

Library at Governor's Mansion Gets Face Lift

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WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — As they did when the Governor's Mansion was being built in the late 1950s, Nebraska libraries are contributing new books for the library in the recently renovated mansion.

The library already showcases books by famous Nebraska authors such as Mari Sandoz and Beth Streeter Aldrich.

The latest effort, however, is a way to "renew and reinvigorate" that collection, said Mary Jo Ryan, communications coordinator with the Nebraska Library Commission.

"We wanted to have some new examples that will be useful in helping peo-

ple see the broad and varied authors of Nebraska," Ryan said.

The project is a collaboration between the Nebraska Library Commission, the Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at the Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln and the Nebraska Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress' National Center for the Book.

Ryan said the new project stems from a similar one by the public library commission in 1958, when the mansion was built. Libraries across the state donated books to fill the mansion library.

In 1998, as part of the \$3.3 million governor's residence restoration project, Nebraska's first lady, Diane Nelson, began a refurbishing of the man-

sion's library, which is in the public area on the lower level of the governor's residence at 14th and H Streets in Lincoln.

Additional shelves were added as well as a new focus on Nebraska authors, books about Nebraska and hand-stitched books created in the state.

An invitation-only reception honoring the Governor's Mansion Library Project will be Nov. 19.

"The residence is visited by people from all over the world, and it has been my dream to display the very best of Nebraska culture ... Nebraska authors, Nebraska artists and Nebraska musicians," Nelson said in announcing the reception.

Among the new additions to the library's collection are "Fall Quarter" by Nebraska-born poet Weldon Kees, "Notable Nebraskans" by Jean Sanders and "Guide to Nebraska Authors" by Gerry Cox and Carol MacDaniels.

In addition to the books, the room has displays of original artwork by Nebraska artists that change monthly and a collection of dolls dressed to depict the state's first ladies.

The public can view the library and its collections during scheduled tours of the mansion.

Ryan said Nebraskans who wish to nominate a book for inclusion in the mansion library project may contact the Library Commission at 1-800-307-2665.