



the Story Catcher

A publication of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society

✧ The Mari Sandoz Heritage Society newsletter has a new name and a new design and is published three times a year. ✧

Caroline Sandoz Pifer Collection Illustrates Mari's Life, Passion

In order to “celebrate the life and literature of Mari Sandoz and the culture of the High Plains,” the staff of Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center must spend hours reading, sorting, cataloging, and saving the items that defined Mari Sandoz’s life.

It is important work. These carefully preserved pieces allow us to see both her personality and her passion.

After Mari’s death, younger sister,



Mari Sandoz defined herself by her hats. More than 30 of her hats, Native artwork, and other personal items were donated to the Sandoz Center.

The Sandoz Pifer Collection contains many copies of Mari’s many manuscripts, short stories, essays and poetry; personal notes; research files and book-related material; flyers, programs and invitations to events; family documents and Mari’s correspondence.

“There are boxes of Mari’s personal files and many of the folders labeled in her handwriting, said Rolfsmeier.

Since July 2006, Rolfsmeier has been working her way through the “paper” part of the collection in order to develop a cohesive research inventory that is organized and accessible.

Rolfsmeier also found materials that Caroline collected about her sister, such as media clippings and writings by others who were inspired by Mari.

See Collection on page 3.

Caroline Sandoz Pifer kept and assembled Mari’s artifacts at her ranch home south of Gordon. In the decades that she maintained the collection before donating it to the Sandoz Center, Caroline added her touch by retyping letters and adding cover sheets and notes to Mari’s newspaper articles, books, and manuscripts.

“It is a fine gift that Caroline kept all of Mari’s papers, books, letters and items together for an excellent museum and archive,” said Sybil Malmberg Berndt, long-time friend of Caroline and a Mari Sandoz Heritage Society board member.

“Mari’s greatest wish has come true,” she said, “to have a repository in the vast Great Plains to hold her life’s work for posterity and so the world might benefit.”

The Chadron Collection

Although, the bulk of Mari Sandoz’s research collection is housed in Love Library at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Sandoz Center in Chadron, has copies of many of those documents as well as paper items that did not go to UNL and an assortment of her personal items.

“Before sending Mari’s correspondence to UNL, Caroline made copies of many items and those documents were given to the Sandoz Center,” said Susan Rolfsmeier, archivist at the Center.



Sarah Polak, director, at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, steams one of Mari’s suits for a photo shoot.

The Story Catcher

The Story Catcher is published three times a year by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The Sandoz Society seeks to build appreciation of Mari Sandoz's body of work, to preserve the literary works and legacy of this premier historian, and to raise funds to support these efforts.

Each year, the Society hosts a conference that celebrates and studies the works of the author, publishes the writing of scholars and students, promotes student writing contests and writing institutes; and sponsors scholarships.

Additionally, the Society provides collections on loan to the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College and supports its academic, archives and research programs.

Address changes should be mailed to 2301 NW 50th Street, Lincoln, NE 68524.

Contributions to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society are tax-deductible. For membership information, see page 7, call 402-304-8103, e-mail marisandoz_society@windstream.net, or www.marisandoz.org.

Mari Sandoz

Mari Sandoz (1896-1966) came from the Sandhills of Nebraska to write some of America's most enduring books on Great Plains history.

As the author of *Old Jules*, *Cheyenne Autumn*, and *Crazy Horse, the Strange Man of the Oglalas*, and others, she was a tireless researcher, a true storyteller, and an artist passionately dedicated to a place little known and a people largely misunderstood. As a historian and as a novelist, Sandoz stands in the front ranks of western writers and has achieved a secure place as one of the finest authors in American literature.

She created vivid stories of the last days of the American frontier, and was an internationally known chronicler of the West and one of Nebraska's most important writers.

Humanities Grant Allows Society to Distribute DVD of Sandoz Interviews and Study Guides

In April, the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society received a grant for \$2,500 from the Nebraska Humanities Council to promote the reading and discussion of Sandoz's *Crazy Horse: Strange Man of the Oglalas* by distributing a DVD and study guide to all Nebraska public and private high schools.

The DVD, entitled "Song of the Plains," is a reproduction of a 60-minute video filmed in 1976 by Nebraska Educational Television (NET) in which Mari Sandoz discusses her life, philosophy, most of her major books, and her approach to writing.

On the DVD, talk-show-host Dick Cavett interviews her two sisters and two of her brothers on Mari's life; and her work is discussed by scholars and others. Omaha native and late actress Dorothy McGuire reads passages from the Sandoz books.

By providing the DVD to high schools, the Sandoz Society hopes to spark the imagination of students and educators and to create classroom discussions on *Crazy Horse*. Published in 1942, the book is one of Sandoz's best-known works.

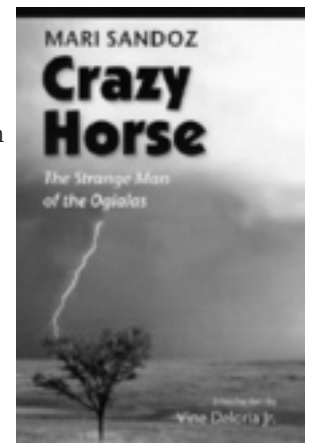
Written from the perspective of the Lakota people, the book promotes an understanding of their way of life and advances ethnic, sociological, and philosophical themes. More than a description of an individual, *Crazy Horse* is an in-depth look at the culture and spirituality of the Oglala Sioux.

"On the DVD, Sandoz explains how she approached getting into the psychology of another race as she wrote *Crazy Horse*," said Ron Hull, producer of the original video and past president of the Sandoz Heritage Society.

Crazy Horse: Strange Man of the Oglalas was chosen as the literary work for the 2007 One Book One Nebraska statewide reading program that encourages citizens to read the book and participate in discussions and related community events.

While proclaiming *Crazy Horse* as the 2007 One Book selection Gov. Dave Heineman said the reading of *Crazy Horse* provides a common ground for Nebraska citizens to come together to learn about and discuss Native-American culture, plains history and contemporary issues.

The "Song of the Plains" DVD can be purchased for \$9.95 from Nebraska Education Television by calling: 402-472-3611 or 800-634-6788. ☛



Activities to mark the 2007 celebration of One Book One Nebraska are being coordinated by the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College. Go to www.onebookonenebraska.org for discussion questions and program ideas. Book Club Kits are available from the Nebraska Library Commission and the Nebraska Regional Library Systems at www.nlc.state.ne.us/ref/bookclubkits.html. 2007 One Book One Nebraska is cosponsored by the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Humanities Council, Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Library Commission and other organizations.

Collection Illustrates Mari's Passion

(continued from Page 1)

"I became immersed in her life," Rolfmeier said. "Her writing was so eloquent and she used her correspondence to advocate for better treatment for the Sioux and Cheyenne tribes."

She was not asking for handouts or further government welfare, she said, but Mari was working to shed light on the challenges native people faced and she was soliciting positive economic changes for them. As an indicator of her commitment, Sandoz went on a game show called "Strike It Rich" and used the proceeds to buy art and athletic supplies for Indian schools.

"I was moved to tears reading her words, seeing her dedication to this cause and her tremendous passion for the people and the land," Rolfmeier said, "Most of my previous work has been with natural history collections and, while I anticipated enjoying the challenge of working with this collection, I did not expect to become as emotionally involved as I have."



The Caroline Sandoz Pifer Collection includes many items from Mari's clothes and personal effects.

Stacks and Stacks of Material

A few months ago, Malmberg Berndt, on an errand for Rolfmeier, took a note written in the 1930's by Mari Sandoz to Mary Bryan Forsythe to Caroline for identification.

"Wow, she immediately remembered the letter and its contents and gave me directions for Susan's placement of it," said Malmberg Berndt. "Caroline appreciates Susan who came to visit her and the work she has done to search through stacks and stacks of material and to organize the collection into a workable archive."

In addition to the documents, the Sandoz Pifer Collection includes furniture from Mari's New York

apartment from the time of her death, her clothes and personal effects, her infamous collection of about 30 hats, Native American artwork, dishes, collectibles, books and photos.

Most Items Are Categorized

Sandoz Center Director Sarah Polak said that almost all of the "three-dimensional objects" in the Pifer collection are in the Center's database and that many of the thousands of photographs are scanned into the computer and are "searchable."

Because Rolfmeier is leaving her position as archivist, her goal was to get the paper collection in order so that Sandoz scholars and others interested in her personal documents will be able to find what they need with greater ease.

"After months of going through boxes and piles of paper, examining, organizing, and putting

documents into new folders and protective boxes," Rolfmeier said, "the end product is almost in sight."

The container list for the paper items alone is 40 pages long. A longer, more complete list will be produced once the



Mari's youngest sister, Caroline Sandoz Pifer, who lives in Gordon, recently celebrated her 98th birthday.

cataloging of the entire collection is completed.

As with any venture in organization, Rolfmeier, too, found the peculiar and hard to categorize. She discovered a scrap of paper that was headed, "No Time For." Listed below were people on whom Sandoz no longer wanted to waste time.

For additional information about the Caroline Sandoz Pifer Collection or specific items within the collection, please contact Sarah Polak at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center: 308-432-6401 or spolak@csc.edu. The Center is located at Chadron State College, 1000 Main Street, Chadron, NE 69337. ☞

New Book Features "Flora of Nebraska"

A new book on Nebraska plants was unveiled at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center during a reception held on what would have been Mari Sandoz's 101st birthday—May 12, 2007.

The book, "Flora of Nebraska," published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is regarded as one of the most comprehensive ever produced on Nebraska plants.

At nearly 1,000 pages, it includes detailed descriptions and distribution maps for all native and introduced

Nebraska plants growing outside

Co-author Steven Rolfmeier, who was associated with the High Plains Herbarium at Chadron State for the past four years, said about 2,000 plants are described in the book.

Only 1,000 copies of the book were printed and half of them have been sold.

Copies of "Flora in Nebraska" are on sale at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center for \$60 each. www.csc.edu/sandoz. ☞

Mari Sandoz

High Plains Heritage Center

Sandoz Center Celebrates Fifth Year

The idea of establishing a center dedicated to Mari Sandoz was around in the 1970s as part of an early long-range plan for the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. Finally in September 2002, the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center was dedicated on the campus of Chadron State College in Northwestern Nebraska.

On Sept. 7 and 8, 2007, the Center will host its official fifth anniversary celebration.

On Friday, Sept. 7, Dr. William Bauer speak at a public presentation entitled "Remembering Indian Lives" Four American Indian Biographies from the American West" at 7 p.m. at the Sandoz Center.

Dr. Bauer, who grew up on the Round Valley Reservation, in northern California, is a Native American historian and Associate Professor of History from the University of Wyoming.

On Saturday, the activities planned include an open house, tours, a children's program, a free an Indian Taco feed and a possible concert.

Dr. Bauer will also participate on a Sandoz literary panel teleconference for Nebraska schools on Friday afternoon. The topic is "The Enduring Legacy of Mari Sandoz."

Updates on Center anniversary activities can be found at www.csc.edu/sandoz.

The Mari Sandoz Heritage Center is located at Chadron State College, 1000 Main Street, Chadron, NE 69337. Phone: 308-432-6401. Web site: www.csc.edu/sandoz

Sandoz Center Exhibits

August 20 – October 20

Zachary Even

Zachary Even's outstanding wildlife artwork is featured on the 2007 Habitat Stamp. He is a 2003 graduate of Chadron State College.

November 1 to December 1

"Between Fences" from the Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition "Between Fences" looks at the definition of human relationships by and through fences and diverse fence types. The Center's programming will focus on the battles between farmers and ranchers, fought with barbed wire fence, which were flash points in the nationwide debate over enclosure and access to land and resources.

December 15 to January 19

"Willa Cather and Material Culture" from the Cather Foundation

In a reciprocal agreement, the Sandoz Center will host "Willa Cather and Material Culture" on the importance of objects to the life and writings of Cather and in October and November 2007, the Red Cloud Opera House at the Cather Center will be hosting Old Jules Country, a photographic exhibit developed by Kira Gale, Sandoz Society member.

The Coffee Gallery

The permanent exhibits in the C. F. Coffee Gallery at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center will be completed in November 2007.

The Gallery will highlight the history and culture of the cattle ranching industry in the High Plains. Col. C.F. Coffee was one of the first cattle ranchers in what is now northwest Nebraska. His grandson, Bill Coffee, and wife Virginia, were the lead donors for the construction of the Coffee Gallery.

The Gallery features a series of videos and a favorite among visitors is a film showing a ranch family putting up hay in the 1930s. This exhibition is on the lower level of the Sandoz Center. ☞

Author of Journey of Crazy Horse, Joseph Marshall III, to Speak in October

Joseph M. Marshall III, an acclaimed historian, storyteller and author of *The Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History*, will deliver the keynote address for the Nebraska Book Festival on Friday, Oct. 26, 2007.

Members of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society are invited to attend the address which will begin at 5:30 p.m., at the Nebraska State Capitol, 15th and K Streets, in Lincoln.

Marshall was born and raised on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota in a traditional native household by his maternal grandparents.

In that environment where his first language was Lakota, he also learned the ancient tradition of oral storytelling.

Now he is Lakota historian, teacher and actor. In addition to six nonfiction works and one novel, Marshall has written screenplays. Also, several of his books have been published in French, Hebrew, and Korean.

His sixth book, *The Journey of Crazy Horse* (Viking Penguin), is a biography from the Lakota viewpoint of the greatest Lakota warrior, based primarily on oral accounts. Now in its fifth hard cover printing, the book has been featured twice on the C-SPAN Book TV broadcast.

For more information on Joseph Marshall III, go to www.thunderdreamers.com.

Marshall will also be a member of a panel of biographers presenting at the Nebraska Book Festival, on Oct. 27. To register for the festival, which features programs for adults and children, go to http://www.unl.edu/NCB/current_festival.html ☞

New Members Join Sandoz Board of Directors

Four new members were elected to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Board of Directors in March 2007. Wally Seiler was featured in the summer edition of *The Story Catcher*.

Scott Kleeb, Hastings

Scott Kleeb's great-grandfather, Albert Kleeb, was born in a dug-out outside of Broken Bow before the turn of the century.

With a life-long appreciation of his family's pioneering heritage

in Nebraska and a doctoral degree in American Western History, Kleeb said, "the opportunity to be a part of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, which celebrates the rich history of our nation's homesteaders, our history, and our heroes is a cherished one."

Kleeb was the 2006 Democratic nominee for Nebraska's 3rd Congressional District. He is currently working as an advocate of renewable energy sources while helping sell beef internationally for a Sandhills cattle ranch.

He recently accepted a teaching position with Hastings College and married Jane Fleming.

"In choosing to remain in Nebraska," Kleeb said, "I arrived at a very simple realization: my home is here; my history is rooted here; my family still ranches here, and I remain excited about the future of our state."

Dan Kusek, Alliance

Dan Kusek's interest in the writings of Mari Sandoz began when he was very young.

"At various times I had the opportunity to meet all of Mari's siblings at vari-

ous events in the Sandhills," he said. "My family annually picked apples at the Sandoz orchard south of Gordon and in the late 1960's, Old Jules' great grandson, Jules, boarded with my family in Alliance while he attended school in there.

Kusek was born and raised in Alliance. In 1970, he went to work for the Burlington Northern Railroad to earn money for college and never left. The last 37 years, he has worked as a locomotive engineer, operating trains in Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

He is presently serving his third two-year term as mayor of Alliance after being elected to the Alliance City Council in 1996. Kusek also serves on the Executive Committee of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and represents the City of Alliance on electricity and natural gas committees.

Kusek has been a board member of several foundations, served as a union official for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and chairman of the BN/BNSF Division Safety Committees and is active in the Alliance Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

Kusek feels the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society is important to preserving the history of the High Plains and Western Nebraska.

"By looking back we are able to improve today and to dream of better tomorrows," he said. "It is an honor to serve on the Sandoz Society Board of Directors."

Kusek and his wife, Jane, have been married more than 30 years and they have three sons.

Alfred "Bud" Pagel, Lincoln

Bud Pagel is a third generation Nebraska journalist and, like his grandparents and parents before him, he once owned and published the Neligh Leader newspaper in Neligh where he was born.

"My grandfather founded the Neligh newspaper in 1885," Pagel said.

Although claiming to be retired, the Professor Emeritus of the University of Lincoln (UNL) College of Journalism still "teaches a class or two."

In addition to his 25 years at UNL, Pagel served as an adjunct professor of Journalism at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He also worked as a writer for the Omaha World-Herald

Magazine; an assistant city editor for the World-Herald; a freelance writer in Ireland; and a reporter for the Miami (Fla.) Herald.

Over the years, he received more than 25 reporting and teaching awards, including three national honors.

When he was inducted into the Nebraska Press Association's Hall of Fame in October 2006, Pagel joined his mother Ruth E. Pagel who had also received the honor. They became the only mother and son recipients.

His first recollection of Mari Sandoz was seeing a photo of his mother holding apart a barbed wire fence while Sandoz climbed through with her "rear end in the air." Mari had traveled to Neligh specifically to look at shelterbelts.

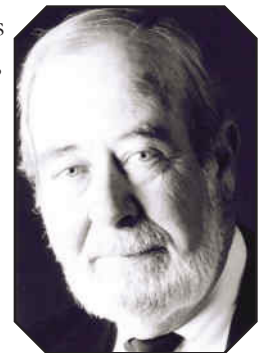
Since then, he and his wife Anne have learned to love Sandoz's work. The Pagels have one son.



Kleeb



Kusek



Pagel

Range Management Students Supported by Pilster Endowment

Earlier this year, seven Chadron State College students attended the 60th annual Society for Range Management conference in Reno, Nev. The focus of the international meeting was "Managed Rangelands: Traditions and Transitions."

The students received support from the Pilster Endowment through the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society to attend the conference.

According to the Chadron State College newspaper, *The Eagle*, prior to the conference, students were required to take the Undergraduate Range Management Exam, and participate in other competitions including a plant identification exam, a poster contest and public speaking. During the meeting students presented papers focusing on natural resources and range issues.

Professionals from the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Land Management, and universities spoke on various subjects and more than 1,800 people attended from China, Mexico, Canada, Africa, South America and Australia.

Dr. Charles Butterfield, chair of the Department of Applied Sciences and associate professor of Agriculture and Range Management, said, "Taking students out of the classroom to a conference such as this increases their world view."

"In addition to education, we want them to understand they are part of a larger profession, he said"

It is also important that students recognize the highly competitive and global role of agriculture in the local, national, and world marketplaces. Because the expense of a professional conference prevents most students from attending,



Students who attended the Range Management conference are, from left, Joe Martin, Matt Lucas, Lori Jeffery, Janny Walker, Dan Ruterborries, Craig Eddie and Kimmy Mott.

Butterfield praised the Sandoz Society for its sponsorship of the program.

"It is a great time to be a range manager, as there are probably 20 jobs for every student who graduates from our program," Butterfield said. "Obviously interacting with professionals from the United States and the world increases the student's confidence and ability to get a job."

The Agriculture and Range Management program at Chadron State is the second largest range program in the Great Plains Region and the fourth largest in the United States. Students are educated in domestic livestock, range management, soil and plant sciences, wildlife management, ecology, wildfire suppression, and production processes and techniques among other topics.

The Esther & Raleigh Pilster Endowment was created when Esther gave land in western Nebraska to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society in memory of her husband, Raleigh, and his family who homesteaded near Whitney.

Through the endowment, Mrs. Pilster designated five programming areas associated with the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center to receive distributions including the funding of range management projects. ❧

My Favorite Passage from Crazy Horse

Brian Rockey, Board Member

During the 2007 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference, four speakers read their favorite passages from Crazy Horse: Strange Man of the Oglalas by Mari Sandoz.

Book II, The Glorious Warrior
Chapter 5, So Long As Grass Shall Grow (beginning on page 205)

"This year it seemed that spring would never come to the Powder River country again, the new grass never be born. Then suddenly the sun was warm as dance fires along the south slopes. Snow water roared gray in the canyons, and the ice broke from the streams and piled itself high on the flooded banks. Geese came north on the wind, and at dusk the ducks quacked softly in the low places that were all lakes now, and in the buffalo wallows.

"Early with the mornings the old men came out to sit beside the lodge doors in the sun, hurrying, their wrinkled faces glad, as though they had never hoped to feel this strength again. The women, too, stopped their complaining of the long hungry winter, and of the empty parfleches and the thin soup, and ran to hang out the sleeping robes and those from the floors. As they worked they looked towards the marshy grounds along the creeks where young shoots of the rushes would soon be starting, good to eat after a long winter of meat, mostly dried.

"It was not that their men lay around the villages but that there could not be hunting enough for the great camp held together against the fort on the Piney, and since the day that the soldiers were killed the snow had been deep, the winter the coldest the Old Ones had ever known.

Continued on next page

Passage from Crazy Horse (continued)

“Hunters came in with hands and feet swollen from the freezing, telling stories of the elk gone as from a dead country and the buffaloes too, the few who stayed behind standing frozen in the snow, hard as stone. There three hundred dead in one gulch, it was said, the storms blowing over them so they would be lost even to the wolves until the thaws of spring.

“The people had scattered, but even then it was hard to live. Some bands got lost from the others, the starving ponies floundering in the drifts, the people digging them out, helping them pull the travois. There was much snowblindness, and, Creeping, the medicine man, cured so many that his women had trouble finding enough young cottonwood to feed his growing herd that was his pay. Creeping had a very strong medicine... and they could see again. For this a horse was not too much.

“The sons of Worm were out every day, it seemed. Their mother made bunches of buffalo-robe moccasins with the fur side in for the hunts and little sacks of soot grease for the cheek bones, so they were neither frozen or blinded. Still there was not always fresh meat,

although they were good hunters, as was common in the men of their family.

“Crazy Horse had the heat of anger in his heart for the long, cold rides. The death of his friend was still unavenged and the whites on the Piney were very careful now. Then he heard that many more soldiers were to come and so he moved the Long Face camp down towards Fort Reno where he could watch the Powder River trail.

“There was not much cottonwood there for the ponies in that country, and game was hard to find, but there should be good hunting along this road for one who had lost a friend to the white man’s guns.

“When the meat in the camp was gone, Crazy Horse and his brother went up towards the Crazy Woman Creek together. Their horses played out, but they had some snowshoes taken from the Crows, so they went on afoot, carrying a robe apiece, and little wasna, and their knives and bows. The country was white and bare; even the little snowbirds that made the friendly winter sounds were gone.

“Then one morning Crazy Horse saw

the tracks of a lone buffalo walking in what seemed a sacred way on the deep snow, the sharp hoofs not breaking through the crust at all. The brothers followed fast, their breath making clouds around their shoulders and frosting their woolen capotes, but they found nothing except a few hairs hanging over the tracks in a patch of plum brush.

“They were pale hairs, almost white, and Crazy Horse looked at them a long time, his brother standing silent beside him. Then he put them away in the medicine sack hanging around his neck. Now they knew they would never find the buffalo they were following but that it would be good anyway. So Little Hawk pushed hard on the tails of his brother’s snowshoes, laughing into the cold wind that was curling up feathers of snow from the edges of the drifts.

“When the ice-pale sun had started downward they came to broken country. In a little bluff-circled canyon with a few bare trees Crazy Horse saw something dark that seemed to be moving. He dropped down and looked a long time, then turned his face to his brother.

“Elk!” he said.” ❧

Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Membership Form

Yes! I would like to support the work of the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society. I have enclosed \$_____.

Your membership payment/gift is 100 percent tax deductible. We will provide a receipt for tax purposes. To join, mail this form with your check, payable to the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, to Treasurer, Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, 1208 Laramie Avenue, Alliance, NE 69301.

Type of Membership: Renewal New
 Gift Membership Company Matching Gift (form is enclosed)

Please list my/our name(s) as: _____ *(list gift membership name here)*

Address City State Zip Code Telephone E-mail

If Student, Name of Institution attending: _____

Organization/Library/Corporation/School contact person: _____

Name/Address for person giving gift membership: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please check level of support. \$25 - Individual \$100 - Corporations/Schools
 \$10 - Student \$35 - Family/Library \$200-\$10,000 - Patron Level

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Mari Sandoz Heritage Society
1208 Laramie Street
Alliance, NE 69301.
marisandoz_society@windstream.
www.marisandoz.org



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2008 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference March 27-29, 2008

2008 Sandoz Conference Explores “The High Plains of Mari Sandoz”

The theme of the 2008 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Conference is “The High Plains of Mari Sandoz.” The conference will be held March 27-29 at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College in Chadron Nebraska. This conference is co-hosted by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

The program is still under development, but will include presentations on a high plains “sense of place,” the horticultural contributions of Jules Sandoz, the work of legendary South Dakota plantsman Claude Barr, the Nebraska viticulture industry, and other topics related to the environment and horticulture of the high plains.

As an added bonus, the work of acclaimed Nebraska landscape painter Keith Jacobshagen and artist and instructor Robin Smith will be on display at the Mari Sandoz Center on campus during the conference. The exhibition, *Journal of the Days: Jacobshagen Notebooks Tour Nebraska's Arboreta*, is comprised of images of sketches and journal entries from Jacobshagen's field notebooks—on-site studies of the land and sky to which he later refers as he composes paintings in the studio.

The uniqueness of this joint conference that highlights plants and environmental issues related to Mari Sandoz's works is expected to attract a large attendance.

Mark your calendar now for this upcoming event and you may want to book your favorite hotel in advance. View lodging options on the Chadron Chamber of Commerce Web site: <http://www.chadron.com> under Community: Business Directory: Lodging.

Watch for details in the January issue of the *Story Catcher*. For more information or to request registration information, call the Mari Sandoz Heritage Center at 308-432-6401. ☛