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REVISED: 9-12-05

A HISTORY OF THE
PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVES
OF THE NEBRASKA
STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

by

George E. Koster

THIRD EDITION
2005

Edited by the

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PREFACE

Since employees have always been our most important resource, it is indeed appropriate that we publish a history of the principal executives who guided the department over the years. Unfortunately, time and space did not allow the inclusion of every division or district that ever was. This is also true of a number of executives whose positions were relatively short in duration. In most cases, however, those that were omitted can be found in the Biennial Reports, Blue Books, or other documents.

Of the many persons listed in these pages, I've personally met over half of them dating back to the 1940's. And, to inject a more human touch, nicknames have been added. Also included are engineering license numbers since a preponderance of the department's principal executives have been engineers. Registration of professional engineers by the State of Nebraska began in August 1937 and by the end of 1938, 677 engineers had been licensed. The license numbers included B-1, B-3, B-5, and E-1 through E-679 (less E-140, E-156, E-383, E-442, and E-669).

Many thanks to the following present and former employees for their assistance: Jerry Briggs, John Brinjak, John Broughton, Rick Clevenger, Bill Cooper, Art Dederman, Ron Disney, Harold Easom, Cec Eloe, Lowell Fisk, Steve Gilbert, Jerry Grauer, Harold Grooms, Mary Jo Hall, Jan Havranek, John Hossack, Dave Hughes, Bill Hurst, Jim Jensen, Oliver Johnson, Rusty Jones, Duke Lichty, A. T. Lobdell, Orville Lund, Bob Meyer, Del Motycka, Bob Munger, Andy Necas, Randy Needham, Fred Nelson, Charlie Nutter, Les O'Donnell, Bill Palmer, Jack Pittman, John Porter, Don Robertson, Joe Sorkin, Jerry Strobel, Bob Stutzman, George Swatek, Wayne Teten, E. W. Tupper, Chuck Vyhnaek, Ralph Weihe, and Walt Witt. I am also eternally grateful to Miss Fay Gordon, formerly of Norfolk High School, and to my mother, Jean Marshall Koster, for their instruction and insistence on a reasonable use of the English language. And, of course, I would be totally remiss if I did not thank Judy Kelly and her staff in our Word Processing Center for their patience and good work.

In closing, I hereby dedicate this publication to the late Robert L. "Roy" Cochran, who was Nebraska's State Engineer for 12 years and 4 months (1923-34 and 1959), which is 3 years and 6 months longer than anyone else to date. In addition, he was the first person to serve three consecutive two-year terms as Governor of Nebraska (1935-41). Mr. Cochran was an effective leader, a fine engineer, an ardent sportsman, and a gentleman. He was thrifty with the public purse, promoted pay-as-we-go highways, helped Nebraska become a national leader in the design and development of roads during the 1920's, and gave most of his adult life to the public service. And, in 1937, for his leadership, experience, and insistence upon excellence in the field of civil engineering, then-Governor Cochran was assigned professional registration number E-1 by the Nebraska State Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Architects.

George E. "Dutch" Koster

DEPARTMENT HISTORY

The Nebraska Department of Roads has evolved from the State Board of Irrigation, the latter being created on April 4, 1895 when Governor Silas A. Holcomb signed H. R. 443 which had the emergency clause. That was over a century ago and since then, there have been many organizational changes.

In 1911, the Legislature changed the board's name to the State Board of Irrigation, Highways, and Drainage. And, the 1919 Legislature changed the board's name to the Department of Public Works. In the same year, the registration of motor vehicles, which was begun by the Secretary of State in 1913, was transferred from that office to the Department of Public Works. The department was then composed of two bureaus and one headquarters division: the Bureau of Roads and Bridges; the Bureau of Irrigation, Water Power, and Drainage; and the Motor Vehicle Records Division.

While the department's field divisions varied from five to ten from 1919-24, they stabilized at eight in 1925 and their headquarters were located as follows: Divisions 1 and 2 (Lincoln), Division 3 (Norfolk), Division 4 (Grand Island), Division 5 (Scottsbluff), Division 6 (McCook), Division 7 (North Platte), and Division 8 (Ainsworth). Although field Division 2 was responsible for 10 counties in the east-central (Omaha) area, its headquarters was in Lincoln.

Although the 1933 Legislature changed the department's name to the Department of Roads and Irrigation, the department was still composed of the same two bureaus: the Bureau of Roads and Bridges and the Bureau of Irrigation, Water Power, and Drainage. The Bureau of Roads and Bridges was subdivided into four headquarters divisions: Road Construction and Maintenance, Maps and Plans, Clerical and Records, and Motor Vehicle Registration. Also in 1933, the field Division 5 headquarters was transferred from Scottsbluff to Bridgeport.

The 1937 Legislature created within the department, the Division of Highway Safety and Patrol, to be known as the Nebraska Safety Patrol. In 1942, the department was composed of the Bureau of Highways; Bureau of Irrigation, Water Power, and Drainage; Motor Vehicle Division; and the Safety Patrol. In 1954, the responsibility for operation of the Scale Section and 12 weighing stations was transferred from the Safety Patrol to the Bureau of Highways.

The 1957 Legislature divided the Department of Roads and Irrigation into three separate state agencies: the Department of Roads, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Department of Water Resources. The Department of Roads was composed of the Bureau of Highways (four headquarters divisions, eight headquarters sections, eight field divisions) and the Safety Patrol. In 1967, the Legislature changed the name of the Nebraska Safety Patrol to the Nebraska State Patrol.

In 1968, the field Division 2 headquarters was transferred from Lincoln to Omaha. Since 1969, field divisions have been called districts. Also in that year, District 6 (McCook) and District 8 (Ainsworth) were made sub-districts of District 7 (North Platte) and District 3 (Norfolk), respectively. At the same time, District 7 (North Platte) was renumbered and became District 6. The former McCook district was reinstated in 1971 as District 7 and, in 1977, the former Ainsworth district was reinstated as District 8.

The 1981 Legislature made the Nebraska State Patrol a separate state agency and the 1985 Legislature reassigned the Carrier Enforcement Division from the Department of Roads to the patrol. In 1999, the Department of Roads has 17 headquarters divisions and 8 field districts, with support from the Attorney General (Roads Section of the Department of Justice) and advisory assistance from the State Highway Commission. The eight field districts are: District 1 (Lincoln), District 2 (Omaha), District 3 (Norfolk), District 4 (Grand Island), District 5 (Bridgeport), District 6 (North Platte), District 7 (McCook), and District 8 (Ainsworth).

For when the one great scorer
Comes to mark against your name,
He writes, not that you won or lost,
But how you played the game.

Grantland Rice
c. 1900

BRIDGE DIVISION

1923-26	Coff, Charles M. (E-450)
1927-42	Mason, John G. "Glen" (E-12)
1942-53	Schlitt, Henry G. (E-23)
1953-59	Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1959-68	Dederman, Arthur H. "Art" (E-1530)
1968-72	Porter, John C. (E-1559)
1972-74	Smith, Charles D. "Charlie" (E-1732)
1974-88	Holmes, James R. "Jim" (E-1621)
1988-89	Schmid, George W. (E-1655)
1989-	Freemon, Lyman D. (E-2005)

Note: Over the years, the responsibility for bridges was vested in the Bridge Section of the Division of Maps and Plans (1911), Bridge Division (1929), Bridge Section of the Design Division (1937), and the Bridge Division (1968). Prior to 1923, the Biennial Reports do not identify the Bridge Engineer by name. Mr. Schmid served as the acting Bridge Division Engineer during 1988-89.

COMMUNICATION DIVISION

1950-53	Palmer, William H. "Bill"
1953-55	Britton, John F.
1955-69	Eloe, Carl C. "Cecil"
1969-74	Nelson, Fred B.
1974-93	Shafer, Larry G.
1993-	Hall, Mary Jo "M. J."

Note: Mr. Palmer was assigned as the Chief of Information in 1950 and reported directly to the State Engineer, even though the Information Section was not officially created until 1951. The Information Section became a division in 1968 and a section again in 1974. From 1967-69, Mr. Eloe also served as the secretary to the State Highway Commission. The Information Section was a part of the Information, Liaison, and Agreement Services Division (1974-84) and the Information and Office Services Division (1984-93). During those years, the Information Section was headed by Fred B. Nelson (1974-80), Robert L. "Bob" Munger (1980-85), and Mary Jo Hall (1986-93). In 1993, the Information Section was expanded and designated as the Communication Division. Also in 1993, Mary Jo Hall became the first woman since 1936 (57 years) to head a division of the state highway department (see Controller Division).

CONSTRUCTION DIVISION

- (C) 1927-37 Gaddis, Albert M. "Al" (E-64)
- (P) 1931-37 Jones, Marshall B. (E-66)
- 1937-40 Jones, Marshall B. (E-66)
- 1941-52 Bohner, Arthur W. "Art" (E-112)
- 1952-67 Graham, Loren O. (E-309)
- 1967-68 Johnson, Oliver W. (E-583)
- 1968-74 Dederman, Arthur H. "Art" (E-1530)
- 1974-86 Gottula, Kenneth J. "Ken" (E-1493)
- 1986-88 Jackman, Virgil N. "Virg" (E-1784)
- 1988-92 Stutzman, Robert J. "Bob" (E-1584)
- 1992- Oie, Claude R. (E-3939)

Note: From 1917-26, the department had no Construction Engineer, per se. From 1917-25, the responsibility for construction of the state highway system was vested in the counties, working in cooperation with the state's district engineers, with the state providing the funds. The district engineers received assistance and guidance from the Assistant Chief and Chief of the Bureau of Roads and Bridges. On January 1, 1926, the state became responsible for the construction of the state system, except for those portions within the corporate limits of a municipality having a population over 1,400. In 1927, the Division of Construction and Maintenance was created. A separate Construction Division was created in 1929. From 1931-37, the Construction Engineer (C) and Paving Engineer (P) were "equals" in the Construction Division.

CONTRACT LETTINGS SECTION

1926-27 Jones, Marshall B. (E-66)
1927-51 Boyd, Robert J. "Bob" (E-287)
1951-69 Stephens, James M. "Steve" (E-293)
1969-72 Graham, Loren O. (E-309)
1972-00 Vyhnalek, Charles F. "Chuck"
2000- Organization Restructure

Note: From 1926-52, the responsibility for contract lettings was assigned to the Office Engineer, who headed the following divisions: Design, Maps, and Plans (1926-28), Maps and Plans (1928-37), Office Administration (1937-41), and Office Engineering (1941-52). From 1952-68, the contract lettings function was assigned to the Maps and Plans Engineer in the Design Division. The Prequalifications and Lettings Division was created in 1968 and the name was changed to Contracts Division (1970), Contracts and Administration Division (1972), Contract Lettings and Office Services Division (1973), Contract Lettings Division (1984), Contracts and Minority Business Enterprise Section (1993), and Contract Lettings Section (1997). Since 1993, the section has been assigned to the Construction Division.

CONTROLLER DIVISION

1915-22	Schultz, B. Luise
1923-24	Ketchum, Earl F. (E-47)
1925-28	Husted, Leo W.
1929-36	Schultz, B. Luise
1937-50	Carnahan, John R. (E-553)
1951-69	Welty, George J.
1969-72	Owens, Harris R.
1972-00	Pittman, Jack F.
2000-	Maraman, Stephen D. "Steve"

Note: This division has had a number of titles: Division of Accounts and Records (1919), Division of Records and Control (1937), Records and Audits Section (1950), Fiscal Management Division (1968), and Controller Division (1969). B. Luise Schultz was the first woman to head a division of the state highway department and was in charge of accounting beginning in 1915. The second woman to head a division was Mabel G. Tracy, who was in charge of the Motor Vehicle Division from 1919-36. In 1957, the Legislature redesignated the Motor Vehicle Division as the Department of Motor Vehicles, thus making it a separate state agency.

DIRECTOR-STATE ENGINEER

1895-96	Howell, Robert B.
1896-97	Akers, William R.
1897-00	Wilson, J. Morris
1900-01	Channel, Charles B.
1901-09	Dobson, Adna
1909-11	Simmons, Edward C.
1911-15	Price, Donald D. (E-264)
1915-23	Johnson, George E. (E-114)
1923-34	Cochran, Robert L. "Roy" (E-1)
1934-35	Lobdell, Arthur T. "A. T." (E-65)
1935-41	Tilley, Albert C. "A. C." (E-4)
1941-48	Scott, Wardner G. (E-54)
1948-51	Klietsch, Fred H. (E-110)
1951-53	Aitken, Harold L. "Hal" (E-1156)
1953-59	Ress, Lorenz N. "L. N." (E-126)
1959	Cochran, Robert L. "Roy" (E-1)
1960-68	Hossack, John W. (E-382)
1968-71	Nuernberger, Marvin L. "Marv" (E-778)
1971-77	Doyle, Thomas D. "Tom" (E-1996)
1977-83	Coolidge, David O. "Dave" (E-343)
1983-86	Lamberty, Louis E. "Lou" (E-3786)
1986-87	Hogrefe, Raymond H. "Ray" (E-6205)
1987-91	Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1991-92	Teten, Walter W. "Wayne" (E-3152)
1992-99	Abbott, Allan L. "Al" (E-7386)
1999-	Craig, John L.

Note: Although 1917 saw the beginning of the state highway system and thus, the state highway department, all State Engineers since day-one are listed. The 1969 Legislature changed the title of the State Engineer to Director-State Engineer, effective December 25, 1969. Messrs. Lobdell (1934-35) and Teten (1991-92) each served as the acting State Engineer for six months. Mr. Cochran served for 12 years and 4 months (1923-34 and 1959), a department record.

DEPUTY STATE ENGINEER

1895-96	Akers, William R.
1896-97	Youngfelt, Emil T.
1897-01	McCoskey, A. B.
1901-02	Forbes, Burt E.
1902-05	Stevens, J. C.
1905-07	Green, James. A.
1907-09	Bates, George W.
1909-11	Price, Donald D. (E-264)
1911-13	Roberts, H. W.
1913-15	Mason, Cyrus P.
1915-17	Steckelberg, W. D. J.
1917-18	Cochran, Robert L. (E-1)
1918-23	Morey, Eugene H.
1923-26	Noble, Mont C.
1927-40	Lobdell, Arthur T. "A. T." (E-65)
1940-45	Jones, Marshall B. (E-66)
1946-48	Klietsch, Fred H. (E-110)
1948-52	Weller, Raymond F. "Bub" (E-206)
1952-53	Ress, Lorenz N. "L. N." (E-126)
1953-59	Schlitt, Henry G. (E-23)
1960-67	Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)

Note: Although 1917 marked the beginning of the state highway system and thus, the state highway department, all Deputy State Engineers since day-one are listed. This position had a number of titles over the years: Assistant Secretary, Assistant State Engineer, Chief of the Bureau, Chief Highway Engineer, and Deputy State Engineer. On January 1, 1968, the single-deputy concept was discontinued and four new deputy positions were created. See pages 8 and 9.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-ADMINISTRATION

1968-72 Gardner, Roy E.
1972-79 Reiling, Merle F.
1979-83 Peterson, John W. "Bill" (E-4923)
1983-89 Pearson, Rodney James "Jim"
2001-02 Pittman, Jack F.

Note: From 1968-89, the actual title was Deputy Director-Highway Administration. This position was eliminated on October 26, 1989. In September of 2001, this position was reinstated. This position was eliminated in 2003.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-ENGINEERING

1968 Nuernberger, Marvin L. "Marv" (E-778)
1968-71 Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1971-84 Nutter, Charles F. "Charlie" (E-1425)
1984-87 Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1987-92 Teten, Walter W. "Wayne" (E-3152)
1992- Fredrickson, Monty W. (E-3641)

Note: The actual title was Deputy State Engineer-Design (1968-72), Deputy State Engineer-Engineering Services (1972-84), and Deputy State Engineer-Engineering (1984 to date). However, since 1984, Deputy Director has been used instead of Deputy State Engineer. Mr. Strobel served as a deputy state engineer or deputy director for 27 years (1960-87), a department record. In fact, he served at or above the equivalent rank of district engineer or division head for 38 years (1953-91), also a department record.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-OPERATIONS

1968 Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1968-72 Johnson, Oliver W. (E-583)
1972-84 Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1984-86 Nutter, Charles F. "Charlie" (E-1425)
1986-92 Swing, Donald O. "Don" (E-1697)
1992-00 Teten, Walter W. "Wayne" (E-3152)
2000-03 Organization Restructure
2003- Jacobsen, John R. "Jake" (E-4222)

Note: Since 1968, the actual title has been Deputy State Engineer-Operations. Since 1984, however, Deputy Director has been used instead of Deputy State Engineer.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

1968-71 Gillan, Bruce C. (E-227)
1971-72 Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1972-84 (position eliminated)
1984-00 Wais, Thomas A. "Tom" (E-2710)
2000-02 Organization Restructure
2002- Position eliminated

Note: From 1968-71, the actual title was Deputy State Engineer-Planning. From 1971-72, the actual title was Deputy State Engineer-Development. The latter position was eliminated in June 1972 and was reinstated in 1984 with the actual title of Deputy State Engineering-Planning. In 1989, the actual title was changed to Deputy State Engineer-Planning and Administration. Since 1984, however, Deputy Director has been used instead of Deputy State Engineer.

**DISTRICT 1 HEADQUARTERS
AT LINCOLN**

1919-21	Mirick, Alfred S.
1921-27	Green, Richard O. (E-52)
1927-35	Klietsch, Fred H. (E-110)
1935-36	Weller, Raymond F. "Bub" (E-206)
1937-41	House, Robert A. "Bob" (E-246)
1941-43	Middleswart, Thomas C. "Tom" (E-46)
1943	House, Robert A. "Bob" (E-246)
1943-60	Smith, Fred C. (E-370)
1961-72	Murphy, James V. "Jim" (E-346)
1972-79	Divis, Ferdinand L. "Ferd" (E-1815)
1979-88	Stutzman, Robert J. "Bob" (E-1584)
1988-	Ruby, Richard J. "Rich" (E-2856)

Note: From 1919-1924, the number of districts varied from five to ten and there were numerous changes of district headquarters and boundaries. In 1925-26, the number of districts was set at eight and the boundaries stabilized. District 1 headquarters has been in Lincoln since 1919.

**DISTRICT 2 HEADQUARTERS
AT OMAHA**

1921-28	Black, Michael F. "Mike"
1928-60	Olmstead, Edwin "Ed" (E-323)
1960-67	Nuernberger, Marvin L. "Marv" (E-778)
1968	Dederman, Arthur H. "Art" (E-1530)
1968-74	Tupper, Errol W. "Tup" (E-562)
1974-77	Erington, Dermot J. "Sonny" (E-1924)
1977-84	Hattan, Wilbur D. (E-1495)
1984-88	Teten, Walter W. "Wayne" (E-3152)
1988-92	Fredrickson, Monty W. (E-3641)
1992-03	Jacobsen, John R. "Jake" (E-4222)
2003-	Weander, Timothy W. "Tim" (E-6817)

Note: From 1919-1924, the number of districts varied from five to ten and there were numerous changes of district headquarters and boundaries. In 1925-26, the number of districts was set at eight and the boundaries stabilized. The Omaha district was headquartered at Wayne (1921-22), Fremont (1923-24), and Lincoln (1925-68). In late 1968, the headquarters was transferred to Omaha. Mr. Tupper was the first district engineer of the Omaha district to actually reside in Omaha.

DISTRICT 3 HEADQUARTERS AT NORFOLK

1919-21	Black, Michael F. "Mike"
1921	Kimmell, Willis D.
1922	(no headquarters at Norfolk)
1923-29	Tilley, Albert C. "A. C." (E-4)
1929-30	Marquis, Vance W. (E-397)
1930-45	Martin, Joseph B. "Joe" (E-182)
1945-48	Ress, Lorenz N. "L. N." (E-126)
1948-51	Ayres, Rollin C. "Bill" (E-181)
1951-72	Koster, George E., Jr. "Dutch" (E-445)
1972-96	McCarthy, Thomas P. "Tom" (E-1757)
1997-02	Cook, Donald D. "Don" (E-3027)
2002-	Winter, Kristine I. "Kris" (E-6526)

Note: From 1919-1924, the number of districts varied from five to ten and there were numerous changes of district headquarters and boundaries. In 1925-26, the number of districts was set at eight and the boundaries stabilized. Norfolk(pronounced "Norfork") was the headquarters for District 2 in 1919-21 and District 7 in 1921. In 1922, there was no district headquarters at Norfolk since the headquarters for District 2 was at Wayne and the headquarters for Districts 7 and 10 were both at Neligh. In 1923, Norfolk was made the headquarters for District 3. Mr. Koster's son (same name) served as the secretary to the State Highway Commission from 1972-75 (see page 28) and is the author of this history.

**DISTRICT 4 HEADQUARTERS
AT GRAND ISLAND**

1922-32	Rolls, Fred C.
1932-34	Bauman, William H.
1935-37	Bohner, Arthur W. "Art" (E-112)
1937-68	Jones, Lincoln R. "Rusty" (E-172)
1968-74	Reed, Jack W. (E-1685)
1974-91	Necas, Andrew, Jr. "Andy" (E-1817)
1991-05	McCann, V. Charles "Chuck" (E-3462)
2005-	Wahlgren, Wesley "Wes" (E-6885)

Note: From 1919-1924, the number of districts varied from five to ten and there were numerous changes of district headquarters and boundaries. In 1925-26, the number of districts was set at eight and the boundaries stabilized. Grand Island was the headquarters for District 9 in 1922 and District 4 in 1923-24.

**DISTRICT 5 HEADQUARTERS
AT BRIDGEPORT**

1919-21	McLean, James C.
1921-26	Gaddis, Albert M. "Al" (E-64)
1927-41	Middleswart, Thomas C. "Tom" (E-46)
1941-43	House, Robert A. "Bob" (E-246)
1943-64	Middleswart, Thomas C. "Tom" (E-46)
1964-68	Nutter, Charles F. "Charlie" (E-1425)
1968-95	Jensen, James R. "Jim" (E-1920)
1996-03	Weander, Timothy W. "Tim" (E-6817)
2003-	Lind, Craig R. (E-3922)

Note: The District 5 headquarters was established at Scottsbluff in 1919 and was transferred to Bridgeport on June 1, 1933. Mr. Middleswart served as a district engineer from 1927-64 (1941-43 in District 1), a total of 37 years. This is the longest tenure of any district engineer or division head in department history.

**DISTRICT 6 HEADQUARTERS
AT NORTH PLATTE**

1919-21	Cochran, Robert L. "Roy" (E-1)
1921-23	Tilley, Albert C. "A. C." (E-4)
1923-25	(no headquarters at North Platte)
1925-27	Klietsch, Fred H. (E-110)
1927-34	Eubank, Charles W. (E-426)
1935-46	McMeekin, John E. (E-57)
1946-48	House, Robert A. "Bob" (E-246)
1948-74	Easom, Harold H. (E-775)
1974-05	O'Donnell, Lester D. "Les" (E-3020)

Note: From 1919-1924, the number of districts varied from five to ten and there were numerous changes of district headquarters and boundaries. In 1925-26, the number of districts was set at eight and the boundaries stabilized. North Platte was the headquarters for District 4 from 1919-22 and District 7 from 1925-69. The North Platte headquarters was renumbered from District 7 to 6 in 1969 and has produced more State Engineers (Cochran, Tilley, and Klietsch) than any other division or district.

**DISTRICT 7 HEADQUARTERS
AT MCCOOK**

1921-23	Noble, Mont C.
1923-27	Lobdell, Arthur T. "A. T." (E-65)
1927-41	Smith, Fred C. (E-370)
1941-47	Carey, C. Lyle (E-41)
1947-69	Coolidge, David O. "Dave" (E-343)
1969-71	(sub-district of District 6)
1971-77	Coolidge, David O. "Dave" (E-343)
1977-86	Wagner, Virgil D. "Virg" (E-1709)
1986-92	Jacobsen, John R. "Jake" (E-4222)
1992-95	Cammack, Paul M. (E-6107)
1995-04	Knott, James J. (E-6035)
2005-	Vosburg, Kurt (E-8263)

Note: From 1919-1924, the number of districts varied from five to ten and there were numerous changes of district headquarters and boundaries. In 1925-26, the number of districts was set at eight and the boundaries stabilized. McCook was the headquarters for District 6 from 1921-69, when it was made a sub-district of the North Platte district, the latter having been renumbered from District 7 to 6. From 1969-71, Mr. Coolidge remained in charge of the sub-district at McCook. In 1971, the McCook district was reinstated as District 7.

**DISTRICT 8 HEADQUARTERS
AT AINSWORTH**

1925-27	Porter, Waldo J. B.
1927-32	Bauman, William H.
1932-35	Weller, Raymond F. "Bub" (E-206)
1935-41	Carey, C. Lyle (E-41)
1941-44	Ress, Lorenz N. "L. N." (E-126)
1945-54	Crook, Jack M. (E-175)
1955-62	Murphy, James V. "Jim" (E-346)
1962-64	Nutter, Charles F. "Charlie" (E-1425)
1964-69	MacDonald, James H. "Jim" (E-1084)
1969-71	(sub-district of District 3)
1971-77	(sub-district of District 6)
1977-97	Klatt, John E. (E-2166)
1997-02	Winter, Kristine I. "Kris" (E-6526)
2002-	Kovar, Mark A. (E-8755)

Note: From 1919-1924, the number of districts varied from five to ten and there were numerous changes of district headquarters and boundaries. In 1925-26, the number of districts was set at eight and the boundaries stabilized. Ainsworth was made the headquarters for District 8 in 1925-26. District 8 was made a sub-district of District 3 (Norfolk) in 1969 and of District 6 (North Platte) in 1971. In the fall of 1977, the Ainsworth district was reinstated as District 8. In 1997, Kristine Winter became the first female district engineer and the first female to hold the grade of Engineer 7 in department history.

GOVERNOR

1895-99	Holcomb, Silas A.
1899-01	Poynter, William A.
1901-01	Dietrich, Charles H.
1901-03	Savage, Ezra P.
1903-07	Mickey, John H.
1907-09	Sheldon, George L.
1909-11	Shallenberger, Ashton C.
1911-13	Aldrich, Chester H.
1913-17	Morehead, John H.
1917-19	Neville, Keith
1919-23	McKelvie, Samuel R. "Sam"
1923-25	Bryan, Charles W. "Charlie"
1925-29	McMullen, Adam
1929-31	Weaver, Arthur J.
1931-35	Bryan, Charles W. "Charlie"
1935-41	Cochran, Robert L. "Roy" (E-1)
1941-47	Griswold, Dwight P.
1947-53	Peterson, Val F.D.E.
1953-55	Crosby, Robert B. "Bob"
1955-59	Anderson, Victor E. "Vic"
1959-60	Brooks, Ralph G.
1960-61	Burney, Dwight W.
1961-67	Morrison, Frank B.
1967-71	Tiemann, Norbert T. "Nobby"
1971-79	Exon, John J. "Jim"
1979-83	Thone, Charles "Charlie"
1983-87	Kerrey, Joseph R. "Bob"
1987-91	Orr, Kay A.
1991-99	Nelson, Earl B. "Ben"
1999-05	Johanns, Michael O. "Mike"
2005-	Heineman, David "Dave"

HIGHWAY SAFETY DIVISION

1972-93 Sieckmeyer, Kenneth L. "Ken"
1993-00 Kohles, Derald S. (E-2877)
2000- Organization Restructure

Note: Created in 1972, the Safety Division became the Highway Safety and Accident Records Division (1976), Highway Safety Division (1984), Highway Safety and Office Services Division (1992), and Highway Safety Division (1996). In 2000, the Highway Safety Division was combined with the Traffic Engineering Division.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS DIVISION

1956-68 Welty, George J.
1968-72 Smith, Charles D. "Charlie" (E-1732)
1972-74 Freemon, Lyman D. (E-2005)
1974-97 Hughes, David E. "Dave"
1997- Ogden, Jon E.

Note: The Records and Audits Section began using computers in 1956. When the department was reorganized in 1968, the Records and Audits Section became the Fiscal Management Division (later Controller Division). Assigned to the Fiscal Management Division (1968) and Controller Division (1969), the Data Processing Section became the Data Processing Division (1970), Management Systems Division (1972), Computer Systems Division (1984), and Information Systems Division (1993). In 2003, GIS, mapping, and data collection/digilog was moved from Planning and Project Development.

RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

1997- Tompkins, Ellis D. (E-3886)

Note: This division was created in September 1997. Originally named Intermodal Transportation Division, it was renamed to Rail and Public Transportation Division in 2001.

LEGAL COUNSEL

1951-69 Salter, Harold S. "Harry"

1969-96 Lichty, Warren D., Jr. "Duke"

1997-99 Welch, Gary R.

2000- Schroeder, Jeffery "Jeff"

Note: Often called the "Legal Division," the correct title is the Roads Section of the Department of Justice. The Chief Counsel and his staff report to the Attorney General, not the Director-State Engineer.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

1951-68 Ayres, Rollin C. "Bill" (E-181)

1968-74 Holmes, James R. "Jim" (E-1621)

1974-92 Motycka, Delmar A. "Del" (E-1824)

1992- Shafer, Larry G.

Note: This division has had a number of names: Secondary Roads Section (1951), Urban and Secondary Roads Division (1968), Secondary Roads Division (1973), Local Liaison Division (1984), and Government Affairs Division (2001).

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

1927-29	Gaddis, Albert M. "Al" (E-64)
1929-35	Tilley, Albert C. "A. C." (E-4)
1935-46	Kleitsch, Fred H. (E-110)
1946-68	McMeekin, John E. (E-57)
1968-71	Nutter, Charles F. "Charlie" (E-1425)
1971-74	Witt, Walter E. "Walt" (E-1368)
1974-88	Dederman, Arthur H. "Art" (E-1530)
1988-95	Heedum, Roland H. "Rollie"
1995-00	Cammack, Paul M. (E-6107)
2000-	Organization Restructure

Note: From 1917-26, the department had no Maintenance Engineer, per se. From 1917-25, the responsibility for maintaining the state highway system was vested in the counties, working in cooperation with the state's district engineers, with the state providing the funds. The district engineers received assistance and guidance from the Assistant Chief and Chief of the Bureau of Roads and Bridges. On January 1, 1926, the state became responsible for maintaining the state system, except for those portions within the corporate limits of a municipality with a population over 1,400. In 1927, the Division of Construction and Maintenance was created. A separate Maintenance Division was created in 1929. In 2000, the Maintenance Division was combined with the Purchasing and Supply Division and named the Logistics Division. In 2001, the Transportation Technology Section was created from a section of the Logistics Division.

MATERIALS AND RESEARCH DIVISION

- (T) 1913-22 Mickey, Clark E. (E-104)
- (T) 1922-42 Duff, Carl M. (E-70)
- (M) 1932-39 Briggs, Gerald F. "Jerry" (E-297)
- (T) 1942-55 Bollen, Ray E. (E-473)
- (M) 1939-52 Swatek, George F. (E-129)
- (T) 1953-55 Carver, William M. "Bill" (E-251)
- 1955-68 Carver, William M. "Bill" (E-251)
- 1968-74 Lund, Orville L. (E-635)
- 1974-86 Swing, Donald O. "Don" (E-1697)
- 1986-99 Orth, Eldon D. "Vern" (E-2156)
- 2000- Jamshidi, Mostafa "Moe" (E-6574)

Note: Originally called the Division of Tests, two separate divisions were created in 1937: the Division of Tests headed by the Testing Engineer (T) and the Division of Materials headed by the Materials Engineer (M). Until May 1942, the Testing Laboratory was located at the University of Nebraska and operated by university employees. The department provided funding. In addition, several commercial testing laboratories were employed by the department to inspect such materials as treated timber and piling, structural steel, etc., at the place of manufacture. From May 1942 until November 1948, the Testing Laboratory remained at the university but was operated by department employees. Space and part of the equipment were leased by the department. After November 1948, testing was accomplished by department employees at the new Testing Laboratory in south Lincoln, completed at a cost of about \$750,000. In the early 1950's, the Division of Tests and Division of Materials were made sections and, in 1955, these two sections were combined into the Materials and Tests Division. In 1993-94, the Testing Laboratory in south Lincoln was modernized and enlarged at a cost of about \$4 million. This division was renamed Materials and Research Division in 2000.

OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS AND AUDIT SECTION

1970-71 Motycka, Delmar A. "Del" (E-1824)
1971-96 Weihe, Ralph M.
1996- Organization Restructure

Note: When the department was reorganized in 1968, the Records and Audit Section became the Fiscal Management Division, to which the auditing function was assigned. In 1969, the Fiscal Management Division became the Controller Division. The auditing function was reassigned to the newly-created Internal Review Division in 1970. The Internal Review Division became the Internal Audit Section in 1971, the Operational Analysis and Audit Section in 1975, and was upgraded to division status in 1983. The division again became a section in 1996 and was assigned to the Controller Division.

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

1941 Lobdell, Arthur T. "A. T." (E-65)
1941-46 Mengel, Waldo H. "John" (E-203)
1946-63 Lobdell, Arthur T. "A. T." (E-65)
1963-76 Fisk, Lowell W.
1976 Grimm, Eugene H. "Gene"
1976-99 Cooper, William C. "Bill"
1999-01 Anderson, Leesa M.
2001- Larson, Susan E. "Sue"

Note: Created in 1941 as the Division of Administration, the name was changed to Personnel Section in 1952 and Personnel Division in 1968. In addition to his regular duties as the Assistant to the Director-State Engineer/Management Services, Mr. Grimm was the acting Personnel Manager from January to November 1976. This division was renamed Human Resources Division in 2000.

PLANNING AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

1971-74 Swing, Donald O. "Don" (E-1697)

1974-89 Grauer, Gerald "Jerry" (E-2060)

1989- Yonkey, Arthur B. "Art" (E-2522)

Note: The division was created to meet the requirements of the 1969 Environmental Policy Act and the substantial changes in the way a project was to be developed. The socioeconomic and environmental considerations in the new process were unprecedented. Renamed Planning and Project Development Division in 2003 when combined with sections from the eliminated Transportation Planning Division.

LOGISTICS DIVISION

1968-71 Jones, Lincoln R. "Rusty" (E-172)

1971-82 Barrett, Laurence O. "Larry"

1982-95 Miller, Robert R. "Bob"

1995-05 Dvorak, Dale F.

2005- Sands, Thomas B. "Tom"

Note: Until 1968, the purchasing and supply function was administered by the Maintenance Division. Created in 1968, the Property and Equipment Division became the Materiel Division (1970), Materiel Section of the Maintenance Division (1974), Central Supply Division (1976), and Purchasing and Supply Division (1984). Renamed Logistics Division in 2000 when combined with Maintenance Division.

RIGHT-OF-WAY DIVISION

1927-54	Williams, A. Glen
1955-58	Gardner, Fred
1959-68	Mengel, Waldo H. "John" (E-203)
1968-71	Witt, Walter E. "Walt" (E-1368)
1971-74	Shafer, Larry G.
1974-95	Brinjak, John G.
1995-	Needham, Randall F. "Randy"

Note: The 1927 Legislature enacted a law, effective April 23, 1927, which allowed the department to acquire right-of-way directly from the owner or by condemnation. The Right-of-Way Division has maintained division status since 1927, except during 1951-59 when it was a section in the Design Division.

ROADWAY DESIGN DIVISION

1917-18	Black, Michael F. "Mike"
1919-22	Hole, Walter T.
1922-27	Jones, Marshall B. (E-66)
1927-37	Boyd, Robert J. "Bob" (E-287)
1937-48	Gaddis, Albert M. "Al" (E-64)
1948-52	Ress, Lorenz N. "L. N." (E-126)
1952-58	Mengel, Waldo H. "John" (E-203)
1959-60	Strobel, Gerold C. "Jerry" (E-1088)
1960-68	Coffey, Donald C. "Don" (E-637)
1968-74	Gottula, Kenneth J. "Ken" (E-1493)
1974-89	Freemon, Lyman D. (E-2005)
1989-92	Grauer, Gerald "Jerry" (E-2060)
1992-04	Poppe, Eldon D. (E-3464)
2004-	Knott, James J. "Jim" (E-6035)

Note: Until 1937, the design function was under the Office Engineer, who headed the Division of Maps and Plans. A separate Design Division was created in 1937. And, in 1968, the Design Division was redesignated as the Roadway Design Division.

**COMMISSIONERS
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION**

1953-87	Kingsbury, Merle (Ponca)
1953-65	Metzger, Christian E. "Chris" (Cedar Creek)
1953-55	Coad, Arthur L. "Art" (Omaha)
1953-55	Albrecht, Arthur C. "Art" (Deshler)
1953-55	Attebery, Fred M. (Mitchell)
1953-54	Collett, William O. "Bill" (North Platte)
1953-54	Hanna, Don E. (Brownlee)
1954-56	Hanna, Don, Jr. (Brownlee)
1954-60	Ogier, Ray (North Platte)
1955-61	Watson, Dr. Claude R. (Mitchell)
1955-67	McBride, J. R. "Shep" (Minden)
1956-59	Baker, Ralph A. (Valentine)
1959-63	Votava, Joseph T. "Joe" (Omaha)
1959-74	Davis, Thane (Hyannis)
1960-71	Mendenhall, Kirk (North Platte)
1961-76	Ramsey, Daniel C. "Dan" (Scottsbluff)
1963-71	O'Keefe, Robert E. "Bob" (Omaha)
1965-69	Hanks, Ralph H. (Lincoln)
1967-73	Thom, LeRoy W. (Minden)
1969-75	Breslow, David "Dave" (Lincoln)
1971-79	Lipton, Joseph "Joe" (Omaha)
1971-79	Newberry, Willard D. "Twist" (North Platte)
1973-79	Lillich, Everett A. (Superior)
1974-76	Quigley, William B. "Bill" (Valentine)
1975-81	Dickinson, Karl E. (Lincoln)
1976-79	Huckfeldt, Joe J. (Gering)
1976-82	Meckel, Dr. Ben R. (Burwell)
1979-82	Skinner, C. Mickey (Omaha)
1979-95	Keenan, James D. "Jim" (North Platte)
1979-81	Bish, Milan D. (Grand Island)
1979-85	Mohr, Paul C. (Scottsbluff)
1981-89	Prostok, Babette T. "Bobby" (Hastings)
1981-	Acklie, Duane W. (Lincoln)
1982-84	Smith, Roy A. (Omaha)
1982-99	Miles, George A. "Shorty" (O'Neill)
1984-89	Landow, Paul M. (Elkhorn)
1985-99	McLellan, John, Jr. (Gering)
1987-93	Malcom, Terrence D. "Terry" (McCook)
1987-96	Kayton, Robert C. "Bob" (Cedar Rapids)
1989-95	Jensen, Soren S. "Sam" (Omaha)
1989-	Wanitschke, Donna M. (Doniphan)
1993-99	Eisenhart, Russell S., Jr. "Rusty" (Culbertson)
1995-01	Schweikart, Judith A. "Judy" (Omaha)
1995-	Books, Ronald W. "Ron" (North Platte)
1996-	Kingsbury, John F. (Ponca)
1999-	Leafgreen, Douglas C. "Doug" (Gering)
1999-	Fagerland, Jerome A. (Atkinson)
2001-	Reiser, Richard S. "Dick" (Omaha)
2002-	Wolford, Greg A. (McCook)

Note: The State Highway Commission was created by the 1953 Legislature. The 1987 Legislature increased the number of commissioners and commission districts from seven to eight, effective August 1987.

**SECRETARIES
STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION**

1953-55	Ress, Lorenz N. "L. N." (E-126)
1956-59	Boyles, Owen J., Sr.
1960-62	Finigan, Edwin J. "Ed"
1962-67	Trease, Lyle G.
1967-71	Eloe, Carl C. "Cecil"
1971-72	Reiling, Merle F.
1972-75	Koster, George E. "Dutch"
1975-92	Logan, Bernard G. "Bernie"
1992-	Schafer, Shirley K.

Note: Section 39-1107, Nebraska Statutes, effective September 14, 1953, provided that "The State Engineer shall act as secretary of the commission." This law was revised by the 1955 Legislature, effective September 18, 1955, and provides that "The State Highway Commission, subject to the approval of the Governor, shall employ a person who shall act as secretary of the commission." Mr. Koster's father (same name) served as the District 3 Engineer at Norfolk from 1951 until his death in 1972 (see page 12).

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION

1941-52 Johnston, J. Edward "Ed" (E-221)
1952-71 Meyer, Robert L. "Bob" (E-1492)
1971-72 McCarthy, Thomas P. "Tom" (E-1757)
1972-86 Orth, Eldon D. "Vern" (E-2156)
1986-96 Gottula, Kenneth J. "Ken" (E-1493)
1997- Peters, Randall D. "Randy" (E-6377)

Note: Created in January 1941 as a section of the Design Division, the Traffic Engineering Section was made a division in 1968. In 2000, the eliminated Highway Safety Division was added to the Traffic Engineering Division.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION

1935-36 Mengel, Waldo H. "John" (E-203)
1937-42 Fowler, Charles F. (E-234)
1942-46 Hossack, John W. (E-382)
1946-52 Mengel, Waldo H. "John" (E-203)
1952-59 Hossack, John W. (E-382)
1960-67 Gillan, Bruce C. (E-227)
1968-74 Grauer, Gerald "Jerry" (E-2060)
1974-93 Kohles, Derald S. (E-2877)
1993-01 Sieckmeyer, Kenneth L. "Ken"
2001- Organization Restructure

Note: Created in 1935, the Highway Planning Section became the Program and Planning Section in 1951 and the Program and Planning Division in 1968. The Planning Division was created in 1974 when the Program and Planning Division was combined with the Transportation Planning Division. In 1984, the Planning Division became the Transportation Planning Division. In 2001, Transportation Planning Division was eliminated by combining sections of the division with Information Systems or Project Development Division which was then renamed Planning and Project Development Division.

APPENDIX

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Year		Year		Year	
1895	6	1932	1,018	1969	2,391
1896	6	1933	1,020	1970	2,460
1897	13	1934	960	1971	2,637
1898	13	1935	973	1972	2,604
1899	10	1936	1,096	1973	2,598
1900	10	1937	965	1974	2,617
1901	10	1938	1,044	1975	2,486
1902	10	1939	1,341	1976	2,512
1903	10	1940	958	1977	2,441
1904	10	1941	916	1978	2,466
1905	11	1942	707	1979	2,424
1906	11	1943	601	1980	2,392
1907	8	1944	612	1981	2,300
1908	8	1945	606	1982	2,216
1909	10	1946	857	1983	2,171
1910	10	1947	935	1984	2,232
1911	27	1948	980	1985	2,258
1912	27	1949	1,545	1986	2,230
1913	26	1950	1,813	1987	2,224
1914	26	1951	1,961	1988	2,221
1915	29	1952	1,972	1989	2,227
1916	29	1953	1,889	1990	2,220
1917	54	1954	2,032	1991	2,240
1918	96	1955	2,098	1992	2,257
1919	230	1956	2,085	1993	2,266
1920	273	1957	2,034	1994	2,258
1921	250	1958	2,076	1995	2,255
1922	250	1959	2,141	1996	2,268
1923	300	1960	2,207	1997	2,270
1924	350	1961	2,365	1998	2,269
1925	400	1962	2,484	1999	2,271 (est.)
1926	600	1963	2,647	2000	2,230
1927	840	1964	2,627	2001	2,215
1928	760	1965	2,612	2002	2,175
1929	837	1966	2,601	2003	2,147
1930	814	1967	2,603	2004	2,168
1931	1,057	1968	2,396		

Note: Represents employees of the State Board of Irrigation (1895-1911), State Board of Irrigation, Highways, and Drainage (1911-19), Department of Public Works (1919-33), Department of Roads and Irrigation (1933-57), and Department of Roads (1957-99). Employee totals from 1937-81 exclude the State Patrol. Sources: A. T. Lobdell's history (1895-1964) and the Personnel Division (1965-99).

**ANNUAL ROUTINE MAINTENANCE COST
OF THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM**

YEAR	MILES	\$ COST	\$ COST PER MILE
1926	6,156	1,817,877	295
1930	6,882	3,043,509	442
1935	8,024	2,738,472	341
1940	9,007	2,280,903	253
1945	9,174	3,509,096	383
1950	9,598	6,227,393	649
1955	9,980	7,669,127	768
1960	9,526	8,830,488	927
1965	9,520	10,243,519	1,076
1970	9,725	12,097,142	1,244
1975	9,866	21,901,568	2,220
1980	9,880	29,997,533	3,036
1985	9,950	44,786,320	4,501
1990	9,948	50,710,234	5,098
1995	9,960	61,219,863	6,147
2000		73,806,042	
2001		69,843,000	
2002		77,375,932	
2003		83,972,458	
2004		90,628,104	

Note: Prior to 1970, the cost figures are by calendar year. Beginning in 1970, the cost figures are by fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

**EXECUTIVES WHO
DIED WHILE SERVING**

1926	Noble, Mont C. Deputy State Engineer
1942	Mason, John G. "Glen" (E-12) Bridge Engineer
1951	Boyd, Robert J. "Bob" (E-287) Office Engineer
1954	Hanna, Don E. State Highway Commissioner
1959	Boyles, Owen J., Sr. Secretary, State Highway Commission
1960	Ogier, Ray State Highway Commissioner
1960	Brooks, Ralph G. Governor
1961	Watson, Dr. Claude R. State Highway Commissioner
1962	Smith, Fred C. (E-370) Safety Engineer (former District 1 Engineer)
1972	Koster, George E., Jr. "Dutch" (E-445) District 3 Engineer
1974	Davis, Thane State Highway Commissioner
1979	Lipton, Joseph "Joe" State Highway Commissioner
1979	Divis, Ferdinand L. "Ferd" (E-1815) District 1 Engineer
1982	Meckel, Dr. Ben R. State Highway Commissioner
1988	Holmes, James R. "Jim" (E-1621) Bridge Engineer
1996	Kayton, Robert C. "Bob" State Highway Commissioner

**GOVERNORS AND STATE ENGINEERS
SINCE 1895**

<u>Governor</u>		<u>State Engineer</u>	
Silas Holcomb (F)	1895-99	Robert B. Howell William R. Akers J. Morris Wilson	5/95 - 4/96 4/96 - 4/97 4/97 - 1/99
William A. Poynter (F)	1899-01	J. Morris Wilson Clarence B. Channel	1/99 - 4/00 4/00 - 1/01
Charles H. Dietrich (R)	1901-01	Clarence B. Channel	1/01 - 4/01
Ezra P. Savage (R)	1901-03	Adna Dobson	4/01 - 1/03
John H. Mickey (R)	1903-07	Adna Dobson	1/03 - 1/07
George L. Sheldon (R)	1907-09	Adna Dobson	1/07 - 1/09
Ashton C. Shallenberger (D)	1909-11	Adna Dobson Edward C. Simmons	1/09 - 4/09 4/09 - 1/11
Chester H. Aldrich (R)	1911-13	Edward C. Simmons Donald D. Price	1/11 - 4/11 4/11 - 1/13
John H. Morehead (D)	1913-17	Donald D. Price George E. Johnson	1/13 - 3/15 3/15 - 1/17
Keith Neville (D)	1917-19	George E. Johnson	1/17 - 1/19
Samuel R. McKelvie (R)	1919-23	George E. Johnson	1/19 - 1/23
Charles W. Bryan (D)	1923-25	George E. Johnson Robert L. Cochran	1/23 - 3/23 3/23 - 1/25
Adam McMullen (R)	1925-29	Robert L. Cochran	1/25 - 1/29
Arthur J. Weaver (R)	1929-31	Robert L. Cochran	1/29 - 1/31
Charles W. Bryan (D)	1931-35 *	Robert L. Cochran Arthur T. Lobdell	1/31 - 7/34 7/34 - 1/35
Robert L. Cochran (D)	1935-41	Albert C. Tilley	1/35 - 1/41
Dwight Griswold (R)	1941-47	Wardner G. Scott	1/41 - 1/47

GovernorState Engineer

Val Peterson (R)	1947-53	Wardner G. Scott Fred H. Klietsch Harold L. Aitken	1/47 - 2/48 2/48 - 8/51 8/51 - 1/53
Robert B. Crosby (R)	1953-55	Harold L. Aitken Lorenz N. Ress	1/53 - 4/53 4/53 - 1/55
Victor Anderson (R)	1955-59	Lorenz N. Ress	1/55 - 1/59
Ralph G. Brooks (D) 12/59	1959-60	Robert L. Cochran John W. Hossack	1/59 - 1/60 - 9/60
Dwight W. Burney (R)	1960-61	John W. Hossack	9/60 - 1/61
Frank B. Morrison (D)	1961-67	John W. Hossack	1/61 - 1/67
Norbert T. Tiemann (R) 11/68	1967-71	John W. Hossack Marvin L. Nuernberger	1/67 - 11/68 - 1/71
J. James Exon (D)	1971-79	Thomas D. Doyle David O. Coolidge	1/71 - 6/77 6/77 - 1/79
Charles Thone (R)	1979-83	David O. Coolidge	1/79 - 1/83
J. Robert Kerrey (D)	1983-87	Louis E. Lamberty Raymond H. Hogrefe	2/83 - 2/86 3/86 - 1/87
Kay A. Orr (R) 10/87	1987-91	Raymond H. Hogrefe Gerold C. Strobel	1/87 - 10/87 - 1/91
E. Benjamin Nelson (D)	1991-99 *	Gerold C. Strobel W. Wayne Teten Allan L. Abbott	1/91 - 7/91 7/91 - 1/92 1/92 - 1/99
Mike Johanns (R)	1999-05	John L. Craig	1/99 - 1/05
Dave Heineman (R)	2005-	John L. Craig	1/05 -

* Acting

VIA CHARON, THE ANCIENT BOATMAN

Note: In Greek mythology, Charon (pronounced Karen) was the pilot of the boat which ferried the souls of the departed across the river Styx.

“There are too many gaps in the ranks I knew,
When the ranks I knew were young.
When the roll is called, there are still a few
Who answer ‘Here!’ when the call is due,
There are too many songs unsung.
But Charon's boat is a busy barque
And the dock gets closer as dusk grows dark...

Charon, answer me this today,
From all of the world's corrals,
Why do you always look my way?
I'm not worried about your play,
But why do you pick my pals?
From the Inn we knew where the flagons foam,
One by one you have called them home.

One by one, on a mist-blown eve
Wearing your ghostly hood,
I've seen you plucking them by the sleeve,
Telling them each it was time to leave,
Just as the show gets good!
With a lifted glass, as I looked about,
I've seen them leave as the tide rolled out...

(over)

Listen, Pilot, the last of all,
Who knows where the journey ends,
When you have come to the final call
Where the candle flutters against the wall,
Kindly forget my friends.
For friends are all that a little earth
Has yet to give that has any worth.

Fame and Gold? They are less than dust,
Less than an April song.
They are less than weeds in the earth's dull crust
When a friendly hand in your own is thrust
And an old mate comes along.
But dock lights flame with a sudden flare,
And Charon beckons, and who is there?

The flame of the inn is dim tonight,
Too many vacant chairs.
The sun has lost too much of its light,
Too many songs have taken flight,
Too many ghosts on the stairs.
Charon, here's to you as man against man,
I wish I could pick 'em the way you can!"

Grantland Rice
1938