“100 Years of Nebraska National Guard Aviation” - The Curtiss Pusher hangs above the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area. Close to 8,000 people had the opportunity to see the plane and Museum on July 4th. The final count was 7,815 (a single day attendance record). The Curtiss Pusher is the centerpiece exhibit on the 100 years of aviation. More on the building and mounting of the Curtiss Pusher in this newsletter.
From the Society President....

What a wonderful July 4th holiday we had at the Museum! The USO Show rocked the house with Bob Hope (Craig Strong) and Les Browns’ band (43rd Army Band) and all the acts. The dedication was fabulous. So nice to see all our sponsors and donors at the event. The rooms are all first class: John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area, The Jones National Bank & Trust Co. Theater and Concordia University Learning Center. The Curtiss Pusher hangs from the ceiling as a reminder to the century of aviation history we have in the Nebraska National Guard. We saw 7,815 people at the Open House! New single day attendance record! So happy to see volunteers coming to help out on that day. Thank you to all that helped make it a success. Now the work begins for the future. We are going to be host to Chautauqua 2017 events in June of next year and the theme is World War I. We’ve got lots of work to complete on displays and rooms to get ready for July 4, 2017. A third of the museum is done. We are looking great for 2017!

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.

Nebraska National Guard Historical Society President, Darin Krueger. He served in the National Guard 1986-2013. He currently works for the VA in Lincoln.
**Wreath Laying at Prairie Trails**

Ramona (Knott) Muntz did the honor on behalf of the fallen aviators and laid a wreath at Prairie Trails at the ceremony on July 4th. Darin Krueger announced the seventeen names of aviators killed since 1915. After each name and year a bell was rung. When the last name was announced, two trumpeters played Taps in honor of the fallen. Ramona is the sister of Kenneth Knott who was killed flying the RF-84 over Lake Michigan in 1966. She was escorted to the memorial by Captain Margaret Ingerslew (USAF) and Colonel Eric Teegerstrom (Army National Guard).

**Fallen Aviators.....**

Ralph McMillen (1916)  
Paul Black (1947)  
Wayne Rowson (1948)  
Norman Blackstrom (1949)  
Duane Ehrie (1949)  
Max Blank (1949)  
Donald Stewart (1951)  
Fritz Craig (1953)  
Alden Ike (1954)  
Robert Young (1956)  
Sturgeon Armbrust (1965)  
Kenneth Knott (1966)  
William Snyder (1969)  
Nolan Voight (1977)  
Raymond Hesse (1977)  
Pete Rose (1991)  
Patrick Hamburger (2011)
Zac Hartmann, local pilot, made his father and grandfather really proud with a picture perfect landing on the west property of the Museum for July 4th. Over 300 people had the opportunity to see and talk with Zac and his crew on the day. The helicopter was the only air asset the Museum got that day with a low ceiling canceling the fly-over to start the dedication. The UH-60 Blackhawk is the work-horse of the Army Aviation fleet and the Nebraska National Guard. Zac is a veteran of overseas service and has been a speaker at service organizations and a supporter of the Museum. Thank you to Zac and his crew for the wonderful static display on July 4th.
Rooms Dedicated at Museum

The dedication highlight was the naming of the new exhibit areas. The “John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area” is the home of the Curtiss Pusher and the museums’ special exhibits collections. The room features an area to showcase special exhibits and is surrounded by shrouds covered with images of the past from the Nebraska National Guard. The large shroud overlooking the plane features a handbill from Wisconsin promoting the “World’s Greatest Aviator – Ralph McMillen” and shows him in his 1913 Curtiss Pusher (exactly like the one above the area). On another shroud is General Butler Miltonberger of North Platte who led the Nebraskans in World War II and was the first chief, National Guard Bureau following the war. Another shroud shows the First Nebraskans and the quote that gave us the “All Hell Can’t Stop Us” motto that is used today. The final, colored shroud, is the façade of the 1913 State Arsenal, which is supposed to evoke the feeling of walking from the past (our old museum home) to the present. The current display in the area is on aviation artifacts and features a collection of aviation artifacts and pictures about Erle Smiley (first commander of Company M in Seward in 1921 and renowned barn-stormer). Ryne Seaman, president of The Cattle National Bank and Trust Company spoke on behalf of the Cattle Family and the bank. He spoke about what it meant to have worked for John and the family and how honored he and the family was to have such a facility to share his story with so many people. Four generations of the Cattle Family were on hand to unveil the sign at the dedication. Virginia Cattle did the honors of lifting the covering. The John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area is in memory of Virginia’s husband, John who was a World War II hero and prominent citizen of Seward. The new theater in the Museum is now the “Jones National Bank & Trust Co. Theater”. Max Wake, president of Jones National Bank & Trust Co. spoke about the need for the vision of the museum and the wonderful community support that made the day possible. The new theater features a state of the art projection and sound system, seating for 60 patrons (chairs are embroidered with the “Jones National Bank and Trust Company”), the walls are wrapped in images of the Nebraska National Guard since 1854, and podium and separate sound system. The theater features a 7 minute video on the museum and short history of the Nebraska National Guard done by local talent, Denise Moms...
The Bob Hope USO Show (1946) was another big hit again this year. Craig Strong (Bob Hope) and the 43rd Army Band (Les Browns’ band), and many acts helped to make the night a success. The show as at the Seward High School Auditorium (due to rain at band shell). Over 400 people enjoyed the evening including the Adjutant General and State Command Sergeant Major.

Bob Hope Returns to Seward!

Les Brown and His Band of Renown (43rd Army Band)

Bob Hope (aka Craig Strong) doing the monologue

Clark selling the Magic 8-Ball

Cody and Ava selling a 1946 house

Meghan and Elizabeth doing a skit from “Annie Get Your Gun” the hit musical of 1946. Meghan hit the high notes to wow the crowd!
The dedication ceremony started off with a wreath laying at Prairie Trails by Ramona Muntz (sister to Kenneth Knott who was killed flying an RF-84 in 1966). The ceremony featured a dedication of the 100 Years of NENG Aviation—The Curtiss Pusher. Three rooms: John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area, The Jones National Bank & Trust Co. Theater, and the Concordia University Learning Center signs were unveiled. Over 400 people attended the ceremony in front of the Museum.

Ryne Seaman of the Cattle National Bank and Trust Company and David Claussen, builder of the Curtiss Pusher from Durango (CO), speak to the crowd at the dedication. Both talked about the pride that Seward has in having such a great exhibit to display for future generations. They also thanked the many people who helped make the display possible. Thank you to Ryne and David for speaking at the ceremony.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG
The Seward 4th of July Committee and Museum

Next year promises to surpass the events we just concluded. Seward was chosen as the home for Chautauqua 2017 in June. The theme is World War I and the Museum will play a big part in hosting events tied to the Chautauqua. If you are not familiar with a Chautauqua this event features period players and performances to entertain locals (usually under a big tent). The Red Path Chautauqua used to visit the Chautauqua Park (where the Museum is now) to perform up into the 1920’s. The modern venues are mostly indoor and air-conditioned. The Museum will mirror the event with a robust World War I set of displays and exhibits. The USO show will become a 1917 Vaudeville Show and be at the Seward High School Auditorium. The year 2017 is also the 150th birthday of the state of Nebraska. Many activities are being planned at the Museum for the year. The Museum is represented on three committees: Seward 4th of July, NE150, and Chautauqua 2017. If you feel you can assist us with these events, please contact the Museum at 402-309-8763. Thank you.
July 4th “Open House” Sets Record

7, 815 People Visit the Museum

The old record was 3,873 for a single day attendance at the building dedication on July 4, 2015. The new record is 7,815 set on July 4, 2016 for the grand opening and dedication of the Museum. The visitors were greeted by Dick Stillahn at the entrance and shown the seven minute introductory movie in the Jones National Bank & Trust Co. Theater. They also go an opportunity to see the other rooms: John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area which featured aviation artifacts and the Concordia University Learning Center with the Lawrence Youngman Exhibit and the Domestic Operations Exhibit overlooking the room. The middle of the Museum was the home to temporary exhibits and story-boards. The area also included the Fairbury Tank and a Jeep. The back of the Museum was the Hedge-row room and Weapons Display Room. Overall, the Open House was a great success and plans are in the works for next year and the theme of World War I (1917).

Crowd in the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area

Looking over the Cornrow to Hedgerow Room

Looking at the Temporary Story Boards (Thanks to Kevin and Cody for the great work on these!)
Chautauqua Coming to Seward

Chautauqua 2017 is coming to Seward in June of next year. The event is an old time revival of speakers, music and entertainment that was popular under the big tent in the early 20th century. The Museum will be host to several of the smaller venue presentations and seminars to be planned for June, 2017. Chautauqua Park is the former grounds on which the Museum now stands. The theme for the event in 2017 is World War I.

National Airborne Day

The Museum Society hosted a celebration on National Airborne Day (August 16th) to unveil “Airborne” overlooking the Concordia Learning Center. Special guests: MG Navrkal, John Berry, Sr., Mayor Eickmeier, Dr. Brian Friedrich, Ms. Nitz, and Dave Jenkins. The guests were part of the ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the display. The artist, Dave Jenkins, was on hand to tell about the creation. The display features a life-sized side mock up of a C-130 Hercules with a jumper in the door and one exiting. The display was sponsored by Berry Law Firm and the Nitz family. Over 75 people were on hand for the dedication. The celebration will be an annual event to honor our Airborne tradition in the NENG.

We had many volunteers come in to help put together the wonderful exhibit. Thank you to the many who helped with the display.
“Century of Nebraska National Guard Aviation” - The Curtiss Pusher Exhibit

The 1913 Curtiss Model D Pusher proudly hangs above the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area as a reminder to our aviation heritage in the Nebraska National Guard. General Order #17 on July 19, 1915, established the Nebraska Aviation Corps. It consisted of two planes and several “pilots”, one being Captain Ralph McMillen. The Corps was tasked with promoting aviation to the general public. The Curtiss Pusher and McMillen were pushing the edges of aviation technology and creative uses for aircraft during 1915 and 1916. McMillen was killed in an accident in St. Francis, Kansas on September 2, 1916, ending any more experiments in aviation. The modern Nebraska Air National Guard would be founded on July 26, 1946.

The Curtiss Pusher was the first aircraft of the Nebraska Aviation Corps founded in July, 1915. Captain Ralph McMillen and several pilots flew around Nebraska and the country to promote aviation. The Curtiss Pusher featured in the museum is a replica of the aircraft shown in this original picture taken during an encampment in 1915 (Note: "NNG" on tail-Nebraska National Guard). Captain McMillen and the Curtiss Pusher are the start of our aviation heritage in the Nebraska National Guard.

Curtiss Pusher built by Dave Claussen and crew of Durango, Colorado.

Dedicated July 4, 2016

NAME OF EXHIBIT:
“CENTURY OF NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD AVIATION”
1915-2015
CURTISS PUSHER

SPONSORS:
Virginia Cattle and Family
The Cattle National Bank and Trust Company
Dave Trucking
Nebraska National Guard Museum Historical Society
In Memory of Edie Smiley from the Families of JoAnn Smiley James, Don Smiley, and Marilyn Smiley Schultz
Pictures of the Museum....
Thank You to Our Sponsors

NAME OF EXHIBIT:
“AIRBORNE!”
SPONSORS:
Berry Law Firm
The Nitz Family in Memory of Charles Nitz

NAME OF ROOM:
“JOHN W. CATTLE, SR. EXHIBIT AREA”
SPONSORS:
Virginia Cattle and Family
The Cattle National Bank and Trust Company

NAME OF EXHIBIT:
“WHEN YOU NEEDED US…. WE WERE THERE” DOMESTIC OPERATIONS
SPONSORS:
Union Bank and Trust Company
Seward Branch

NAME OF ROOM:
“JONES NATIONAL BANK & TRUST CO. THEATER”
SPONSORS:
Jones National Bank & Trust Co.
Wake Charitable Foundation

NAME OF ROOM:
“CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY LEARNING CENTER”
SPONSORS:
The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod Ministry to the Armed Forces
Concordia University, Nebraska

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG
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.

Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip:____________________________________________________
E-Mail:__________________________________________________________
Applicant’s Signature:________________Today’s Date:___________________

☐ Individual Lifetime $250.00 ☐ Organizational Lifetime $250.00
☐ Individual Annual $30.00 ☐ Annual Family $60.00
☐ Family Lifetime $500.00
☐ Cash ☐ Check

This section to be filled out by the applicant and retained by the NNG Historical Society for their records

This section to be filled out by a NNG Historical Society Officer and returned to the applicant for their tax records

Name of Applicant___________________________________________________________
Type of Membership: ☐ Individual Lifetime ☐ Organizational Lifetime
☐ Individual Annual ☐ Annual Family ☐ Family Lifetime

NNG HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITNESSING OFFICER ______________________________
SIGNATURE ___________________________ Date ___________________________

This document is a true attestation that the donations received for purely non-profit purpose(s), of a 501(c)(3) charitable or non-profit organization.
The Nebraska National Guard Historical Society, Inc. expresses its heartfelt gratitude to you for donations to our “Square Foot Program”. Be one of the first to own a piece of the Nebraska National Guard Museum. Your donation of $500 per square foot will help establish a magnificent learning environment for many future generations to come.

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.

Number of Square Foot Requested _____ x  $500  = Total___________

☐ Cash Amount__________________________________________________________________________
☐ Check Amount_________________________________________ Check Date_____________________
Check No._________________________________________ Bank Branch________________________

Signed_____________________________
NENG Historical Society Treasurer

This section to be filled out by the applicant and retained by the NNG Historical Society for their records

Name of Applicant___________________________________________________________
Type of Membership: ☐ “Square Foot Program”.

NNG HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITNESSING OFFICER _________________________________
SIGNATURE ___________________________ Date___________________

This document is a true attestation that the donations received for purely non-profit purpose(s), of a 501(c)(3) charitable or non-profit organization.

The M38 Jeep in front of the Museum July 4, 2014 after the sign unveiling and planting of the “Freedom Tree” out front.
The USO Show—Bob Hope—1946

Welcome – Master of Ceremonies
National Anthem – Les Brown and His Band of Renown (43rd Army Band)
Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation
History of the USO and Bob Hope
Monologue – Bob Hope
Les Brown and His Band of Renown – “In the Miller Mood”
   “In the Mood”, “Moonlight Serenade”, “I’ve Got a Gal in Kalamazoo”,
   “Serenade in Blue”, “Little Brown Jug”, “At Last”, “Anvil Chorus”
Bob Hope and Bing Crosby
   Andrew Sisters “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree”
Commercial – Rivoli “It’s a Wonderful Life”
   A song from the Broadway Musical “Annie Get Your Gun”
Les Brown and His Band of Renown – “Circus Days, El Capitan, and The Screamer”
Commercial – Wood Brothers Realty 1946 Seward Home for Sale
Bob Hope
Judy Garland “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”
Frank Sinatra “Coffee Song”
Commercial – Ben Franklin Store “Magic 8 Ball”
Bob Hope
Frances Langford “I’ll Be Seeing You”
Les Brown and His Band of Renown
Salute to the 134th Infantry Regiment in World War II
   “There is No Place Like Nebraska”
   “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, “America the Beautiful”, “You’re a Grand Old Flag”, “God Bless the U.S.A.”
Salute to Our Veterans
   “Armed Forces Medley” (Stand up for your service song)
Bob Hope – “Thanks for the Memories”
Benediction
Les Brown and His Band of Renown – “Stars and Stripes Forever”
Conclusion – Thank You for Attending Tonite! Have a Great 4th of July!