

Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial Newsletter

VOLUME XXII, No. 1

RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA

SPRING CONFERENCE 1978

Despite inclement weather, May 6, the 23rd Annual Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial Spring Conference was enjoyed by more than 350 Cather enthusiasts, some from as far away as New York and California. The traditional kolaches and coffee were served to participants as they registered at the Garber Bank Building.

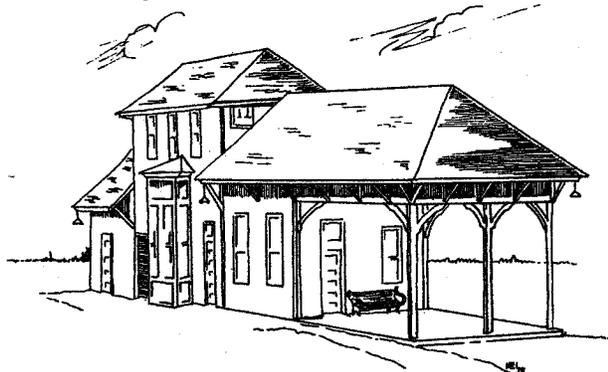
Rain fell while inside St. Juliana Falconieri's Catholic Church Father Lieblinger of Red Cloud's Sacred Heart offered a mass for the day.

At 9:15, conference participants filled Grace Episcopal Church for services. The Reverend William A. Johnson of St. John the Devine's in New York City officiated and was assisted by The Reverend Brendt Bohlke of St. Mark's on the Campus in Lincoln. Music was provided by the St. Juliana Choir, an interdenominational group under the direction of John English.

A tour of the George Cather house, the setting for Cather's Nobel prize-winning novel **One of Ours**, was planned for mid-morning but due to road conditions was cancelled. The crowd was kept dry and happy watching the film "Cather Remembered."

Following a box lunch served by the Catherland Federated Women's Club, a crowd of better than 160 gathered to listen to a panel discussion of **The Troll Garden**, chaired by Mildred R. Bennett.

The panel included Ella Cather Lewis, daughter of Jack Cather and Professor of Speech at Long Beach City College, Margaret Goodman-Malamuth, formerly Associate Professor of English at Long Beach City College, Dr. Bruce P. Baker, W.C.P.M. board member and Professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Kevin Synnott, Professor of English at Notre Dame.



The afternoon's activities included open house at all Memorial buildings hosted by the Red Cloud F.H.A. girls and a showing of "Willa Cather's America: Into the Morning."

The Memorial sponsored a show of prints by Nebraska photographers Larry Ferguson, Bill Ganzel, Roger Bruhn and Margaret MacKichan at the Depot.

The evening banquet was emceed by Tom Allan, columnist for the **Omaha World Herald**, and featured music by Red Cloud natives Linda Phillips of New York City and Fritz Mountford of Shawnee-on-the-Delaware. They were accompanied by Barbara Sprague and Kathe Phillips.

Roger Welsch, Professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and noted Nebraska folklorist, spoke on "The Literature of Illiterature."

Fifty-nine people were recognized for "significant and enduring contributions to the goals of presenting and interpreting the life and times and artistry of Willa Cather." Those honored were:

Tom Allan	Malcolm Lambrecht
C. B. Atkison	Mary Lambrecht
Emma Bargman	Sarah Lewis
Leonard Barnes	Mary Lukas
Sylvia Beams	John March
Mildred R. Bennett	George Marshall
Dr. W. K. Bennett	Mamie Meredith
Mary Etta Blue	Honorable Frank B. Morrison
Viola S. Borton	Miriam Mountford
Garrett A. Busch	William Mountford
Grace Busch	Darleen Nielsen
Don E. Connors	Harry Obitz
Charles Dugdale	Heleen Obitz
Ruth Doudna	Honorable Val Peterson
Louise Eldred	Jeanne Phillips
John English	Jennie Reiher
Josephine Frisbie	Paul Riley
Edmund Giebler	David E. Scherman
John E. Gorgen	Dr. C. B. Schultz
Margaret Gilchrist	Lou Schwartz
Bonnie Griffith	Yola Swartz
Dorothy Hawkins	Carrie M. Sherwood
Louis Hansen	**Dorothy Sherwood
Marshal R. Hinds	Dean Terrill
Ron Hull	Marcella Van Meter
Dr. L. V. Jacks	Grace Wolfe
J. Ted Kennedy	Berdon Zeiss
Marvin F. Kivett	**William Skjelver
Dr. Robert Knoll	

NATURE CONSERVANCY

From the July/August issue of "On The Land", a publication of **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY**:

The Conservancy is working with Kearney State College and the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial to develop an educational workshop at the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie in southern Nebraska. The workshop now being planned will be offered for college credit and will highlight the ecological, historical, and cultural

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Cather Family Photographs



Willa Cather on the University of Nebraska campus, about 1894.



Cather in Virginia, about 1905.

Cather on a picnic at the old Red Cloud golf course.



Cather and her niece Helen Louise.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Cather (Willa's parents), about 1925.



Willa Cather and her nieces, Virginia and the twins Margaret and Elizabeth.



Willa Cather, her sister Elsie, her mother, her sister Jessica, and her niece Helen Louise.

NEW AIMS

The Nebraska State Historical Society will soon assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of WCPM properties. This will leave the Foundation free to concentrate on educational activities.

In accordance with this change, the aims of the WCPM have been rewritten to reflect these new efforts:

To promote and assist in the development and preservation of the art, literary, and historical collection relating to the life, time, and work of Willa Cather, in association with the Nebraska State Historical Society.

To cooperate with the Nebraska State Historical Society in continuing to identify, restore to their

original condition, and preserve places made famous by the writing of Willa Cather.

To provide for Willa Cather a living memorial, through the Foundation, by encouraging and assisting scholarship in the field of the humanities.

To perpetuate an interest throughout the world in the work of Willa Cather.

NATURE CONSERVANCY

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aspects of the prairie, as well as the writings of Willa Cather and other prairie state authors. Current plans are to offer the workshop in the summer of 1979. The Cooper Foundation and the **Omaha World Herald** have both pledged financial support.

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE AND GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION

- By being a Cather Memorial Member and financial contributor:

BENEFACTOR \$1,000.00 and over

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Patron \$100.00
 Sustaining 25.00
 Family 15.00
 Individual 10.00

WCPM members receive:

Newsletter subscription
 Free admission to restored buildings

- By contributing your Willa Cather artifacts, letters, papers, and publications to the Museum.
- By contributing your ideas and suggestions to the Board of Governors.

ALL MEMBERSHIPS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND BEQUESTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1965

Special group memberships (such as clubs or businesses) are available. Write to the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial for details.

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Newsletter Contribution Only \$5.00
 (not a membership)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial

Red Cloud, Nebraska 68970

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MUSEUM HOURS

Open May 1 to October 1
 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays
 1 to 5 p.m. weekends