Great Winter scene of the Museum in 2017. The New Year brings lots of events to the facility: Arbor Day tree planting, Second Annual “Run to St. Lo Memorial 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk” and Chautauqua in June and the Vaudeville Show and July 4th Activities. Great stories in the January-March edition of the Newsletter….check it out!
From the Society President....

Another great quarter of visits to the Museum and event planning for 2017! We saw over 13,000 patrons in 2016. That is incredible! We are so happy to have local schools utilize the learning center, exhibit area, and theater for classroom topics and tours. The major event planning for 2017 is our annual Night at the Museum Fundraiser on April 21, Second Annual “Run to St. Lo Memorial 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk” on June 10, Chautauqua in Seward June 12-18, Vaudeville 1917 “Sousa Comes to Seward” on July 2 and our traditional activities on July 4th. We are so pleased to unveil the “Berry Law Firm Conference Room and Library” and “Chaplains” shroud on July 4 at a dedication ceremony at 9am. Come help us celebrate another great year of success with the Open House from 8am-6:30pm, static displays of vehicles and aircraft starting at 8am and the parade at 4pm. This starts the two year campaign plan to build our most ambitious display “Cornrow to Hedgerows 4D” for 2019 on the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of St. Lo by Nebraskans of the 134th Infantry Regiment.

NNGHS Mission Statement:

To collect, access, preserve, store, account for, de-militarize, and value historical artifacts and records for training, development, and interpretation of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard and the State of Nebraska military history and heritage of its citizen-soldiers and airmen. To educate and “tell the story” to the members of the Army and Air Guard and the general public about the heritage of the Nebraska National Guard in both peace and war.
Chautauqua Coming to Museum

Chautauqua 2017 is coming to Seward and the Museum is playing a role in the festivities. Before movies and TV, there was the old fashioned tent entertainment known as Chautauqua. Traveling shows brought culture and entertainment to the lesser populated areas of the country over 100 years ago. This year’s theme is World War I: Legacy of a Forgotten War (the 100th Anniversary of the US entering the war in 1917). The Museum will host many workshops during the week.

Monday, June 12th:
Aviation—"Pilot Talks", Neuport fly-in, LT Ralston WWI Ace from NE, Erle Smiley and modern Jenny pilot.

Tuesday, June 13th:

Wednesday, June 14th:
Nebraskans at War, meet General Pershing and Sgt. York Family.
Official Kick-Off that evening at Band Shell in Seward at 7pm.

Thursday, June 15th:
Displays on Home-front, workshops in Theater

Friday, June 16th:
Legacy of War, workshops in Theater.

Workshops in the Jones National Bank and Trust Co. Theater
Thurs: Women of WWI, Men of Bronze-Black Soldiers in WWI, Picketing the President
Fri: World War I Weapons, Opposition to the Great War, Winning the Hearts and Minds
Sat: Post War Relief Efforts, German-Americans in WWI, Literature of the WWI Era
Sun: “Religion in Politics”

General Pershing to Museum for Chautauqua

General “Black Jack” Pershing is coming to the Museum for Chautauqua 2017 here in Seward. David Shuey is an nationally acclaimed actor who plays the role of the general who lead Nebraskans in the Mexican Border Dispute in 1916 and in World War I in 1917-18. The General also received a law degree from the University of Nebraska. The generals’ trip is sponsored by Cattle National Bank and Trust Company, Van and Becky Vahle, Zabka Funeral Home, Greg and Dixie Zabka, Brad and Jill Perdue, and will include many meet/greets at the Museum and in Seward and Lincoln.
The Berry Law Firm of Lincoln and Seward has made a substantial contribution to the conference room and library at the museum. The “Berry Law Firm Conference Room and Library” will be dedicated on Tuesday, July 4th at 9:00am. The ceremony will take place in front of the museum with the members of the law firm unveiling the plaque for the room. The contribution was given by John Berry who is currently serving with the Nebraska National Guard. The law firm has been a great supporter of museum activities and events such as the official sponsor of the annual “Run to St. Lo Memorial 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk” in honor of the 44 Nebraskans killed in the 134th Infantry during the liberation of St. Lo, France in World War II. They also are the main sponsors with the Nitz Family on the “Airborne” Display above the Concordia University Learning Center. Thank you to Berry Law Firm for all that they do to help at the Museum!
Restorations and Builds This Year...

Some great projects were completed over the winter months in time for the summer tourist season. Cody, Ron and Joe put in the extra volunteer hours to finish off a new cabinet for the weapons display room and restored the Kearney Armory Bar for the museum. Cody set up an M2 Machine Gun on a mount for patrons to get behind a 50 Caliber weapon in the display room. The Gamma Goat is Cody’s current restoration project…it is the M792 Ambulance and will have 1970’s bumper number from a picture in the collection during the Omaha tornado of 1975. Future projects: repainting vehicles and installing more cabinets for the weapons display room.

HQ Staff Call at the Museum in February. BG Dahlman and the staff used the Jones National Bank and Trust Company Theater to hold the meetings for the day. Staff went over future plans and issues/concerns that were raised. Thank you to General Dahlman for selecting the Museum to host the meeting.

More snow scenes at the Museum. February was a snowy month with ice and heavy snows the norm. A few days saw minimum traffic due to downed power lines and ice. The Museum is open Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm. We ask that you call ahead if weather is bad. We post conditions and closures on Facebook. You can call the front desk at 402-309-8763 for more information.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG
Weapons Display Room Cabinets

The Museum Society purchased cabinets from McChristy Jewelry in Columbus to house and display part of our weapons collection in the display room. These beautiful cabinets are a bridge between temporary and permanent cabinets and displays in the room.

100th Anniversary of WWI

The Museum is proud to be one of the official WWI sites from the National World War I Commission during the Chautauqua events in June. Commission member, Susan Mennenga from the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago was part of a planning meeting held at the Museum on February 2nd. Susan assisted the staff in lining up re-enactors and presentations to help build up momentum for the Chautauqua. Planning committee members were able to lay out a great deal of pre-Chautauqua events at the museum and around the community for June 12-14th to assist Humanities Nebraska with the event. Thank you Susan for all your help!

Susan Mennenga (upper left) was instrumental in securing great entertainment for Chautauqua activities at the Museum in June. Tom Martin and his replica Nieuport 23 will be on display. General Pershing played by Dave Shuey will be part of a cast of characters at the Museum in June. Make plans to attend!
The first quarter of 2017 has seen lots of groups and people swinging by the Museum. The state Aviation Safety Conference was here on Jan. 7, state NCO Call on Jan. 19, RSP from western Nebraska visit Jan. 21, Scouts Tour Jan 30, State Tourism Tour Feb. 3, Seward County Government Day Feb. 7, “Our Town Seward” meeting Feb. 9, Seward Middle and High School students for WWI and WWII units.
Anniversaries

- January 3, 1899—Occupation Duty in Cuba during the Spanish-American War by the Nebraskans.

- January 8, 1941—The 134th Infantry and other Nebraska units report to Camp Robinson, Arkansas for one year of federal service to end on December 22, 1941 (Pearl Harbor will change that date for the “duration of the war”)

- January 18, 1991—24th MED gets the “Go to War” Brief for Desert Storm.

- February 4, 1899—Private Grayson fires the first shot of the Philippine Insurrection.


- March 1, 1964—The 67th Infantry Brigade (Separate) is formed.

- March 23, 1913—Omaha Tornado and the call up of the Nebraska National Guard to assist.

- March 25, 1945—The 134th Infantry Regiment crosses the Rhine into Germany during World War II.

- March 27, 1899—General Hale quote becomes the battle cry of the Nebraskans in later conflicts “All Hell Can’t Stop Us”….the general would go on to found the VFW in Colorado.

The Seward 4th of July Committee and Museum

The committee has laid out the 2017 events and the Museum plays a big role in the overall success of the annual July 4th event. The first event of the season is the Second Annual “Run to St. Lo Memorial 5K and 1 Mile Run/Walk” on Saturday, June 10th at 7:00am. On Sunday, July 2nd at 7pm at the Seward High School Auditorium will be the “Vaudeville 1917—Sousa Comes to Seward” show hosted by the two committee’s to kick off the July 4th festivities. It will include the Seward City Band playing all the Sousa hits from the early 1900’s. Between the music will be acts and entertainment of 1917. Free and open to the public. The Fourth of July follows a similar schedule of previous years: 8:00am-6:30pm OPEN HOUSE (goal is 10,000+ thru the doors), 8:00am-3:00pm STATIC DISPLAYS (Jackson Street and west lot), 9:00am DEDICATION of rooms/displays, 4:00pm PARADE. The Society would like to thank Clark “Mr. Fourth of July” Koltermann for his tremendous help in making the Museum a part of the wonderful July 4th they put on here in Seward.
2nd Annual “Run to St. Lo” Race

Saturday, June 10, 2017—7:00am

About 200 runners are expected to step up to the starting line at the Museum on June 10th for the second annual event in memory of the 44 Nebraskans killed in the Liberation of St. Lo, France in World War II.

The race is hosted by Kiwanis and the Museum Society with Berry Law Firm as the main corporate sponsor. The race takes many volunteers to pull off. Kiwanis is helping with the sentinels that hold the memorial signs of those that were killed. Scouts will have US/French flags along the route (thanks Kelby).

Get a registration form and come out and enjoy one of Nebraska’s premier memorial runs!
Seward County Government Day

The American Legion hosted the annual Seward County Government Day with a special tour of the Museum for students from Seward, Centennial, and Milford. Ken Meyer was able to come in and speak to the students in the theater about service to the state and country in the military. Students and chaperones were very pleased with the Museum tour being part of the event. Look forward to 2018. Thank you Jeff Baker for putting us on the schedule.


RSP Soldiers Visit Museum

The Museum was proud to host a tour and meal for the Recruit Sustainment Program group from North Platte. They were attending training in Ashland and stopped over at the Museum for a tour. Great to see our future soldiers at the Museum. The Recruit Sustainment Program was designed to tailor training for soldiers before they attended basic/advanced training and were assigned to a unit.

Thank you for Visiting the Museum!
The Nebraska National Guard Historian had a chance to visit the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB and the Wright Brothers historical sites in Dayton, Ohio recently. The trip was part of collecting ideas on aviation exhibits for the future displays at the museum. Many of the displays were immersive and utilized the latest technology in enhancing the patron experience. The USAF Museum had most of the types of planes flown by the Nebraska Air National Guard on display. Cockpit mock-ups were a big hit (RF-4). The Wright Brothers displays were at many locations around the Dayton area. The brothers built the first airport out at Huffman Prairie just outside of town. A road trip to Dayton, Ohio is well worth the drive!
Pictures from the Museum....

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG
Thank You to Our Sponsors

Meet the Concordia Intern….

Joe Pierson is our Concordia University Intern for the semester. You’ll see him designing displays with Cody and working with the historian on articles for publication. Joe will be graduating in May with a degree in History and go on to St. Louis for seminary training. We are so glad to welcome Joe to the Museum. Stop in and meet our newest staff member at the Museum.

Meet Ron Burhoop…..

When you come up to the Museum during the winter months you will see Ron outside making sure the sidewalks are clear and safe for you to come up to the building. When holiday decorations need to be hung outside, Ron is there to make sure they look good. The building and outside areas are in great shape largely due to Ron’s time and care. The Museum is so glad to have Ron Burhoop as a staff member. We look forward to the Spring/Summer/Fall yard maintenance that has made us in the running for best yard in Seward since we opened the place in 2015. Thank you Ron for all that you do!
We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your interest in applying for membership in the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society, Inc.

We further provide the following information in order to qualify this document as a true attestation that the donations received will be used for purely non-profit purpose(s), in our capacity as a 501(c)(3) charitable or non-profit organization.

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CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG
Museum Usage for JAN-MAR

January
07— Aviation Safety Conference (112)
19— NENG State NCO Call (128)
21— RSP— North Platte Visit/Tour (18)
30— Scouts Tour (24)

February
02— Chautauqua 2017 WWI Planning Symposium (20)
03— State Tourism Tour (26)
07— Seward County Government Day (106)
07— David City Retirement Group Tour (27)
09— “Our Town— Seward” Meeting (49)
11— Habitat For Humanity Group Tour (25)
13— Women in the NENG Exhibit Meeting (6)
14— “Run to St. Lo 5K” Planning Meeting (7)
15— Beatrice Exhibit Meeting (8)
22— NE150 Meeting (26)
27— Seward Kiwanis Meeting/Tour (86)

March
02— Magazine Club at Museum (22)
03— WWII Class Seward HS (132)
04— Seward Armory Re-union Tour (12)
05— NE150 Kick-off Event (78)
07— Tourism Meeting/Tour (22)
16— Kiwanis Board Meeting in Conf. Rm. (18)
20— Seward HS History WWI Class (148)
23— Seward July 4th Committee Meeting (24)
27— Seward Noon Kiwanis Meeting (78)