

Special Edition
NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Your connection to public broadcasting

Fall 2004, Issue No. 11

PARTNERS

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**Coming
Soon...**

Join us for
our 50th
Anniversary
Celebration.

See page 15 for details.

October 2004



PARTNERS

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Message from the Board Presidents

It is truly our honor and privilege to be serving as the presidents of PRNF and NPTV and working with such a dynamic group of talent both on the board and staff at NET. Nebraska is fortunate that we have these networks that enhance our lives, and we are proud to invest ourselves in this organization, and hopefully build on the legacy that we have been given by those who have come before us.

Public broadcasting in Nebraska wears many hats and touches many lives – it unifies the state’s many and diverse communities; it educates and challenges all Nebraskans; it produces outstanding and nationally recognized programming; and it provides a consistent and high-quality broadcast option.

The NPTV and PRNF boards will continue to strive to be effective stewards of the important public broadcast resource we Nebraskans enjoy. With a shared focus of the boards and the management, we will use our passion and energy to convey to everyone that NET reaches that an investment in NET is an investment for them, and that the financial security of NET is imperative for the future of all Nebraskans.

As we celebrate the many accomplishments of Nebraska’s public broadcasting system over the course of the past 50 years, congratulations and thanks are due to the innumerable supporters, volunteers and staff that have made these accomplishments a reality. Collectively, these are the people charged with the task of perpetuating this impressive legacy. We have never been as confident about the future of NET as we are today, or as proud to be supporters.

We look forward to the promise of public broadcasting in Nebraska over the next 50 years, and we are proud to be involved, if only in a very small way, with that important effort.

Sincerely,

Rick Bourque
President of the Public Radio
Nebraska Foundation Board
of Directors

Bryan Robertson
President of the Nebraskans
for Public Television Board
of Directors



NET'S MILESTONE MOMENTS

This is the final installment of the Milestone Moments timeline and offers a look at NET’s important events and accomplishments from the '90s to the present.

1990

NET develops and serves as the satellite operations center for the new national AG*SAT (Agricultural Satellite Corporation) program service that connects the nation’s land grant colleges for the sharing of instructional and cooperative extension programming.



Remembering

Take a walk down memory lane with these three recollections from longtime supporters and a former employee of NET.

Clifford M. Hardin, of Lincoln

Long-time supporter of NPTV and PRNF and former University of Nebraska Chancellor



Imagine a life devoid of public broadcasting in Nebraska. Without the initiative Clifford Hardin took in his early days at the university, retired NET General Manager Jack McBride believes that one might

not have to try so hard to consider this notion.

“One of the first major decisions called for in his [Hardin’s] new position was whether or not to accept midwest media businessman John Fetzer’s offer to turn Channel 12 over to the University. Had he decided otherwise, it would be impossible for me to believe that NET as we know it would be around today,” says McBride.

When Fetzer and Hardin met in East Lansing, Mich., to discuss the proposition, Hardin knew immediately he was excited about this gift, but also recognized it was going to take the dedication of many people to make the dream come true.

“This was really Jack McBride’s project. I knew I wanted it for the University, but it was Jack who did all the work. He made sure it happened,” explains Hardin.

It is because of the dedication and leadership (and a little luck) of Hardin, McBride and many others, that we thankfully do not have to imagine life without NET.

Bonnie Faimon, of Lincoln

Long-time supporter of NPTV and PRNF

Bonnie Faimon is clearly dedicated to public broadcasting in Nebraska. Faimon listens to the Nebraska Public Radio Network (NPRN) all day long and says having the classical music on while she paints makes her hobby even more enjoyable. The news on NPRN is also a very important part of Faimon’s daily routine.

“From 4 p.m. on, the radio is the only thing on. I don’t even turn on the television for my news because that is how strongly I feel about the superiority of public radio,” says Faimon.

But don’t be fooled. Faimon enjoys much more than classical music and news – she knows how to have a good laugh, too!

“My favorite program is *A Prairie Home Companion*,” says Faimon. “I can recall several times during the ‘Joke Show’ the need to pull my car over to the curb and quickly write down a joke so I could share it with my husband later.”

In addition to their devotion to and continued support of public radio, Bonnie and her husband James are charter members of NPTV. There is no doubt the Faimons are firm believers in the positive qualities of public broadcasting in Nebraska.



Chris Kohtz, of Lake Elmo, Minn.



Former Nebraska Public Radio Network Music Director

Although today Chris Kohtz works as the director of National Program Distribution for American Public Media – the national production and distribution arm of Minnesota Public

Radio in Saint Paul – his start in public radio was much more humble.

“I started at KUCV when it still broadcast from Union College in Lincoln, and when I left we had expanded to become a nine-station network,” says Kohtz. “When we were first working to go statewide, we were just a little station and we did the occasional event around Lincoln. After launching the network we would pack ourselves up in a van and go across the state to connect with listeners,” adds Kohtz.

It’s that personal connection with the listener that appealed to Kohtz, and soon it became obvious the listeners appreciated that connection as well.

“I had the opportunity to interact with a lot of very talented people.”

– Chris Kohtz, former NPRN music director

Not only did Kohtz’s audience broaden, his duties did as well. Looking back on his time at NPRN, Kohtz says he enjoyed the diversity of experience he gained.

“I really got an opportunity to learn a little bit about everything. I was the music director, but I also had my hand in operations and programming, fundraising and marketing. I hosted every air shift – except overnight, because we weren’t on the air 24 hours at that time,” adds Kohtz. “It’s funny that when NPRN went on to 24 hours, the overnight hosts were from my staff in Minnesota. I guess I finally covered overnight, too,” says Kohtz.

Working at NPRN also provided Kohtz some perks. “I had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of talented musicians and personalities, like world-renowned cellist Mstislav Rostropovich,” says Kohtz.

1990

A formal dedication of NEB*SAT is held at Air Park West in Lincoln.



1991

The nine-station Nebraska Public Radio Network (NPRN) is dedicated.



“I became a strong supporter of the idea of bringing our best teaching, our best knowledge to kids in the remote areas and spreading our culture, our knowledge, our information to remote parts of the state. So I became a strong advocate of educational television.”

– the late Governor Frank Morrison, on signing the Nebraska Educational Television Act in 1963



Behind Us All the Way: 50 Years of Capitol Support

“Build it in Lincoln and do it right.” With state Senator Terry Carpenter’s words behind them, then-NET General Manager Jack McBride and his colleagues convinced the Nebraska Legislature to fund a brand-new facility for NET. The building opened in 1972 and was later named for the state senator who helped McBride land the funding needed to support the new building.

It wasn’t the first time legislative support had come through for NET. The list of initiatives supported by the Nebraska Legislature and governors through the years is long: the creation of the nine-station statewide network in the 1960s; the construction and grand opening of the new NET headquarters and the conversion to color broadcasting in the 1970s; the leasing and eventual purchase of a satellite transponder in the 1980s; the funding of a feasibility study that would eventually lead to the creation of the Nebraska Public Radio Network; the conversion to digital transmission in 2003; and the current building renovation. Each decade in the history of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications has seen major milestones, all of which could not have been possible without the support of many governors and state senators.

Support from the top down

As early as 1961 Governor Frank Morrison had appointed a statewide committee to look at the possibility of expanding what was then KUON-TV to provide statewide coverage. The committee’s conclusion was the impetus that led the Legislature to pass the Nebraska Educational Television Act in 1963, which authorized the development of the nine-station network, created the Nebraska Educational Television Commission



and appropriated funding for the creation of the network.

“When I became governor one of the first people who came to call was Jack McBride,” recalled the late Governor Frank Morrison, in the recent NETV special *Frank Morrison and Bob Kerrey: A Conversation*. “He had all the zeal of a missionary, and his mission was to create an educational television network. He didn’t have to do much converting to get me on board. Education has always been a primary interest of mine. And I became a strong advocate of educational television.”

Along the way, state senators across Nebraska rallied behind NET’s cause. McBride recalls that state Senator George Gerdes of Alliance was a particularly strong advocate: “At the time KUON-TV had an arrangement with a commercial station in Alliance to broadcast an instructional television series. Senator Gerdes was impressed that his granddaughter was learning a few French phrases from this series. He was a quiet but powerful member of the Legislature and became a strong advocate of the statewide network.”

Crafty Carpenter

In the latter part of the ‘60s, with the funding and construction of the nine stations nearly complete, McBride turned his attention to a new production facility. Despite state Senator Carpenter’s emphatic order, seeing the building through to fruition proved more difficult than anticipated. When the building was 75 percent completed, an eleventh hour phone call one morning threw the plans into upheaval. State Senator Carpenter had introduced a new resolution to convert what was to be the new NET building into the University of Nebraska’s College of Law.

“At that point the bottom was falling out, as far as we were concerned,” admits McBride. “We just didn’t know what was happening.”

In the end, NET kept its building. And a new building for the College of Law was also constructed. To this day, McBride believes it was wily strategizing on the part of state Senator Carpenter that allowed for the creation of both.

“He was mercurial. He was intelligent. He did his homework. He succeeded in getting funding for both buildings, and I truly believe that what was then perceived as divisive was actually shrewd strategizing on his part,” says McBride.

Space: the new frontier

The late ‘80s saw yet another obstacle to overcome. With the federal deregulation of AT&T came a troubling question: how could NET cost-effectively broadcast programming statewide? The answer: by satellite, which opened the door for multiple-channel distribution and paved the way for the creation of NEB*SAT.

“Governor Kay Orr clearly saw the advantages of satellite programming,” says McBride. “She called together all the educational agencies – the university,

1993

Statewide, NETV’s weekly news and public affairs series, is launched.



1996

In Search of the Oregon Trail premieres on PBS. The program was one of the 10 most-watched programs on PBS that year.



private colleges, community colleges, the education commissioner – and insisted they coordinate a plan, the result of which was NEB*SAT.”

Ultimately NEB*SAT established a comprehensive network of satellite originating and receiving sites across Nebraska to serve both public and private education from kindergarten through postgraduate levels.

Again, with legislative and gubernatorial support, NET was able to lease a satellite transponder for programming. Just a few years later, Nebraska became the first state to purchase a dedicated multiple-channel transponder for statewide educational programming.

Going digital

Legislative support of NET has not slowed in recent years. In 1999, when federal legislation mandated that all television stations convert to digital technology by May 2003, the Nebraska Legislature rallied behind the cause, appropriating \$30.7 million (an additional \$4.8 million later came from the federal government) to support the conversion.

Digital technology allows NET to multicast (transmit multiple channels simultaneously), and since 2003 NET has been broadcasting NETV, NETV2, NETV3 (a channel dedicated to instructional programming and lifelong learning) and NETV-HD, high-definition television during the primetime hours. It also allowed NET to launch the Digital Pilot Project with 100 teachers at 42 schools across the state to explore the use of datacasting (using a portion of the broadcast spectrum to transmit video, audio, text or graphics directly over the air to desktop computers) and multicasting in classrooms.

Also in the '90s U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey secured funds that helped NET broaden its K-12 educational services. The \$5 million grant allowed UNL to sub-contract with NET to develop the CLASS Project, creating more than 50 high-school level interactive courses for students enrolled in the Independent Study High School (operated by UNL).

“NET serves as a refuge for those demanding for themselves and their families something far more substantive than the mindless contemporary status quo. Whether for adults, children or the entire family, its programs are sure to be intelligent, thought-provoking and marvelously produced.”

– Senator Carol Hudkins, Malcolm

A Long History of Public Affairs Programming

NET's history of public affairs programming is as old as the network itself. As early as 1955, when KUON was still operating out of Lincoln's commercial television station, KOLN, Channel 10, George Round, then public relations director for the University, hosted *Your Unicameral*, a summary of the week's key debates.

“We saw public television as a window for people into the state Legislature,” recalls Ron Hull, who was hired as a producer/director in 1955. “There's a sign over the entrance of the Capitol building in Lincoln that says, ‘The salvation of the state is its watchfulness in the citizen.’ NET has always taken that motto very seriously.”



Going gavel-to-gavel

In the '60s NET's new remote unit allowed for the taping of legislative sessions and the creation of *Capitol View*, a half-hour nightly summary of the day's actions. This led to gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Legislature, which began in 1977 on NETV and then was moved to EduCable (the predecessor to NETV2) in 1980. It continues on NETV2 today.

“The gavel-to-gavel coverage was unique at the time and still is,” says Hull. “Before it, local businesses used to send people down to stand at the back of the Unicameral and then phone in debate and bill results. After NET began gavel-to-gavel coverage, businesses brought cable right into their offices to monitor the legislative actions.”

NPRN News also covers legislative developments daily from the Capitol. “When they're in session, we're there,” says NPRN Program Director/Assistant Network Manager Nancy Finken.



Investing in the future

Most recently Governor Mike Johanns and the Nebraska Legislature funded a \$14.8 million renovation of the NET headquarters on North 33rd Street in Lincoln in order to protect its investment in the technical infrastructure housed in the building – namely, the digital delivery system. Consultants hired during the digital conversion concluded that the 32-year-old building could not adequately support the changes in technology seen in the last three decades. As a result, a complete overhaul of the air handling system and other updates were required.

In short, the Nebraska Legislature and governors have supported NET every step of the way through its 50-year history – from growth of the statewide network to advances in technology. “Their considerate support through the years has allowed NET to employ the latest telecommunications technology on a statewide basis,” says NET General Manager Rod Bates. “In a state with a limited population and an extensive geography, that's an impressive feat.”

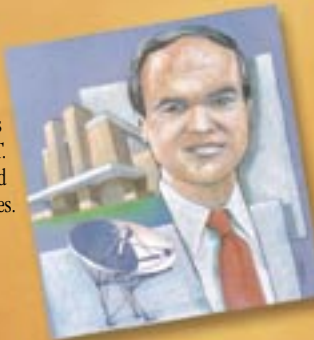
Something for everyone

Since the '90s both NETV and NPRN have offered public affairs programming to suit every Nebraskan's needs, from *Nebraska Nightly*, a half-hour news magazine program that aired for years on NPRN, to *Statewide*, NETV's news and public affairs series (which celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2003), as well as political debates and a wide variety of documentaries on Nebraska politicians like Terry Carpenter, Frank Morrison and Ernie Chambers.

Most recently, NET has been involved in the national PBS *By the People* production, in which local Nebraskans participate in citizen-based discussions about America's role in the world (the most recent installment airs Oct. 21 as part of *Statewide*). Several *Nebraska Connects* specials spotlight hot issues – like *You Build the Budget*, featuring candidates for state Legislature and citizens discussing their priorities for state spending (airing Oct. 21 at 8 p.m. CT on NETV), and *Gambling – Your Verdict*, a town hall-style meeting featuring a discussion of proposals to introduce casino gambling to the state (which aired Oct. 7). And of course, in recent months (and in every election year), both local and national election coverage has taken a front seat on NETV and NPRN.

1996

Founding General Manager Jack McBride retires after 43 years at the helm of NET. McBride is replaced by Rod Bates.



EduCable

EduCable, the cable television service of Nebraska ETV, expands its broadcast schedule to 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



A Radio Network To Call Their Own



It was the mid '70s, and a national story involving questionable actions by the U.S. president left LaRue Wunderlich of Lincoln, like many people, wanting answers. The complex and controversial reports about the Watergate scandal had Wunderlich yearning to be informed without being influenced. When Wunderlich's now-deceased husband, Deon, was traveling in the southeast corner of the state, he found exactly the kind of news source the two had in mind.

A crusader for public radio

Deon was able to receive a signal from a public radio station in Kansas that provided reports from National Public Radio (NPR).

"He was so struck by the thorough reporting and how every angle of the Watergate hearings was being examined," remembers Wunderlich.

It was the kind of news reporting most of Nebraska had been lacking, but something Wunderlich felt very passionately about – so much so that she became a crusader for bringing public radio to all Nebraskans.

"There was a time when my husband and I thought we were going to be moving back to central Nebraska to farm. I told him I didn't want to if I couldn't take public radio with me. That's how important it was to me," says Wunderlich.

A true grassroots effort

Wunderlich was encouraged to learn there were others who shared her belief in the importance of public radio. Phil Heckman of Lincoln was one of those people. At the time, Heckman served on what is now known as the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission (NETC), as well as on the PBS Board. His conviction about the merits of public broadcasting was already established, but in working closely with Wunderlich, he became a strong advocate for the creation of the statewide public radio network in Nebraska.

Eventually, Nebraskans for Public Radio (the predecessor to what today is the Public Radio Nebraska Foundation) formed, and the campaign for public radio in Nebraska was launched. Heckman and then NET General Manager Jack McBride shared their public broadcasting expertise with the group and worked to establish the case for a statewide public radio network. From the start it was a true grassroots campaign, with Wunderlich and

“ To go to these towns and meet the people who really made it happen – their joy, love and passion for public radio was obvious.”

– Steve Robinson, former Nebraska Public Radio Network manager

NPRN Audience is on the Rise

NPRN's audience continues to grow. Research funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting produced a formula to estimate more accurately the size of NPRN's statewide audience. The study revealed the number of Nebraskans listening to NPRN over the course of the week ranges between 74,000 and 100,000 based on current events. This is especially true during "drive time" news programs *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*.

We know that our listeners aren't just in Lincoln and the Lincoln metro area. We have listeners in towns like Oshkosh, Atkinson, Glenvil and, based on the research, many more! Keep listening to NPRN wherever you are, and know that although the state may span more than 400 miles, we are connected by one statewide radio network.

1997

Nebraska ETV becomes a member of the PBS Ready To Learn program.



Ready To Learn



NPRN begins a weekly live remote series, *Live From The Mill Statewide*, from The Mill coffeehouse in downtown Lincoln.



others making slow but steady strides. The group's first challenge was to persuade the NETC of the merits of a statewide public radio network.

"We wanted to explore how the addition of public radio would better serve Nebraskans," says Heckman.

A statewide call-in allowed all Nebraskans to voice their opinion about whether to have a statewide public radio network. According to a 1976 *Lincoln Journal* article, "...800 to 900 persons have written or called him [Heckman] to express support for public radio."

Gaining support

The continued efforts of supporters built momentum, which culminated in 1986 when the Nebraska State Legislature passed a bill that would allow the use of space on Nebraska ETV Network (NETV) transmitter sites for the purpose of transmitting radio waves. The only snag was that there would still be no state funds provided for this effort. Then, what originally seemed like ill fate for one NETV transmitter site proved to be the stroke of luck NPRN supporters needed.

The television tower in Bassett collapsed during a severe ice storm in early December 1986, leaving much of north central Nebraska without public television. By early 1987, then Governor Kay Orr approved the emergency deficit funding legislation that would allow the tower to be reconstructed. Full service was restored in October and, more importantly to public radio, the project was completed under budget. The remaining funds totaled a little more than \$88,000 and were used to pay for consultant studies that would determine if there was a desire to have public radio.

The people's public radio network

On June 1, 1988, with FCC approval, the NETC replaced Union College as the licensee of KUCV. After the move to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center (NET) – KUCV became the flagship station for the statewide network.

Public radio advocates in every area of the state were identified as team leaders, with the shared focus of raising \$500,000. Those funds would allow the NETC to apply for a \$1,140,000 federal grant that combined would then give the state the \$1.6 million needed to get the statewide network up and running.

Dr. Phyllis Salyards of Hastings was part of a team that raised \$65,000 for the tower in the Grand Island/Hastings area.

"I had lived in Omaha and Lincoln where public radio was already on the air. I felt that

Committed to Quality Programming

These firms and individuals have been committed to supporting programming for years on NPRN, and here's why:

"I've personally been involved with NPRN since the beginning. It's important to underwrite on NPRN because it spans the state, and that allows us to connect with our entire client base."

– Bob Nefsky of Rembolt Ludtke L.L.P., Lincoln

"We feel the values of public radio and television are supported and echoed by independent retailers such as ourselves, and we don't believe there is a service like it anywhere else."

– Jim McKee, owner of Lee Booksellers, Lincoln

"Public radio is filled with high-quality broadcasts and is worth supporting.

Our clients are statewide and so is NPRN's signal – it's a natural fit."

– Kevin Colleran of Cline, Williams, Wright, Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P., Lincoln

"Doane Friends of the Nebraska Public Radio Network has supported the network for decades. We enjoy the network very much both for private consumption and as a resource that can support classroom instruction."

–David Breckbill, professor at Doane College, Crete

"Every year we've made underwriting on NPRN part of what we do.

The public needs to be responsible for public radio. It supplies us with more than one view, and that's important. I think about that every evening during *All Things Considered*."

– Sue Quambusch, owner of A to Z Printing, Lincoln

"I felt that the caliber of news that came from NPR was so far superior to anything else and wanted it to be available to people in my area."

– Dr. Phyllis Salyards, Hastings

the caliber of news that came from NPR was so far superior to anything else and wanted it to be available to people in my area," says Salyards.

An achievement worth celebrating

By 1990 the necessary funds had been raised. That same year Steve Robinson joined the NPRN staff as network manager. He knew what a monumental accomplishment had taken place across the state and wanted to recognize the efforts of those bringing public radio to Nebraska.

"Within the first hour of my first day, I called the team leader contacts at each site, introduced myself and congratulated them on their efforts. Theirs was an achievement worth celebrating," says Robinson.

"I took the job because I knew the statewide network was coming, and when I saw Jack

McBride's passion about it, I knew immediately that I wanted to be a part of it. I had heard about Jack. He was a legend in the public television circle," remembers Robinson.

Both McBride and Robinson toured the state to commemorate the sign-on of each station. And each stop further confirmed the level of enthusiasm shared across Nebraska.

"To go to these towns and meet the people who really made it happen – their joy, love and passion for public radio was obvious," says Robinson.

The network today

Nine transmitter sites and 14 radio frequencies later, the same passion that nearly three decades ago brought people together in support of a statewide public radio network continues today. NPRN brings news, music and other quality programs to listeners from various communities, backgrounds and interests. It is an audience that, according to recent research, includes a weekly listenership approaching 100,000 (see "NPRN Audience is on the Rise"). But it would not have happened without the tenacity of the early supporters like Wunderlich and a host of others, whose grassroots efforts eventually resulted in a public radio network Nebraskans can call their own.

1998

Reading Rainbow wins Daytime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Children's Series and Outstanding Live and Direct to Tape Sound Mixing. By 2003 the series will have garnered 20 Emmys (including eight for Outstanding Children's Series).



1999

The Nebraska Legislature pledges \$30.7 million in funding over ten years to cover the cost of the digital conversion, with an additional \$4.8 million later awarded by the federal government. An additional \$28.5 million was allocated by the Nebraska Legislature for the replacement of two satellite transponders.



Membership News

Making Things Happen for Nebraskans

As Keith Blackledge reflects over his long association with public broadcasting in Nebraska, what he recalls as his biggest thrill was also the most recent – the premiere of *The Canteen Spirit*, the story of the World War II North Platte canteen. It's a program that he had a hand in getting made (although he says he's gotten "way too much credit for it"). According to *Canteen Spirit* producer Annie Mumgaard, the initial impetus behind NET's production was a note to NET Assistant General Manager/Content Development David Feingold, written by Blackledge, suggesting that the time was right for a documentary on this unsung episode from Nebraska's past. In addition, during the successful fundraising campaign for the production, Blackledge devoted several of his "Your Town and Mine" columns in *The North Platte Telegraph* to rallying the community to support once more the true spirit of the North Platte Canteen.

Helping "make things happen" is nothing new for Blackledge. Indeed, it epitomizes his 25-year career as editor of *The Telegraph* until 1992, and his role as a *Telegraph* contributing editor and freelance writer since then.

It was his desire in 1990 to make the fledgling Nebraska Public Radio Network happen that connected Blackledge with public broadcasting in the first place. He says that he wanted to see the radio grassroots effort succeed both on a personal level and as a newspaper editor, so he got involved. That initial involvement grew into a six-year term on the Public Radio Nebraska Foundation (PRNF) board (1991-1997) and eight years on the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commis-



sion (NETC) (1994-2002), including serving as PRNF president and NETC chair and vice chair.

A few of Blackledge's other contributions include acting as a founding member and two-term chair of the Nebraska Humanities Council and a founding board member of what is now the Federation of State Humanities Councils. He has also served on the State Colleges Board of Trustees, Nebraska State Historical Society, The Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation and North Platte Area Habitat for Humanity.

In recognition of all these contributions, as well as for his generous support as a long-time member of both PRNF and NPTV, Blackledge was awarded the NET Partner Award at the recent *Canteen Spirit* premiere in North Platte.

Blackledge says he's really enjoyed his years of interaction with the staff at NET, and they feel similarly about him. Feingold remembers Blackledge's support during some difficult decisions and proudly displays in his office a framed quotation Blackledge gave him when he left the NETC board: "I wouldn't like to have lived without EVER having disturbed anyone!"

Those who "make things happen" may disturb people once in a while, but the things they make happen can add up to a lifetime of admirable achievement. Such is the case with Keith Blackledge.



NET: Growing Because of You

Bud and Phyllis Narveson of Lincoln didn't set out to build a statewide public radio network. "We just wanted a classical music station like we had in Minnesota," says Phyllis. Minnesota Public Radio was the inspiration for their involvement in Nebraskans for Public Radio (now the Public Radio Nebraska Foundation).

In 1996 Phyllis, an active leader in the fine arts community and Bud, then professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and active in local politics, along with several other community and state leaders, rolled up their sleeves and began working on a grassroots level to support NET's dream of establishing a statewide public radio network.

"We felt very strongly that others in Nebraska would enjoy public radio, too."

– Phyllis Narveson

Their work was nothing glamorous – meetings, phone calls, mailings and distributing information at community events – but their countless hours of effort helped garner the necessary support and funding for what is now known as the Nebraska Public Radio Network (NPRN).

Today, Bud and Phyllis remain enthusiastic supporters of NPRN, contributing their time and financial resources. Their ideas about public radio continue to evolve.

"I'd like to see classical music remain, but what we really need are two channels...one for classical music and one for talk shows," says Phyllis.

Who knows? With individuals like the Narvesons at work, it might just happen.

Congratulations, Bud and Phyllis, and to all who made NPRN a reality. We thank you for making a positive difference in the lives of thousands each day.

2000

EduCable, NET's cable television service, officially changes its name to NETV2.



2001

NPRN expands its schedule to 24-hour broadcasting and launches its new Web site (www.nprn.org).



In Memoriam:

**Paul Sautter,
1948-2004**



No one was more committed to NET than Paul Sautter, a much-loved and admired longtime employee of NET. Paul worked at NET since 1988, most recently as assistant director of engineering-transmissions, and was responsible for the monumental task of designing the new digital television transmission system.

"Paul just loved ETV. He loved what he was doing, he was completely dedicated, and he loved the challenge of designing new systems. He never felt that his job was humdrum," says his wife, Albie Sautter.

Indeed, Paul took his job very seriously and took the concept of work ethics to a new level.

"On a Saturday, on the rare occasion we could convince him to do a couple of errands or go get his hair cut, Paul would always put on his NET badge on the way out the door," says Albie. "I'd ask, 'What are you wearing that thing for?' And his answer was, 'Well, just in case there's an emergency, I want to have it with me so I can get in the back door.'"

According to Albie, Paul also felt very strongly about the mission of public television, which is one of the reasons the Sautter family decided to have memorial gifts made to NET.

"Paul really felt like he was doing a service to Nebraska by working at NET," says Albie. "He had other job offers from commercial stations, but he felt strongly about the ethics of PBS."

Memorial gifts are a lasting memory to your loved one's commitment to the mission of the Nebraska ETV and Nebraska Public Radio Networks. This legacy becomes part of our endowed Funds for the Future, which help ensure the future of public broadcasting in Nebraska.

**Memorial gifts were also
received in memory of:**

**Raymond H. Cook
Frank P. & Patricia S. Fogarty
Ellice A. Smutny**

To learn how to make a memorial gift,
contact Amanda Garner at
agarner2@unl.edu or 800.634.6788.



NPTV/PRNF MemberStore

Show your support



If you are a member of NPTV / PRNF at \$60 and above, you are entitled to special discounts on program-related products when you shop at the **MemberStore**.

Visit our web site at

nprn.org/members myntv.org/members

Abendmusik: Lincoln, Inc.

2000 D St., Lincoln, NE

402.476.9933

A community concert series founded in 1972. *\$2 off any single ticket purchase during the 2004-2005 concert season (special event concerts excluded).*

Ainsworth Inn Bed & Breakfast

400 N. Main, Ainsworth, NE

402.387.0408

Step back into the 1900s in this boarding house B & B.

10% discount on the rate of a regular room (Labor Day weekend and the week of the Country Music Festival in August are excluded).

Angels Company

Lincoln, NE

402.474.2206

A performance group consisting of actors, dancers, musicians and visual artists.

\$1 off admission.

Ashfall Fossil Beds State

Historical Park

**2 miles west and 6 miles north
of Royal, NE**

402.893.2000

View hundreds of long-extinct animals frozen in time.

20% off gift shop.

Beatrice Community Players

412 Ella St., Beatrice, NE

402.228.1801

High-quality live theatrical entertainment including top-name plays, musicals and other events.

\$1 off admission.

Blue Moon Coffee House

635 W. 2nd St., Hastings, NE

402.452.5214

313 W. 3rd St., Grand Island, NE

308.398.5214

Your local coffee house serving standard and specialty coffee drinks with a full lunch menu.

\$1 discount on any specialty drink (cannot be combined with any other offer).

Cambridge Bed & Breakfast

606 Parker, Cambridge, NE

308.697.3220

An artistic and historic home with modern amenities.

10% discount on the rate of a regular room (excluding Hunting Packages).

The Coffee House

1324 P St., Lincoln, NE

402.477.6611

Offering Fair Trade and organic coffee by the cup or whole bean, specialty drinks and "after the show" desserts.

Buy one select specialty drink, get one select specialty drink free (cannot be combined with any other discount or gift certificate).

Edgerton Explorit Center

208 16th St., Aurora, NE

402.694.4035

The mystery and fun of science come to life through interactive exhibits and science demonstrations.

\$1 off regular admission price, 20% off the Explorit Gift Store purchases, 50% off meeting room rental plus free electronic sign promotion, 20% off Edgerton On The Move (traveling science demonstrations) at your events.

Fontenelle Inn Bed & Breakfast

1424 Fourth Ave., Scottsbluff, NE

308.632.6257

Comfortable, turn-of-the-century accommodations and a delicious gourmet breakfast await you.

10% reduction on cash transactions for lodging and gift shop purchases at the Fontenelle Inn Bed & Breakfast and adjoining Empress Emporium.

Friends of the Mary Riepma Ross

Media Arts Center

313 No. 13th St., Lincoln, NE

402.472.5353

Experience the new Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center - committed to screening a wide diversity of high quality film and video.

10% discount on all levels of membership in the Friends of the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center (NPTV/PRNF MemberCard holders must show card to get a discount).

Hastings Symphony Orchestra

Hastings, NE

402.462.8389

Hastings Symphony Orchestra's 77th Season brings "Music for us all!"

\$1 discount on each ticket sold at the door for individual subscription concerts.

Lincoln Community Playhouse

2500 So. 56th St., Lincoln, NE

402.489.7529

Enriching the cultural life of our city for 57 seasons. Join us in celebrating the power of community involvement in live theatre.

\$2 off any regularly priced ticket in the Main Stage season (any other discounts excluded).

Lincoln Friends of Chamber Music

Lincoln, NE

402.435.5454

Devoted to providing southeast Nebraska with superior-quality chamber music in the unique and intimate setting of the Sheldon Art Gallery.

\$5 discount on regularly priced LFCM concerts.

Lincoln Symphony Orchestra

Lincoln, NE

402.476.2211

Experience the finest in classical music including an exciting family series.

10% off regular single ticket prices to any Lincoln Symphony Orchestra Concert in the 2004-2005 season (discount cannot be combined with any other discount or offer).

Morrill Hall University

of Nebraska State Museum

14th & U St., Lincoln, NE

402.472.2646

Nebraska's largest natural history museum.

\$1.00 off family admission.

Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA)

2401 Central Ave., Kearney, NE

308.865.8559

Experience 175 years of great art from the 19th century to the contemporary scene.

10% discount on museum shop.

(Continued on other side)

2001

Weekly Spanish language programming begins on NETV2.



**NETV2—
El nuevo
amigo
de tu
familia**



2002

NET receives nearly \$15 million from the Nebraska Legislature and Governor Mike Johanns for renovation of the 30-year-old Terry M. Carpenter Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center. Renovation begins in 2003.





NPTV/PRNF MemberCard



The MemberCard is a benefit to members at the \$60 level and above.

The Nebraska Brass Lincoln, NE

402.477.7899
Combinations of classical and popular music, Dixieland and jazz. Performing in Lincoln, Omaha and various locations throughout Eastern Nebraska.
\$2 off single admission ticket price for any Concert Series concert.

Nebraska Discount Travel
5400 S. 56th St., Suite 6, Lincoln, NE
800.869.0356
Full service travel agency.
\$50 off per cabin for 5-day or longer cruise.

Nebraska Golfing Green Card
800.401.7888
The Golfing Green Card is your passport to a fun-filled, golf-filled summer. Enjoy a free or highly discounted round of golf at 174 area golf courses. Save \$5 on each Green Card when you include your NPTV/PRNF MemberCard number with order. Family of two saves \$10.

Nebraska Jazz Orchestra
Lincoln, NE
402.477.8446
One of the Midwest's premier big bands, the ensemble presents legendary compositions by jazz masters such as Woody Herman, Duke Ellington and Count Basie.
\$2 off single admission ticket price for any Concert Series concert.

Nebraska Trumpet Ensemble
Lincoln, NE
402.477.7899
Performing trumpet ensemble literature and commissioning new works for trumpet ensemble.
\$1 off single admission ticket price for any Concert Series Concert.

Norfolk Arts Center
305 N. 5th St., Norfolk, NE
402.371.7199
The Norfolk Arts Center specializes in "Bringing People and the Arts Together!" through exhibits, performances, classes and other special events.
Enjoy one complimentary adult single admission when you purchase one adult single admission at regular price.

Omaha Children's Museum
500 S. 20th St., Omaha, NE
402.342.6164
Providing hands-on interactive exhibits and programming to introduce young people to the arts, humanities, science and technology.
\$1 off each admission (limit 6 per group).

Omaha Symphony Association
402.342.3560
The Omaha Symphony... a canvas for your emotions!
25% discount on single ticket purchases to 2004-2005 SuperPops or MasterWorks Series concerts (excludes Premium concerts. Discount not valid with any other offer).

Opera Omaha
877.346.7372
Opera Omaha, bringing world class artists and productions to the historic Orpheum Theatre.
Discount up to 30% off regular ticket price. Offer good only for advance ticket sales, special order form must be used.

The Petrified Wood Gallery
Ogallala, NE
308.284.9996
The Gallery is a showcase of natural history specializing in ancient woods, fossils, Indian arrowheads and artifacts.
10% discount on gift shop purchases, excluding books, memberships, art from Visiting Artists Series, framing and other services. Cannot be combined with any other discounts.

Prairie Books & Gifts
641 W. 2nd St., Hastings, NE
402.462.6205
Your full service independent bookstore since 1976, featuring "The Nebraska Room" and a large Children's Department. Special orders always welcome.
10% discount on regular price items excluding magazines.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery
12th & R St., Lincoln, NE
402.472.2461
Located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, the Sheldon houses more than 12,000 works of art in all media.
10% on museum store purchases (excluding any other discount or offer).

Shepherd's Inn Bed & Breakfast, Inc.
Ord, NE
308.728.3306
Enjoy a quiet escape tucked away in the heart of the country.
10% discount on the rate of a regular room (excluding holidays and area festivals, excluding all other discounts and specials).

Sisters' House
412 Garfield, Stuart, NE
877.773.3390
Formerly a convent, this bed & breakfast now features period décor on the upper floor and a rustic cottage style on the lower level.
10% discount on the rate of a regular room.

Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer
Grand Island, NE
308.385.5316
Visit one of the nation's top ten living history museums.
\$1 off any regularly priced admission (discount not valid with any other offer).

Third Chair Chamber Players
Lincoln, NE
402.429.8227
Take a journey through the genealogy of chamber music from early Baroque to the present.
\$1 discount on individual adult ticket purchases.

Trailside Museum of Natural History, Fort Robinson State Park
308.665.2929
Spectacular paleontology and geology exhibits.
20% off gift shop.

Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery
702 Main St., Brownville, NE
402.825.4601
Experience excellent wine and an engaging escape. Whiskey Run Creek works with varieties of grapes to locally produce distinct and flavorful wines.
10% discount off wine and gifts from Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery (excluding any other discount or offer).



Coming Up

Sweater weather and falling leaves can only mean one thing – high school and college sports action! Catch *Big Red Wrap-Up*, college and high school volleyball and high school football on NETV this fall.

- Husker highlights on *Big-Red Wrap-Up*, airing Tuesdays at 7 p.m. CT (6 MT) on NETV.
- Live *Nebraska Women's Volleyball*:
 - Colorado vs. Nebraska, Wed., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. CT (6 MT)
 - Texas Tech vs. Nebraska, Wed., Nov. 3, 7 p.m. CT (6 MT)
 - Kansas State vs. Nebraska, Sat., Nov. 6, 6 p.m. CT (5 MT)
 - Kansas vs. Nebraska, Fri., Nov. 12, 7 p.m. CT (6 MT)
 - Texas vs. Nebraska, Wed., Nov. 24, 7 p.m. CT (6 MT)
- *Nebraska High School Girls Volleyball Championships*: All day live coverage, Sat., Nov. 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. CT (8:30 MT).
- *Nebraska High School Football Championships*: Live coverage from Memorial Stadium: Thurs-Sat., Nov. 18-20, morning, afternoon and evening game times (check local listings for specific game times).

“Thank you for covering high school sports championships and for all the college sports you televise live. It's the only way for me to watch UNL volleyball because the games are sold out. I enjoy all the UNL sports you cover – keep up the good work!”

– Kenneth Andersen, NPTV member, Omaha

2002

The National Endowment for the Humanities awards NET \$500,000 to produce an *American Masters* biography of Nebraska author Willa Cather.



2003

NET officially launches its digital broadcast service, which includes four digital program services: NETV, NETV2, NETV3 (providing instructional programming for classroom and lifelong learning) and NETV-HD (high-definition [HDTV] programs from PBS during primetime hours).



Journey with Nebraska ETV and NOVA into a Holy Land Cave

“It was the most wondrous and horrible place I’ve ever been to.”

— NETV producer Gary Hochman

Bronze ritual objects. Secret letters. A desolate cave perched high in a canyon near the Dead Sea. Sound like the ingredients for a modern mystery? Actually, each is part of a captivating scientific expedition to investigate ancient clues hidden in a nearly inaccessible cave in Israel. The cave served as a hideaway for Jewish refugees struggling to preserve their faith and heritage while escaping the oppressive rule of the Roman Empire in 132 CE.

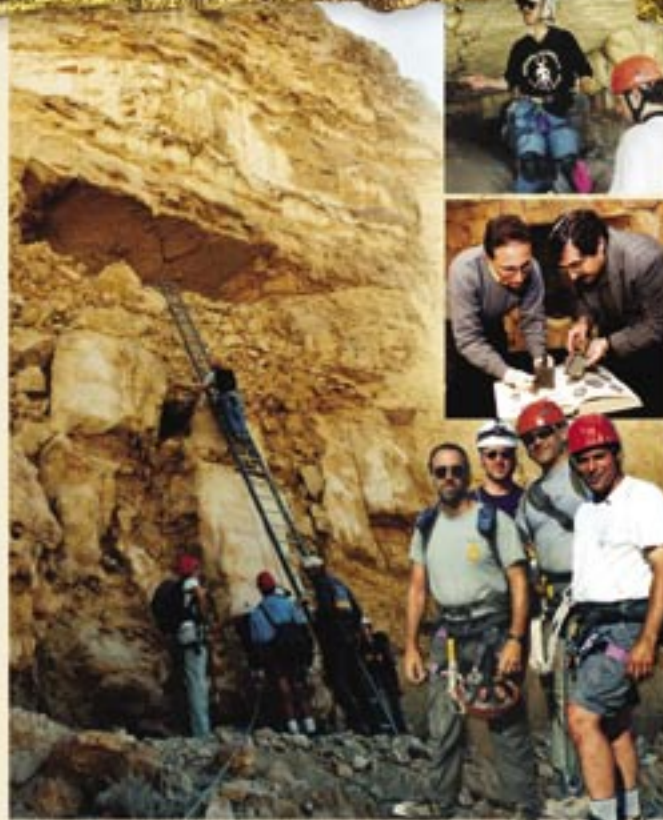
The story of the cave, known as the Cave of Letters, and the people who occupied it 2,000 years ago is captured in the upcoming documentary produced by NETV for the national science series *NOVA: Ancient Refuge in the Holy Land* will air Tuesday, Nov. 23, at 8 p.m. CT (7 MT) on the Nebraska ETV Network.

A personal journey

For NETV producer Gary Hochman, the chance to create such a documentary was the experience of a lifetime.

“If I go back far enough in my history, my ancestors ultimately would have hailed from that region,” says Hochman. “I’ve always been interested in archeology, and the opportunity to go on a dig that dealt with my personal heritage was exciting.”

Hochman and NETV audio engineer James Lenertz accompanied a multidisciplinary scientific team, led by former University of Nebraska at Omaha historian Richard Freund, to the Cave of Letters in 2000 and 2001. The team was hoping to find more evidence of discoveries made by an expedition in 1960, when a cache of bronze ritual objects and a bag containing letters written on papyrus nearly 2,000 years ago were uncovered. The letters were written by one of the great figures of Jewish history, Bar-Kokhba, who led a heroic guerilla uprising against the Romans.



Large photo: the entrance to the Cave of Letters; Inset photos (from top to bottom): Expedition leader Richard Freund; Adolfo Roitman (left), curator of The Shrine of the Book, and Richard Freund compare ritual incense shovels; (left to right) co-director Kirk Wolfinger, cinematographer D.J. Roller, NETV audio engineer James Lenertz and NETV producer Gary Hochman.

Overcoming obstacles

Despite months of planning, the excavation in the summer of 2000 almost didn’t take place. The team was granted a 21-day permit, but on the first day — after a bone-jostling bus journey across the desert in 115-degree heat, the discovery of a family of endangered vultures nesting near the cave nearly halted the entire expedition.

“We had to hire nature conservancy biologists in order to get permission to go near the cave,”

explains Hochman. “The plan was that the biologists would observe the vultures’ reaction to our presence.”

If the birds were feeding, the team wasn’t allowed to go near the cave. And to protect the vultures’ environment, the team wasn’t permitted to camp in or near the cave. Instead, the excavators were forced to make a harrowing hike every day for three weeks, along narrow pathways and across ledges above a 600-foot canyon, just to reach the cave entrance.

Confronting the human condition

Once inside the cave, Freund and his colleagues went to work, uncovering dozens of ancient artifacts, including pieces of a clay oven, eggshells and personal objects, like a child’s sandal — which was discovered by Lenertz — and a wooden comb.

“When you go into a place like this, you are confronted by the human condition that results in history. These items were actually owned and used by a person. For instance, you wonder, ‘What was a child doing here?’ Finding the sandal made the tragedy real,” says Hochman.

Tantalizing new finds

Freund visited the Cave of Letters hoping to find more traces of Bar-Kokhba’s epic struggle, but what he uncovered instead led to a much more radical and controversial theory about the occupants of the cave. The discover of one coin in particular, dating to 70 CE — the time of the first revolt after the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans — was especially perplexing.

“For Richard, that one coin was the smoking gun,” says Hochman.

Freund considered the coin evidence that people had also occupied the cave much earlier than the refugees in 132 CE, and that the bronze ritual objects found by the expedition in 1960 were possibly long-lost relics of the great Temple in Jerusalem, buried there by refugees hiding in the cave after the temple was destroyed.

“There are unanswered questions, but that’s what makes it a compelling story,” admits Hochman. “This theory is an uphill battle — one that’s made much more contentious because it’s history confronting science confronting religion.”

2003

Nebraska Connects, a series of programs and associated outreach activities, is launched.

NEBRASKA CONNECTS

Troubled Waters

YOUR MONEY

Are MAN you enough?

TUNE IN

to NETV on Tuesday,
Nov. 23, at 8 p.m. CT (7 MT)
for *NOVA: Ancient Refuge
in the Holy Land*

Calendar of Events

Two new NETV-produced documentaries hit the big screen this summer and fall with premiere events across Nebraska. Plus, Lady Luck accompanied a handful of Nebraskans to Omaha's Antiques Roadshow.



A Classic Summer Event

The Lincoln-area Meadowlark Music Festival went off without a hitch again this year, with featured musicians the Chiara String Quartet at Lincoln's North Star High School on July 15 and again at Grace Lutheran Church in Walton on July 17, Quartetto Gelato at the James Arthur Vineyard on July 16 and pianist Angela Cheng, joined by the Chiara String Quartet, at UNL's Kimball Recital Hall on July 18.

Antiques Roadshow

Seven thousand Nebraskans dug deep into their basements and attics and brought their personal family treasures for appraisals by 80 of the country's top experts when the PBS series *Antiques Roadshow* came to Omaha on July 10. Patty Cordell of Gothenburg took home some good news about her Frank Lloyd Wright blueprints and letters, which were appraised at between \$75,000 and \$125,000. Likewise Omahan Sally Guest left feeling good about her family treasure: a daguerreotype of author Edgar Allen Poe, bought for \$96 and worth between \$30,000 and \$50,000. More than 100 volunteers helped make the event a success. Stay tuned for more unique discoveries: the episodes of *Antiques Roadshow* taped in Omaha will air in spring 2005.

Sunny Days

Those one-of-a-kind *Backyard Farmer* visors sure came in handy on July 17 at the Lincoln Farmers' Market in the Historic Haymarket. *Backyard Farmer* fans aplenty stopped by the NETV table to submit their lawn and garden questions for the show and pick up a cool hat of their own. On Sept. 4 Husker fans were also wooed at the Farmers' Market when NETV set up shop to distribute mini stress foot-balls and *Big Red Wrap-Up* posters and schedules.

The Canteen Spirit

On the evening of July 23, at the Neville Center for the Performing Arts in North Platte, the new NETV documentary *The Canteen Spirit*, about the World War II North Platte Canteen, hit the big screen, showing to

a packed house of nearly 800. Distinguished guests, such as film "stars" Lorene Huebner, of North Platte, and LaVon Kemper, of Gillette, Wyo., and veterans like Vincent Anderson, of Palm Desert, Calif., arrived to the red carpet in classic vintage cars and enjoyed their moment of fame with guests and producer Annie Mumgaard at the reception prior to the screening and at the big band dance following the premiere. Two additional showings of *The Canteen Spirit* were held Saturday afternoon. The event was sponsored by Nebraskans for Public Television, the North Platte Area Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln County Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Sandhills Convention Center.

A Hull of an Honor

Longtime NET employee Ron Hull, who spent 49 years in public broadcasting after being hired in 1955 as producer/director for NET, was inducted into the Nebraska Broadcasters Hall of Fame on Aug. 11. "I was very honored," says Hull. "My peers are really holding me up to a high standard." Hull is only one of two Nebraska public broadcasting employees to be inducted into the Hall of Fame (the other is retired NET General Manager Jack McBride).

The Good "Healthy" Life

More than 65 people attended the NETV Healthy Living – Healthy Eating event on Sept. 1 in NET's studio. The event was the second of three evenings, funded by the National Center for Outreach, where participants watched a health program, took part in a health screening and discussed the topic with obesity experts.

Zoofari!

Members who give to NPTV or PRNF through the Community Services Fund of Nebraska (a workplace giving campaign) spent the evening of Sept. 9 at the Folsom Children's Zoo in Lincoln. The evening was full of fun and zoo adventure!

And Speaking of Antiques

The Keno brothers (of *Antiques Roadshow* and *Find!* fame) thrilled antiques aficionados at a special luncheon and appraisal session held at



2003

The awards keep coming: The documentary *Monkey Trial*, produced by NETV for the PBS series *American Experience*, wins a George Foster Peabody Award. And the NPRN news team wins 12 awards from the Nebraska Associated Press.





Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha on Sept. 10. Guests also stopped by the NETV booth at the event.

NET presents NOVA

On Sept. 13, Nebraskans for Public Television and the Jewish Educational and Library Service of the Jewish Federation of Omaha hosted a premiere of *NOVA: Ancient Refuge in the Holy Land*. The Jewish Community Center theater accommodated more than 100 people for the special showing with a reception following the program.

River City Roundup

Guests stopped by the NETV booth for a paw shake with Clifford The Big Red Dog at Omaha's River City Roundup on Sept. 24 and 25. Roundup festivities also included the Heritage Parade, a livestock show, rodeo and musical entertainment.

Literary TV

The first public sneak preview of *Willa Cather—The Road is All* was held Oct. 16 at the Red Cloud Opera House in Red Cloud. The event was co-sponsored by Nebraskans for Public Television and the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation. The event attracted approximately 300 people from Nebraska and beyond.

Upcoming Events

The following are just a few of the many NET events scheduled in the coming months. For more information, please call 800.634.6788 or visit www.mynptv.org/members.

October

PRNF Membership Drive

October 15-22

Premiere of *Willa Cather—The Road Is All*

October 24, Scottsbluff

Join us as we premiere this all-new documentary about one of Nebraska's most celebrated authors. The Scottsbluff premiere is co-sponsored with the Friends of the Midwest Theater, Platte Valley Companies, Valley Bank & Trust and University of Nebraska Alumni Association and will be held at the Midwest Theater, 1701 Broadway, Scottsbluff, at 2 and 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.



November

50th Anniversary Celebration Event and Cather Premiere

November 5, Lincoln

Join NET for a 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Rococo Theatre in Lincoln! Featuring the premiere of *Willa Cather—The Road is All* and Master of Ceremonies, former Nebraska Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey. Doors open at 6 p.m. at the Rococo Theatre, 140 N.13 St., Lincoln. Call 800.634.6788 for more information.

NPTV Board of Directors Meeting

November 12, Lincoln

Premiere of

NOVA: Ancient Refuge in the Holy Land

November 21, Lincoln

Join special guest Paula Apsell, executive producer for the PBS series *NOVA*, for a high-definition showing of the NETV-produced documentary, *NOVA: Ancient Refuge in the Holy Land*. This event is free and open to the public. Doors open at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, 313 N. 13th St., at 7 p.m.

December

Join us as we spend the day in Grand Island.

December 3, Grand Island

Live From The Mill Statewide

At 9 a.m. join host William Stibor for *Live From The Mill...Live From the Stuhr Museum* in Grand Island

(the Stuhr Museum is located at the intersection of US Highways 281 & 34 in Grand Island).



NPRN Live Radio Drama

NPRN's Lora Black will join members of the Grand Island Little Theatre and Hastings College students in the radio drama, "Going to the Christmas Tree."

December 3 10:15 a.m., following *Live From The Mill* at the Stuhr

December 3 7 p.m. at the Stuhr Museum

December 4 7 p.m. at the Stuhr Museum

PRNF Board Meeting in Grand Island

December 3, Grand Island

Lincoln Symphony Orchestra (LSO) Pre-Concert Chats

Join *Live From The Mill* host William Stibor at 6:45 p.m. on the following dates for LSO pre-concert chats:

Saturday, November 20,
St. Paul United Methodist
Church, 1144 M St., Lincoln

Saturday, February 50,
Westbrook Music
Building, UNL

Saturday, March 12,
Westbrook Music
Building, UNL

Saturday, April 30,
Westbrook Music
Building, UNL



2004

The celebration of NET's 50th anniversary kicks off with the rebroadcast of special anniversary programs from the NETV Heritage Library archives.



The Digital Pilot Project – which is testing different methods of delivering course-related materials, such as audio and video files and portions of the Web to teachers and students – is launched, with more than 100 participants from 35 schools throughout the state.



NETV's New Children's Program Line-Up

Featuring Old Friends, New Friends and New Times

Like the line in the old song about friendship, "make new friends, but keep the old," NETV is adding children's shows with new friends and keeping old friends from everyone's favorite programs! Two programs, *Maya & Miguel* and *Postcards From Buster*, anchor the launch of a new multi-media, on-air and online destination, PBS Kids Go! The destination offers a safe place for "big" kids, ages 6 to 8, to return to each afternoon. *Maya & Miguel* and *Postcards From Buster* debuted Oct. 11 on NETV.

Maya & Miguel is an animated series about ten-year-old Maya Santos and her twin brother Miguel. Maya's ambitious nature often leads her into funny situations, and it's her more levelheaded brother who must help her out of the high jinks. The program offers lessons in the value of bilingualism and cultural diversity in a changing America.

Postcards from Buster is a spin-off from the popular *Arthur* series. Arthur's friend Buster travels with his father, who is an airline pilot ferrying a Latino rock band around the country and the world. Buster takes along his video camera to send home multicultural video postcards to Arthur and his friends and family.

The evening line-up of children's programming on NETV2 has also changed, focusing on kids ages 6 to 11 and featuring the acclaimed NETV-produced series *Reading Rainbow*, followed by *Postcards from Buster*, *Maya & Miguel* and *Clifford The Big Red Dog*. At 8 p.m. CT (7 MT), NETV2 transitions to family programming, including nature and travel specials. Adult-oriented primetime programming begins at 9 p.m. CT (8 MT).

Other additions to the kids program schedule include new episodes of *Barney and Friends*, which began airing Sept. 6, and the introduction of a new series on Oct. 17, *Thomas and Friends*, chronicling the adventures of Thomas the Tank Engine.

For more information about program air times, please see the accompanying box, or log onto mynptv.org for the complete NETV and NETV2 program schedules.



New Kids Programming At a Glance

The new two-hour line-up airs each weekday afternoon on NETV:

Cyberchase, 3:30 p.m. CT (2:30 MT)
Postcards from Buster, 4 p.m. CT (3 MT)
Arthur, 4:30 p.m. CT (3:30 MT)
Maya & Miguel, 5 p.m. CT (4 MT)

Also on NETV:

Barney and Friends, weekdays, 9:30 a.m. CT (8:30 MT)
Thomas and Friends, Sundays at 7 a.m. CT (6 MT)

Evenings on NETV2:

Reading Rainbow, 6 p.m. CT (5 MT)
Postcards from Buster, 6:30 p.m. CT (5:30 MT)
Maya & Miguel, 7 p.m. CT (6 MT)
Clifford The Big Red Dog, 7:30 p.m. CT (6:30 MT)

At 8 p.m. CT (7 MT), NETV2 transitions to family programming.

Adult-oriented primetime programming begins at 9 p.m. CT (8 MT).

“ I have babysat my grandson since he was eight weeks old. He's now in first grade. The children's programs have been excellent – such wonderful learning experiences. ”
– Madalyn Latshaw,
NPTV member, Clatonia, NE



Join the board of directors of NPTV and PRNF in celebrating the 50-year history of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications on November 5.

Bob Kerrey, former Nebraska governor and U.S. senator, will be the Master of Ceremonies for this grand event honoring the people of Nebraska who have made the last 50 years of NET a success. The special event includes the Lincoln premiere of *Willa Cather – The Road is All* in high-definition at the historic Rococo Theatre. Doors open at 6 p.m.

For more information call 800.634.6788.

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