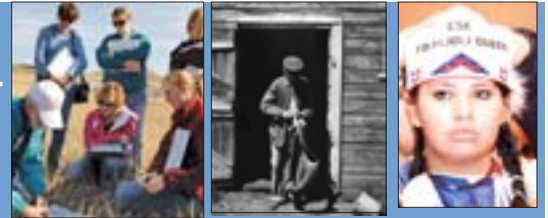


Heritage Review

Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center Newsletter



Issue 2

Winter 2008

Newsletter to go digital this coming spring

The "Heritage News" will be going digital with the next issue - Spring 2009. "While our mailing list is growing, we know that we are not reaching everyone. By moving the newsletter to a digital format, we will be able to reach more people - wherever they may be." said Sarah Polak, Director of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. The newsletter will be downloadable

in a printable format from the Center's web-site www.csc.edu/sandoz. Polak said that a limited number of paper copies will be available for those who do not have access to the Internet.

Those who need the paper copies are asked to contact the Center directly. The newsletter is currently mailed to 500 individuals, businesses, libraries, and museums.

Students spruce up campus, receive work experience



Photo by Sarah Polak

Students from the "Management and Care of Collections" class polish trophies from the Armstrong Gym on the campus of Chadron State College. The restoration and preservation of the items in the trophy case for the athletics department was a service project for the class.

Tabatha Murphy, Center staff

While many college students do not receive experience until after graduation, students here at Chadron State College are rolling up their sleeves and diving into work—while still in class.

The Applied History students at CSC are using their time not only for notes and quizzes, but also for hands-on experience on an important project to CSC history.

The students from the "Management and

Care of Collections" class have been working on the restoration and preservation of trophies, photos, plaques and other artifacts from the Armstrong Gym trophy cases.

The class has been learning about handling procedures, proper storing, and cleaning and repairing of objects. The project has given them an insight to the dramatic effects of improper storage and care can have on many objects, said senior Sammie Rinehart.

The project has been a good learning ex-

perience for everyone. The students get first hand experience in their field of study and the athletic department will receive properly stored and repaired artifacts from both the past and present.

After the class completed the project, the students constructed a display showing the effects of improper storage and care on objects. Senior Erin Hanson said she hopes the project and display were able to raise awareness about what can happen to historical items if you don't take care of them.

Senior Katie Sobota said the project should be a lesson for everyone. "Everybody needs to know how to store things," she said. "We have to protect history to keep it from disappearing."

The class is taught by Sarah Polak, Director of the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. The Applied History program is just one of nine undergraduate programs in the nation dedicated to Museum Studies. "The hands-on learning component is a great addition to what we've done in the past," Polak said.

Many of the same students are receiving further experience in a service project for the "Introduction to Archival Collections" class.

*Please see **Students** page 7*

Sandoz Center, conference to feature Nebraska photographer, author



Uncle Harry repairing inner tube, the Home Place, near Norfolk, Nebraska, 147. "Uncle Harry," 1947. Photograph by Wright Morris. Private collection, show curated by art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

Spring exhibit to feature Wright Morris's work

Tabatha Murphy, Center staff

An exhibit featuring Nebraska photographer and author, Wright Morris will be on display at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center March.

The exhibition, entitled *Wright Morris: Photographs and Words*, will correlate with the 2009 Sandoz Society Conference's theme, Mari Sandoz and Her Literary Contemporaries.

Morris is a two-time recipient of both the American Book Award and the Guggenheim Fellowship. He documented the Great Depression in his first book "The Inhabitants" in 1946. His second book, *The Home Place* (1948), "focused on his family's farm in

Chapman, Nebraska, capturing the theme of homecoming which was to underpin his writings for the remainder of his career," according to the exhibition information.

A collection of his literary first editions and 30 photographs by Morris are included in the exhibit. *Wright Morris: Photographs and Words* is from art2art Circulating Exhibitions.

The exhibit is locally sponsored by. The Center is open Mon.-Fri. from 8 a.m.- noon and 1-4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m.- noon and 1-4 p.m. For more information about the exhibit at the Sandoz Center, contact Director Sarah Polak at 308-432-6401.

Upcoming conference features Sandoz's literary contemporaries

■ *Sandoz Conference in 2009 ties in with new exhibit*

Tabatha Murphy, Center staff

The 2009 Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Annual Meeting and Conference is scheduled for March 26-28. This year's conference theme is "Mari Sandoz and Her Literary Contemporaries."

The theme of the conference will correlate with the exhibition of photo works by photographer and author, Wright Morris, who was also one of Mari Sandoz's literary contemporaries.

The conference will begin Thursday, March 26 with pre-conference activities and keynote speaker, Dr. Joseph J. "Joe" Wydeven. He is an expert on Nebraska literature

and authors, and is particularly familiar with the work of Morris. Wydeven received the 2005 Mari Sandoz Award from the Nebraska Library Association.

Tim Anderson will be speaking on John Neihardt at the conference as well as others. Dr. Michael Cartwright will give a presentation on his paper, "The Influence of Franz Boaz on Mari Sandoz, Zola Neal Hurston and Ella Deloria" on Friday, March 27.

Also on Friday, senior Daniel Schweitzer will present his paper "From One 'Artist and Great Historian' to Another: The Indebtedness of Mari Sandoz to Amos Bad Heart Bull."

In the afternoon Rodney P. Price and Dr. Diane Quantic will both present papers on Wright Morris's work. Other speakers are being selected for the conference.

A call for papers and invitation to partici-

pate in the conference has been sent out. Director of the Center, Sarah Polak said this is the first year there has been a call for papers to be presented at the conference. The deadline for the submission of papers was Dec. 1. Papers were selected by Dr. Katherine Bahr, professor of English and humanities at Chadron State College, Polak and other members on the selection committee.

Polak also said she has received many inquiries about the conference from across the U.S. Preparation for the conference may also include a list of suggested readings to prepare those who plan to attend, she said.

For more information or to register for the conference, contact the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society Web site at www.mari-sandoz.org or the Sandoz Center at (308) 432-6401.



Left: One of the youngest dancers at the powwow takes a spin around the dance floor.

Photo by Tabatha Murphy



Photo by Jennifer Cleveland

Angel Brokennose of South Dakota is crowned CSC Powwow Miss Princess. Brokennose was given a hand beaded crown from the winner of last year's Miss Princess, Liz Garneaux.

CSC Powwow honors Native American culture

■ *CSC powwow says goodbye to long time friend*

Tabatha Murphy, Center staff

This year's powwow celebration brought colorful attire, tradition and excited dancers to the campus of Chadron State College. The college's White Buffalo Club sponsored the eighth annual powwow Nov. 22 in the Student Center.

While many spectators and participants celebrated in the event, it left bittersweet memories for some involved. Dean Good Buffalo, was honored for his work as arena director since the first powwow at CSC eight years ago. Good Buffalo, who resigned his post, said he will still attend future powwows as a spectator.

"I made a decision to give someone in the White Buffalo Club the opportunity to do it," he said.

The powwow originated as simple gatherings the White Buffalo Club used to have a long time ago, Good Buffalo said. The gatherings eventually turned into a powwow, which continued to grow and eventually money was added to it.

Good Buffalo said one of his favorite memories is the first powwow in 2000. It was the first time he was arena director and he said he didn't know anything about it.

"It was a learning situation for me," he said.

Good Buffalo said he will miss his role with the powwow but not the stress it brings. He added that the powwow takes a lot of work for all involved.

"It is a process that takes all year and a lot of fundraising

from the White Buffalo Club," he said.

Good Buffalo's advice to the new arena director is to have an open mind because schedules change from second to second and the events do not always follow the itinerary.

He also said for them to have fun and always remember when people line up for supper that the elders go first.

An estimated 500 people attended, which featured about 17 adult and 33 children dancers, said Tyler Murphy, who helped organize the powwow. Murphy is a graduate assistant for the social sciences department and the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center.

"White Buffalo Club put an immense amount of work into this event and it showed," he said.

Good Buffalo was not

the only one honored at the powwow. He said the group also honored American Horse and named two girls from the reservation as Miss Princess and Junior Miss Princess. Miss Junior Princess is Tariah Price of Ogalala, S.D., and Miss Princess is Angel Brokennose also of South Dakota.

The girls who are honored travel to different powwows over the course of the summer, representing Chadron State College.

"I think that they help it (CSC's powwow) grow," Good Buffalo said.

Good Buffalo said he will still be on call for next year's powwow, but hopes the job will already be filled.

"It's been fun. I've enjoyed it. I've met a lot of college students and staff. I'm going to miss it, but I'm glad to let someone else do it," he said.



Ranch Hands

Photos by Moni Hourt

Left: Dr. Jim O'Rourke shows students why proper grazing is important

Ranch Day gives students first-hand experience

Moni Hourt, Director of Outreach

On the same grounds where 19th century scientists met to discuss their newest finds and Native Americans, celebrated a day of hunting with dancing and shared their friendship with the James Cook family, student teachers from Chadron State College explored both the history and the future of the ranching industry.

The event christened "Ranch Day" by originator, Bill Coffee, was held at the Agate Springs Ranch in central Sioux County October 3. At the end of the day, the students admitted they gained a great deal of knowledge and understanding about one of American's most important industries, one that is often overlooked in both history books and lessonplans. The event, originally hosted by Sioux County Rancher, Bill Coffee, at his Hat Creek Ranch began in 2005. It continued to be held at the Coffee Ranches until this year when Jim and Maureen Skavdahl, managers of the Agate Springs Ranch offered to host the event at the ranch established in 1879 by

Elisha Graham, a Cheyenne, Wyoming



Photo by Moni Hourt

Guest speaker, John Sibbitt and Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Director, Sarah Polak, trade headgear for a portrait setting.

physician. Although Graham established the ranch to cash in on the burgeoning cattle industry, fossils discovered on the ranch propelled it into the consciousness of the scientific community.

By the turn of the century, the rolling hills were populated by paleontologists and anthropologists who flocked to the area to extract the fossils of ancient mammals from the prairies. Graham's daughter Kate married frontiersman James Cook. A long-time friend of the

Lakota chief, Red Cloud, Cook often opened his ranch to Red Cloud's tribe. As a result of that friendship, the Lakota people presented the family with many Native American artifacts, representative of their culture. For many years fossils and Native American artifacts were displayed at the museum established in the ranch house.

Upon his death, in honor of his family's commitment to education and to the perpetuation of the Lakota culture, Harold Cook, donated his collection and a portion of the ranch land to the American government to establish a museum. The result is the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument located eight miles east of the ranch where most of the "bone beds" were located.

Cook's first wife, Eleanor Barbour, the daughter of one of the scientists who visited the ranch, also taught geology at Chadron State College. Those involved in this year's event felt it was very appropriate to continue the tradition of education that was established on the ranch many years ago.

Sandoz Center recovers from busy semester

New author celebrates publication at Sandoz Center



Photo by Tabatha Murphy

Recently published author, Iris Paris, speaks about her book "Once Upon a Chariot" during a book signing at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center, Nov. 22.

Tabatha Murphy, Center staff

Recent author, Iris Paris of Crawford, had a book signing for her book, "Once Upon a Chariot," Sat. Nov. 22 at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center. The book signing was a celebration of the book going national, she said.

"Once Upon a Chariot" is a book about Paris's mother, Norma Jean Belloff. She completed the book for her mother who had began it so many years ago. I received the materials to write the book from my aunt about 18 years ago, Paris said. She added that she was a reluctant writer and only after coincidence had reminder about the materials did she begin to work towards finishing her mother's dream.

Paris left her teaching position in Oregon to move to Crawford to write and research the information in the book. She learned much about her mother through the process, especially before she had children, Paris said. "I realized I was cherished."

Paris finished her book after five years of writing and research. She published through a small Christian book publishing company, Tate Publishing. She said she is glad the book is finished and wouldn't mind writing other non-fiction books. Paris's book is now available on Amazon.com.

Exhibits spark interest on campus

Tabatha Murphy, Center staff

Fascinating exhibits displaying coins, notes and other information on money from U.S. history highlighted more than just the physical aspects of currency. The two exhibits, "Money in Early America" and "Money of the Civil War," were on display at the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center from Nov. 10-Dec. 19.

"Money in Early America" explored the history of currency in America taking the audience through a journey of currency beginning in colonial times up until the founding of the U.S. Mint in 1792. "Money of the Civil War" examines U.S. currency during the Civil War. Both exhibits displayed examples of the money both coin and paper, text about the history and photos. Each exhibit highlighted the changes and problem of U.S. currency during these times.

The exhibits have sparked academic project interest on the campus of Chadron State College. assistant professor of history, Dr. Joel Hyer assigned a project to some of his classes to examine the exhibit and reflect on its contents in a paper.

"History shouldn't just be discussed and debated, it needs to be seen. We try to take our students out to historical sites, and sometimes we're fortunate enough to have history brought to us. In this sense, the Sandoz Center and the exhibits displayed there are of great value to our program. They truly make history come alive," said Hyer.

The exhibits are from America's largest money museum, the American Numismatic Association Money Museum. For more information about this exhibit or others at the Sandoz Center, contact Sarah Polak at (308) 432-6401.

Singing group help open exhibit in Coffee Gallery



Photo by Deann Stearns

Jean Prescott of Texas, a member of Sweethearts in Carharts, sings and plays the guitar during a performance Oct. 14 in Memorial Hall.

Deann Stearns, Eagle newspaper

Members of "Sweethearts in Carharts," a western poetry and singing group, visited the campus of Chadron State College to help open a new exhibit in the C.F. Coffee Gallery of the Mari Sandoz Center, Oct. 14 in Memorial Hall.

The group is made up of Jean Prescott o Texas, Liz Masterson of Denver and

Yvonne Hollenbeck of Clearfield, S.D. According to a campus press release, the majority of the group's performance was based on the trials of being a cattle rancher's wife and her work and tribulations helping her husband on the ranch.

The new exhibit is titled "Women in Ranching." The C.F. Coffee Gallery is located on the lower level of the Sandoz Center as a resource for the development of the cattle industry on the High Plains. For more information about the Gallery or the exhibits, contact Director Sarah Polak at 308-432-6401.

Economy takes toll on all residential, historic homes

Tabatha Murphy, Center staff

It is no secret that the economy has had effects on people not only across the U.S., but across the world. Unfortunately the housing market has seemed to take one of the biggest blows as more and more homes are entering foreclosure. Blame has been placed on the profiteering of large companies like AIG, sparking federal investigations as well as a \$700 billion bailout plan from Congress. But it isn't just residential home owners feeling the effects, commercial real estate and historical home sites are also facing economic demise. Despite the efforts of the government to "stimulate" the market and bailout these large companies, many are still wondering how long it will be until the real estate market is stable again.

We've all heard the frightening statistics about the number of homes being foreclosed in the U.S., but according to an article from the Washington Post by Dana Hedgpeth, the effects are knocking through the commercial real estate industry with commercial real estate sales expected to be less than half of last year's profit. "In addition, growing layoffs and falling profits mean companies are giving up office space at rapid

rates. Nationwide, more than 19 million square feet of space... has been emptied by office users this year, the most since the months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks," (Hedgpeth, 2008, p.1 para. 5).

"Things will get worse if unemployment rises nationwide and consumers continue to cut back on spending, according to analysts. Stores and businesses would lease less space, probably resulting in glut of office space and lower rents," (Hedgpeth, 2008, p.2 para. 1).

While the economy may be leaving many houses and office spaces empty, but what about those cherished historical homes from which many tour for both educational and recreational purposes? The Mark Twain House is facing great economic crisis.

"The house has survived other threats over the years, but once again it is beset by financial troubles that cry out for attention," (Philadelphia Inquirer). The Mark Twain House seems to be the victim of bad financial decisions. "The operators of the Twain house spent \$19 million in 2003 on an adjacent visitors center designed to enhance the educational experience. However, the cost of the project was double the original estimate. Adding to the financial woes,

budgeted annual energy costs have jumped from \$100,000 to \$300,000," (Philadelphia Inquirer).

But The Mark Twain House is not the only historical site in economic crisis. According to a CBS news report from correspondent Erin Moriarity, several historical homes are now facing the same fate as many of the residential homes being foreclosed now, including Mark Twain's Hartford, Connecticut home, Edith Wharton's The Mount in Lenox, Massachusetts, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Dana Thomas House in Springfield, Illinois. The National Trust for Historic Preservation estimates that there are about 10,000 historic houses in the United States, the report said.

Perhaps there is no clear answer to how the real estate or economic crisis in our country. One can only hope that as Congress decides where to allocate funds from the bailout that it will also consider the situations at hand as well as the effects of losing some of the historical treasures we hold so dear. However, there are some efforts being made to help some of the despair for historic sites. According to the American Association of Museums, "A number of charitable giving provisions—including a restora-

tion and extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover through the end of 2009—were enacted as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (signed Oct. 3) designed to address the financial crisis. The IRA Charitable Rollover is a tax incentive that allows individuals ages 70 1/2 and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income. Since enactment in August 2006, the IRA Charitable Rollover has generated a significant amount of new charitable giving." (AVISO, 2008).

American Association of Museums, (2008 Nov.) AVISO Newsletter. Vo. 34. No. 11. Retrieved from <http://newsmanager.commpartners.com/aama/issues/2008-11-06/3.html>

Philadelphia Inquirer, (2008 June 15.) Retrieved from http://www.philly.com/inquirer/currents/20080615_Editorial_The_Mark_Twain_House.html

Hedgpeth, Dana, (2008, Nov. 5). Washington Post. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-vn/content/article/2008/11/04/AR2008110402590.html>

For more information on how you can help some of these historical sites, contact The National Trust for Historic Preservation at 1-800-944-6487 or visit the Web site at www.PreservationNation.org/.

Legislation Watch:

New legislation grants honor, accessibility and grants

By Tabatha Murphy

New legislation has been passed this year that may spark interest to many people around the U.S. Watch for these public laws and bills as they may lead to change in your area.

- Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008
Public Law 110-420 (House Resolution 4544)

The purpose of the law is to recognize and honor Native American code talkers and to require the issuance of medals to

honor them. According to the text of the Public Law, Congress found that many Native Americans were never recognized or honored for their work as code talkers during several wartime events. The resolution is sponsored by Representative Dan Boren of Oklahoma and became Public Law No. 110-420 on Oct. 15 (www.thomas.gov).

- Library of Congress Sound Recording and Film Preservation Programs Reauthorization Act of 2008

Public Law 110-336 (House Resolution 5893)

The public law was introduced "to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress and for other purposes," (www.thomas.gov). The resolution is sponsored by Representative Robert A. Brady of Pennsylvania and became Public Law 110-336 on Oct. 2.

A letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

As we wind down the calendar year, we often take stock of the past year. It has been a year of great accomplishment and innovation for the Center. We have made significant progress on exhibits in the Coffee Gallery, begun publication of Heritage News and continue to serve new and different audiences through our exhibits and programs, some of which are featured in this edition of our newsletter. More and more our book collection can be found on OCLC/WorldCat thanks to the Reta E. King Library and our partnerships with other departments on campus have enabled us to provide diverse learning experiences for students.

The passion that we have to share the history of this region and its inhabitants drives us to find new ways to communicate. Whether that is through a newsletter, kiosks in the galleries, tours, or our soon to be updated web-site, we are always working to find new ways to help people understand the history around them.

Our commitment, resolution if you will, to you and all that we will serve in the upcoming year is to continue to do our best in providing an informative and inviting atmosphere, strive to provide interesting experience and exhibits, and continue to be responsible caregivers for collections and facilities entrusted to us.

On behalf of all us who work, study, research, and volunteer at the Center, I would like to thank you for your continued support of our work and look forward to sharing with you the accomplishments and innovations of 2009.

With sincere wishes for joyous New Year,
Sarah Polak, Director
Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center

Meet the staff of the Mari Sandoz Center

Katie Sobota

Katie worked as an intern this fall at the Sandoz Center. She put together the financial report for the Sandoz Center and also worked with the Mari Sandoz Heritage Society on some financial documents. She is a senior scheduled to graduate in May with a degree in Applied History. "It has been great getting to meet new people and dabble in the field I'm going into," Katie said.

Kim Davis

Kim is a student employee at the Sandoz Center and works with collections and exhibits. She has worked at the Center for two years and said she loves getting to work with all the great exhibits. Kim is scheduled to graduate in Dec. with a degree in Legal Studies and will be returning to Chadron State College to work towards her Masters degree in History.

Corey Petersen

Corey worked as an intern this fall at the Center. She is a Range Management major from Merriman, Neb. She spent her internship working with the Heritage Gardens at the Center, specifically the Native American Medicinal Planting.

Students continued from page 1



Photo by Sarah Polak

Students work on the restoration of the trophies and plaques from Armstrong Gym at Chadron State College. Both Applied History classes this semester working on service projects. The other class started the archiving process for the campus's newspaper, The Eagle.

This group of students started archiving documents and past newspapers for The Eagle newspaper, a student publication on campus. The class dove into the many boxes that filled the newsroom, sorted items and documents and then archived the past issues, photos and other important documents for The Eagle.

"It was so great of them to do that," said The Eagle newspaper editor, Jennifer Cleveland. "We had no idea how to store some of those things or even where they were located after the move."

Cleveland also said she thought it was great that the students were learning to preserve history, not only for The Eagle newspaper.

Polak said she hopes the service projects are the first of many.

"It's been exciting for me to see students get excited about working in this field," she said.

For more information about the Applied History program, contact Sarah Polak at 308-432-6401.

'Imaging Blackness' exhibition opens in Jan.



One of the poster featured in the Imaging Blackness exhibit. Malcolm X Documentary 1972. Offset lithography 40 x 27 Copyright: Warner Brothers.

A new exhibition titled "Imaging Blackness, 1915-2002: Film Posters from the Indiana University Black Film Center Archive" opens Jan. 5, 2009 at Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center.

This exhibit pays homage to the long tradition of African Americans on the silver screen. Many film fans will know D.W. Griffith's controversial 1915 film "Birth of Nation" as one of the first movies to have a major impact on the American public, yet it also contributed to stereotyped and demeaning

images of African Americans in film. Beginning at nearly the same time was a segment of the film industry that established an independent black cinema—known as a "separate cinema."

The exhibition includes 43 black film posters, as well as an educational programming guide and a lesson plan for teachers. Information panels providing context accompany the posters on display.

The exhibition is organized and toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance through its ExhibitsUSA national program. Mid-America

is the oldest nonprofit regional arts organization in the U.S., providing programming and education in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. More information is available at www.maaa.org.

The Imaging Blackness exhibit at the Sandoz Center will be accompanied by the viewing of several films from the exhibit's list. The exhibit will run through March 10, 2009. For more information about the exhibit at the Sandoz Center, contact Director Sarah Polak at 308-432-6401.

See what else is inside The Heritage Review- The Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center Newsletter



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