

Famous sod houses were photographed by Solomon Butcher:

Central, Custer County

Solomon Butcher photographed people, their sod homes, and the possessions of which they were most proud. Due to his interest, we have a wealth of knowledge by using our eyes to "read" the photographs.

"LIVING IN A MANSION". CUSTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA 1887

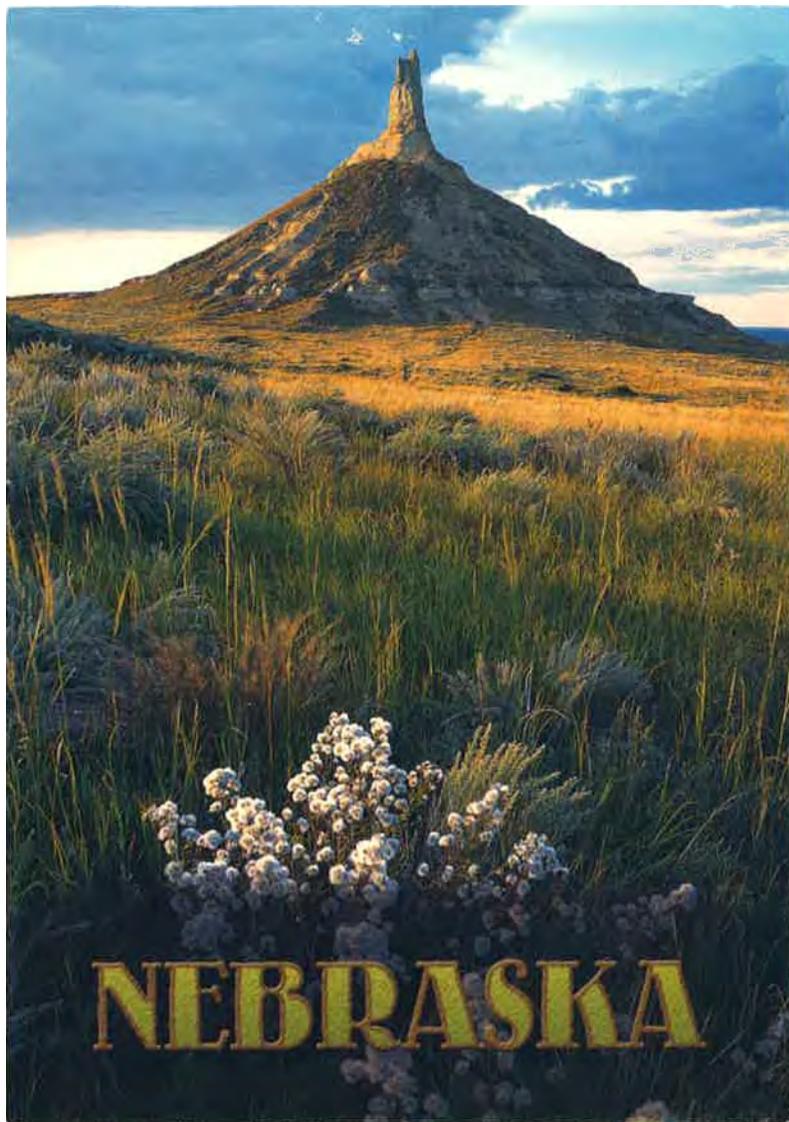


S O, BUTCHER COLLECTION, NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LINCOLN

Chimney Rock:

West, in Morrill County near the perpendicular intersection of Scottsbluff, Banner, and Morrill County lines

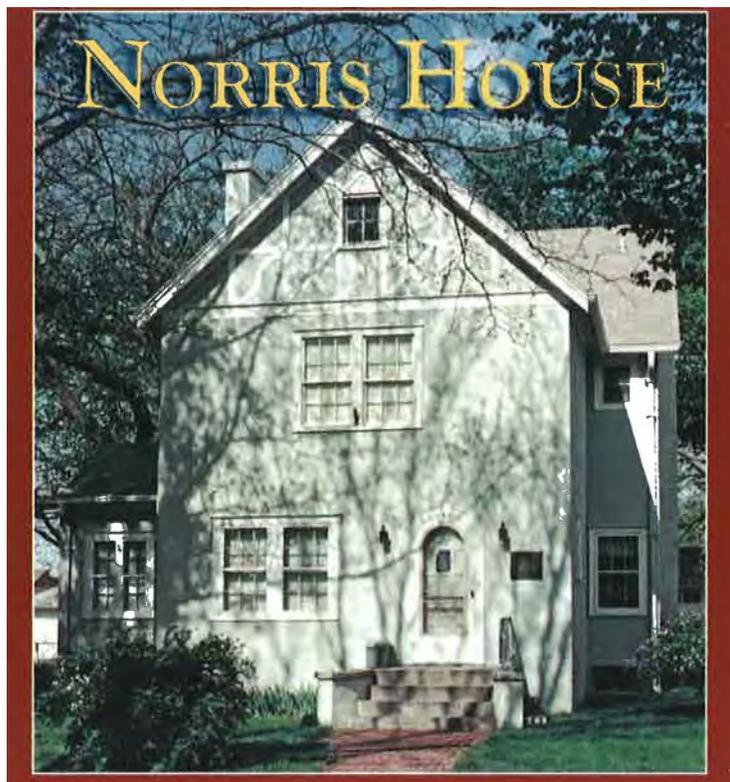
*This impressive landmark, created by weathering and erosion, marked the end of the Great Plains and the ascent into the Rocky Mountains for those traveling the trails west.



George Norris' home in McCook:

Southwest, along the Republican River in Red Willow County

*Senator George Norris fought for the betterment of the common man by convincing the nation to bring electricity to all rural areas of America in the 1930s. He also championed the idea of having a unicameral legislature, helping Nebraskans have a more efficient state government.

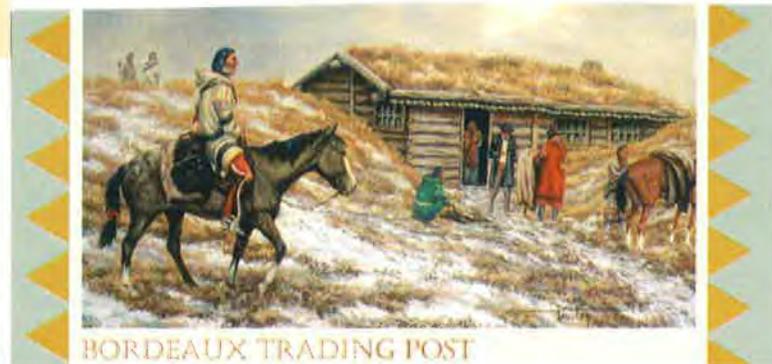


George Norris changed America. Discover the fascinating story of how his Rural Electrification Act and the Tennessee Valley Authority Act brought new life and new light to our country in the 1930s.

Bordeaux Trading Post and Museum of the Fur Trade:

Northwest, in Dawes County near Chadron, NE

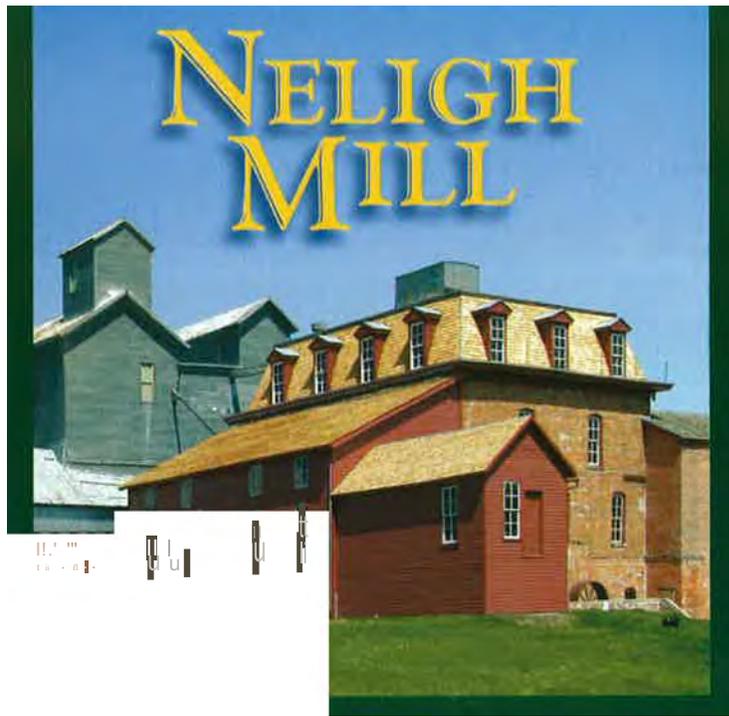
*Missouri Frenchman James Bordeaux operated this trading post from 1837 until 1872. Set on river named after him, he traded with the Sioux Indians.



Neligh Mill:

Northeast, on the Elkhorn River in Antelope County

*The original 1880s equipment is still here showing how the importance of waterpower helped farmer's wheat turn into flour. This was an early economic contributor.



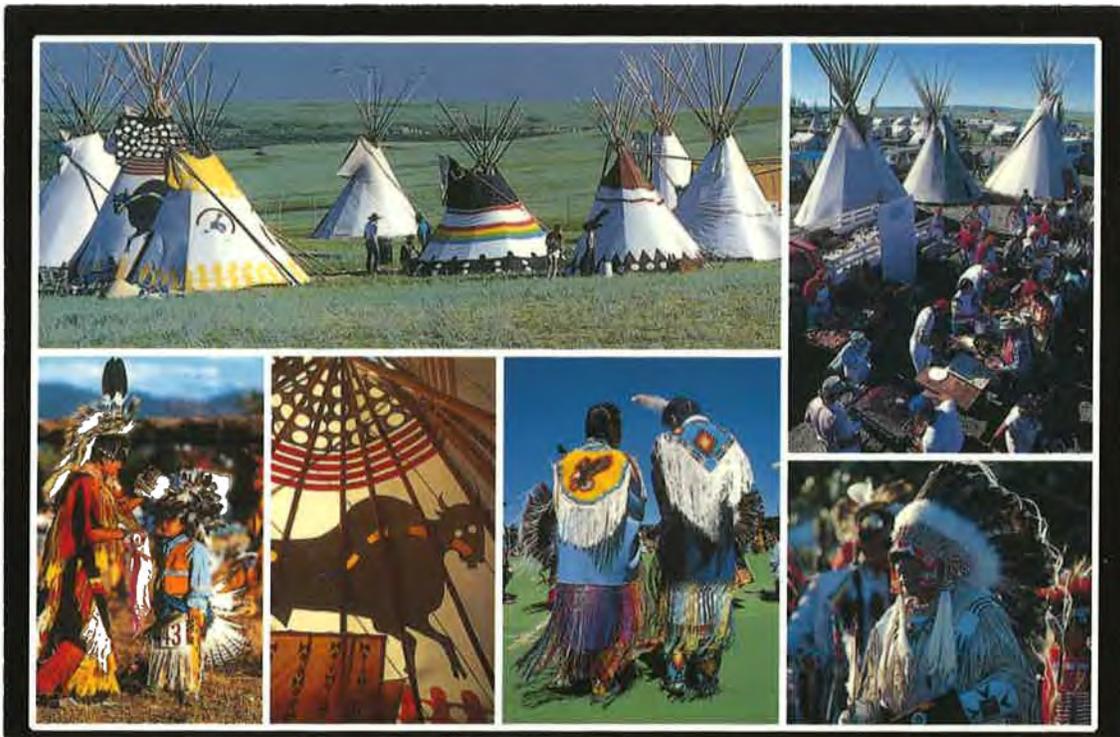
**Sift through the story
of milling in Nebraska.
Discover the amazing
process that turned raw
wheat into our daily bread!
Three floors of chutes,
ladders, grinders, and
sifters reveal the daily grind,
1880s-style.**

Winnebago and Omaha Indian Reservations:

Northeast in Thurston County and the very northeastern tip of Cuming County

*With their original homelands in Wisconsin, the Winnebago / Hochunk people participate in modern and traditional life. Laurie Houseman-Whitehawk is a famous Winnebago artist whose vibrant paintings of her people in traditional dress hang in museums where many can enjoy her unique style.

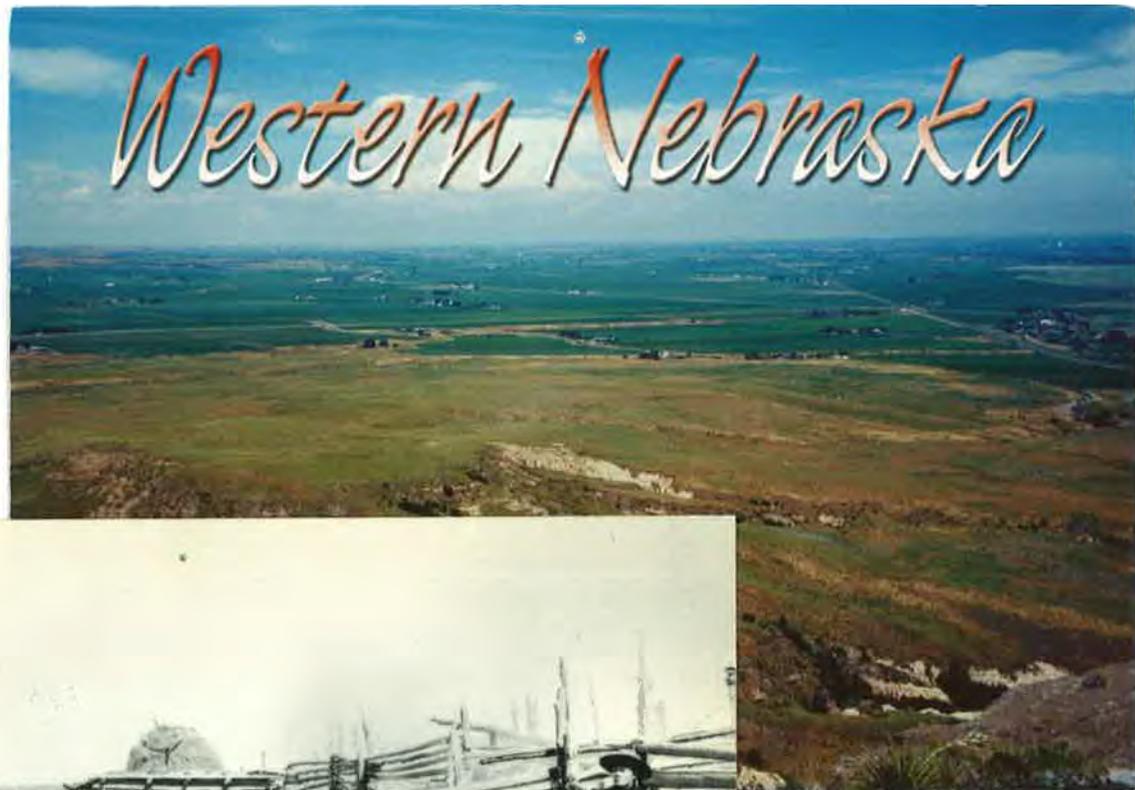
*The Omaha language was almost lost but an adopted man, Mark Awakuni-Swetland, documented, wrote, and began a program where the Umonhon Nation Public School and the Umonhon Language and Culture Center at Macy, began teaching a new generation. The Omaha people live modern lives while honoring their rich farming tradition too.



Cowgirls in Nebraska:

West, in the Sandhills

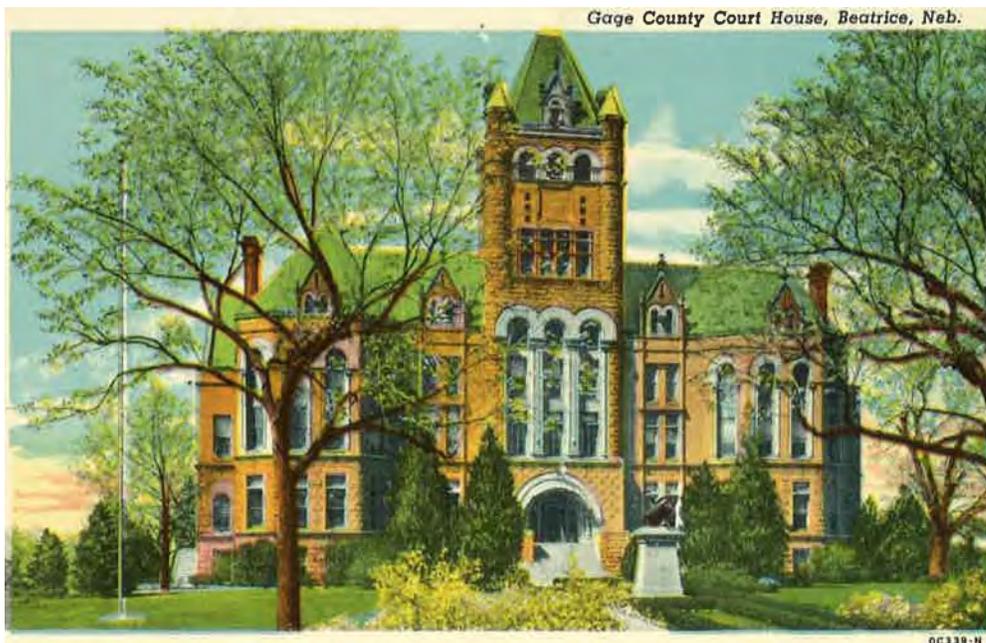
*Women of the west enjoyed the freedom to work in ways not allowed back in the eastern states. Many became successful businesswomen, ranchers, and farmers. Their strength helped build our economic well-being.



Beatrice, Nebraska:

Southeast, along the Big Blue River in Gage County

*Beatrice citizens contributed greatly to Nebraska's economic growth. Beatrice Foods "Meadow Gold" began in 1894. The multi-purpose tool used by almost every mechanic, the Vice-Grip might even be found in your home! Clara Bewick Colby, editor of the Women's Tribune, worked tirelessly for the right for women to vote.



Ice Age Plants at Smith Falls State Park:

North, where the Niobrara River crosses from Cherry County into Keya Paha County near Valentine

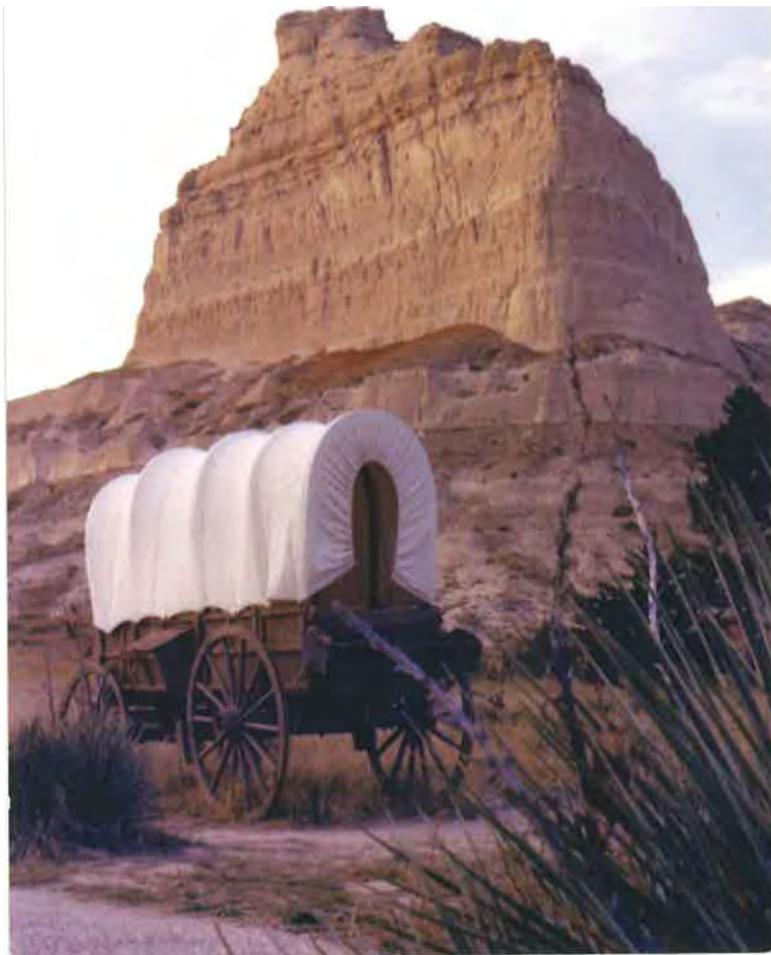
* As the last glacier retreated and Nebraska's climate became warmer and drier, spruce and birch forests that had covered the state began to die off. One exception was in the cool, wet canyons east of Valentine. To this day, remnants of Ice Age fauna and flora persist. The Niobrara River Valley represents the southern-most location in the Great Plains with native paper bark birch trees. This area is also home to an incredible diversity of animals.



Scottsbluff National Monument:

West, near the town of Scottsbluff in Scottsbluff County

*This large geological rock form showed pioneers the site of Mitchell Gap, a narrow break in the Wildcat Hills. Wagons could more easily travel through this gap, which became well-known on the Oregon Trail.



Council Bluffs, IA:

East, just across the Missouri River from Omaha and Bellevue, Nebraska

*Important to Lewis and Clark and those traveling the Mormon Trail, Council Bluffs offered a place where meeting with others and taking shelter helped a city grow, right across the Missouri River from Omaha.

Greetings from Council Bluffs:



Today was exciting at the **Western Historic Trails Center**, learning about the wave of western migration between 1841-1866 along the Oregon and California trails. The **Lewis & Clark Monument** tells about their travels along the Missouri River and encampment at White Fish Camp. At the **Kanesville Tabernacle** I learned of the years between 1846 & 1852, when Council Bluffs (then Kanesville), became headquarters to a large number of Mormon Pioneers who helped build Council Bluffs.

*Wish you were here,
Chipper*

Chipper is an official trademark of the Council Bluffs CVB

Fort Robinson State Park:

Northwest, near Chadron in Dawes County

Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, and Dull Knife all interacted with the troops of Fort Robinson. A marker sits on the exact spot where Crazy Horse was killed. Buffalo soldiers were stationed here. Then, during World War II, Prisoners of War and the K-9 Corps added to its history.



**FORIT ROBINSON
SITATE PARK**



Nebraska National Forest:

Central, in Thomas County

* This is the only hand-planted forest in the United States!
As part of an experiment to help create shelter belts, a small crew of men found the best trees for the area. We all can now enjoy a unique forest.



Mari Sandoz's Birthplace:

Northeast, in Sheridan County near the Cherry County line south of the Niobrara River

* Mari Sandoz had a very hard life in the Sandhills while living with her father, Old Jules. She became one of Nebraska's most famous authors after writing about her father and building on many stories told in their cabin. Her novels, essays, and short stories tell about life on the High Plains of Nebraska.



Willa Cather's Childhood Home, Red Cloud, NE:

South, along the Republican River in Webster County

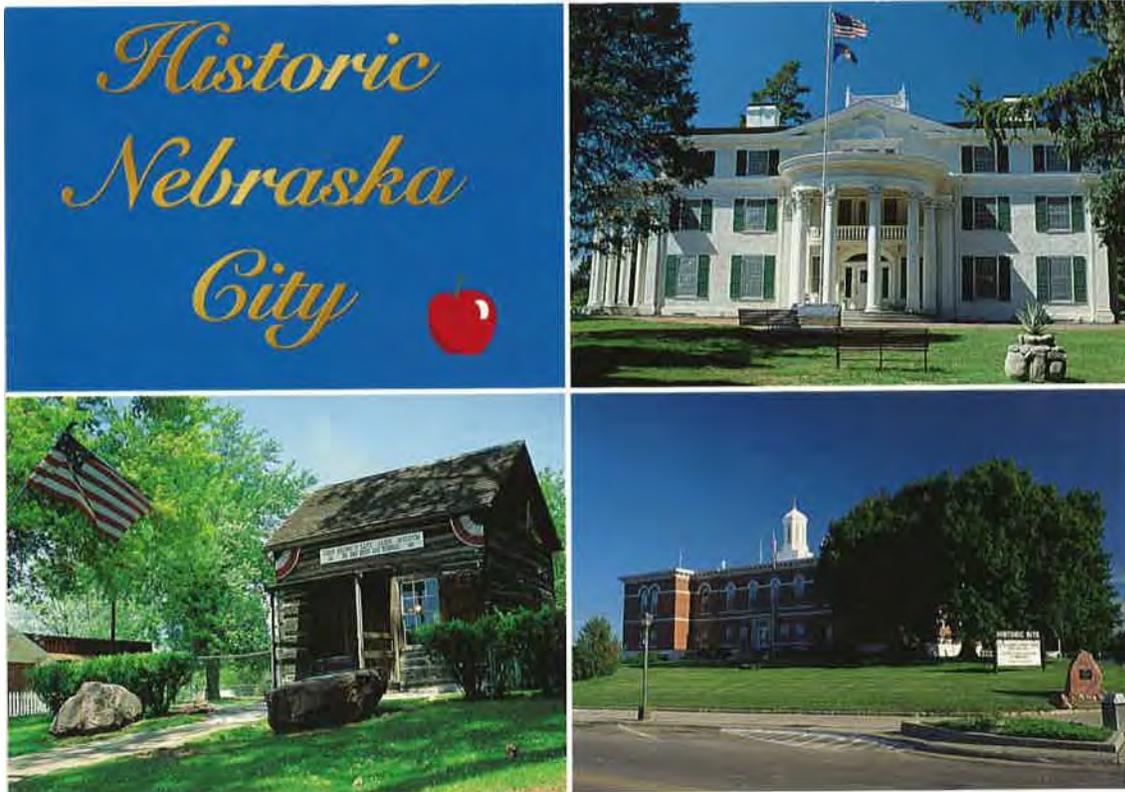
*Willa Cather, born in 1873, is a world-renowned author who wrote many historical novels about the area and the people who were pioneers in Webster County Nebraska. People still love to read her books. She moved to New York City where she enjoyed the company of many famous authors of her day. She died there in 1947.



Nebraska City, home of Arbor Day:

Southeast, on the Missouri River in Otoe County

* When looking around Nebraska cities, it is hard to imagine them without their trees. Arbor Day's founder, J. Sterling Morton, enabled Nebraskans to plant nearly one million trees on April 10, 1872. From that ecological event, Arbor Day is now celebrated around the world.



Stromsburg, Orphan Trains, and the Union Pacific:

Central, in Polk County.

*Trains brought orphans from New York City to the Midwest Region between 1854 and 1929. Children were adopted by people who wanted children to love, work, or both. Two brothers who were split upon adoption, Fred and Howard were 72 years old in 1997 when they told their story of being separated, living 17 miles apart, and still remembering the orphan train ride.



North Platte World War II Canteen:

Central, in Lincoln County where the North and South Platte Rivers come together

*During World War II, American soldiers rode the trains through North Platte, Nebraska on their way to serve in the war. Volunteers from about 125 communities and towns came to supply the troops with about 15 minutes of food and fun and friendliness to make life-long memories of "home" for troops. This was nearly miraculous because people had rations for gas, tires, and cooking ingredients.

North Platte, Nebraska



HOME OF FAMOUS
WORLD WAR II CANTEEN

Niobrara River joins the Missouri River:

Northeast, in Knox County

*Its source in Wyoming, the Niobrara River is a crucial natural resource in northern Nebraska. Economic contributions include growth of crops to tubing and canoeing expeditions during vacations. Many bald eagles like to make their homes along the Niobrara and go fishing regularly.

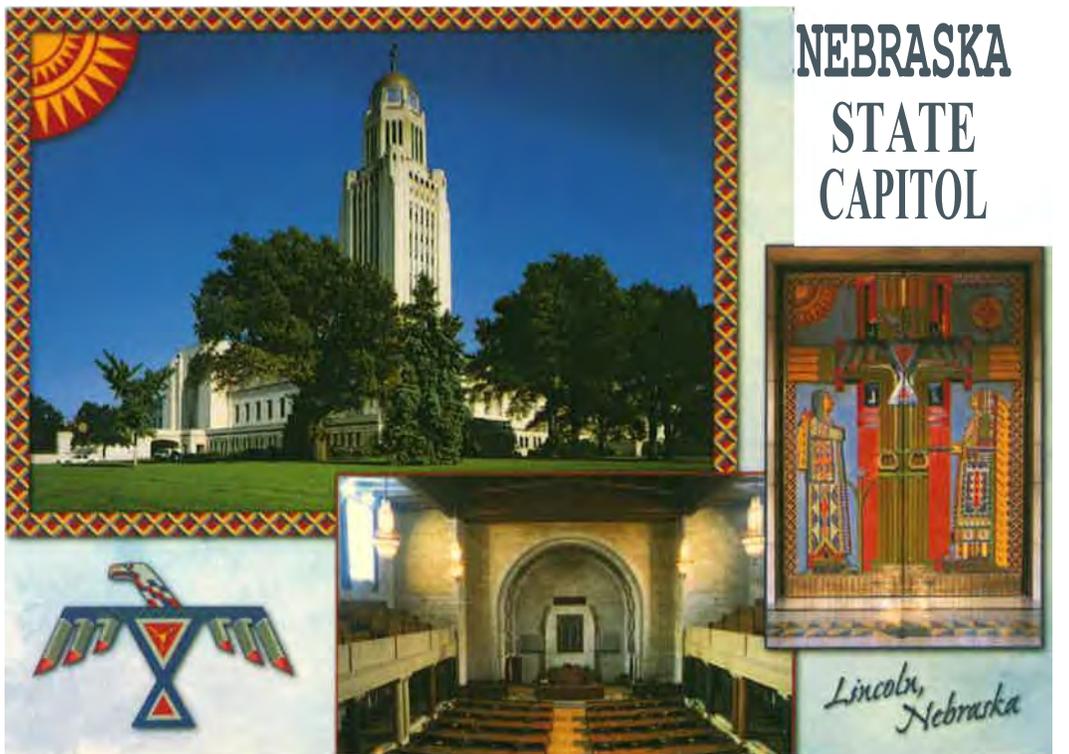
The Niobrara River In Nebraska



Nebraska's State Capitol, Lincoln:

Southeast, in Lancaster County

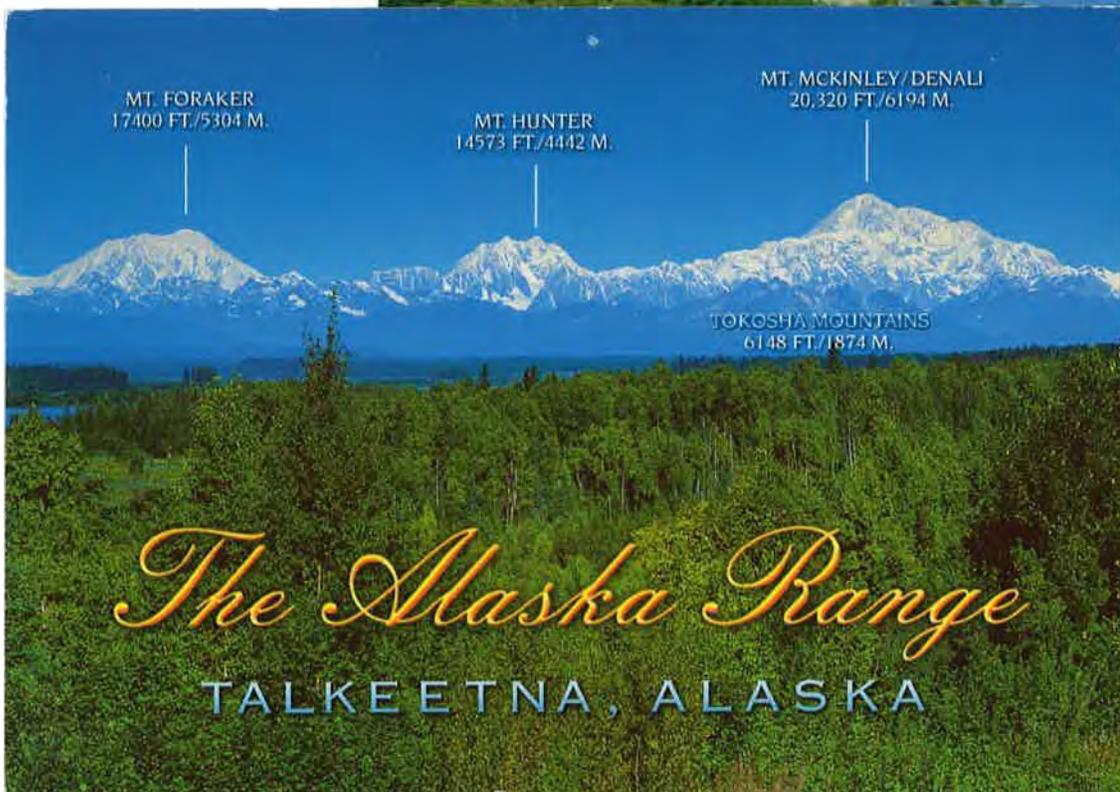
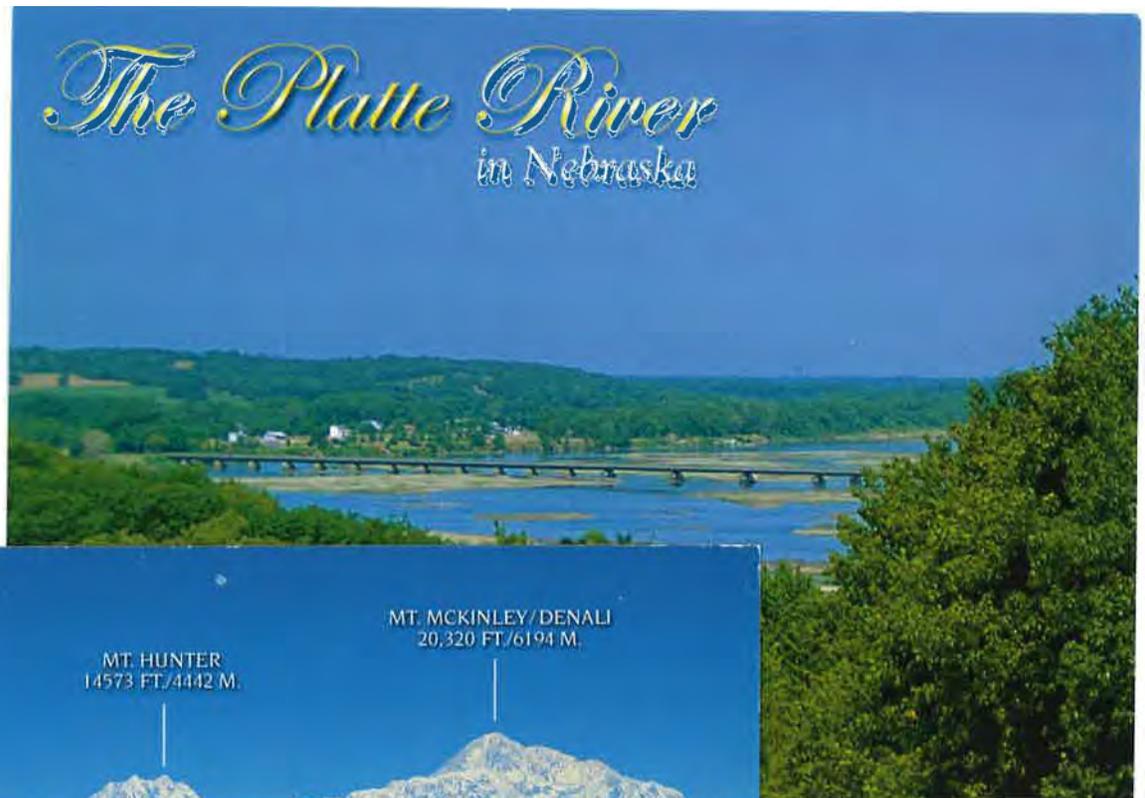
*Not too far west and without too many mosquitoes nor a bribe of ice cream, Governor David Butler, John Gillespie, and Thomas P. Kennard chose Lancaster as the site of the new state capital. Salt Creek provided the important preservative, salt. The name was changed to Lincoln at the insistence of the North Platters.



Sandhill Cranes migrate here in early spring:

South, birds arrive on the Platte River between Kearney and Grand Island in early spring

*The Sandhill Cranes make their way from places like New Mexico, to the Platte River where they feed and rest before continuing their annual migration to Alaska for the summer.



Harold Edgerton's hometown of Aurora:

East, in Hamilton County

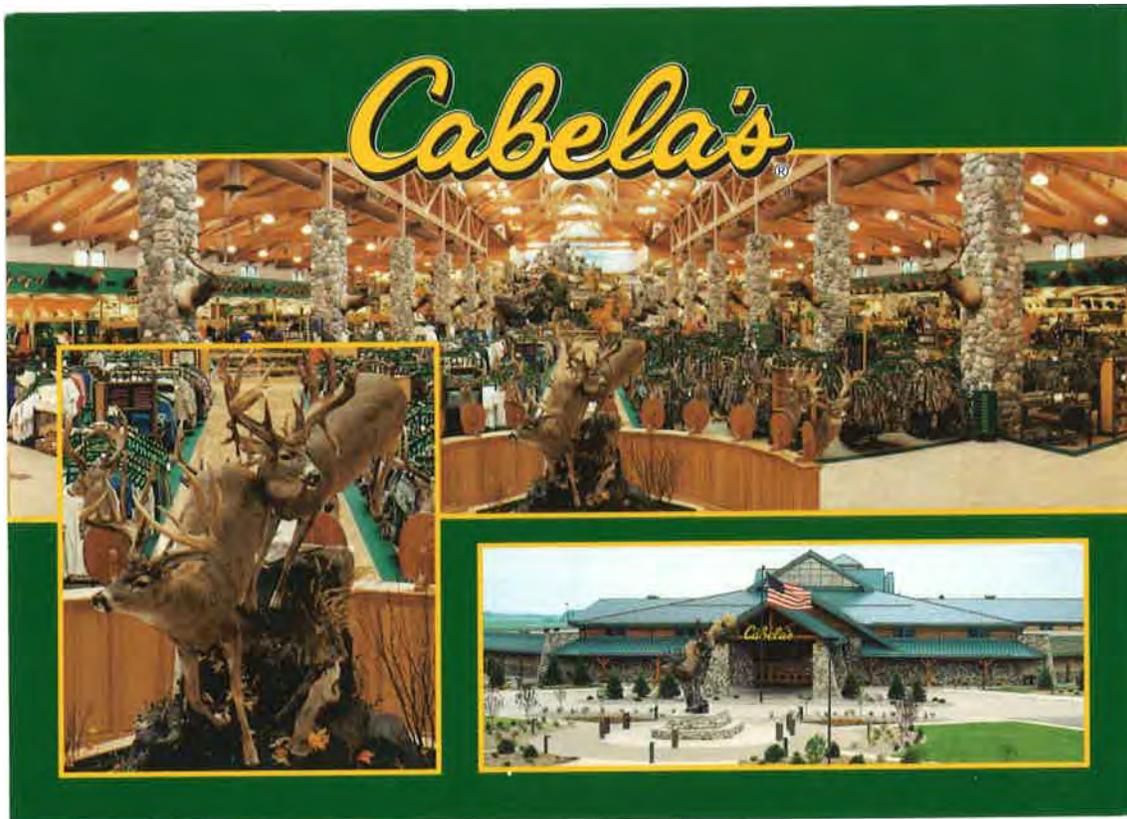
*Every photographer today owes a nod of respect to Harold Edgerton. His invention of strobe lighting opened up a world of speed that wasn't visible to the human eye before. The Edgerton Museum lets you play with science and learn about his incredible inventions that we now take for granted.



The first Cabela's store:

West, Sydney, Nebraska is in Cheyenne County

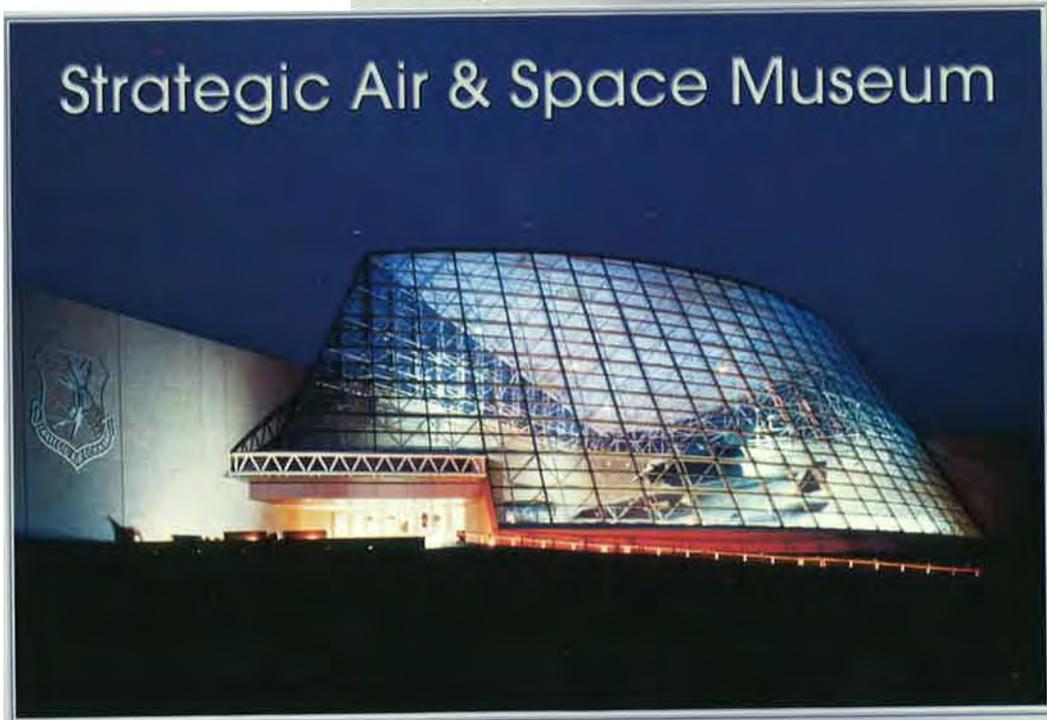
*Did you know that Cabela's, the store that sells hunting, fishing, and all sorts of outdoor gear, began in the small town of Sydney? Their second location was in Kearney. Now they provide jobs and economic growth in several states.



The Strategic Air and Space Museum

East, in Saunders County between Omaha and Lincoln

*The museum helps visitors enjoy the history of flight and the importance of our air-borne military. A long tradition of flight is displayed, from one of the most important women aviators, Evelyn Sharpe, to those that currently serve us by flying us to different places for vacations or protecting us as a nation.



Santee Sioux Indian Reservation:

Northeast, touches the Niobrara River in Knox County

*The Santee Sioux Reservation is the only Sioux reservation in Nebraska. The Pine Ridge Reservation line is in South Dakota and touches the northern border of Sheridan County which separates Nebraska and South Dakota.



Ashfall Fossil Beds:

Northeast, in Antelope County

*From the Northeast to the Northwest corners of Nebraska, one can find fantastic fossils. What is your favorite fossil?



Hudson-Meng Education and Research Center:

Northwest, near Chadron in Dawes County

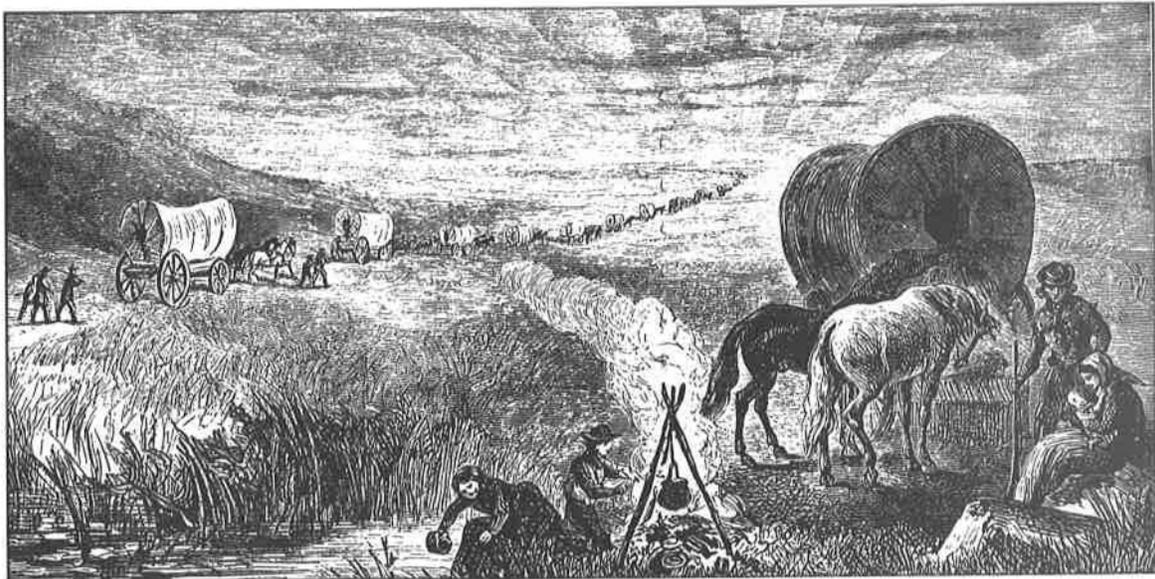
*Archaeologists and Paleontologists explore the world's largest bison bonebed. Explore how humans played a role in the bison's death here.



Ash Hollow State Historical Park:

West, just west of Lake McConaughy in Garden County

*Prehistoric rhinoceros, mammoth, and mastodon fossils teach us about ancient mammals that once roamed the Great Plains. Plains Indians and pioneers alike valued the good water, wood, fruits and berries in more recent history.



Lake McConaughy:

West, on the North Platte River near Ogallala in Keith County

* People come from surrounding states to enjoy the largest man-made lake in the state. Boating, wind-surfing, and fishing are all activities families enjoy.



Henry Doorly Zoo:

East, in Omaha near the Missouri River

*This zoo is considered the number one zoo in the United States. The animals are housed in settings as natural as is possible, which makes viewing the animals in their habitats an especially fun and educational experience.

