

THE YEAR OF THE BLIZZARD

16th Annual Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference
April 14-16, 2005

“The Poetry of People and Place”

Keynote presentation by William C. Kloefkorn

Nebraska State Poet

Professor Emeritus, Nebraska Wesleyan University



“After the Blizzard” - Harvey Dunn

Mari
Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center
Chadron State College
Chadron Nebraska

16th Annual Conference of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

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The 2005 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference focuses on Mari Sandoz's 1954 novelette Winter Thunder, the story of a courageous school teacher and students who attempt to survive a sudden Sandhills blizzard.

The poster for the conference and the cover of this program is reproduced with the permission of the Museum of South Dakota State University. It is a print, "After the Blizzard," by South Dakota artist Harvey Dunn. Sandoz had a great fondness for Dunn and his artwork, in part because he too had been born on a Plains homestead. In 1961, the same year Sandoz published her book, Love Song to the Plains, she wrote a tribute to Dunn for American Heritage. In this essay, she used stories and personal experiences to tease meaning from Dunn's landscape paintings, including the cover print. This essay would win the annual Western Heritage Award for best non-fiction article about the American West given by the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1962.



AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

MARI SANDOZ HIGH PLAINS HERITAGE CENTER

6:30-7:30 pm CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

7:30 pm KEYNOTE PRESENTATION - OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Welcoming Remarks - John Wunder, President, Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

Introduction -

Mike Cartwright, Department of Language, Literature and Communication Arts, Chadron State College

"The Poetry of People and Place," William Kloefkorn, Nebraska State Poet, Professor Emeritus of Literature at Nebraska Wesleyan University, and the author of numerous works, including his most recent poetry collections - Sunrise, Dayglow, Sunset, Moon (2004), Walking the Campus (2004), and Restoring the Burnt Child (2003) and a collection of short fiction, Shadow Boxer (2003).

*RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING OF
DR. KLOEFKORN'S WORKS WILL FOLLOW THE READING*

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

MARI SANDOZ HIGH PLAINS HERITAGE CENTER

8:00-9:00 am REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00-10:00 am SESSION 1 - READING WINTER THUNDER

Panel Discussion: "The Stories Behind the Story"

Chair: Linda Ross, Buffalo, Wyoming

Panelists:

Matt Evertson and Deb Carpenter,

Department of Language, Literature and Communication Arts, Chadron State College.

Celia Sandoz Ostrander Barth, Rushville, Nebraska

Linda Ross will introduce the panel discussion with pictures of the '49 Blizzard and give personal experiences to set the scene for Winter Thunder. Celia Sandoz Ostrander Barth will be on hand to answer questions about her personal experience, which inspired Mari to write Winter Thunder.

Matt Evertson will identify a variety of themes from "Winter Thunder" he has used in teaching the novel and those themes his students have found most captivating. Carpenter's students will share reviews of Winter Thunder.

The audience is encouraged to participate in the discussion.

10:00-10:15 am BREAK

10:15-11:00 am SESSION 2 - THE HISTORIC WINTER THUNDER

Chair: Renee Laegreid, Department of History, Hastings College

"Snowbound": A Historical Context for Winter Thunder"

by John P. Husmann, Department of History, Dakota Wesleyan University.

Husmann will talk about the Plains blizzard of 1949 and the responses by the states of South Dakota and Nebraska and from the U.S. government.

11:00-Noon SESSION 3 - UNDERSTANDING HIGH PLAINS BOTANY

Chair: Ron Weedon, Department of Physical and Life Sciences, Chadron State College

"Treasures of Solitude: Botanical Illustrations from Sandoz Country"

by Bellamy Parks Jansen, Botanical Illustrator, BotanyInk, Ogallala, Nebraska.

Tour of Sandoz Center exhibit

**LUNCHEON AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS WILL BE HELD
IN THE CHADRON STATE COLLEGE STUDENT CENTER**

Noon-1:00 pm LUNCHEON BUFFET

AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN BORDEAUX/LAKOTA/PONDEROSA ROOM

1:00-2:00 pm SESSION 4 - TEACHING IN THE SANDHILLS: A PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Joel Hyer, Department of Social Sciences and Justice Studies, Chadron State College

Panelists:

Moni Hourt, Rural School Teacher, Crawford, NE: "Teaching Rural Children to Value Their Heritage."

Clark Gardener, Department of Education, Chadron State College: "Country School Legacy."

2:00-2:15 pm BREAK

**2:15-3:15 pm SESSION 5 - LAKOTA PREPARATIONS FOR WINTER SURVIVAL
AND BLIZZARDS**

Chair: Donna Akers (Choctaw), Department of History and Native American Studies,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Commentary: John Around Him (Lakota), Pine Ridge Reservation

3:15-3:30 pm BREAK

3:30-5:00 pm ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - MARI SANDOZ HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society will conduct its annual business meeting to which all are welcome.

**WINTER
THUNDER**
MARI SANDOZ



MARI SANDOZ HERITAGE SOCIETY BANQUET

Friday evening, April 15
Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center

6:00 pm - Wine Reception in Gallery area
Bellamy Parks Jansen will be on hand to answer questions about the exhibit.

6:30 pm - Dinner in the Atrium

7:30 pm - 10 pm CELEBRATING MARI SANDOZ

Host: John R. Wunder

Introduction: Ron Hull, Lincoln, NE, past president of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

“Mari and Me: A Personal Odyssey of the Great Plains”

by Don Green, Professor and Dean Emeritus, Chadron State College

Presentation of the Spirit of Mari Sandoz Award

TOUR OF THE MUSEUM OF THE FUR TRADE

Saturday, April 16

Meet at the Museum of the Fur Trade east of Chadron on Highway 20 at 9:00 am.

Gail Potter, curator of the Museum of the Fur Trade, will give us a personal tour of one of western Nebraska's most well-known museums.

A continental breakfast will be provided at the museum.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Members:

Conference Sessions \$10

Luncheon Ticket \$10

Banquet Ticket \$15

Non-Members:

Conference Sessions \$20

Luncheon Ticket \$10

Banquet Ticket \$20

Make checks payable and mail to: Mari Sandoz Heritage Society,
P.O. Box 219,
Gordon, Nebraska 69343

www.marisandoz.org