

Prairie Hosteller

News for Nebraska Members of Hostelling International American Youth Hostels

Nebraska Trails

Nebraska is one of the best states in the nation for trails. In its early history, several overland trails crossed this state, including the Oregon and Mormon Trails. Shortly following these, Omaha became the eastern terminus of the growing transcontinental railroad. In addition, the Sidney-Deadwood stagecoach line linked western Nebraska with the goldfields of the Blackhills. More recently, Nebraskans saw the construction of the Lincoln Highway (Old Highway 30) and, of course, Interstate 80.

Within the past few decades, several of Nebraska's old rail-lines have been abandoned. Rather than selling the old right-of-ways to the adjoining landowners, several Nebraska agencies have begun to combine their resources with some private groups to buy the right-of-ways and convert them to trails.

One of the great things in this state is the trail system that is currently in place and the mileage that is continually

Tribute to Frank Marsh

Frank Marsh (1924-2001) was actively involved in the government of the state of Nebraska for nearly 40 years as Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor and State Treasurer.

International friendship was one of Frank's special commitments. He and his wife Shirley were long-time members of Lincoln Friends of Foreign Students. Frank served as president for the National Council for International Visitors and was board member and president of the National Board of Directors for American Youth Hostels. He was instrumental in the development of the Washington DC hostel and brought enthusiasm for the hostelling mission to the Nebraskaland Council.

"Frank Marsh will long be remembered in the state Capitol for his years of service to Nebraska," said Governor Johanns. "Even after he left public life, Frank continued to serve his fellow man. It is appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on his many contributions to our state and his humble and generous spirit that was so evident throughout his life."

being added each year. The technology of the old steam train era encouraged the development of a new town about every ten to fifteen miles apart, which was necessary to refuel the old steam engines with coal and water. This is also excellent spacing for breaks for bicyclists touring these trails. This new resource presents opportunities for hostel development across the state.

Nebraskaland Council HI-AYH board members Greg

Nelson and Tim Harris joined trails enthusiasts from across the state at the 2001 Nebraska Trails Conference hosted by the Elkhorn Valley Trail Network in Norfolk, NE, in April. www.evtn.org.

For further information about Nebraska trails activities and development:

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/infoeduc/cowboy.html>

<http://www.netrails.org>
www.AmericanTrails.org
www.nps.gov
www.railtrails.org
www.nebraskacycling.org