

AMERICAN FARMER MEMORIAL

BONNER SPRINGS, KANSAS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1986

= Gov. Carlin

THIS IS A HISTORICAL MOMENT FOR THE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME, AND  
I'M HONORED TO BE A PART OF IT.

SCULPTOR LEWIS WATKINS AND COMPOSER

ROBERT MOFFA TODAY GIVE US A MONUMENT

Hennell  
George

THAT IS LONG OVERDUE - A MEMORIAL IN  
HONOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER. THEIR  
WORK, LIKE THAT OF THE FARMER THEY PAY  
TRIBUTE TO, IS A LABOR OF LOVE.

HAROLD ADKINS AND THE BOARD OF  
GOVERNORS HERE DESERVE OUR THANKS TOO  
IN HELPING TO BRING YET ANOTHER MAJOR  
MILESTONE TO THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE

HALL OF FAME'S FINE TRADITION.

SHARING A DREAM

WE COME HERE TODAY TO SHARE A DREAM.

IT IS A DREAM THAT SAYS THERE ARE NO

MOUNTAINS TOO LARGE TO CLIMB IF WE

KEEP OUR SIGHTS FIXED ON TAKING THE

NEXT STEP FORWARD, NO MATTER HOW

DIFFICULT THAT STEP MAY BE.

THIS MONUMENT, EXPRESSED MAGNIFICENTLY  
THROUGH ARTWORK, IS REFLECTIVE OF WHAT  
WAS SAID LONG AGO - THE FIRST AND MOST  
RESPECTABLE OF ALL THE ARTS IS  
AGRICULTURE.

IT IS REFLECTIVE ALSO OF WHAT GEORGE  
WASHINGTON SAID LONG AGO - AGRICULTURE  
IS THE OLDEST AND MOST NOBLE OF

PROFESSIONS.

A DREAM OF YESTERDAY

YEARS AGO, THOSE WHO TILLED THE SOIL  
AND WORKED THE LAND FROM SUNRISE TO  
SUNSET HAD THEIR DREAMS TOO: TO FEED  
THEIR FAMILIES, TO EARN A LIVING AND  
TO MAKE AMERICA A STRONG, HEALTHY AND  
FREE NATION.

IN THE BEGINNING OF OUR NATION'S  
DEVELOPMENT, OUR RURAL ANCESTORS HAD  
TO TAME AN UNKNOWN WILDERNESS TO FIND  
A NEW HOME AND SEE THEIR DREAM COME  
ALIVE. TODAY THIS GENERATION OF  
FARMERS HAVE NO FEWER OBSTACLES BUT A  
FEW DIFFERENT CHALLENGES.  
EVERY DAY, FARMERS STILL FACE BATTLES

OVER WHICH THEY HAVE LITTLE CONTROL:

DROUGHTS, FLOODS, HAILSTORMS, INSECTS

- AND MANY TIMES CONTRADICTORY

GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT MAKE IT

DIFFICULT TO MANAGE A FARM ON A DAY TO

DAY BASIS.

AMERICAN FARMERS - ENVY OF THE WORLD

DESPITE THESE CHALLENGES, THE AMERICAN

FARMER TODAY IS THE ENVY OF THE  
WORLD. HE PRODUCES ENOUGH FOOD AND  
FIBER FOR 116 PEOPLE - 86 IN OUR OWN  
COUNTRY AND 30 OVERSEAS.

TODAY WE PRODUCE 80-PERCENT MORE ON AN  
ACRE OF LAND THAN JUST A GENERATION  
AGO. TODAY, ONE HOUR OF FARM LABOR  
PRODUCES 16 TIMES AS MUCH FOOD AND

OTHER CROPS AS IT DID IN 1920. IN  
FACT, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PER HOUR  
HAS BEEN INCREASING ABOUT THREE TIMES  
AS FAST AS INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

TODAY OUR CITY COUSINS SPEND ONLY  
15-PERCENT OF THEIR DISPOSABLE INCOME  
ON FOOD, AND YET ARE BLESSED WITH A  
STABLE SUPPLY OF MANY DIFFERENT TYPES

OF FOOD ITEMS.

AMERICA'S MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRY

AGRICULTURE IS THE NATION'S LARGEST  
INDUSTRY. FARM ASSETS TOTAL MORE THAN  
700 BILLION DOLLARS, AND ARE EQUAL TO  
ABOUT 70-PERCENT OF THE CAPITAL ASSETS  
OF ALL MANUFACTURING CORPORATIONS IN  
THE UNITED STATES.

AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTS FOR 20 PERCENT OF  
THE NATION'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT  
WITH \$610 BILLION OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY  
YEARLY. IT IS THE NATION'S LARGEST  
EMPLOYER WITH ROUGHLY 21 MILLION  
PEOPLE - ONE OUT OF FIVE AMERICAN JOBS  
- INVOLVED IN SOME PHASE OF  
AGRICULTURE.

AND ALTHOUGH U.S. FARM EXPORTS HAVE  
FALLEN FROM THEIR 1981 PEAK OF \$43.8  
BILLION TO \$28 BILLION  
LAST YEAR, I BELIEVE THEY ARE STILL A  
KEY INGREDIENT TO THE AMERICAN  
FARMER'S EARNINGS. EVERY BILLION  
DOLLARS IN FARM EXPORTS GENERATES MORE  
THAN 35,000 JOBS AND CREATES ANOTHER

\$1.4 BILLION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN  
OUR COUNTRY.

THE AMERICAN FARMER IS A CONSUMER AND  
TAXPAYER AS WELL. FARMERS SPEND \$45  
BILLION A YEAR ON GOODS, SERVICES, AND  
PERSONAL TAXES. TOTAL FARM PRODUCTION  
EXPENSES OR THE COST OF PRODUCING  
CROPS AND LIVESTOCK FOR 240 MILLION

PEOPLE AMOUNTS TO \$139.5 BILLION.

AN APPROPRIATE RECOGNITION

IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE TO RECOGNIZE

THE AMERICAN FARMER WITH A "LIVING

MEMORIAL". AND I AM VERY PROUD AS A

KANSAN THAT WE CAN DEDICATE THIS

MEMORIAL AT THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE

HALL OF FAME - THE ONLY ONE OF ITS

KIND IN THE ENTIRE WORLD - HERE IN

BONNER SPRINGS, KANSAS.

THE AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME HAS

ALWAYS BEEN A SYMBOLIC SHRINE TO THE

AMERICAN FARMER. A TOUR OF THE

GROUNDS, ALREADY TAKEN BY MORE THAN

ONE AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE, REVEALS

A VERY PROUD AND NOBLE HERITAGE.

GONE FROM TODAY'S DYNAMIC AGRICULTURAL  
SCENE BUT PRESERVED HERE FOR OUR  
APPRECIATION AND A GREATER  
UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURE ARE THE  
HORSE DRAWN PLOWS; THE STEEL-WHEELED  
TRACTORS; THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE;  
THE 1903 DART FARM TRUCKS; THE  
MCCORMICK REAPER AND OTHER SO-CALLED

RELICS THAT REMIND US OF A BY-GONE  
DAY. YES, THEY HAVE FOUND A HOME  
HERE.

WE REMEMBER GEORGE WASHINGTON, THOMAS  
JEFFERSON, GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER,  
ELI WHITNEY, SQUANTO THE INDIAN, HUGH  
BENNETT, LUTHER BURBANK AND ROSWELL  
GARST AND OTHERS WHO LED THE MARCH

TOWARD NEW FRONTIERS IN AGRICULTURE.

IT IS TRUE THAT THE EQUIPMENT AND  
METHODS AND FACES OF YEARS PAST HAVE  
CHANGED, BUT THE SPIRIT AND DRIVE AND  
DREAMS INSPIRED BY THOSE PIONEERS AND  
THOSE DAYS STILL LIVE ON.

THE AMERICAN FARMER: A HERO

THE DREAM WE SHARE TODAY IS THE SAME

TYPE OF DREAM THE LATE HOWARD COWDEN  
HAD IN THE 1950'S WHEN HE RECOGNIZED  
THE AMERICAN FARMER WAS JUST AS MUCH A  
SUPERSTAR AND HERO AS ANY BASEBALL  
PLAYER, FOOTBALL PLAYER OR TRACK  
STAR. THE NATIONAL FARMER MEMORIAL IS  
A PROUD TROPHY TO A REAL WINNER - THE  
AMERICAN FARMER.

THE AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME, LIKE THE  
NATIONAL FARMER MEMORIAL, HAPPENED  
BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE WANTED TO KEEP  
ALIVE THE TRADITION OF OUR RURAL  
HERITAGE. THOUSANDS OF FARMERS AND  
AGRIBUSINESS INTERESTS MADE SMALL  
DONATIONS OF MONEY OR ARTIFACTS TO SEE  
THE HALL OF FAME BECOME A REALITY.

PRESERVING A TRADITION

THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT ALTHOUGH THEY MAY  
NOT HAVE GROWN UP ON A FARM OR DISKED  
A FIELD OR MILKED A COW OR FIXED A  
TRACTOR, THEIR GRANDFATHER MAY HAVE OR  
THEIR GREAT GRANDFATHER MOST CERTAINLY  
DID.

THE NATIONAL FARMER MEMORIAL DEPICTS A

PIONEER FAMILY OF THE PAST, FIGHTING  
ALL ODDS WITH NO GUARANTEES.

IT PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE FARMER OF  
TODAY, CONFRONTED WITH THE UNCERTAINTY  
OF OUR COMPLEX, CONTEMPORARY WORLD.

IT INSPIRES THE FARMER OF TOMORROW, A  
YOUNG BOY OR GIRL WHO WILL CARRY THE

PROUD TRADITION OF AGRICULTURE INTO A  
NEW ERA AND A BETTER DAY.

CONCLUSION

WE ARE A NATION BROUGHT FROM THE  
FERTILE SOIL OF A GREAT LAND AND PROUD  
DREAMS. TODAY, IT IS TRUE, MANY  
AMERICANS ARE GENERATIONS REMOVED FROM  
THE SOIL. SO LET THEM SEE FIRSTHAND,

HERE, THAT THEY ARE STILL DEPENDENT  
EVERY DAY UPON THE FOOD AND FIBER  
PRODUCED ON THE FARMS AND RANCHES OF  
AMERICA'S HEARTLAND.

THIS IS A GREAT DAY TO SHARE A DREAM  
THAT HAS BECOME A REALITY. THIS IS A  
GREAT DAY TO SEE ART - THE ART OF THE  
LAND, CAPTURED WITHIN THE ART OF A

SCULPTURE AND THE ART OF MUSIC.

AS DANIEL WEBSTER SAID SO LONG AGO,

"WHEN TILLAGE BEGINS, OTHER ARTS

FOLLOW. THE FARMERS ARE THE

FOUNDERS...OF CIVILIZATION."

THANK YOU.

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- 25 -