

Outstanding Omaha Script

November 2005



Introduction by Sophie

This is the Our City Podcast! I'm Sophie, a third grader at Willowdale Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska. We're going to tell you about Our Outstanding City: Omaha!

Omaha is in the state of Nebraska and it's just about right in the middle of the United States. It's about 1,000 miles from Washington D.C. Omaha is famous for being the largest city in Nebraska. Omaha is the home of Girls and Boys Town, the Henry Doorly, the Union Pacific Railroad, the College World Series, Omaha Steaks, and so much more.

Students from Mrs. Haller's class, who all call Omaha home, have several segments all about this fine city. Listen for things like Sports Center, Famous Friends, That's Entertainment, and Climate Corner.

We think Omaha is such a great city and we're excited to tell you all about it!

First, let's start with a history lesson with Professor Morgan!

History Lesson by Morgan

I'm Professor Morgan and it's time for a *History Lesson*. The city of Omaha was founded in the summer of 1854. In fact, Omaha celebrated its 150th birthday in 2004. In the 1800s people chose to come to Omaha because Omaha was a main stop on the transcontinental railroad (that's a railroad crossing the whole country). After all, the city is right in the middle of the United States. Besides the railroad, the Missouri River also provided transportation.

Omaha was also a popular place because of the stockyards where cattle were sold. The stockyards covered 210 acres and had 75 feeders. In the 1990s the stockyards were torn down and replaced with shops.

You probably don't know, but Omaha was the capital of Nebraska until 1867 when it was moved 60 miles west to the city of Lincoln.

That is your History Lesson with me, Professor Morgan.

Host

Thanks, Professor! Did you know that there are famous people from Omaha? Madison is here to tell us about some of Omaha's famous friends.

Famous Friends by Madison

Hello everyone! I'm Madison and this is *Famous Friends*.

There have been dozens of famous and notable people from Omaha.

Gerald Ford was the 38th president of the United States. He took office in 1974. He was born in Omaha, though he moved to Michigan when he was very young.

Chris Klein is an actor. He was in movies like American Pie and Rollerball. He actually attended the high school that where the students from my school will go!

Eric Crouch is also from Omaha. He was the 2001 Heisman Trophy winner for being the quarterback for the Nebraska Huskers football team.

Chip Davis is a musician you should meet! He's sold more than 36 million albums. You may know him as the leader of Mannheim Steamroller. Mannheim Steamroller is known for its great Christmas and holiday music. Mannheim Steamroller is a weird name. I found out that it is named after a German musical technique.

Warren Buffet is the second richest man in the world and is worth about 40 billion dollars. He has a nickname of the "Oracle of Omaha" because he is able to predict money-making opportunities. He is famous for his investment into a company called Berkshire Hathaway, which is now worth billions of dollars. He has earned money from loaning money to companies like Dairy Queen and Coca-Cola. In fact, he likes Coke so much that he said he drinks five cans of Cherry Coke a day! Mr. Buffet has a home in Omaha. And even though he has billions of dollars, he lives in a house that he paid \$31,500 for in the 1950s. Maybe that's how he has made so much money—he doesn't waste it!

Other famous people from Omaha include Ahman Green, Paul Williams, Malcolm X, and Paula Zahn.

Thanks for listening about some of our Famous Friends from Omaha.

Climate Corner by Sophie

Let me take a couple of minutes to tell you about the typical weather in Omaha! The weather in Omaha is always changing. Just this fall, we had days in the upper 60s and then the next week we had almost freezing temperatures! You never know what you're going to get.

Springtime in Omaha is the time flowers sprout and grow. We usually get plenty of rain during the spring. The average high temperature is 64 degrees.

Summertime high temperatures are in the high 80s. It's very humid and you are sure to sweat!

Fall is my favorite time of year. Omaha trees' leaves turn beautiful colors and fall to the ground. The average high temperature is around 55 degrees.

Omaha gets plenty of snow in the winter. In fact, school is usually closed about four days every year because there is so much snow and ice that it would be dangerous or impossible to get to school! Winter high temperatures are only about 33 degrees! Burrrr!

If you're going to visit Omaha, I'd suggest coming during the summer. We can play outside or go swimming at a pool!

I'm Sophie and this has been Climate Corner.

Landmark Spotlight by Will

This is Landmark Spotlight and I'm Will.

Omaha has many landmarks. You may have seen photos of Omaha's skyline. There are two very tall skyscrapers. One is the Mutual of Omaha building. The taller skyscraper is the First National Bank Tower, which has 40 stories and was just built in 2002. Other landmarks include the Western Heritage Museum, which was an old train station. You can learn a lot about Omaha at the Western Heritage Museum. There's also the Old Market. The Old Market is a collection of shops and restaurants in the downtown area. It's hard to find a place to park, but really fun to visit because people play instruments on street corners and the food is really good.

My favorite landmark is the Henry Doorly Zoo. It's one of the biggest and best zoos in the world! It has a large indoor jungle, waterfalls, orangutans, gorillas, and more. There's a huge aquarium where you can go through a tunnel and sharks swim all around you!

What makes the zoo such an incredible landmark is the gigantic desert dome. You can see it from miles away. It's actually the world's largest indoor desert. The dome is so tall, that there's even a 55-foot tall mountain inside of it! There are animals from deserts from all around the world living inside the dome. The dome is made of glass and metal and looks like a moon base from a science fiction movie. When you drive from Iowa into Omaha, you can't miss this incredible landmark!

Host

That was spectacular, Will! Next, Professor Morgan is back with another lesson—this one is about geography.

Geography Lesson with Morgan

This is Professor Morgan and I have a *Geography Lesson* for you.

Geography is the study of the Earth's surface, including the land and people.

Omaha's land is hilly in parts, but all-in-all, pretty flat. Omaha is bordered by the Missouri River on the East. In fact, on the other side of the river is Iowa. In Omaha's downtown, there are two tall buildings surrounded by dozens of other buildings, including the very fun Children's Museum, where there is a miniature city of Omaha that you can climb on.

There are about 410,000 people living in Omaha's city limits, making it the 43rd largest city in the U.S. That's about the same amount of people living in the city limits of Oakland, California. Omaha covers about 120 square miles. The nearest major city is Lincoln. Lincoln only covers 75 square miles. Lincoln is about 60 miles away and many Omahans travel to Lincoln's Memorial Stadiums for Husker football games in the fall.

Thanks for listening to this *Geography Lesson*.

Sports Central by Will

This is *Sports Central* and I'm Will.

We've got some great sports teams in Omaha! There's the Omaha Royals baseball team that plays in the very nice Rosenblatt Stadium, which is right across the street from the Henry Doorly Zoo. Also, the Omaha Beef is an indoor football team that plays at the Omaha Civic Auditorium in downtown Omaha.

Hockey is very popular with Omaha sports fans. There are three major teams that play in Omaha. There's the University of Nebraska at Omaha Mavericks, the

Omaha Lancers, and the Ak-Sar-Ben Knights. Wonder where they got the name Ak-Sar-Ben? It's Nebraska spelled backwards!

The NCAA College World Series has been played at Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium every June since 1950. The College World Series is a huge event for the entire city of Omaha. Eight teams come to compete in the baseball tournament watched on TV around the country. 23,000 fans come travel to Rosenblatt Stadium to sweat while they watch the tournament that usually lasts about a week.

Many sports fans will find themselves at the Qwest Center in downtown Omaha. The Qwest Center is a brand new amazing arena in Omaha. Its cost \$290 million dollars to build. When I walk in there, I'm amazed by the tall ceilings and huge hallways. If you go there, you can see musical concerts, the UNO Maverick hockey team, and the Creighton University Bluejay basketball team.

Omaha is full of teams and places that sports fans love! This is Will for *Sports Central!*

Host

Besides sports, there's lots more to do for entertainment. Madison is back with "That's Entertainment!"

That's Entertainment by Madison

I'm Madison for *That's Entertainment*.

There's lots to see and do for entertainment in Omaha! There's the Henry Doorly Zoo, which is considered one of the top zoos in the world. There's also the Omaha Community Playhouse, the Omaha Symphony, and in June, there's the College World Series for baseball fans.

The Joslyn art museum is my favorite place for entertainment. The museum is in a huge marble building. Actually, I think the building looks kind of pinkish from the outside. On the inside it has art from American and European artists. It opened way back in 1931. When I was in second grade, our class took a trip to the museum. I liked the Romantic pieces of art and I have to say, they are so beautiful. I also liked the colorful paintings, especially *Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh.

Going to the Joslyn Art museum is my favorite place for entertainment because it's Nebraska's largest and fanciest art museum! You can visit the museum online at joslyn.org.

I'm Madison and this has been *That's Entertainment*.

Conclusion by Sophie

Thanks, Madison!

After learning all about Omaha, you're probably wondering what Omaha means. Omaha is named after the Omaha Indian tribe and the word means "upstream."

Madison, Morgan, Will, and I all love living in Omaha. You should think of at least visiting our lovely city. There's lots to see and do right here in the middle part of the United States!

We want to thank you for listening about Outstanding Omaha.

This Our City Podcast is proudly brought to you by Mrs. Haller's third graders at Willowdale Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska.

