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### 10/11/1991 - Hennings to Join Elbert on Centennial Project

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HENNINGS TO JOIN ELBERT ON CENTENNIAL PROJECT

CHARLESTON, IL--Robert E. Hennings, professor emeritus of history at Eastern Illinois University, has been appointed by Eastern President Stan Rives to assist E. Duane Elbert in writing the centennial history of the University.

Elbert, professor of history at Eastern and state historian, began the centennial project two years ago and is writing the history of the University covering events beginning with the founding of the institution in 1895 up to 1945.

Hennings will complete research on the University from 1946 on. "I am honored to join Dr. Elbert in the completion of this project and am looking forward to helping him put these 100 years into perspective so we can understand where we've been and where we are going," Hennings said.

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Hennings came to Eastern as an assistant professor in 1962 and served as professor of history and chair of the history department since 1974. He retired in June, 1990.

Although Hennings is teaching a graduate course in history this fall at Eastern, he said he will have to begin devoting most of his free time to the centennial project.

The primary purpose of the book will be to tell the story of Eastern in an easily read and attractive format as well as to provide an accessible reference for information about the institution, Hennings said.

The completed centennial history of Eastern will be made available in 1995 to students, alumni, interested family members, faculty, employees, and townspeople.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in history from Oberlin College in 1950, Hennings earned both his master's and doctorate in history from the University of California at Berkeley in 1957 and 1961, respectively.

At Eastern, he was active in the American Association of University Professors, the Council of Faculties of the Board of Governors Universities, and the Council on Academic Affairs.

He has been involved in the Coles County Historical Society since 1977, serving as president from 1988 to 1990, and is presently executive director.

One of his publications focused on changes in Eastern's administration under past University President Quincy Doudna.