



NEBRASKA HUMANITIES COUNCIL

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 330

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 474-2131 Fax: (402) 474-4852

E-mail: nhc@nebraskahumanities.org

Website: www.nebraskahumanities.org

N E W S R E L E A S E

For release: May 8, 2008

Contact: Mary Yager, (402) 474-2131, ext. 103

“Between Fences” opens May 21 in Tilden

“Between Fences,” a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Service and presented in the state by the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC), opens May 21 at the Raymond A. Whitwer Public Library in Tilden, where it will be on exhibit through June 30.

This is the seventh and final stop of the statewide tour, which began in September in Broken Bow. Each site has developed public humanities programming related to the exhibit’s theme and created events and activities to encourage public participation.

Among special activities planned in Tilden are an opening event May 21 with an open house from 2-8 p.m. and a special program at 6:30 p.m., featuring the NHC Speakers Bureau program, “Fencing, the Windmill and the Steel Plow,” by Warren Rodgers of Grand Island. Rodgers will explore the technological advancements of the 19th century that enabled pioneers to prosper on the prairie.

In mid-June, Anthony Schutz, professor at the University of Nebraska College of Law, will present a program describing water as a boundary issue in the state. The exhibit will close with a musical program by the Miller Sisters on June 29.

“Between Fences” is a visual cultural history of fences and land use that examines how neighbors and nations divide and protect, offend and defend through the boundaries they build. Focusing on every region of the United States, the exhibit’s subjects include the defining of home, farm, and factory; the settling of the United States; the closing of the range in the South and its meaning to former slaves; and the making of fences. The exhibit examines human relationships on an expanding scale—neighbor versus neighbor, gated communities, and the Mexican and Canadian borders of the United States.

Part of the SITES Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program, “Between Fences” is designed for rural audiences and small museums that do not have access to traveling exhibits because of space and cost limitations. The state tour was supported in part by the Cooper Foundation, the Valmont Foundation, the Nebraska Rural Radio Network—KRVN, KTIC, and KNEB, the Nebraska Farm Bureau, and the “We the People” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The NHC has sponsored four other MOMS tours in Nebraska. In 2005-2006, “Key Ingredients: America By Food” visited communities statewide. “Yesterday’s Tomorrows: Past Visions of the American Future” toured the state in 2003, “Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon” toured the state in 2001-2002, and “Produce for Victory” toured the state in 1996.

###