

Today's One-Tank Trip:
Morrill Hall in Lincoln

State heritage featured here

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Visitors to Morrill Hall in Lincoln can do more than learn about Nebraska's natural history. They can watch the exploration of Mars, romp with ancient elephants, examine rare rocks and touch a fossil that is 2 million years old.

Willo Stuart, special projects coordinator for Morrill Hall, said every Nebraskan should visit the three-story museum once in their life.

"This is Nebraska's heritage," Stuart said. "It's important for all Nebraskans to know what is here for them."

Visitors to the museum will find a wide range of permanent exhibits. The first floor bears the theme of biodiversity and

boasts wildlife dioramas and a science discovery center where children can learn about nature through hands-on activities.

If only visiting one floor of the museum, the second or main floor would be the one. With a world-famous collection of ancient elephant fossils, as well as the fossils of rhinos, horses and assorted barnyard animals, visitors can imagine what Nebraska once looked like. Visitors in search of their own treasures are encouraged to visit the gift shop.

The third floor looks at a more recent time in Nebraska history — when American Indians were the sole occupants of the state. From woven baskets to beaded clothing, the exhibits attempt to capture a piece of history.

This weekend, Morrill Hall will be opening a year-long exhibit of Nebraska native Joel



THE UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska State Museum has three floors of exhibits in Morrill Hall, located on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus. The natural history exhibits highlight items from the museum's seven research collections, as well as basic scientific ideas.

Sartore's natural photographs. Titled "Fragile Nature: A Personal View," the exhibit will feature many of Sartore's nature photographs.

This is not the first time Sartore, a photographer for National Geographic magazine, has exhibited his photos at the museum. His exhibit three years ago was well received, said Stuart, and patrons cannot wait for an encore exhibit to open.

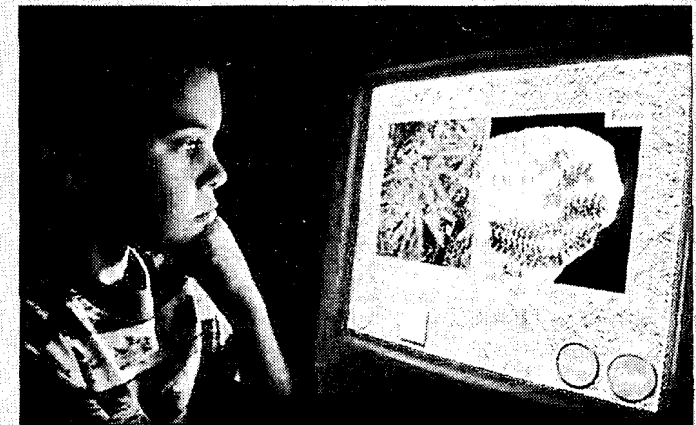
Stuart recommends allowing at least an hour to explore the museum — and even more if visitors plan to see a star show in the

Mueller Planetarium.

"It truly depends on how long your attention span is," Stuart said. "But there is truly something for all."

Want to take a trip?

Several of the attractions featured in the "One-tank trip" series are making free passes or other gifts available to Daily News readers. If you'd like to be included in the drawing, e-mail your name, address and phone number to editor@norfolkdailynews.com or mail the same information to the Daily News in care of One-Tank Trip drawings, Box 977, Norfolk, NE 68702.



MULTIMEDIA STATIONS complement exhibits with videos, games and information on eight different Mesozoic sites in North America. The Mesozoic Gallery contains numerous interactive components.

Something for Everyone

Where to go: University of Nebraska State Museum, just south of 14th and Vine streets on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

What to do: Explore the museum's three floors of artifacts, fossils and remnants of Nebraska's past.

Best time to go: Summers hours are 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1:30-4:30 p.m. on Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

What you'll need: Admission is \$2 for children ages 5-18, \$4 for adults and \$8 for families. Children under the age of 5 are admitted for free. Planetarium shows are available for an additional fee.

While you are in the area: Visit the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test and Power Museum on UNL's East Campus. Housed in the original Nebraska Tractor Test facility, where tractors were test driven in the early 1900s, the museum showcases more than 40 historic tractors.

For more information: Call Morrill Hall at 472-6365 or visit its Web site at www.museum.unl.edu.

