

March 1, 1982

touring this slowly and carefully we stopped at the North entrance and he said, "John, I've been in every famous building in the world and this is the shrine to democracy. It's probably the finest two or three buildings in the world." And Barry Kennedy who is the international president of Jaycees told me just this morning that he just got back not long ago from Peru where he had had a session with the president of Peru. The president asked him where he was from and he said, "Nebraska." And the president of Peru then went on to give him a five minute expose about the magnificent state capitol, who the architect was, when it was built and everything else that he didn't know about the state capitol of Nebraska and he said, "I've got to learn that story." So it is really interesting and I think we need to spend a little more time learning it ourselves so that we can be aware of the significance of the building. Finally, the thing that we want to do this morning is recognize six Nebraskans for the part that they have played in making the distinction of Nebraska greater. We think that the new awards that we're sponsoring will help each one of us be more aware of what Nebraskans do for our state and what is offered because of our people. The strength of the state is in its people. So this morning we're initiating three new awards that will be given off and on by the Foundation called the Pioneer Award, the Trailblazer Award and the Wagonmaster Award which we think significantly represents the pioneer heritage and the strength of our great state. To present these people to you and read the awards will be the new president of the Nebraskaland Foundation for the next two years, Betty Abbott of Omaha.

MRS. ABBOTT: Thank you. Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senators, fellow Nebraskans, it is an honor for me to make the presentation of our six initial awards and I would like to first call forth Nellie Snyder Yost. There are few from the State of Nebraska who could present the spirit of Nebraska's heritage on paper better than our two Pioneer Award recipients. Our first is a woman whose writing career began at the age of 46. Nellie Snyder Yost for 30 years has retold the stories of hardship and humor, the lifestyle and heartbreaks of the plains. Her vivid accounts of our pioneer heritage have earned her national recognition including appearances on national television. She took readers down the nostalgic path of the Nebraska cattle industry in "The West That Was; The Call of The Range." She recorded the experiences of her pioneer mother in "No Time on My Hands." She takes everyone back in time in the history of Holt County entitled "Before Today." Perhaps her best known work, "Buffalo Bill; His Family, Friends, Fame, Failures and Fortunes," earned her the coveted Wrangler Award from the Oklahoma City Cowboy Hall of Fame. In recognition of the place she has earned