

THE

NEWS FROM CATHERLAND

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Special points of interest:

- *Preserving our Past, Pioneering our Future challenge campaign successfully completed*
- *Special double issue of the Willa Cather Newsletter & Review published*
- *2011 Prairie Writers' Workshop with artist-in-residence, Angela Glover*
- *Maher begins term as Board of Governors President*
- *56th Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference themed "Willa Cather and Her Popular Culture"*
- *Join us for our upcoming events*

CATHER INDUCTED INTO THE NEW YORK STATE WRITERS HALL OF FAME

On Friday, April 1, 2011 the Empire State Center for the Book will induct nine authors into the New York State Writers Hall of Fame. Willa Cather is among this prestigious group of seven deceased and two living authors whose writings have made a lasting contribution to literature.

Willa Cather (1873-1947) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning American author who first achieved national recognition for novels such as *O Pioneers!* and *My Ántonia*, in which she drew on her own experiences of growing up on the frontier prairies of Nebraska. But Cather was born in Virginia, lived for several years in Pittsburgh, spent her last forty years as a resident of New York City, and traveled widely throughout the United States and in Canada and Europe. The imaginative "Catherland" of her fiction draws on the full range of these settings and



Willa Cather on her 63rd birthday, December 7, 1936

experiences: the backdrop for much of *One of Ours* (1922), for which she won the Pulitzer Prize, is World War I France; *Death Comes for the Archbishop* (1927) is set in the nineteenth-century American southwest, *Shadows on the Rock* (1931) in seventeenth-century Quebec; and in her powerful final novel, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* (1940), Cather returned to the Virginia of her childhood.

Other inductees are Doro-

thy Parker, Herman Melville, Madeleine L'Engle, John Ashbery, Julia DeBurgos, Ralph Ellison, Paula Fox, and Lorraine Hansberry. The induction ceremony into the NYS Writers Hall of Fame will be the focus of the Empire State Book Festival Gala in Albany, New York. The ticketed event is open to the public. Plans are underway to house the NYS Writers Hall of Fame at the New York State Library in Albany.

THE INTERNATIONAL CATHER SEMINAR SLATED FOR JUNE 20-25, 2011

The Seminar will take place on the campus of Smith College, in Northampton, MA, a setting replete with connections to Cather's life and work.

We have encouraged papers that consider Cather and New England within the context of turn of the century culture. The International Cather Seminar is an

opportunity for Cather scholars and devotees to come together to celebrate her work. For conference registration details, visit our website at www.WillaCather.org

PRESERVING OUR PAST, PIONEERING OUR FUTURE CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS

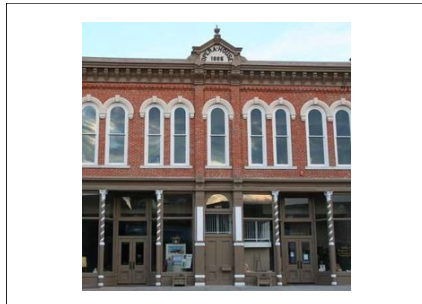
The recent *Preserving our Past, Pioneering our Future* challenge campaign, mounted to provide additional educational and archival programs of the

Willa Cather Foundation, has successfully concluded, significantly surpassing its original goal.

The challenge was offered by two anonymous donors who hoped to generate an additional \$60,000 in annual support from new and additional gifts in the last five months of 2010. The initiative raised \$91,904 and encouraged 201 new do-

nors and 187 previous contributors to join the Foundation.

In addition to supporting the ongoing educational programs of the Foundation, the new resources generated by the campaign will be used to bring recently donated archival material into the collection and to expand familiarity with the author among Nebraska's school children.



The Red Cloud Opera House is home to the Foundation offices, bookstore, and gallery.



“We are delighted to present the work of this varied group of scholars—seasoned with a sprinkling of recipes that will allow you to sample the many tastes of Willa Cather’s tables.”

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE OF THE WILLA CATHER NEWSLETTER & REVIEW

This expanded scholarly edition of the *Newsletter & Review*—our largest ever—invites you to explore a generous selection of the fresh and engaging new scholarship presented at our 2010 Spring Conference. “Food, Drink, and

Willa Cather’s Writing.”

We are delighted to present the work of a varied group of scholars, as well as our usual news of Willa Cather Foundation doings all over the country—seasoned with a sprinkling of recipes that will allow

you to sample the many tastes of Willa Cather’s tables.

Order your copy of this special edition today by calling 866-731-7304 or visiting www.WillaCather.org.

2011 PRAIRIE WRITERS’ WORKSHOP

Planning is underway for the fourth Prairie Writers' Workshop in Red Cloud, Nebraska June 2-5, 2011 with artist-in-residency, Angela L. Glover of Simpson College.

The theme is "Place-Based Identity," with a focus on the connections between self and place.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit the Cather historic sites, the 608-acre Willa Cather Memorial Prairie, and to participate in onsite nature writing.

The event will conclude

with a reception on June 5. Simpson will read from her

collection, and writers will have the opportunity to share their work with the public.

Please join us and let your inner writer out!



A participant makes use of the Prairie for inspiration during the 2010 Prairie Writer's Workshop

WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

The Willa Cather Foundation's 29-member Board of Governors recently elected new officers to continue the preservation and promotion of the life, times, settings, and work of Willa Cather.

Susan Maher, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at University of Minnesota, Duluth, was officially installed as president during the Foundation's January board meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. Maher succeeds Jay Yost, who served as president since January 2009. "Yost has been instrumental

in advancing the Foundation's development program and growing our membership base," said Maher. "One of my goals is to continue building on that success by increasing awareness of Cather's legacy and expanding our educational outreach activities."

Yost remains a member of the Foundation's Board of Governors and will serve in an advisory role as President Emeritus. Other members holding officer roles this year include: Thomas Reese Gall-



Susan Maher

gher, New York, New York - Vice President, Glenda J. Pierce, Lincoln, Nebraska - Secretary, and David H. Porter, Saratoga Springs, New York - Treasurer.



"A movie, well done, may be very good indeed, may even appeal to what is called the artistic sense; but to the emotions, the deep feelings, never! Never, that is, excepting Charlie Chaplin at his best."

—Willa Cather, Omaha World Herald, 27 October 1929

56TH ANNUAL WILLA CATHER SPRING CONFERENCE

Make plans now to attend the 2011 Willa Cather Spring Conference in Red Cloud, Nebraska April 29-30. This year's Conference explores and celebrates a theme that has not been often considered by Cather's readers: her relationship to the popular culture of her day. From her enjoyment of popular music, movies, and books, to her writings about actresses and opera stars, Cather regularly engaged with the trendy, the famous, and the celebrated.

We are pursuing this theme in a few different ways. We've invited a group of Cather scholars to come to Red Cloud and speak about Cather's involvement (both in her writing and her life) with famous singers and actresses and to explore

the featured texts: Cather's 1920 book of short stories, *Youth and the Bright Medusa*, and the extensive journalism of Cather's younger days, which is filled with reviews of popular entertainments and celebrity gossip.

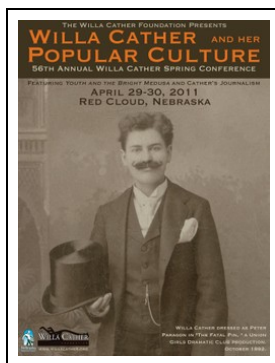
We are also hosting a series of events that will allow conference goers to experience a bit of Cather's popular culture. Our tours of the historic properties of Red Cloud will feature popular songs and stories from Cather's fiction. On Friday night, Charles Smith, Fritz Mountford, and musicians from Hastings College will perform an original revue of popular songs from the

1890s, intermixed with Cather's own biting and insightful comments on those songs. On Saturday, the Mont Alto Orchestra

will present and accompany silent film comedies featuring Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle (who grew up near Red Cloud) and Charlie Chaplin (a performer Cather admired

tremendously). And, of course, everyone will, like Cather, have the exciting experience of meeting Rin-Tin-Tin when Rin-Tin-Tin XI performs in the Red Cloud Opera House.

Register online at www.WillaCather.org.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 29-30, 2011: **56th Annual Willa Cather Spring Conference**
"Willa Cather and Her Popular Culture" featuring...

Gallery exhibit and reception, "Social Networking 1890: Nebraska Opera Houses in their Heyday"

"Walk Right Over the Footlights," songs and Words from Willa Cather's Journalism
featuring Hastings College Vocalists

Rin Tin Tin XI, one of the most famous canines in the world.
Willa Cather attended popular Rin Tin Tin movies in the 1920s,
and she enjoyed meeting the dog in New Mexico in 1926

The Passing Show: "Willa Cather and Her Popular Culture" with
Richard Harris, Mark Madigan, Julie Olin-Ammentorp, and Diane Prenatt

Mont Alto Orchestra presenting the cinematic comedy classics Buster Keaton and Roscoe
"Fatty" Arbuckle in "The Cook" and the feature presentation Charlie Chaplin's "The Kid"

May 9-August 9, 2011: **"America Through the CBS Eye" Exhibit**

"America Through the CBS Eye" represents a sampling of over 30 million memorable images
taken by CBS photographers contained in the CBS network archives dating back as far as 1928,
when CBS first began broadcasting as a radio network

May 28, 2011 at 2:00 pm: **"Music on the Cather Prairie"**

Listen to the sweet sounds of music and enjoy the beauty of the Prairie at this inaugural event
featuring Mike Adams and Pilgrim Classic Country

June 2-5, 2011: **Prairie Writers' Workshop** with Angela Glover

Place-Based Identity: A creative-nonfiction workshop focused on connections between self and place

June 20-25, 2011: **International Seminar "Cather and the Nineteenth Century,"**
Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts