

# Mari Sandoz

## HERITAGE

Chadron, Nebraska

Vol. 7 No. 2

Spring 1978

### COUNCIL

Vance Nelson  
Chairman

Carla Chlouber  
Director

Judy McDonald  
Executive Director

Lloy Chamberlin  
William E. Colwell  
Judy Gasseling  
Linda Hasselstrom  
Ron Hull  
Ellen Larson  
Richard Loosbrock  
Barbara Marcy  
Kay McCune  
Shirley Morgan  
Celia Ostrander  
Caroline Pifer  
Allen Shepherd  
Larry Tangeman  
Kathy Traphagan  
John L. Wehling

### HONORARY

Jules Sandoz  
Gordon

James Sandoz  
Ellsworth

Flora Sandoz  
Ellsworth

Caroline Bancroft  
Denver, CO

James Carr  
New York

H. Albert Dale  
Rushville

Bruce Nicoll  
Lincoln

Wallace E. Stegner  
Palo Alto, CA

Fritz Wefso  
Rushville

**B & B Printing**  
**Publisher**

### THE SANDOZ ROOM in Gordon

Mari Sandoz Day, May 11, was celebrated this year with an open house at the Sandoz Room in Gordon. The newly redecorated room contains clippings, scrapbooks, clothing, portions of Mari's book and record collections, letters, and awards, among other mementoes and material related to Nebraska's famed author.

The Sandoz Room, located on the second floor of the Chamberlin Furniture building, is under the direction of Lloy (Mrs. Fred) Chamberlin, a member of the Council of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and a longtime admirer of Mari Sandoz. Lloy points out that the refurbishing of the room was made possible by her son Bob, who now owns Chamberlin Furniture and provided all the materials. The room has new carpeting, new walls and ceiling, and new lighting. The material in the room has also been rearranged according to chronology and subject matter.

The Sandoz Room first opened on October 11, 1967, a year after Mari's death. Since that time thousands of people from many different states and countries have visited the room, which is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

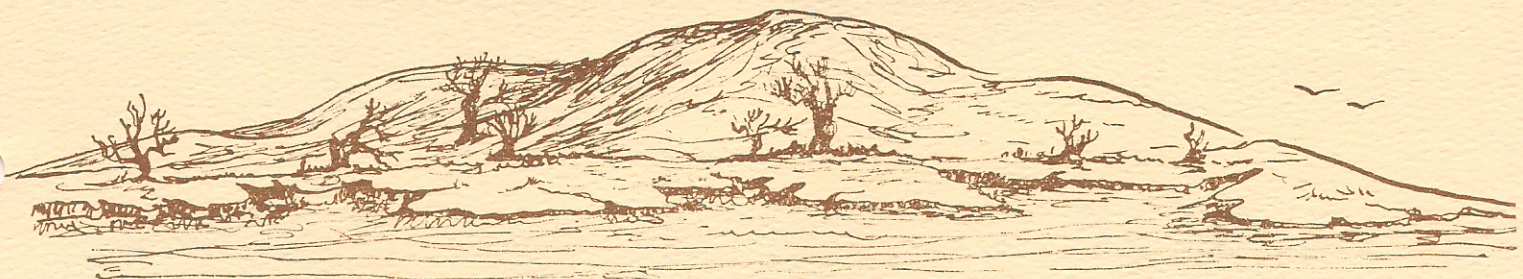
In recounting the history of the room, Lloy says that she and Sybil (Mrs. John) Malmberg set up the original room with material provided by Mari's sister, Caroline Sandoz Pifer. Mrs. Malmberg has since moved from Gordon to Wyoming. Lloy has continued to collect clippings, photographs, and articles relating to Mari.

The most recent acquisition for the room is a bust of Old Jules Sandoz sculpted by Hyannis high school student Gary Shankland. The bust was officially unveiled during the open house, on May 11, with Gary on hand to meet guests during the afternoon. The bust was purchased by Lloy Chamberlin, who donated it to the Sandoz Room.

Also on hand for the open house were members of the Sandoz family, including Mari's brother and sister, Jules and Caroline, and the recipient of the 1978 Mari Sandoz Scholarship at



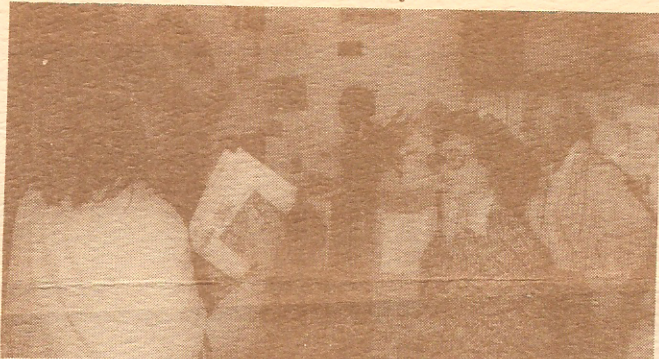
*Jules Sandoz stands near the bust of his father, Old Jules, in the Sandoz Room in Gordon.*



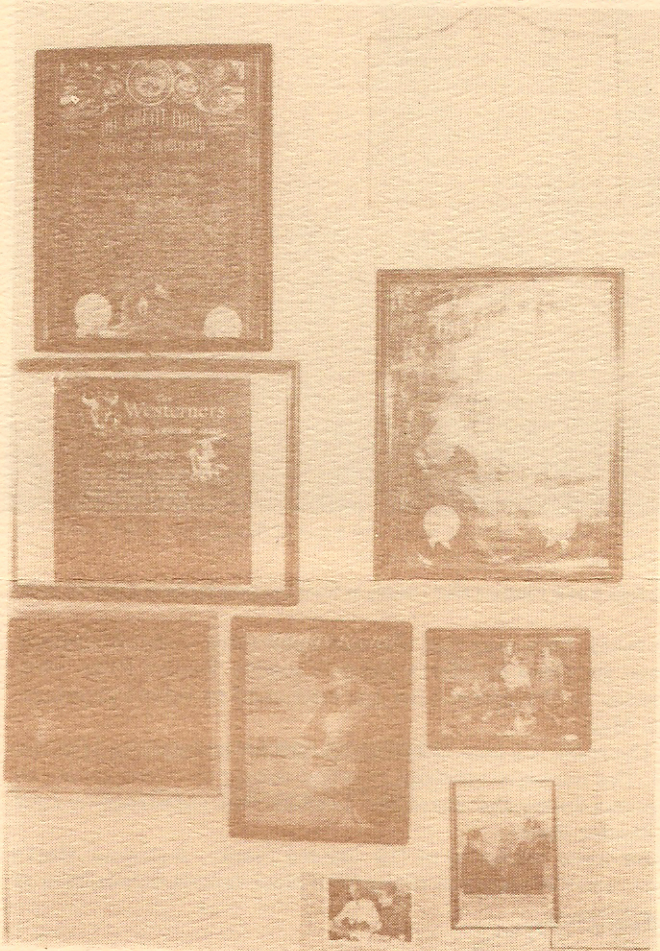
"By understanding this one drop of water, I hope to discover something of the nature of the ocean."

Chadron State College. The scholarship, provided by the Sandoz family, was awarded to John Mosher, of Crawford, who will be a senior at CSC next fall. John, who is majoring in English and is the editor of the student newspaper, plans to become a teacher or writer.

A couple of the more interesting items in the Sandoz Room are a scrapbook entitled "We Regret" filled with rejection slips and a carbon copy of the manuscript of *Miss Morissa*. But for fans of Mari Sandoz, everything in the room is fascinating — from the childhood pictures in the Sandhills to the awards and citations Mari received in later years as a nationally known historian and storyteller.



*During the open house at the Sandoz Room on May 11, Lloyd Chamberlin, in the center, greeted visitors to the room.*



*Many of the awards and citations received by Mari Sandoz can be seen in the Sandoz Room.*

### MORE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The winners of the Bob Pifer Scholarship and the Fritz Sandoz Scholarship have been announced. The winner of the Bob Pifer Scholarship is John Smith of Wolbach, Nebraska, and the recipient of the Fritz Sandoz Scholarship is Sam Hucke of Hemingford, Nebraska.

The scholarships were established last year by Caroline Sandoz Pifer and Blanche Sandoz, the widow of Fritz. They will go every year to deserving students in agriculture at Chadron State College.

### NEW TITLES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESS

New titles from the University of Nebraska Press include three books by Mari Sandoz. They are *The Beaver Men*, *The Buffalo Hunters*, and *The Cattlemen*. The prices for the books, which are all in paperback, are \$4.50 for *The Beaver Men* and *The Buffalo Hunters* and \$5.95 for *The Cattlemen*.

The books may be ordered directly from the University of Nebraska Press at 901 North 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588. There is a 10% discount on prepaid or credit card orders, and individuals must prepay. Also, 50¢ should be added for handling charges, and Nebraska residents must add local sales tax.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Since the dues for membership in the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society cover from May to May of each year, it is time again for payment of annual dues. Membership rates are individual annual, \$4; sustaining annual, \$10; life, \$75; and commercial annual, \$100.

### QUARTER SECTION CLUB

For those who are making payments on "land" as members of the Quarter Section Club, payments are due now, too. Anyone who would like to become a member of the Quarter Section Club can join by buying forty "acres" for \$40.00; eighty "acres" for \$80.00; one hundred twenty "acres" for \$120.00; a quarter section for \$160.00; or a section for \$640.00. The ultimate goal of the Quarter Section Club is to build the Mari Sandoz Center for the Study of Man.

All memberships, contributions, and bequests are deductible for income tax purposes.

### THE MARI SANDOZ YOUNG WRITERS CONFERENCE

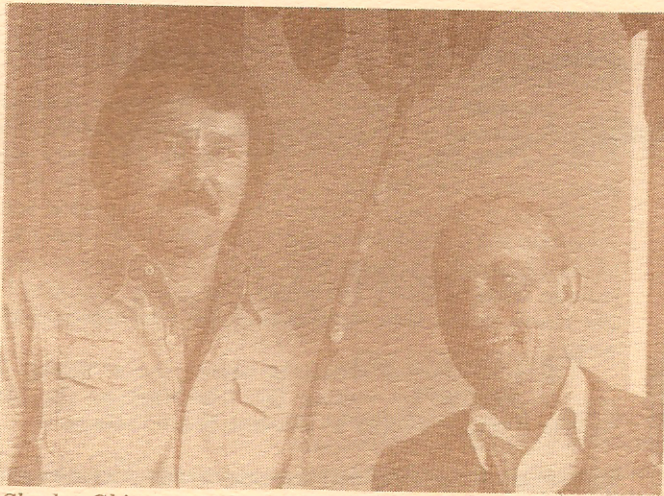
The Mari Sandoz Young Writers' Conference on April 7 and 8 drew over sixty young people from western Nebraska and southwestern South Dakota. Many were high school students who had never attended such a conference before.

The speakers, Tom Allan and Charles Ghigna, proved to be exceptionally good. Tom Allan is a veteran newsman and feature writer for the *Omaha World-Herald* who has won many awards. Charles Ghigna, a prize-winning poet, is head of the creative writing department at the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham.

Mr. Allan reminisced about some of his visits with Mari Sandoz, whom he had interviewed and about whom he had written. He obviously shared with her a deep love for the Sandhills and a great curiosity about his fellow man.

Charles Ghigna's poetry reading delighted the partici-





*Charles Ghigna, on the left, and Tom Allan, on the right, spoke at the Mari Sandoz Young Writers' Conference.*

pants in the workshop. A teacher, as well as a playwright and poet, he urged the students to learn the craft of writing and develop the discipline needed to turn "musings" into poetry.

In spite of the differences in the two writers — one a veteran newsman and the other a young poet — many at the conference were struck by the similarity of their goals and approaches. Both take a particular place, character, or incident and interpret it for the reader. Both use their craft and discipline to analyze some aspect of the human condition so that the reader, too, can see what it is that the writer sees.

An added highlight for the conference was a presentation by members of the staff of *The Eagle*, the Chadron State College student newspaper. With slides to illustrate their commentary, CSC students John Mosher and Richard Beardsley took the students through the process of putting together a college newspaper, from the time the news story is turned in to the time the paper rolls off the presses.

The goal of the conference, which was funded by the High Plains Center at Chadron State College, was to give young writers a chance to hear published authors, exchange ideas with them, and perhaps become inspired by them. The feeling of most of the participants seemed to be that the Mari Sandoz Young Writers' Conference certainly achieved that goal.

#### **EXHIBIT OF EARLY-DAY PHOTOGRAPHS**

An exhibit of prints from the Graves collection of early-day photographs will be on view in the gallery of Memorial Hall at Chadron State College from July 7 through July 28. The exhibit is part of a project the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society has undertaken to preserve and catalog prints of a collection of glass plate negatives made between 1906 and the 1920's.

The photographs were taken by R. W. and Faye Graves, a husband and wife team who photographed much of the life of northwest Nebraska during the early part of the century. Their pictures include many Indians, portraits, commercial scenes, and landscapes. The negatives, which were found in 1973 when the old Graves studio building in Chadron was torn down, have been damaged, some extensively and some only slightly.

The exhibit will include approximately 100 prints from

the collection, which includes 1050 glass plate negatives in all. The prints selected for the exhibit are those which are most representative, most significant from a historical point of view, or most aesthetically interesting. One of the photographs in the collection is thought to be one of the last pictures taken of Chief Red Cloud.

The extensive research for the project was done by Frank Snocker, a student in anthropology and history at Chadron State College. The prints for both the historical collection and the exhibit were done by Gloria Aspinall, a photographer who now lives in Alliance.

The project was made possible by a grant from the High Plains Center at Chadron State College. Appreciation also goes to Don Huls, who originally saved the collection from destruction, and the Chadron Record, which made the collection available to the Society for the project.

Gallery hours for the exhibit will be 9-11:30 and 1-4 Monday through Friday. A reception will be held from 7-9 p.m. on July 6. Members of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society and the public are invited to join in previewing the exhibit, which provides a fascinating look at life in northwest Nebraska in the early part of the century.



*This young woman with a camera serves as a fitting example of the Graves collection of early-day photographs of northwest Nebraska.*



### 1978 SANDOZ COUNTRY TOUR

The 1978 Sandoz Country Tour will be held on Saturday, June 24. This year the tour will leave from the Hay Springs city park, with registration between 8 and 9 a.m. With Vance Nelson as wagon master, the first stop for the car caravan will be the site of Old Jules' first homestead and the well incident. A marker donated by Blanche Sandoz, widow of Fritz, will be dedicated at this time.

After a stop at the Sacred Heart Church, the tour will go on to the River Place, where Mari was born. There, the participants on the tour will eat their picnic lunch, and then the group will go on to the Swiss Beguin Cemetery and the home of Flora Sandoz, which was Old Jules' last homestead. A visit to the Sandoz Room in Gordon is also on the tour schedule, and a dinner at the Gordon High School cafeteria will wind up the day.

The speaker at the dinner will be Dr. Helen Stauffer, professor of English at Kearney State College, who has published many articles on Mari Sandoz. Her Ph.D. dissertation is on "Mari Sandoz: A Study of the Artist as a Biographer," and Dr. Stauffer herself has been working on a biography of Mari Sandoz.

Registration for the tour is \$6.00 per person. This includes the cost of the dinner in Gordon that evening. A limited number of seats on vans are available at \$1.00 per seat, and the deadline for registration is June 21.

For more information or to register for the tour, write the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society at Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska 69337, phone (308) 432-4451, ext. 213.

### THE WORLD OF MARI SANDOZ WORKSHOP

July 10-27, 1978

The summer workshop at Chadron State College entitled "The World of Mari Sandoz" will be offered again this year, from July 10-27. The two and one-half week

course carries three hours of either graduate or undergraduate credit in history or English.

Taught by Dr. Richard Loosbrock, professor of history at CSC, the course will include visits to the Sandhills, Fort Robinson, the Museum of the Fur Trade, and many sites mentioned in the writings of Mari Sandoz. A couple of the highlights of last year's course that will be repeated are a reception at Ft. Robinson in the style of the 1890's and a tour of the Cheyenne Outbreak trail. And the class will of course include visits to Mari's birthplace, her grave, and many of the places in the area significant to her development as a writer.

More information about the course and a reading list may be obtained by writing Dr. Loosbrock or the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society at Chadron State College.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- |      |       |   |
|------|-------|---|
| June | 24    | Sandoz Country Tour   |
| July | 7-28  | Exhibit of Graves Photographs (Reception from 7 - 9 p.m. on July 6) |
| July | 10-28 | The World of Mari Sandoz Workshop                                   |

Copyright © 1978 by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society.

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

Chadron, Nebraska 69337

