70th Anniversary of the Liberation of St. Lo, France

See inside story on page 4 about the 134th Infantry and the Liberation of St. Lo, France in 1944.

Left: Butler B. Miltonberger, 134th Infantry Commander
A Message from the Society President

It has been a breathtaking last six months with all of the activities and projects completed by the Society. From the groundbreaking ceremony at the new Museum location in Seward, NE on July 4th, to the movement of the four armored vehicles and the entire artifact collection (over 11,000 items) from Lincoln to Seward, the completion of phase I construction ($460K) that will provide the Society with a modern storage, restoration, and repair infrastructure, and the pending initiation of Phase II construction ($2.6M) to remodel the entire main floor of the Seward Armory – it has been a highly successful period of time.

We move into the fall with the initiation of a capital fundraising campaign to pay for the design and construction of the displays in the Museum with the end state of the project being a world class museum, military library, and education center. We continue to look for volunteers to assist in all of these ongoing projects, so please help us communicate our story with your friends and family that may have a desire to participate as we move this organization forward.

Our Mission:

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.
Closing Down Arsenal

The Nebraska National Guard has had an affiliation with the State Arsenal since construction of the building in 1913. When the massive armory construction program (1946-1960) took place the Arsenal was relegated to storage and finally given to the State Fair Board in the 1960’s. The Society became interested in the building in the late 1970’s as a home for the Nebraska National Guard Museum. It was leased to the Military Department in 1981 as the Museum and was home for 33 years until the property became part of the University of Nebraska’s campus expansion project. The lease was set to expire in December, 2014. Volunteers have been moving over 11,000 small artifacts and crews have moved larger vehicles (tanks, APC’s and cannon) to Seward. The person most responsible for leading the effort out of the Arsenal was Eric Clyne. He was instrumental in getting the vehicles and volunteers to locations in Lincoln and Seward to execute the movement plan. The Society wishes to thank all the volunteers for their efforts on this monumental task. All artifacts have been moved. The Arsenal is currently being turned over early to the University.

Help with Artifacts

We are currently looking for the history surrounding the Fairbury Tank that is now located at the museum. It originated in Beatrice after World War II and was given to the local unit and finally ended up in Fairbury (195th AR) for many years. When the armory was closed the tank was stored in a maintenance bay until the museum opened space for it in Seward. We need the who, what, where, and when details on the tank. We will be displaying the tank for the grand opening of the new Brad Pitt movie “Fury” on November 12th. If you know of any clues on the tank….give us an email or call. Thanks.
70th Anniversary of the Liberation of St. Lo

Over 100 Soldiers, Airmen and special guests celebrated Nebraska’s 134th Infantry Regiment 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of St. Lo, France during World War II. The ceremony featured veterans Bill Bush (110th MED), D.E. Bates (Co. C), spouses, and family members of veterans. The story of the Nebraskans call to duty in December 1940 thru the battle were recited to the crowd which included Governor Heinemann. The Governor and MG Bohac (TAG) spoke to the crowd about sacrifice and honoring their service. Following the ceremony the veterans took time to sign limited prints of the battle and take interviews for TV and newspaper reporters. The liberation of St. Lo was important, as it provided the Allies with a vital road junction that was instrumental in the Allied breakout from the deadly hedge-row fighting. The Nebraskans suffered immense casualties in the battle of Hill 122 just north of St. Lo that held up the 29th Division for close to a month. The Nebraskans are now being given credit for the crucial part they played in the liberation of the city. Check out the 134th artifacts and Hill 122 diorama currently on display at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Lincoln.

Pictures from the past quarter

Mike O’Connell and Cody Cade

BVH Architects going over Phase II

Ted teaching a WWII class at UNK

Seward Mayor riding in M38 Jeep

Japanese MG’s restored at CSMS

Bill Bush signing Hedgerow prints

Join the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society today! Help us to tell “our story” for future generations.

Application form on page 7.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NNGHS.ORG
In June the tanks and APC’s were craned from their home at the Arsenal and placed on military and civilian transport carriers to be moved to Seward. The four vehicles were the: M-60 Main Battle Tank, M4 Sherman, M59 APC and M113 APC. Most of these vehicles had been placed at the Arsenal in the late 80’s and early 90’s. The move into Seward featured a mini-parade of VIPs and equipment. The mayor of Seward, Josh Eickmeier, led the procession of jeeps into the city. Many people were on hand to witness the offloading of equipment at the museum (201 North 8th Street). The move was featured in the Omaha World Herald and the Seward Independent. The first piece of equipment to be placed was the M-4 “Easy Eight” Sherman in the front of the museum. The crowd cheered as the 35 ton tank was swung around and placed on the pad. The tank has since gone thru a restoration paint scheme from the 1950’s. The complete movement of the vehicles was completed in two day’s. The other vehicles are scheduled to be painted in color schemes used in the Nebraska National Guard.

The above picture was taken in front of the Arsenal in the early 1980’s. The paperwork documenting the whereabouts of the second tank are yet to be found in Seward. If you have any information on the second M4, please contact us at the museum.

Volunteers in front of the M4 Sherman in Seward.
Setting up Storage Room

Operation Shelf Building was a success. Over 25 volunteers worked throughout a Saturday in June to get over 75 shelves put together in the new state-of-the-art storage room in the museum. In addition to the shelves, the curator office was outfitted in the room. Ken Meyer brought down a grill and a friend to cook for the volunteers. Byron Diamond took care of the meal. The new storage room has a capacity to hold up to 10,000 artifacts in a climate controlled environment. The temperature (by regulation) needs to be around 70 degrees and humidity held at 50 percent (+/- 5 percent). Volunteers also moved in map cases and document file cabinets besides the shelves. The room was just completed and turned over to the Society to occupy. The room is the old range at the mid-level of the museum. It also contains a small room that is being refurbished into a uniform storage area.

Once the room is filled, the cataloging and accounting for all artifacts will be in PastPerfect, a computer program for museum certification.

Hill 122 Diorama

Telling the story of the taking of Hill 122 north of St. Lo in 1944 has come to life in a diorama spearheaded by Mike Wilson and others. Many volunteers have spent countless hours creating the scene that can now be used in the Education Center at the Museum or be part of a traveling exhibit to places around the state. Veterans of Hill 122 got a chance to see the diorama on the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of St. Lo ceremony held at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Lincoln.

Society members gather around the Diorama of the Battle for Hill 122 (July, 1944—France) at the Liberation of St. Lo ceremony at JFHQ in Lincoln.
Ashland Cannon

Located in Ashland at the corner of Silver Street and Highway 6 for many years was a Model 1903 Field Gun until the Society acquired and had the CSMS restore it to its current state back in 1989. The gun was brought into the Arsenal through the west loading door and became the first artifact that visitors would see in the museum. In order to get the weapon out, volunteers and Soldiers had to cut plaster walls (added after the cannon was placed in the building). Thank you to the Soldiers of the CSMS and our retiree community for their help to get the cannon moved to Seward.

This Day In Nebraska National Guard History.

September 15, 1944
Liberation of Nancy, France by members of the 134th Infantry Regiment.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.NNGHS.ORG
**Anniversaries**

- Oct 1, 1863—First NE INF to CAV
- Oct 24, 1898—Second NE mustered out
- Nov 17, 1990—24th MED mustered for Desert Shield
- Dec 7, 1945—134th Demobilized from service in WWII
- Dec 10-13, 1944—Battle of Habkirchen (134th INF) in WWII
- Dec 23, 1940—134th called to federal service for one year of training
- Dec 23, 1854—Militia Proclamation to protect NE citizens (Birthday of the Nebraska National Guard)
- Dec 25, 1944—Battle for Metz (134th INF)
- Dec 28, 1944 to Jan 16, 1945—Battle of the Bulge (134th INF)

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**This Day In Nebraska National Guard History.**

**July 26, 1946**

**Founding of the Nebraska Air National Guard. The 70th Anniversary is in 2016**

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**Unveiling Sign and Planting Freedom Tree**

The society hosted a ceremony at the museum during the morning on July 4th. Major General Bohac and Mayor Eric Eickmeier were the speakers. Local Seward High School students sang the National Anthem and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The TAG and mayor then unveiled a sign donated by Seward County Visitors Committee. The beautiful sign announces the completion of the building (July 4, 2015) and the opening of the museum (July 4, 2016). This was followed by the planting of the Freedom Tree which was donated by Rumery Landscaping in Seward. The ceremony was attended by over 100 people and also included Family Festival Events sponsored by Recruiting Command. Following the ceremony over 850 people visited the temporary displays set up in the assembly hall in the museum.
Since 1868, the city of Seward has been observing the 4th of July in grand fashion. In 1969, the current president of the 4th of July committee, Clark Kolterman, decided to try and make the holiday the preferred travel destination in the state on that day. In 1973, Governor J.J. Exon designated the city “Nebraska’s Official 4th of July City”. Since the early 1970’s crowds have continued to grow at the activities, parade and fire works display on that day. The Museum participated in the parade with two Jeeps (M38 and M38A1), following vehicles in the current inventory. The jeeps had banners announcing the coming of the Museum to Seward in 2016. Over 45,000 people attended the events on that day. It was the largest crowd on record. Next year the committee is set to honor the Greatest Generation and the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II. They expect to shatter records for attendance in 2015. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 4, 2015!
Thanks for the Memories…….

Left: The Arsenal located at the south entrance to the State Fair Grounds with the M4 Sherman in front taken in the early 1980’s.

Right: The Arsenal as it looked in June 2014 prior to the removal of the tanks and APC’s. The University of Nebraska will soon take over the building and incorporate it into the campus expansion project that is ongoing.

“For over 30 years this has been the home of the Nebraska National Guard Museum. As we close the chapter on the Arsenal, let us show our gratitude to the many men and women that worked in the late 70’s and early 80’s to give the Nebraska National Guard a museum we could be proud of. Let the legacy continue in the new museum at Seward.”
-Byron Diamond

Focus on Volunteers:

When you need something done at the museum you call Ron Burhoop. This retired National Guard Soldier is very active in the community and with the museum. When the landscaping needed to be fixed up…..Ron showed up and got it done. The Museum landscaping looks nice largely due to his efforts.
-Thank you Ron!

When the museum was looking for someone to make frames for the “Cornrows to Hedgerow” Prints of the 134th Infantry in World War II, we only had to turn to Clarence Wattier. These beautiful frames will include the prints signed by the veterans who fought in the battle. One of these will have a place of honor in the Museum.
-Thank you Clarence!
Left and Above: First Sergeant Dave Dunn (retired) stops by to donate a M60 Diorama to the Museum.

Byron taking volunteers for a ride in the M38A1 Jeep.

Left: Dale Hueske gives Eric Clyne some history off his computer. Dale visited the Museum from St. Joseph, MO, on a recent volunteer day. He was part of the crew that finished 4th in the World Gunnery competition in the mid-1950’s. He is a wealth of knowledge on the Air National Guard in the 1950’s.

National Guard soldiers that worked the 4th of July activities at the Museum.
Some of the details from BVH Architects renderings for the exterior of the museum:

- At the tip of the east end of the grounds is a circle walkway. This will incorporate an Air Guard Memorial designed and created by Hughes Brothers Manufacturing in Seward.
- Extensive landscaping all around the front and back. In the front around the M4 Sherman will be a Hedgerow with the tank bursting through.
- Memorial to the Fallen on the north side of the property.
- 40-stall off street parking slots on the west side of the building.
- Armored vehicles on concrete platforms.
- New sidewalks around the property.
- Stage on the west end of the property for concerts during the summer.
- Additional plantings.
- Looking at city playground equipment on the south-west corner.
- Air Guard designed features on the west side of the property.

There are over 30 National Guard Museums currently operating in the United States. The design features of the exterior are unique and only found here in Nebraska.
Some of the details from BVH Architects renderings for the interior of museum:

- **Learning Center.** This is the only National Guard Museum to include a Learning Center in its design. This will allow the Museum to perform outreach to students and assist schools in performing state standards requirements.
- **60-person Theater.** This multi-purpose room is designed to show the introduction video as well as host events related to the Nebraska National Guard and local community.
- **Gift Shop.** State-of-the-art gift shop allows patrons to purchase items related to the Nebraska National Guard. Online sales will be offered also.
- **“I Am the Nebraska National Guard” Exhibit.** This is a one-of-a-kind experience to get the visitor to understand what it is to be a member of the Nebraska National Guard. From the recruiter, to basic and advanced training, to a unit, and on to retirement; this display is multi-faceted and will provide a great deal of insight to the museum patron.
- **The Main Collection in the Assembly Hall.** The main collection is the chronological history of the Nebraska National Guard. The visitor meanders around paths full of interactive displays. The World War I trench is state-of-the-art with multiple sensory displays to enhance the visit.
- **“Cornrows to Hedgerows” Exhibit.** This is a full up French hedgerow and the visitor will experience the sight, sound, and feel of trying to fight thru the confines of this type of warfare from World War II that involved Soldiers from the 134th Infantry Regiment.
- **Cost of Freedom Display.** Telegrams and pictures from the cost of the Hedgerows.
- **Cold War Exhibits.** From WWII to Desert Storm. Interactive Displays.
- **9/11 to Today.** Iraq and Afghanistan featured displays.
- **“When You Needed Us….We were There.”** Domestic Operations in the state.
- **Temporary Exhibits.** Rotating exhibits hosted by the Society.
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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