the internet for images of the Capitol. Several months ago while viewing a facebook page dedicated to Lincoln history she found some snapshots of the building under construction. Dan Bretta had posted images found in a scrapbook which his brother had purchased at an Omaha antique store. Fortunately for the Nebraska Capitol Collection, as Dan Bretta browsed through his brother's newly purchased scrapbook filled with last century photographs of Omaha, he found snapshots showing a group of young men and women posing for the camera. They just happened to be posing at a location 320 feet above Lincoln. Wagner contacted the Lincoln history buff and Capitol fan. Bretta

graciously agreed to bring his photo find to the Capitol for inspection by Tom Kaspar, Matt Hansen and Bob Ripley, Capitol Architects. The new and interesting views of the top of the building after the Sower was raised but prior to the addition of the gold tile dome showed detail of the framing used to accommodate installation of the Sower and later the gold dome. Understanding the importance of these images to the ongoing preservation work of the Office of the Capitol Commission, Dan Bretta donated the 11 images to the Capitol Archive. The OCC appreciates the keen eye of Dan Bretta and is grateful that his interest in Lincoln and Capitol history brought these new photos to light. Future generations of Capitol caretakers will be able to use this reference material. 



Three adventurous visitors pose on framing around what will become the Capitol's gold dome.



Not content with the view from the top of the building, the young lady in the middle of the photo at left, in a dress and heels, climbed up to stand near the pedestal of the Sower.

CAPITOL EVENTS

Lincoln Birthday Commemoration

February 12, 2014

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Reenactors will stand vigil at the Lincoln Monument from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Problem Gambling Awareness

March 3-7, 2014

The March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month Display will be in first floor rotunda.

Music Education at the Capitol

March 3-6, 2014

The Nebraska Music Educators will host performances in the 2nd floor rotunda each noon featuring Nebraska school music groups.

Youth Art Month Exhibit

March 8-22, 2014

Annual Youth Art Month Exhibit showcasing Nebraska student artwork in the 1st floor rotunda.

Social Work Month Display

March 17-24, 2014

National Association of Social Work Nebraska Chapter sponsored display in 1st floor rotunda.

Kick Butts Day Youth Rally

March 19, 2014

No Limits Nebraska anti-tobacco youth march and rally at the West Plaza from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Youth Art Month Awards

March 22, 2014

The annual Nebraska Art Teachers Association Youth Art Celebration will be held in the 2nd floor rotunda at 2:00 p.m.

Capitol Forum Poster Display

March 24, 2014

Students attending the Secretary of State's Capitol Forum will show their international issues posters on 2nd floor from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wellhead Protection Display

March 24-27, 2014

The Groundwater Foundation and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality will have a Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network display in the 1st floor rotunda.

Nebraska Deaf Awareness Week

March 30 - April 4, 2014

The Nebraska Association for the Deaf will host Deaf Awareness Week activities in the first floor rotunda.

Nebraska Power Association Display

March 30 - April 4, 2014

The Nebraska Power Association will have a display in the 1st floor rotunda.

Rally Against Domestic Violence

April 5, 2014

Generation Hope bridal march and rally against violence on the West Plaza of the Capitol at 10:45 a.m.

Nebraska Money Smart Week

April 5, 2014

The Nebraska Financial Education Coalition will raise awareness and promote financial literacy by lighting the Capitol's tower.

Soundsational Singers Concert

April 7, 2014

O'Neill Public School choir will sing over the noon hour in 2nd floor rotunda.

University Chamber Singers Concert

April 13, 2014

The UNL GK School of Music Chamber Singers will perform in the 2nd floor rotunda at 3:00 p.m.

State Holocaust Commemoration

April 27, 2014

The Jewish Federation and Institute for Holocaust Education will hold a memorial ceremony at 3:00 p.m. in the 2nd floor rotunda.

Worker's Memorial Day Vigil

April 28, 2014

The United Support Memorial for Workplace Fatalities remembers workers injured or killed at 6:30 p.m. on the North plaza.

ASPA Awards Ceremony

May 1, 2014

The American Society of Public Administrators Nebraska Chapter annual awards ceremony will be held at noon in the 2nd floor Rotunda.

Mayor's Run

May 3, 2014

The Lincoln Track Club's youth run around the Capitol starts at 8:00 a.m.

Fallen Officer Display

May 9 -16, 2014

The Nebraska State Patrol recognizes peace officers killed in the line of duty in the 1st floor Rotunda.

Cornhusker Girls State

June 5, 2014

An American Legion Auxiliary program for high school girls in the 2nd floor rotunda at 2:00 p.m.

Cornhusker Boys State

June 6, 2014

The Nebraska American Legion will bring high school boys to the Capitol to visit their elected officials.

The Governor will sign Proclamations at 10:30 a.m. in the Warner Chamber on February 12, March 13, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 11, October 8, November 12 and December 10.

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

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.



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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>](mailto:roxanne.smith@nebraska.gov) for more information.

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Nebraska Capitol Commission

Nebraska State Capitol
Seventh Floor
1445 K Street
P.O. Box 94696
Lincoln, Nebraska
68509-4696
www.capitol.org
402.471.6691



*Capitol Architect
Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, 1869-1924*

Historic Footnote -- During Nebraska Capitol architect Bertram G. Goodhue's all to brief lifetime (he died 5 days short of his 55th birthday) he designed and patented three typefaces. One of which, Cheltenham, became a popular typeface in the publishing world. The Omaha World Herald was published using Cheltenham typeface for 100 years, from 1900 to 1999. The text of this newsletter is also Cheltenham typeface.



The Friends of the Nebraska 150 Sesquicentennial will hold a kick-off event in the 2nd floor rotunda of the Nebraska State Capitol on February 28, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. to announce the plans being made for the celebration and commemoration of the 150th year of Nebraska's statehood in 2017. The public is invited to come hear the plans of the Nebraska 150 Sesquicentennial Committee. Additional information is available at www.ne150.org.