

THE UNITED STATES SURVEY

A CAPITOL MURAL
BY CHARLES CLEMENT

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TO CELEBRATE NEBRASKA'S
CENTENNIAL IN 1967,
NEBRASKANS COMMISSIONED
SIX MURALS TO FILL THE EMPTY
SPACES ON THE WALLS OF THE
GREAT HALL IN THE CAPITOL. AN
ARIZONA ARTIST, CHARLES
CLEMENT, WAS CHOSEN TO
CREATE ONE OF THE MURALS:

THE UNITED STATES SURVEY

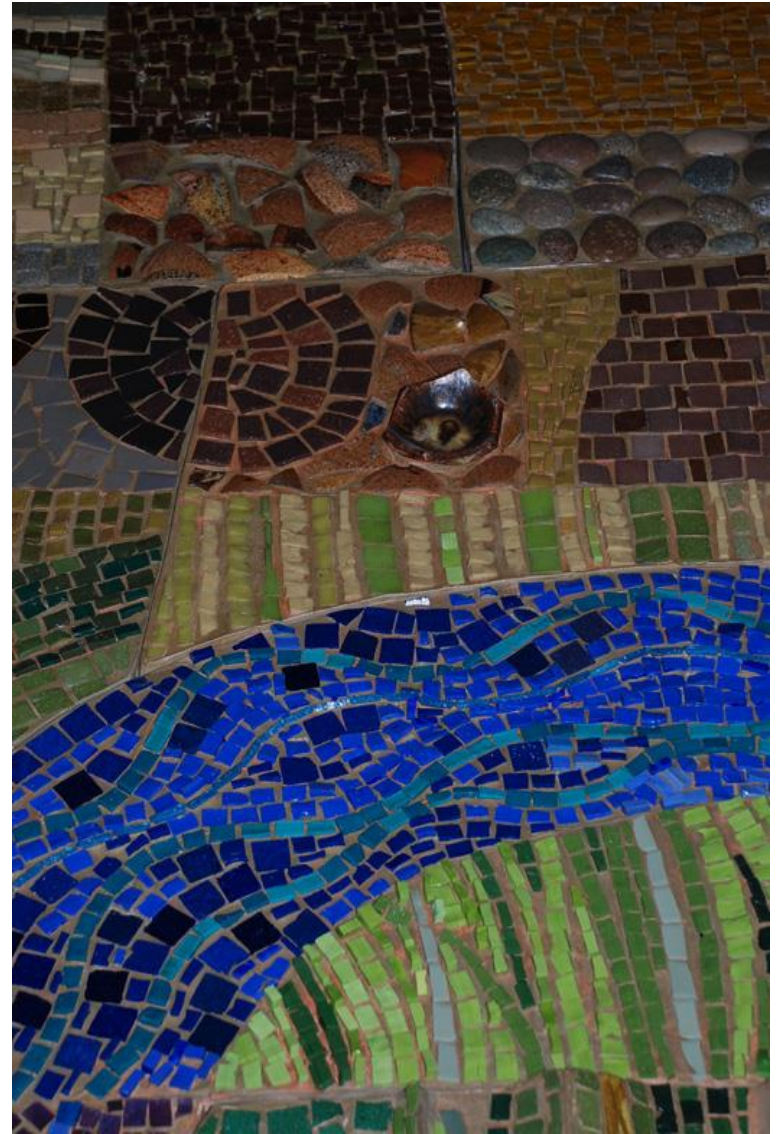
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CLEMENT USED PIECES OF
VENETIAN AND BYZANTINE GLASS
LIKE THE OTHER MOSAIC ARTISTS.



CLEMENT ALSO
USED PIECES OF
POTTERY, CERAMIC
TILES, GLASS AND
PEBBLES TO CREATE
HIS MOSAIC.







HERE
DIFFERENT
TYPES OF TILE
ARE SHOWN
LEFT TO
RIGHT,
BYZANTINE,
SHEET GLASS,
POTTERY AND
VENETIAN.



STRIPS OF COLORED TILE LOOK LIKE BLADES OF GRASS

THE MURAL REPRESENTS THE CHANGES THAT TOOK PLACE ON THE PRAIRIE AFTER THE UNITED STATES SURVEY OPENED THE WEST IN 1854.





THE UPPER RIGHT PORTION OF THE MURAL SYMBOLIZES THE AMERICAN FLAG AND REPRESENTS NEBRASKA AND KANSAS OFFICIALLY BECOMING TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1854. THE NEBRASKA-KANSAS ACT ALSO OPENED THE WEST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD.

THE RIGHT SIDE
OF THE MURAL
IS BRIGHT AND
ACTIVE
REPRESENTING
THE EASTERN
UNITED STATES,
SETTLED AND
GROWING.
WHEELS OF
WAGONS,
TRAINS,
INDUSTRY AND
COMMERCE ARE
PART OF THE
ACTIVITY WHICH
WILL FOLLOW
THE SURVEYORS.



IN THE LOWER LEFT SIDE OF THE MOSAIC RIBBONS OF GREEN REPRESENT THE VAST OPEN GRASSLAND. THE LARGE BLOCKS OF PRAIRIE WERE DIVIDED INTO SMALLER SQUARE SECTIONS BY THE SURVEY. THE SURVEYOR ON THE RIGHT LOOKS THROUGH A SEXTANT TOWARD A SURVEYOR'S POLE.





NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN THE WEST AND NEBRASKA WERE AFFECTED BY WESTWARD MIGRATION ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL. WITH THE SURVEY AND OPENING OF NEBRASKA TERRITORY FOR SETTLEMENT NATIVE AMERICA LIFE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY.



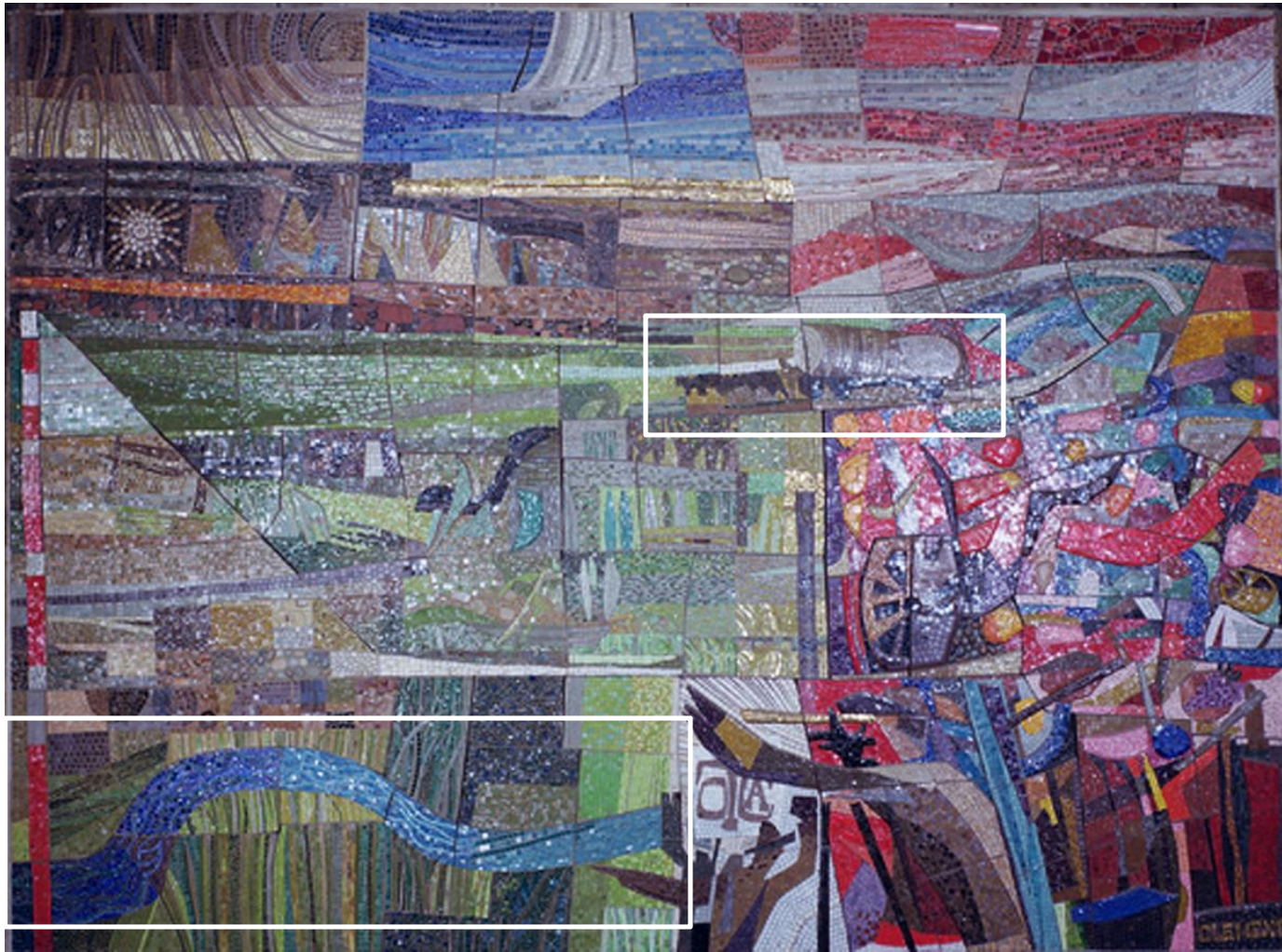
THIS SECTION OF THE MURAL SHOWS NATIVE AMERICANS IN THEIR TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE.



ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THIS SECTION THE ARTIST HAS USED THE TILES TO IMITATE THE SHAPES OF BISON AND SHOWS A VAST HERD OF BISON STRETCHING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE. THE BISON HERDS WERE VERY IMPORTANT TO TRADITIONAL PLAINS TRIBAL SOCIETY.

IN THIS SECTION THE ARTIST HAS REPRESENTED
NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE AFTER THE SURVEY. A SUN
MADE OF PEBBLES IS SETTING TO REMIND US OF THE
END OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN'S TRADITIONAL WAY
OF LIFE.





BENEATH THE FLAG, COVERED WAGONS MOVE OUT ONTO THE PRAIRIE. PIONEERS FOLLOWED THE PLATTE RIVER, THE RIBBON OF BLUE IN THE LOWER LEFT, ACROSS NEBRASKA AS THEY MOVED WEST ON THE OREGON AND CALIFORNIA TRAIL.



THE PIONEERS WHO SETTLED ON HOMESTEADS IN NEBRASKA ARE REPRESENTED IN THE CENTER OF THE MOSAIC. THIS SECTION CHANGES FROM BROWN TO GREEN REPRESENTING THE NEWLY BROKEN SOD TRANSFORMED TO GREEN FIELDS.



THE SOD HOUSE IN THE CENTER REPRESENTS THE SETTLERS FIRST HOMES, MADE FROM THE LAND ITSELF. ON THE RIGHT SIDE THE PLOWS WHICH BROKE THE SOD AND ON THE LEFT THE FENCES WHICH ENCLOSED LIVESTOCK ARE REPRESENTED.



THE SETTLERS AND HOMESTEADERS PLANTED TREES AND ORCHARDS CHALLENGING THE IDEA THE REGION WAS A VAST DESERT.

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