

Mari Sandoz

HERITAGE

Chadron, Nebraska

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WHO CARES?

Normally this space is reserved for a feature article on the writings and/or interests of Mari Sandoz. This time, however, it is being used to present and explain the programs and needs of the organization which exists to perpetuate her memory, i.e., the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Who cares about hearing this? Those of us on the Council think each of you care a great deal. You have shown us that you do by your life memberships, your annual membership renewals, your participation in our events, and by your many letters with suggestions for the good of the Society.

Let us begin by describing a current need that is both exciting and challenging. The Nebraska American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has awarded us a \$5,000 grant to be used in carrying out our dual purposes of preserving the memory of Mari Sandoz and in promoting and understanding her major interests — Native Americans and the trans-Missouri West. This grant is contingent upon our ability to match it with \$5,000 in hard cash of our own. Unfortunately we do not have the money, primarily because it has been the belief of the administrative board of the Society to make programs and materials available to the membership and the general public, rather than to stockpile money in the treasury. Moreover, the life of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society has had a relatively short duration in comparison with other foundations.

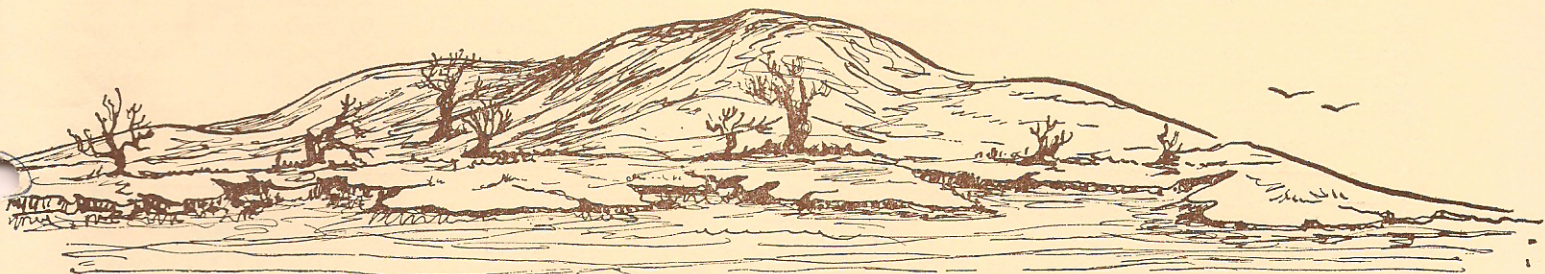
Our Society will be three years old on May 11, 1974. In that short time we have distributed over 10,000 brochures describing the Society, issued five newsletters, awarded two scholarships, sold over \$3,000 worth of Sandoz books and Indian pottery, and sponsored two events that collectively attracted nearly 1,000 people to northwestern Nebraska for the Sandoz Country Tour 1972 and Mari Sandoz Day 1973. In addition we have established a Mari Sandoz Heritage Room in the Chadron State College library that houses a collection of donated archival materials and museum pieces that are conservatively valued at \$3,500.

During the last year your administrative board developed and presented a proposal for the establishment of a Mari Sandoz Cultural Center on the Chadron State College campus to the Nebraska Bicentennial Commission. News of the Bicentennial endorsement and a summary of the proposal was included in your last newsletter. Members of your administrative board have traveled close to 10,000 miles in presenting that proposal to the people of Nebraska. The enthusiastic response to the cultural center proposal has verified the need for and interest in the cultural programs that such a center could provide. The recent money grant from the Commission could serve as seed money for implementing some of those needed programs and the match which we have to provide could be an indication of the actual support the cultural center proposal has from the people.

None of these activities could have been accomplished without the loyal support of the some 200 members of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Ours is a non-profit organization whose members share in the commitment of Mari Sandoz in preserving and interpreting the rich heritage of the land and the people of the trans-Missouri West. Those of us on the Council believe that each of you have participated in that mission through your memberships and donations.

Now if we can raise the \$5,000 to match the \$5,000 award from the Nebraska Bicentennial Commission, we can extend our program in new directions. The plan adopted by the Society's Council members for the use of this money encompasses three separate programs, but they would be presented to the Nebraska Bicentennial Commission as one proposal.

One program would involve the use of national, regional, and local people in a lecture



"By understanding this one drop of water, I hope to discover something of the nature of the ocean."

and work series dealing with history, the fine arts, and science. Communities and organizations in western Nebraska would be given an opportunity to co-sponsor, with the Society, a person of their own choosing who is publicly recognized as being accomplished in his area of activity. Flintknappers, blacksmiths, quillers, classical guitarists, and glass blowers are examples of the types of people who could be sponsored. It is also hoped that this program could attract people with national reputations, such as Loren Eiseley or Wallace Stegner. The goal of the Council is to raise at least \$500 in pledges from area Chambers of Commerce to apply toward the needed \$5,000.

The second program would concentrate on bringing area high school students to the Chadron State College campus for a weekend of cultural and historical activities. Tours to the Hudson-Meng Bison Kill Site, Fort Robinson, and Sandoz Country would be included on their agendas, as well as opportunities to participate in fine art, craft, and social activities that are more contemporary in nature. A goal of \$1,000 has been set by the Council to raise by way of fees and services toward the needed \$5,000.

The third program in the proposal would have the Society sponsor a college credit course in the oral, material, and social folk culture of the High Plains region. Roger Welsch, widely known Nebraska folklorist from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has agreed to teach the course, if the program becomes a reality. The major areas of emphasis would be on the Kinkaiders, railroaders, cattlemen, and minority groups. Possible topics the students could study include songs; tall tales; architecture of barns and auxiliary structures such as stock yards and feed racks; barbed wire; gravestones; courtship practices; and prejudices. The Council has projected a figure of \$2,500 that could be raised through tuition and fees toward the necessary \$5,000.

In summary, we are faced with the need of raising \$5,000 to match a \$5,000 grant from the Nebraska Bicentennial Commission. Possibly \$4,000 of this can be generated by the programs described above, leaving us with a deficit of \$1,000. Some of these programs could be implemented by next summer, and others would probably be spread out over a period of two or three years.

Would you be willing to make a tax-deductible contribution to a special fund drive that would, in effect, double your money? For if we can raise \$5,000 that amount will be matched by the Bicentennial Commission, and we will have \$10,000 to implement the programs listed above. None of us on the Council are accustomed to raising money, nor do we like the image of standing with hands outstretched "begging" for money. We do believe, however, that the three programs being proposed speak eloquently for the purposes of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Although the Society carries the name of Mari Sandoz, it is not limited to her work alone. Just as she was concerned with the totality of man's life on the plains, so the organization named in her memory is dedicated to studying and understanding man and his cultural, historical, scientific, and social environment on the plains.

If you can, and if you care, will you please send your contribution today. We have until December 1, 1973, to provide the Nebraska American Revolution Bicentennial Commission with the certification of our ability to provide matching monies.

May 11, 1973, surely has to go down as one of the

MARI SANDOZ DAY 1973



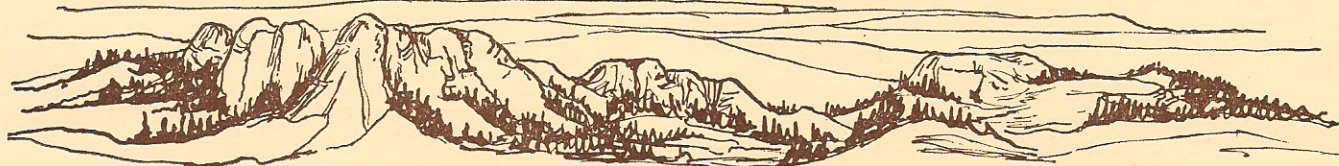
Vance Nelson, far left, interviewing the Sandoz family (l to r) Flora, Jules, James, and Caroline

high marks in the growing list of activities sponsored by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Born on May 11, 1896, Mari Sandoz' birthdate is now annually observed as Mari Sandoz Day in Nebraska by virtue of a resolution passed by the 1972 Nebraska Unicameral. The 1973 observance officially got under way when Nebraska Governor J. James Exon issued a proclamation in late April calling for all Nebraskans to pay tribute to Mari and the spirit of the pioneers which she represents. Governor Exon's proclamation was quickly followed by letters supporting the observance from Nebraska's U.S. Congressmen Roman Hruska, Carl Curtis, and Dave Martin; Lieutenant Governor, Frank Marsh; and State Senator, Leslie Stull.

These official acts served as a preliminary indication of the kind of enthusiastic response the birthday party itself would have. But this birthday party had something left over when the candles were blown out. Besides the memories of the some 500 persons who participated throughout the day, many people went home with Sandoz books, Sioux Indian craft items, and a program of the day that included a Sandoz family tree, a chronology of Mari and a bibliography of her published writings. In addition, the Society now has video and audio tapes of the Sandoz family interview with Vance Nelson.

The Chadron State College campus was the setting for the Mari Sandoz Day 1973 celebration. The day began with a coffee hour hosted by the CSC Faculty Women in the art gallery of Memorial Hall. The CSC pep band, under the direction of Bill Winkle, provided musical greetings to the Sandoz family as they arrived for the 10:00 convocation at Memorial Hall. Members from Cardinal Key and Blue Key, national scholastic honoraries, seated the guests as they arrived for the convocation featuring the Sandoz family.

Larry Agenbrod, CSC Professor of Earth Science and a member of the Society's Council, served as the convocation master of ceremonies. He introduced Ray Watkins, Chadron Chamber of Commerce president, and Edwin C. Nelson, CSC president, bringing welcomes from the city of Chadron and Chadron State College. Richard J. Loosbrock, CSC Professor of History and a Society Council member, was called upon to make the announcement of the winner of the Mari Sandoz scholarship. Caroline Sandoz Pifer presented



HERITAGE NOTES

Death has claimed four charter members of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, since the last publication of the Heritage: Robert Overing of Chapin, South Carolina; Will Spindler of Gordon; Joseph Jenny of Malmo; and J. Loren Balderson of Cortland. Mr. Overing contributed the feature article in the last issue of the newsletter, and had earlier donated a copy of his masters' thesis to the Society. His article, entitled "Willa Cather and Mari Sandoz," has been praised by many of you as being the finest writing we have yet presented.

Mr. Spindler wrote several dozen articles about frontier days for newspapers and magazines, along with numerous books. He was best known for his books Rim of the Sandhills and Tragedy Strikes at Wounded Knee. The latter was used by CBS television in its Great Adventure Series as the basis for film sequences on the death of Sitting Bull and Wounded Knee 1890. Mr. Spindler spent 30 years teaching at Indian

day schools on the Pine Ridge reservation.

Mr. Balderson was a student of Mari Sandoz' writing, and a long-time admirer of her work. He had hoped someday to retrace the Cheyenne Outbreak Trail, depending solely on the descriptions that Mari provided in Cheyenne Autumn.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Council is saddened to hear of the loss of these loyal Society supporters.

Janet Anthony is the newest member of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Council. She has been selected to replace Wayne Britt, who has graduated, as one of two student representatives on the Council. More information about Miss Anthony appears with the details of the Mari Sandoz Scholarship.

Extra copies of the program for Mari Sandoz Day 1973 are available free upon request by writing the Society, Chadron State College, Chadron, Ne. 69337.

GIVE GIFT MEMBERSHIPS IN THE MARI SANDOZ HERITAGE SOCIETY

One of the most rewarding year-round gifts to give or receive is a membership in the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Members receive the newsletter, Mari Sandoz Heritage, two times during the year; a membership card with a reproduction of an original line drawing of Indian Hill; and invitations to special events sponsored by the Society, such as Mari Sandoz Day and the Sandoz Country Tour.

Please use the form below to give a gift that promises to enrich the lives of your family or friends.

Form with decorative border containing fields for recipient name, address, membership type (Annual \$4.00, Sustaining Annual \$10.00, Life \$75.00, Commercial \$100.00), and donor information.

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Please send () to recipient the following MSHS membership cards:

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FOR: Ms.

Mr.

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Ms.

Mr.

Mr. and Mrs.

AddressCity State Zip.....

Make checks payable to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska 69337.

MEMBERSHIPS ARE DEDUCTIBLE FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES.

MARI SANDOZ SCHOLARSHIP

ORDER NOW

Two Chadron State College students, Janet Anthony and Debbie Haverkamp Eberspacher, were announced as the winners of the first Mari Sandoz Scholarship at the Mari Sandoz Day convocation on May 11, 1973. Miss Anthony is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anthony of Lexington. She is a junior majoring in library science, with a minor in history and business. She has worked as a volunteer at the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron for the past three years, is a member of the CSC Student Education Association and Sigma Delta Nu, and was recently elected to Who's Who in American College and University Students. Miss Anthony plans to combine her library and history background in her future vocational positions.

Mrs. Eberspacher is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Haverkamp of Rapid City, S.D. She is a junior with a double major in elementary education and library science. She has been an active student member on the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Council, is the treasurer of Cardinal Key, and Vice President of the CSC Student Education Association. Mrs. Eberspacher would like to be an elementary librarian in a Nebraska school.

Both of the recipients were presented original water-color certificates made by Ellen Larson, Vice Chairman of the Council. Money for the scholarship was donated by Mari's youngest sister, Caroline Sandoz Pifer of Gordon. CSC professors, Richard J. Loosbrock, Everett Larson, and Larry Agnbrod handled the selection process.

- 1. The Battle of the Little Big Horn \$5.95
- 2. The Battle of the Little Big Horn, paper \$1.25
- 3. The Beaver Men \$6.95
- 4. The Buffalo Hunters \$10.50
- 5. Crazy Horse, paper \$1.95
- 6. Cheyenne Autumn, paper \$1.95
- 7. The Christmas of the Phonograph Records \$3.95
- 8. Love Song to the Plains \$8.00
- 9. Love Song to the Plains, paper \$1.65
- 10. Old Jules, paper \$2.25
- 11. Old Jules Country \$4.95
- 12. Sandhill Sundays \$5.00
- 13. Slogum House, paper \$.95
- 14. The Story Catcher, paper \$.50
- 15. These Were the Sioux \$3.95
- 16. These Were the Sioux, paper \$.75
- 17. Winter Thunder, paper \$.50

Delivery before Christmas cannot be guaranteed on orders received after December 10, 1973.

Date

Name

Address City..... State..... Zip.....

Item No.	Title	Price Each	Quantity	Total Price
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Total

Nebraska Residents
add 2½% Sales Tax

Handling and Post. .35

Total

Send to: Mari Sandoz Heritage Society
Chadron State College
Chadron, Ne. 69337

Enclose check or money order payable to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society.

the certificates to Janet Anthony of Lexington and Debbie Haverkamp Eberspacher of Rapid City.

Attention was then directed to the members of the Sandoz family seated on the stage with Vance Nelson, curator of the Ft. Robinson museum and chairman of the Heritage Society Council. With him were Mari's brothers and sisters: Jules, James, Flora, and Caroline. Her other brother, Fritz, was not present, but his wife, Blanche, was seated in the audience with James' wife, Marie; Jules' daughter, Celia Ostrander; and Caroline's daughter, Eleanor Hamilton.

For the next fifty minutes the audience was treated to a rare public display of Sandozology. The conversation with the family ranged over a variety of topics - cattle prices, bureaucracy, Old Jules' dream of transforming the Sandhills, the future of the Sandhills, education, reclamation, the Sandoz orchards, ranching, Mari's writing and research, Indian culture, the settlement of the U.S., European immigrants and their "cultural baggage", Fort Robinson, dancing, religion, women's liberation, influences on Mari, and their mother, Mary Sandoz. Portions of that conversation with the Sandoz family which was broadcast on KCSR radio follows. Vance Nelson served as the questioner.

Q: How does your family feel about the homestead land laws? Did they hold back progress?

A: Jules — They built the United States except my Dad was opposed to the Kinkaid law which meant 4 quarters, see. He wanted the old preemption law. James — But he took the extra 3 quarters, all right.

Q: Which book do you think Mari found to be the most satisfying book she ever wrote?

A: Caroline — **Crazy Horse**. (Why?) She was sympathetic to it in the first place and it was just romantic enough to appeal to her.

Q: Do you think the Indians had a little more respect for Jules than some of the other settlers?

A: Jules — Anyone that was French, anyone that could talk French at that time was apparently favored. Flora — Dad's philosophy was that he was no better than anybody else, but nobody else was better than he, and that included the Indians.

Q: Why did Mari take the side of the Indian?

A: Caroline — They were the underdog.

Q: Old Jules has been called the Burbank of the Sandhills. What do you think he would have thought of that comparison?

A: James — He'd have been proud of that. He was by nature an experimenter. Matrimonially, and every other way.

Q: What is your fondest memory of Mari?

A: Flora — Well, Mari more or less raised me. I always looked up to her for guidance. She, of course, was very disappointed in me because she couldn't make a writer or an artist or something like that out of me, but I think her affection for me was demonstrated in her care for me and her interest throughout the years even if I didn't do what she hoped I would.

Jules — Intelligence, easy learning, you can't beat that. Mari was a story-teller just like she was a writer. She could talk and never lose a word, hour on hour, to us smaller kids, all made up, just at the spur of the moment, off the cuff.

James — I batched with her 2 summers. She was smart and she learned quickly, but she spent most of her time reading.

Caroline — She was fun to be with. It always perplexed me that she could be so grim in her writing and write such sorrowful stories because I always knew her as a

superb entertainer. She could just wrap me around her fingers by the hour, like Jules says, by telling stories or just having fun.

James — One thing you can guess on for sure, she said just what she thought.

Immediately following the convocation, the Sandoz family appeared in the Memorial Hall foyer to autograph Mari's books being sold by the CSC Phi Alpha Theta, history honorary, on behalf of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. A noon luncheon, presided over by Lloy Chamberlin of Gordon, a member of the Society Council, was well attended. Special introductions in addition to Mari's brothers and sisters, their spouses and children, and the scholarship winners, included: Mrs. Marie Surber Hare of Rushville, daughter of Henri Surber whose family are long-time friends of the Sandoz family and prominently mentioned in **Old Jules**; Mrs. Evelyn Mills of Hay Springs, daughter of Elmer Sturgeon, a contemporary of Old Jules who settled on Mirage Flats around the same time as Jules, and also mentioned prominently in **Old Jules**; Mae Manion of Alliance, one of Mari's former teachers; and Josephine Frisbie of Omaha, a friend of Mari's and a member of the Board of Governors of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation at Red Cloud. Steve Janis, administrative assistant to the Nebraska Indian Commissioner, was the featured speaker.

Members of the Sandoz family visited the elementary schools in Chadron during the afternoon. The students had been prepared for the visit by Peggy Hammitt, elementary librarian and a member of the special Mari Sandoz Day committee. Comments about the session with the children were just as favorable as those heard about the convocation held earlier in the day.

A social hour on the CSC campus, hosted by the CSC Faculty women, featured the display and sale of Sandoz books; and Indian craft work from the Indian Craft Program, Gering, handled by Dan Garneaux, and from the Eagle Feather Crafts, Inc., Chadron, handled by Bob Horse.

Mari Sandoz Day 1973 drew to a close with a cookout prepared by Don Berlie of Chadron, and a square dance called by Cecil Wasserburger of Chadron. Thus ended a birthday party that would be remembered for a long time.



Marie Surber Hare



DONORS TO THE SOCIETY

For the third consecutive year officials of the Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company of Chadron have taken out a commercial membership in the Society.

Cash donations in the amount of \$100.00 each have been received from the Chadron Culture Club and the Student Personnel office at Chadron State College. An anonymous donation in the amount of \$65.00 has also been received. These donations will be used to apply toward meeting the \$5,000 cash need to match the grant from the Nebraska Bicentennial Commission

Caroline Sandoz Pifer has contributed \$150.00 toward the Mari Sandoz scholarship fund of the Society. All of this money has come from articles and speeches that she has either written or given on Mari.

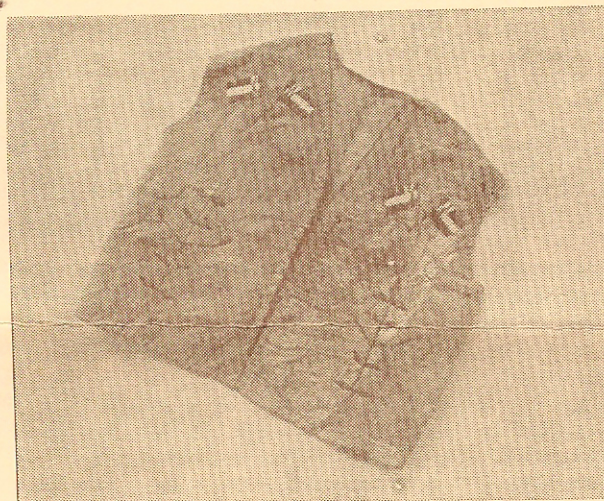
The First National Bank of Chadron sponsored the Mari Sandoz Day 1973 convocation over KCSR radio, making it possible for listeners throughout a wide area of western Nebraska to hear the worthwhile conversation between the Sandoz family and Vance Nelson.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Room in the Chadron State College library is becoming more representative of Mari's interests, thanks largely to a recent donation from the Anderson family. The Society has received nine Sioux Indian pieces that have been donated in memory of the late Harvey and Anna Anderson by their children and grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were pioneers in the area between Chadron and Hay Springs where their son, William, now resides. Their other children are: Albert Anderson of San Francisco, Mrs. Eleanor Glode of Lemon Grove, California, and the late Mrs. Lenore Shaw of Chadron. The family believes most of the items were acquired in the early 1900's by trading produce with Indians who were often employed by the late Mr. Anderson to help husk corn and pick potatoes. They believe most of the items came into the hands of the family through trades with Chief Eagle and Arthur Elk.

James Hanson of the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron has appraised the Anderson collection for the Society, and he describes it as a collection of decorated, utilitarian objects, most of which are museum quality pieces.

The most prized item in the collection is a child's painted buckskin vest carrying the design of the American flag in

quillwork. Hanson estimates that the vest was made between 1890-1920 because the American flag design is typical of that period. A child's pair of painted buckskin pants is also in the collection. They were probably made later than the vest by someone who could not do quillwork. They are sewed with cotton thread and sinew, and ornamented with beadwork. The pants suggest that deerskin was becoming scarce because the fringing is made up of small pieces patched together.



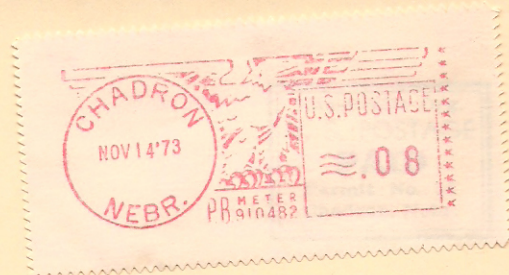
Child's vest from the Anderson collection.

Three pair of moccasins, one headband, two watch fobs, and a charm make up the remainder of the Anderson collection. The moccasins were probably made in the 20th century, judging by the color of the beads. One pair carries the buffalo track pattern, one is a woman's set, and the other has dangles that are examples of late quillwork. According to Hanson, the band, fobs, and charm are typical of the work the Indians were producing for sale to tourists from 30 to 50 years ago.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Council is pleased to acknowledge the receipt of these donations and gifts.

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Edited by Judy McDonald.

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE
Chadron, Nebraska 69337



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