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**Review of *NEBRASKAland Magazine's The Cellars of Time:  
Paleontology and Archaeology in Nebraska* Vol 72, No. 1. Lincoln:  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1994**

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**NEBRASKA**land Magazine's **The Cellars of Time: Paleontology and Archaeology in Nebraska**. Vol 72, No. 1. Lincoln: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, 1994. Introduction, photographs, illustrations. 162 pp. \$12.95 paper. (Also published as *Nebraska History*, Vol. 75, No. 1. Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1994.)

This is a popular-oriented work designed to acquaint Nebraskans with the paleontology and archaeology of their state. The work is divided in halves. The first half summarizes the paleontological work in Nebraska. The second half summarizes the archaeological culture history of the state.

The paleontology portion is a "must read," holistic work. It is written almost entirely by Michael R. Voorhies with one insert by Margaret R. Bolick. Voorhies has a wonderful writing style that enables him to translate complicated, technical subjects into plain English. Thus, the paleontology is summarized in wonderful prose that is a delight to read. The technical subjects that Voorhies presents are numerous. He describes the role of microfauna as a gauge of evolution that is also useful for finding oil and other essential commodities. His description of the advance and retreat of seas and glaciers in the context of paleoenvironmental studies is clearly written and easily understandable. He details the way that less dramatic climatic changes can be studied by examining changes in vertebrate fauna such as tortoises, snakes, shrews and other animals. Bolick's description of pollen studies, and floral studies combined with Voorhies's discussion of stratigraphy, and other paleontological techniques brings the reader to a clear understanding of the nature of paleontological research. These discussions are interspersed with

captivating descriptions of a multitude of ancient animal species and significant paleontologic sites. In these descriptions, Voorhies makes clear the methods by which paleontologists determine how extinct animals lived, what their habitats were like, and the nature of their behaviors. The history of paleontology in the state is summarized and major personalities in that history are presented in vignette form. Current paleontologists, curators, preparators, and exhibits staff are pictured or described. Importantly, he goes beyond the description of professionals. Throughout his section, Voorhies gives credit to non-professionals, ranging from ranchers to high school students, responsible for making important finds. In doing so, he provides the important impression that Nebraska's paleontology is an ancient legacy for all of the state's citizens to responsibly investigate and report. In short, the paleontology section is information packed and makes for fascinating reading. It serves as an inspiration for academic researchers who have an interest in public writing.

The archaeology section is also an important contribution and focuses primarily on the long history of research by the Nebraska State Historical Society. The chapters concerning Paleoindian hunters, Archaic hunter-gatherers, and agricultural villages by Bozell, Ludwickson, and Carlson succinctly summarize the cultural historical phases of Nebraska archaeology. For outsiders to Nebraska archaeology, the archaeological system of phases and cultures is often confusing. The authors clearly summarize this information in an understandable way. My colleagues in the biological sciences who work with archaeological remains are especially enthusiastic about this aspect of the archaeology section. The archaeology section also discusses sites of particular importance, and describes how these sites have provided insight on prehistoric life. Inserts by University of Nebraska archaeologists serve to broaden the scope. Peter Bleed discusses what can be learned from projectile point study regarding prehistoric technology, social boundaries, use of points as knives, recycling of points, and maintenance of hunting equipment. John Weymouth describes the role of non-excavation techniques such as ground penetrating radar, magnetic prospection, and electrical resistivity in finding and mapping archaeological sites. Steven R. Holen describes a mammoth skeleton that was possibly butchered in ancient times. These contributions and the main chapters present an overview of the current state of Nebraska archaeology.

Historic archaeology is covered by Ludwickson (historic Native American archaeology) and Carlson (historic Euro-American archaeology). These two chapters also present an overview of the status of historic archaeology. There is, however, a critical flaw in this work. Ludwickson does not discuss

the Omaha Tribe, beyond brief mention. Therefore, one of the most prominent Nebraska tribes, which has sponsored significant archaeological work, is not discussed. There is an abundance of information available from several sources on which a discussion could have been based. Ludwickson was a coauthor on a 1992 book concerning Omaha archaeology. The joint work between the Omaha Tribe and the University of Nebraska for the last five years has been the most widely publicized Nebraska archaeology on a national scale. Indeed, the work has been methodologically ground breaking and would have been an intriguing addition. The omission of the Omaha Tribe is striking and leaves the archaeological section incomplete. **Karl J. Reinhard**, *Department of Anthropology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*