

# Story <sup>the</sup> Catcher

Spring Issue 2014

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## Story Catcher Workshop Set

The 2014 Story Catcher Summer Writing Workshop and Festival is set for **Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 13<sup>th</sup>** on the Chadron State College campus in northwest Nebraska's Pine Ridge. The event celebrates the spirit of Mari Sandoz and is sponsored by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and Chadron State College.

Participants can attend advanced workshops on revising fiction and non-fiction work and a wide variety of sessions focused on poetry, story - telling, blogging, memoirs, generating new material and submitting work for publication.

This year's workshop theme is **"What's Your Story?"**

Morning and afternoon workshops, a field trip "writer's retreat" to historic Fort Robinson and an evening cookout there are all geared toward helping writers tell and write their stories. A Friday afternoon festival celebrates the work of everyone involved in the workshop, from published authors to beginners.

The workshop is affordable, friendly and accessible. General registration for the four-day event will be \$150 with an additional \$100 for the advanced workshop. Rooms are available on the college campus.

Five outstanding writers will guide participants: **Dan O'Brien** is the keynote speaker and writer in residence, and will lead the advanced workshop. He is a wildlife biologist and rancher who chronicles his search for wilderness on the Plains. Colorado State University instructor **Todd Mitchell** will lead some stand alone sessions and the beginning fiction workshops as will **Dawn Wink**, a relative newcomer from New Mexico who has recently published a novel. Ms. Wink's novel, set on the South Dakota Plains, is titled *Meadowlark*. She often teaches on themes of "place" and "environment" in fiction and non-fiction and will lead the beginning non-fiction workshop. **Shannon Baker**, a writer of mysteries who recently relocated to Nebraska from Arizona, will be leading some sessions on mystery writing. Mari Sandoz Heritage Society President Emeritus **Ron Hull** will be the featured speaker at the closing Festival. The event website has registration information and more information and can be found at <http://www.storycatcherworkshop.org>



# Ron Hull Named Nebraskan of the Year By The Rotary Club of Lincoln

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board Member and President Emeritus Ron Hull of Lincoln is the **Nebraskan of the Year**. Hull was honored by the Rotary Club of Lincoln as the 27<sup>th</sup> recipient of the prestigious award.

He is a senior advisor to Nebraska Educational Telecommunications and UNL professor emeritus of broadcasting. Hull received his Doctorate of Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. During his tenure as program manager at NET he helped establish the network as a nationwide leader in the public television industry. He co-developed a number of programs and helped shape public broadcasting at the national level as director of the Program Fund for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting where he initiated the PBS history series *The American Experience* and documentaries such as *Great Performances* and *Eyes on the Prize*.

Hull was born in Rapid City, SD, and received his BA in speech and drama from Dakota Wesleyan University. He received an MS in television from Syracuse University. In 1955 he helped establish KUON-TV at the University of Nebraska which is now known as NET. In 1966 he was granted a leave of absence to work for the United States Information Agency as a television programming advisor for the government of South Vietnam. He helped the government develop a four-station television network for South Vietnam.



Ron Hull receiving the Nebraskan of the Year Award in Lincoln  
(photo courtesy Jeanene Wehrbein, Plattsmouth NE)



Ron Hull interviews Mari Sandoz

He has been an international teacher and was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach a graduate-level course in international broadcasting at National Cheng Chi University of Taipei, Taiwan. He also authored a book, **"Backstage Stories from My Life in Public Television,"** published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2012. Hull served as the Chair of the Nebraska Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission. He received the Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award from the Nebraska State Historical Society, the Pioneer Award from the Nebraskaland Foundation and the Nebraska Sower Award by the Nebraska Humanities Council. He was inducted into the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame in 2004. Hull was awarded a Presidential Commission by President Jimmy Carter to serve on the

President's committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 1979. He has helped preserve Nebraska history with recordings of Nebraska writers including: **Mari Sandoz**, John G. Neihardt, and Wright Morris as well as actress Sandy Duncan and talk show host Dick Cavett.

# Margaret Coel to Give Pilster Lecture on September 25th

Western mystery writer Margaret Coel will be the keynote speaker at the 2014 Pilster Great Plains Lecture Series, Thursday September 25th at Chadron State College. The theme for this year's conference is "The Mysterious Plains."

Coel is the *New York Times* best-selling author of the acclaimed Wind River mystery series set among Arapahos on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation and featuring Jesuit priest Father John O'Malley and Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden. Among the series of 20 titles are the recently published "Killing Custer" and "Buffalo Bill's Dead Now."

Along with the Wind River mystery series, Coel is the author of five non-fiction books including the award-winning "Chief Left Hand". The biography of an Arapaho Chief and the history of the Arapahos in Colorado was published by the University of Oklahoma Press. The Colorado State Historical Society has included both "Chief Left Hand" and Coel's memoir-history of railroading, "Goin' Railroading" (which she wrote with her father, Samuel F. Speas) among the best 100 books on Colorado history.

Coel is a native Coloradan who hails from a pioneer Colorado family. Her novels have received wide recognition. They have been on the bestseller lists of numerous newspapers, including the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Denver Post* and the *Rocky Mountain News*. Five novels have received the Colorado Book Award. "The Spirit Woman" received the Willa Cather Award for Best Novel of the West and was a finalist for the Western Writers of America's Spur Award for Best Novel. The lecture is scheduled for 7:30 pm (MST).



Margaret Coel

## Buffalo Herd to Expand on Pine Ridge Reservation

As many as 1,000 bison could be part of a long-range plan to establish a new national park on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The *Rapid City Journal* reports the bison could be reintroduced on parts of the South Unit of Badlands National Park in 2015.

### Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Sponsors the Pilster Lecture

The Pilster Lecture is made possible by a Mari Sandoz Heritage Society endowment which started with the gift from Esther Pilster of ranchland in Dawes County in honor of her late husband Raleigh who grew up there with his parents John and Grace Pilster. Esther, a teacher and school administrator for 44 years, lives in Omaha.



*MONA Women Artist's Display at MSHPC  
(photo courtesy Chadron State College)*

## Former Pilster Lecturer Trimble Receives Honor

Former Pilster Lecture speaker Charles Trimble, a well-known Native American journalist and writer, has been inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. Trimble was born in Wanblee on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1935 and was the last of 13 siblings to attend the Holy Rosary School in Pine Ridge. He received a BA from the University of South Dakota, served in the US Army and did graduate work in journalism at the University of Colorado. He worked for several years in the aerospace industry before establishing the American Indian Press Association in 1969. He was the Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians from 1972-1978. Trimble has received honorary doctorate degrees from Creighton University and Wayne State College in Nebraska and from the University of South Dakota. He is retired and lives in Omaha.

## Sandoz Center Displays Women Artist's Works From MONA Collection

The Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney, Nebraska, has created a special exhibition titled "Nebraska Women Artists: 1900-1960" for the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. The exhibition, which features works from the MONA permanent collection, is open to the public **until May 18**.

Sandoz Center Director Sarah Polak said the exhibition was designed to highlight Women's History Month and the time period of Mari Sandoz's life. Sandoz may have known of many of these women as she lived from 1896-1966. In her later years, she lived in Greenwich Village in New York and was quite involved in both the literary and visual arts scenes.

This exhibit will be the first of a series scheduled to travel from MONA to the Sandoz Center over the next several years. Polak said that this is a great opportunity for Chadron to receive special exhibitions unique to this area and the state. According to Polak, these exhibitions will also benefit the students of Chadron State College in a variety of disciplines due to the diversity of topics they will be partnering with MONA to create for their spaces. The exhibitions will also help MONA expand outreach to Western Nebraska. In 2010, MONA brought a special exhibition of Robert Henri works to the Center in conjunction with the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Annual Conference.

The exhibition is locally sponsored in part by the Vernon P. Chicoine and Madge Fortune Chicoine Fund and the Thomas L. and Carol K. Krepel Fund. The Sandoz Center is open to the public from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 am to 12 noon and 1 to 4 pm on Saturdays. Closed Sundays and holidays.



### Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is on Social Media!

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society has joined the bandwagon and now has a Facebook page. Keep up to date with Sandoz Society news and activities by "liking" our page!



## Ogallala Post Office Mural Artist Consulted With Sandoz on Popular Work

The next regular meeting of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board will be held June 6 and 7 in Ogallala. The Board will gather Friday afternoon for a tour of the Kenfield Petrified Wood Gallery on Highway 30. Twins Howard and Harvey Kenfield collected petrified wood world-wide for decades and have had the pieces on display at several locations in and near Ogallala before remodeling the old bowling alley and moving their collection and works of Native American art to the new gallery. A board dinner will follow and the board meeting will be held at the Gallery Saturday morning.

While in Ogallala, board members will be able to visit the local post office which has a very famous mural, **“Long Horns” painted in 1938 by artist Frank Mechau (1904-1946)** after he consulted with Sandoz as he worked on what was one of 12 post Depression paintings placed in Nebraska post offices.

Nebraska’s Deputy Historic Preservation Officer Bob Puschendorf has studied the paintings for more than five years and written a book about the project. He said Nebraska's post office murals from the Great Depression of the 1930s provided a sense of hopefulness in depicting familiar scenes of history, community and life on the land during a time of dark national despair — even if the locals grumbled a bit.

His book is **“Nebraska Post Office Murals: Born of the Depression, Fostered by the New Deal,”** published by the Nebraska State Historical Society. “What better place than the local post office, where people gathered and did business, to get art to people, especially those in smaller towns, who didn't have a lot of exposure to art,” Puschendorf said.

Twelve new Nebraska post offices received murals commissioned between 1937 and 1941 under a U.S. Treasury Department program to bring art to the people, promote American values and provide an outlet for the creative spirit of artists. The Nebraska murals were among 1,100 in post offices across the nation. Each of the Nebraska murals remains in its original setting; 11 in post offices and one in what now is the educational service unit in Valentine. They generally are 12 feet long and 4 feet high and hang above the door to the postmaster's office.

Post Office’s in Albion, Auburn, Crawford, Geneva, Hebron, Minden, Ogallala, O’Neill, Pawnee City, Red Cloud, Schuyler, and Valentine all received murals through the Department of the Treasury’s program.

# MHS Presents History Day Awards, Trio Wins for Kool-Aid Research



Spenser Didier, Chloe Murphy and Ashley Bean pose with Sandoz Society Board Member Diana Hoffmann and their Great Plains Awards at History Day. (photo courtesy Diana Hoffmann)

## Unpublished Work Set for Conference Study

The collections at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center in Chadron include more than 100 manuscripts and short works. The majority of these short works are undated, unpublished, and appear in the collection in a variety of drafts. Center Director Sarah Polak has selected *The Well* for this year's conference in September. She said that when the collection came to the Center the works were listed alphabetically, so an exact date on this work is unknown. There are several drafts of this story with the same title. The one selected for conference participants is the copy that seems the most complete and includes corrections and edits from previous versions. The wide margins are a signature of Sandoz's manuscripts. These margins allowed places for Mari to make edits. Polak said that she reviewed eight unpublished works to find one to share at the conference and this one fits the theme, "The Mysterious Plains." "Mystery is not always about the 'scary', but it is also about the unknown. "I think that *The Well* does a good job of blending reality with illusion," she said.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society presented certificates and cash awards to winners in the District Division of National History Day at Chadron State College in February. The Great Plains Award was presented to Spenser Didier, Chloe Murphy and Ashley Bean. Their topic was *Oh! Yeah! The Kool-Aid Story*. The popular powdered soft drink was invented by Hastings resident Edwin Perkins and is the subject of a museum and annual festival in that south central Nebraska community. The three did extensive source research on Kool-Aid and traveled to Hastings to search records at the historical society and interviewed Perkins' nephew. Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board Member Diana Hoffman of Gordon conceived the award and presented it to the young ladies. Longtime Society member Con Marshall of Chadron and a CSC graduate student judged the Great Plains award which included a \$100 cash award split among 3 students.

## Sandoz Society Receives Grant for New Website

A new website is in the works for the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Executive Secretary Elizabeth Chase said the Digital Community Foundation has approved a grant of \$740 for the Society to use to develop the website. The work will be carried out under the direction of an account manager with Firespring, a Lincoln-based web firm. Chase said the new site will be more user-friendly and include an e-commerce capability which will allow for on-line membership, on-line giving, and product purchases. Other new features will include a photo gallery and access to the Society's newsletter and special events.



# Call For Proposals

## Mari Sandoz Research and Insights



The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society encourages college students to conduct research on Sandoz and her work at the undergraduate and graduate level. We are offering an annual research award of \$1,000 for proposals that emphasize new insights on Mari Sandoz or ways to explore her life or her work. Topics to consider include: feminism; American Indian issues; environmental issues and activism. The winning award recipient will present the research at the 2015 Mari Sandoz Conference at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska, held during the month of September. One award of \$1,000 will be disbursed in two payments: An initial payment of \$500 will be presented with the announcement of the award; the balance of \$500 will be paid at the conference presentation. Please pay careful attention to the requirements and submit a complete proposal, as a single document, electronically to: [echase@windstream.net](mailto:echase@windstream.net)



### Requirements

- Undergraduate or graduate student at any college or University.
- Call for Proposals: March 1, 2014
- Deadline for Proposals: July 30, 2014
- Announcement of Award: Mari Sandoz Conference in September 2014
- Research Timeline: 1 year
- Research Presentation: Mari Sandoz Conference in September 2015

### Submit a 1-2 page (max) proposal that:

- Describes the project
- Describes how the project would benefit the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society
- Describes why you are the right person to conduct this research
- Includes a line item budget describing how funds would be used to support the project
- Attach a copy of curricula vitae or résumé

### Proposals will be evaluated on

- How well the applicant stated his/her research question and the significance of the overall project.
- How well the applicant demonstrated his/her knowledge of the primary source materials related to the proposal.
- How well the applicant framed his/her project in terms of the broader theoretical/historiographical issues significant to the topic.
- How well the importance of the research and the topic to the on-going mission of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society was met.
- How well the proposed line-item budget supports the applicant's stated research agenda.
- The decision of the Research Award team is final. Applicants will receive written notification of their status following final review of the proposals.

*Mari Sandoz*  
**HERITAGE SOCIETY**

### *Sandoz Research Award Committee*

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