



Community Focus

Public notice

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners seek members of the community to serve on the Lancaster County Extension Board. Three current extension board members will be completing their terms this December. These vacancies will be filled with terms beginning in January 2000.

Extension board members represent and assist University of Nebraska Extension staff in Lancaster County with priority issue areas that include Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability; Children, 4-H, Youth and Families; Food Safety, Health and Wellness; Strengthening Nebraska Communities; and Water Quality and Environment. The board meets monthly.

Registered Lancaster County voters interested in serving a three-year term should submit an application postmarked no later than November 1. Additional information and an application can be obtained from the Lancaster County Extension Office, 444 Cherry Creek Road, or phone 441-7180. (GB)

Questions about water?

Water Information: Call 1-800-832-5441 (when directed, enter the topic number of the desired message)



Domestic Water Contaminants

- 851 Drinking Water: Bacteria
- 852 Drinking Water: Hard Water
- 853 Drinking Water: Hydrogen Sulfide
- 854 Drinking Water: Iron and Manganese
- 855 Drinking Water: Lead
- 856 Drinking Water: Man-made Chemicals
- 857 Drinking Water: Nitrate-Nitrogen
- 858 Drinking Water: Sulfates
- 859 Drinking Water: Copper
- 860 Drinking Water: Fluoride
- 861 Drinking Water: Nitrate and Blue Baby Syndrome



Water Quality and the Environment

- 865 Understanding Groundwater
- 866 Glossary of Water-related Terms
- 867 Best Management Practices for Agricultural Pesticides to Protect Water Quality
- 868 Plugging Abandoned Wells
- 869 Conserving Water in the Landscape
- 875 Shock Chlorination of Domestic Water Supplies

Water Treatment

- 801 Buying a Water Softener
- 862 Is Bottled Water Safer Than Tap Water?
- 863 Storing Water for an Emergency
- 864 Emergency Water Purification
- 876 Water Treatment Equipment: A Buyer's Guide
- 877 Water Treatment Equipment: An Overview
- 878 Water Treatment Equipment: Test Water Before Buying



Y2K and emergency preparedness—subject of extension workshops

Tom Dorn
Extension Educator

One second past midnight on December 31 will be the start of the year 2000 (shortened to Y2K by many people). This date will be expressed by many older computer programs as 01-01-00. The fear is, some computer programs may interpret the double zero (00) as the year 1900 instead of 2000. This may cause some computer programs to malfunction and therefore is referred to as the "Y2K bug". Programmers have been hard at work for the past several years converting date sensitive programming to a four digit year code in computer systems used by governmental departments and critical industries (medical, transportation, utilities, etc.).

There are many opinions on the severity of the Y2K problem and its effect on supplies and services that we take for granted

in everyday life. Regardless of your personal opinion on Y2K, it is a reminder to all of us to be prepared for any potential disaster. Anyone who was living in eastern Nebraska during the blizzard of October 1997 will attest to the fact that we do occasionally experience extended power outages.

The extension staff in Lancaster County believes that any preparation that people make should cover the most likely scenarios first and preparations should be done according to a list of priorities, covering the most critical needs first (such as a supply of drinking water). We also feel that money spent on Y2K emergency preparations should be for items that can be used for any emergency, either natural or man made, and for items that will be consumed even if no disaster occurs.

We are planning two evening (7 to 9:30) workshops on preparing for Y2K and other

emergencies. On Monday, November 22, we will cover Community Readiness for Y2K. What have utilities, financial institutions and governmental agencies done to protect services?

On Monday, November 29, we will cover Individual and Home Readiness for emergency situations. Topics include: water storage and emergency water purification. Will your sewer work if the power is out? Storing emergency food supplies and food preparation in an emergency situation. Suggested non-food emergency supplies and equipment. Safe sources of heat when the power is out. And how to stave off cabin fever (life without TV).

Both workshops will have relevance to people living in town as well as people living on farms and acreages. Watch for more information in the November NEBLINE. (TD)

O Pioneers!

O Pioneers!, Willa Cather's epic novel of life on the Nebraska prairie one hundred years ago, will come to the Kimball Hall stage at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall in the world premiere of a new opera by Tyler White, NU's Director of Orchestral Activities. Commissioned by the NU School of Music, the production represents the first operatic treatment of a full-length Cather novel.

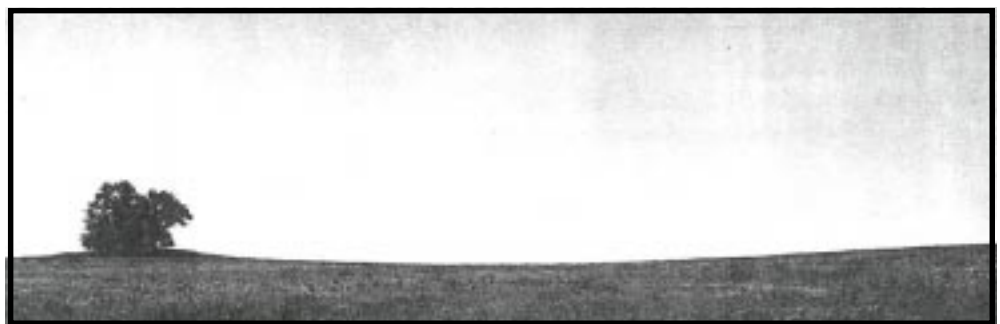
O Pioneers! is uniquely suited among Cather's works for this distinction since it is not only one of Cather's best-loved works but also her first novel set in Nebraska and the first of her works to gain lasting fame.

O Pioneers! centers on the story of Alexandra Bergson, the daughter of Swedish immigrants struggling to farm the then-

barren plains of southern Nebraska. Her belief in the power and beauty of her new country enables her to awaken the land's fruitfulness, but her success with the land may come at the cost of love and family. Crossing Alexandra's story is

style, the composer freely intersperses passages of spoken dialogue and symphonic interludes with the familiar operatic forms of aria, ensemble, and recitative.

Tyler White has been interested in Cather's works



that of her younger brother, Emil, and his hopeless illicit love for the wife of a neighboring farmer. Overarching both stories is the brooding presence of the land itself and its wind-swept spaces.

White's musical treatment of the story stresses both its lyricism and its drama. Working in an expansive neo-Romantic

since he, like Cather herself, moved to the Great Plains as a child. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, raised in Manhattan, Kansas, White was educated at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Cornell University. He has received commissions for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the St. Luke's Trio, and other ensembles, as well as numerous prizes and other awards. In 1997, his cello concerto *Threnos* became the first work by a Nebraskan to win the Omaha Symphony Guild International New Music Competition. As a composer, White has two symphonies, two concertos, and numerous smaller orchestral and chamber works to his credit; *O Pioneers!* is his first opera.

O Pioneers! will premiere November 12th (8 p.m.) and November 14th (3 p.m.) at Kimball Hall, 11th & "R" Streets. Reserved seats are \$14 adults and \$7 students and are available at the Lied Center Box Office, 12th & "R" Streets, or call 402-472-4747. (GB)

E.N. Thompson Forum for World Issues 1999-2000 schedule for speakers

The E. N. Thompson Forum on World Issues offers thought provoking speakers on key global issues. This provides members of our community an outstanding opportunity to increase global perspectives on issues confronting our changing world.

All lectures are presented free of charge and held at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, 12th and R Streets, Lincoln.

Upcoming presentations are as follows:

Eugenia Zukerman, Tuesday, November 9, 1999, 3:30 p.m.

Archbishop Tutu, Tuesday, January 25, 2000, 3 or 3:30 p.m.

To be announced

Robert McNamara et al., Tuesday, February 8, 2000, 3:30 p.m.

Theo Colborn, Tuesday, March 7, 2000, 3:30 p.m.

Michael Kirby, Tuesday, April 18, 2000, 3:30 p.m. (GB)

