

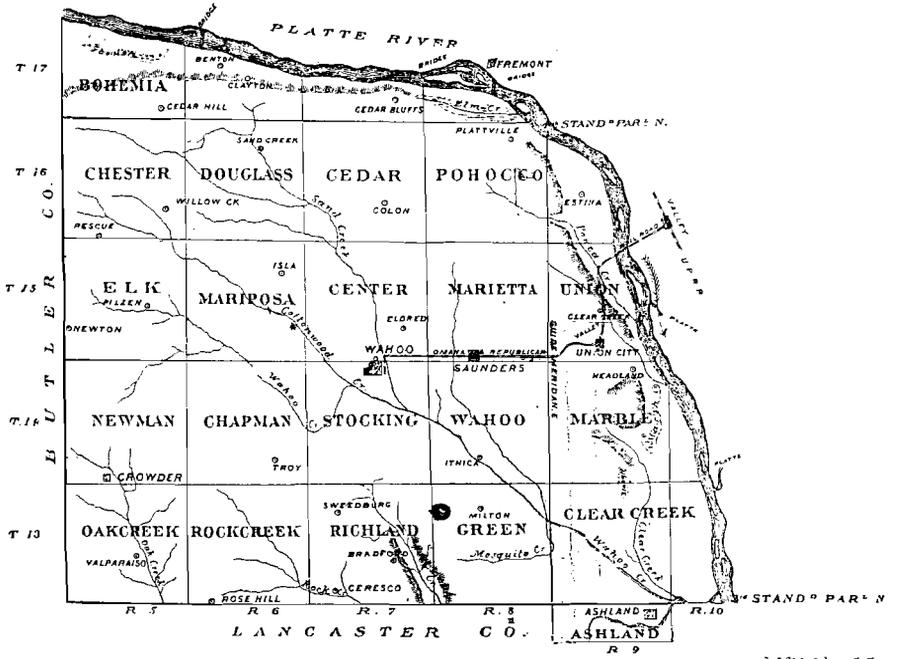
## EDITOR'S CORNER

The Great Plains might appear featureless to outsiders, but the region has always been blessed with diversity: diversity of landscape, from the Llano Estacado of Texas to the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan; diversity of plant life, with literally scores of varieties of native grasses, not to mention the profusion of wild flowers that dot the landscape; diversity of animal life, from nearly microscopic insects to the majestic bison.

The Plains are also diverse in human terms. Pre-European populations included a variety of Native Americans, and during the time of American exploration those populations ranged from settled farmers along the Missouri River to semi-nomadic farmer/hunter/gatherers along the Platte to nomadic buffalo hunters on the High Plains, both southern and northern. European explorers, hunters, trappers, and early agriculturists brought the Spanish, the French, and the British-Americans to the Plains, while the post-Civil War homesteading era created an influx of many northern and eastern Europeans—Swedish, Norwegian, German, Slavic, and Italian among them. The railroad construction that also followed the Civil War introduced laborers from Mexico and China, while the post-Vietnam War period resulted in many immigrants to the Plains from Southeast Asia. Currently, many Hispanics from Mexico and Central America have come to the Plains to work in packing plants and other industries.

The human mosaic of the Great Plains has been one of continual change, sometimes a slow change and sometimes sudden. The articles in this issue of *Heritage of the Great Plains* examine a few of the many aspects of this changing mosaic.

Jim Hoy  
Editor



Ed. S. C. & Co. Printers

Saunders County, Nebraska