

Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial

VOLUME XVII, Number 4

and Educational Foundation

RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA



Willa Cather portrait photo, used on the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial maximum postcard printed specifically for the First Day of Stamp Issue in Red Cloud September 20.

YOUR WCPM MEMBERSHIP

This, the centennial year of Willa Cather's birth, is a time to celebrate and to enjoy the harvest you have sown. It is also a time for reflection—a time to consider what your membership in the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial means—what you are accomplishing.

A membership card in the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial, like yours, is carried by fewer than 5,000 people in the whole world.

Through your membership you are quietly and consistently making your influence felt. You are giving impetus to a world-wide renaissance of interest in Willa Cather.

You are giving invaluable assistance to aspiring young artists, writers, musicians, and students of the humanities who find their inspiration in Willa Cather and her land. You, quite literally, are a patron of the arts.

You are actively engaged in historic preservation. You are saving a priceless portion of American heritage that would otherwise be lost to the ravages of time and neglect—the loss to be mourned by you and generations yet to come.

You are urgently needed now as a member of the Memorial. Choose the membership bracket that fits your financial circumstances.

Renew your membership now.

Give a membership as a Christmas gift.

Become a member of the Memorial today.

(More information on back page)

CATHER COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

A Memorable Day . . .

First Day of Issue of the Cather Commemorative Stamp took place September 20, 1973, in Red Cloud.

A crowd of 500 gathered for the First Day Ceremonies to hear Regional Postmaster General Clarence B. Gels speak about Willa Cather. Also in the audience were relatives of Willa Cather, Memorial Board members, and postmasters from many other cities.

First Day of Issue collectors and Willa Cather admirers were out in full force for the program and for a stroll along the streets of Red Cloud, looking for souvenirs and visiting the Cather Museum and the Cather House.

Red Cloud Postmaster Tom F. Wackerla employed 34 extra workers to help his regular staff handle the 600,000 First Day of Issue stamps.

Ten Red Cloud organizations and almost fifty volunteers from eleven Nebraska towns helped the Memorial with First Day activities and with handling orders for the thousands of cachets, maximums, and programs that have been mailed. (All of these special First Day items are still available from the Memorial.)

To the enthusiastic volunteer list, add yourself and all those like you who, since 1969, have worked on the project encouraging the issuance of the postage stamp honoring Willa Cather. As a result, every newspaper in the country printed at least one item about Willa Cather. (Have you sent the Memorial a copy of what appeared in your area yet?) Great publicity.

A Cather stamp on the letter you mailed to the Memorial during the past month is a vote of confidence saying not only that you are proud of your association with the Memorial but also that you approve of what the Memorial is doing. Like everybody else, we need to know our efforts are appreciated.

WILLA CATHER CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Events

The World of Willa Cather . . . An exhibition of photographs by Lucia Woods, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln, October 26-November 25. Sundays: 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Wednesday-Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mondays: closed.

An enlarged version of Miss Wood's exhibition opens November 4 and runs through the 28th at Gallery f22, 338 Camino del Monte Sol, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Centennial Birthday Concert, December 7 . . . by Yehudi, Hephzibah and Yaltah Menuhin, Kimball Recital Hall, Lincoln.

Willa Cather first met the Menuhin family in Paris in 1930, and soon was known to Yehudi, then in his early teens, and his two younger sisters as "Aunt Willa." The following spring "there began one of those rare, devoted, and unclouded friendships between them that lighted all the years that followed." (Edith Lewis)

Willa Cather's relatives will be honored guests for this evening of music by Willa Cather's special friends.

An International Seminar: "The Art of Willa Cather" . . .

Because of Willa Cather's firsthand observation of the acculturation process in Nebraska and her ability to transcend national and ethnic boundaries, the significance of this seminar goes beyond the study of one author to the realm of international understanding. As well as focusing on new directions for Cather study, it brings us European and Asiatic perspectives.

Alfred A. Knopf, Willa Cather's friend and publisher, was among the distinguished guests attending the event.

Bernice Slote and Robert E. Knoll were in charge of the entire Seminar.

Principal speakers for the Seminar held October 25 through October 28 were: Marcus Cunliffe, historian, Professor of American Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, England; Leon Edel, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer, Citizens Professor of English, University of Hawaii; Eudora Welty, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, Jackson, Mississippi.

The six working Seminars were directed by Aldo Celli, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Florence, Italy; J. M. Gervaud, Université de Provence, Aix en Provence, France; James E. Miller, Jr., University of Chicago; Hiroko Sato, Tokyo Woman's Christian College, Tokyo, Japan; Donald Sutherland, formerly University of Colorado, Boulder; James Woodress, University of California, Davis.

Catherland Tour . . .

Final day of Seminar, October 28, was devoted to an all-day tour of Red Cloud and Webster County, a familiar neighborhood for all these distinguished Cather readers and scholars whether or not they had ever actually visited Catherland.

The University Centennial Festival will continue into 1974. Among the events scheduled is the publication of much of the material used at the Seminar.

Mrs. Roscoe C. Cather, who died in Denver, was buried September 19 in Red Cloud in the Cather family plot next to her husband, Willa's brother.



The Little Red School House where busloads of people are stopping for picnic lunch while touring the 50 Catherland points of interest marked by the Memorial.

Whatever the season, the Cather landscape is here—cattle in the pasture across the white, dusty road; fields of corn, alfalfa, winter wheat; the chattering leaves of the cottonwood tree, the sunflower blooming by the gate, the honeysuckle by the door; and inside the nostalgia of a country school. (Photo courtesy Claire Hurlbert, Hastings Tribune.)

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Special Events in Red Cloud

Spring Conference April 28, 1973 . . .

The 18th annual Conference was marked by the largest turnout ever.

The tribute to Willa Cather, written by her friend, Bishop Beecher, first used in the 1947 Memorial service for her in her own Grace Episcopal Church, was part of the worship service in the same tiny church which began the day's events.

Seven buses transported 225 people on a three-hour trip through the country of **My Antonia**.

From a country picnic at the Little Red School House the scene shifted to Willa Cather's home and its dedication as a National Historic Landmark by F. Ross Holland, historian, author and long-time employee of the National Park Service.

Across the street and just a block away from the "Harling House" where Antonia first lived in Red Cloud was the afternoon panel discussion of the story of the Bohemian girl. Participants were Patricia Lee Yongue of Houston University, Evelyn Helmick of the University of Miami, JoAnna Lathrop and Bernice Slote of University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The 100th birthday cake was cut by Memorial President Mildred R. Bennett and Mrs. Charles Reiher representing Willa Cather's Red Cloud cousins.

Dr. James E. Miller, Professor of English at the University of Chicago and authority on American Literature, was the banquet speaker. He commented on the unusual experience of being confronted with the actual characters from a book. He was referring to the children of Annie Pavelka, the real-life Antonia, who with their families were honored guests.

The Czech Dancers of Wilbur, Nebraska, entertained.

Mildred R. Bennett was honored for dedicating 27 years to sparking the interest and leading the crusade to preserve the cultural, literary and historic treasure of Willa Cather's Red Cloud by Ak-Sar-Ben with the presentation of its Good Neighbor Award.



Employed in June as Memorial Managing Director-Curator is Joseph W. Emmons, a 1968 graduate of the University of Nebraska. He was a graduate assistant at the University of Missouri Museum of Anthropology followed by two years in the Army in Europe teaching high school courses to American soldiers. After discharge, he and his wife lived in Germany and traveled in Europe and Africa. Their first son, Justin, was born soon after their move to Red Cloud. (Photo by Larry Thomas)

THE MEMORIAL AT WORK

The Memorial Sends Aid Internationally . . .

A. K. Khare, teacher of post graduate students at Bilaspur (M.P.) India, is doing Cather research leading to a Ph.D. Degree at the Ravishanker University, Raipur, under the supervision of Dr. A. K. Srivaslava, Lucknow University, India.

From Memorial member, Yuji Nakata, Konan Women's College, Kobe, Japan, comes news that he was one of the participants in a two-day Willa Cather Seminar held April 28 and 29 by the Kyushu American Literature Society in Fukuoke, Japan. Professor Nakata, one of an international slate of speakers representing eight different colleges and universities, used his first-hand Cather research, Memorial materials, and his own Catherland slides all gathered in 1971 when he was here making use of the extensive Memorial resources. We supplied information to bring his speech up to date.

The Memorial gave Cather material to the United States Information Agency to help them prepare a special Willa Cather number of their **English Teaching Forum**, a bi-monthly journal for overseas teachers of English. The Forum averages 80,000 copies per issue distributed, free of charge, in 116 countries.

The Memorial Saves Source Material . . .

Dr. Floyd C. Watkins, professor of American Literature at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., was in Red Cloud doing Cather research. The author of twelve books and numerous articles, Dr. Watkins has visited the hometowns of many American writers and was astonished to find that more has been done in Red Cloud to preserve and restore than in any of those other towns. He said, "Thank you for saving the material for me."

The Memorial Keeps Informed . . .

Cather Memorial President Mildred R. Bennett and Managing Director-Curator Joseph W. Emmons were in Cleveland October 10-14 to participate in the 27th annual meeting of the The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the U. S. The Cather Memorial is a member of a number of national, regional, and state associations of museum and preservation organizations.

MEMORIAL MEMBERS AT WORK

Centennial Observance Displays . . .

So many of you have reported Willa Cather Centenary displays in your public, college, and university libraries, that there is not space to list them all. The significant thing is that in most places YOU instigated the display, requested items from the Memorial, or loaned your personal Cather memorabilia, and, as in some cases, put the display together yourself. Result: all across the country, in large libraries and small, from the New York Public Library to Downey Public Library, California, to the Auld-Doudna Library, Guide Rock, Nebraska (population 200), Willa Cather's life and writings are being viewed by millions because of YOUR ACTION.

Public Relations . . .

From your reports and requests for aid we know you have been enjoying the limelight during this year of Cather Centennial observances, making speeches, showing slides, talking to clubs and organizations and students and giving Cather book reviews, being an honored guest at luncheons and banquets, arranging programs, being interviewed on TV, talking to radio audiences, and bringing your clubs and classes to tour Catherland.

And you have taken the opportunity of this year's climate of curiosity about Cather to lead friends and acquaintances to share your enjoyment of her books.

AIMS OF THE WILLA CATHER PIONEER MEMORIAL

- To secure the bonding, insurance and housing of a permanent art, literary and historical collection relating to the life, time and work of Willa Cather.
- To identify and restore to their original condition, places made famous by the writings of Willa Cather.
- To provide for Willa Cather a living memorial in the form of art and literary scholarships.
- To perpetuate an interest throughout the world in the work of Willa Cather.

These aims, formulated in 1955 by the founders of the organization, have remained as guidelines for the development of the Cather Memorial.

Your interest and contributions, with the support of local people, have made remarkable progress possible.

The restored Garber (Captain Forrester of **A Lost Lady**) building houses the Museum with its displays, life-size dioramas, various artifacts, book collection, Cather letters and other source material which are also on microfilm.

Now a National Historic Landmark is the restored Cather home, setting for **Song of the Lark**, "Old Mrs. Harris," and "The Best Years." The restored Burlington Depot emphasizes the railroad theme running through most of Cather's Nebraska novels and stories. Willa Cather's Church, Grace Episcopal, has been restored and the stained glass windows she dedicated to her parents are preserved. **My Antonia's** Church, St. Julianna, has been restored. Typical of the little country churches erected by pioneers from other lands is the Dane Church.

(Continued on Page 4)

AIMS OF THE WILLA CATHER PIONEER MEMORIAL
(Continued from Page 3)

These restored buildings, the Cather Museum, and the fifty sites marked by the Memorial on the Cather-land tour have already attracted thousands of visitors and scholars from all over the world.

Your financial support will make possible further progress in fulfilling the aims of the Memorial by expanding the effectiveness of its various programs to meet the increasing demands being made upon present facilities. Your money will be used for such things as adding to source material, enlarging research and educational facilities, augmenting the mailable printed material available to students, expanding the Memorial publications, and making facilities available for practitioners of all the arts.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

William Thomas Auld, M.D.	Ella Cather Lewis	Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz
Mildred R. Bennett	John March	Marian Schultz
W. K. Bennett, M.D.	Miriam Mountford	Margaret Cather Shannon
Richard Borton	William Mountford	Bernice Slose
Vi Borton	Harry Obitz	Helen Cather Southwick
Don E. Connors	Helen Obitz	Marcella Van Meter
Virginia Faulkner	Frank O'Rourke	Durward B. Varner
Josephine Frisbie	Jennie Reiher	Laird G. Wolfe
Ted Kennedy	David E. Scherman	Lucia Woods
Helen Lengfeld		

Recent Internal Revenue Service regulations (1969 Tax Reform Act) which govern tax-free organizations provide that one-third of the total income of the Cather Memorial must come from the general public.

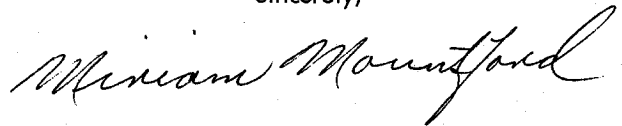
The Cather Memorial depends on public contribution and private foundation grants for its sole support. It receives **no** funds from City, County, State, or Federal taxes. Because of our unique non-tax supported standing, and the 1969 Tax Reform Act, we need your financial support.

Current expenses of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial increase proportionately as we strive to fulfill our aims; therefore, we are making an urgent plea for your continued support through the renewal of your membership.

Spring Conference 1974 . . .

The theme for next April's annual meeting in Red Cloud will be **Song of the Lark**; so put the date, April 20, 1974, on your calendar and the book on your reading list for long winter evenings.

Sincerely,



YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE AND GROWTH OF THE ORGANIZATION

- By being a Cather Memorial Member and financial contributor:

BENEFACTOR \$1,000 and over

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Patron	\$100.00
Sustaining	25.00
Husband and wife	15.00
Individual	10.00
Newsletter subscriber	5.00
Student	3.00

- 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 include a subscription to the Newsletter; all except Newsletter subscribers and student memberships have free admission to restored buildings.

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

LARGER DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (DELAYED GIVING) TO THE MEMORIAL ARE WELCOME. (Consult your attorney for advice on your particular form of legacy.)

ALL MEMBERSHIPS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND BEQUESTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

This revised membership program will be effective January 1, 1974. Your life membership status under the previous financial program is, of course, honored.



68970

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA
PERMIT NO. 10