

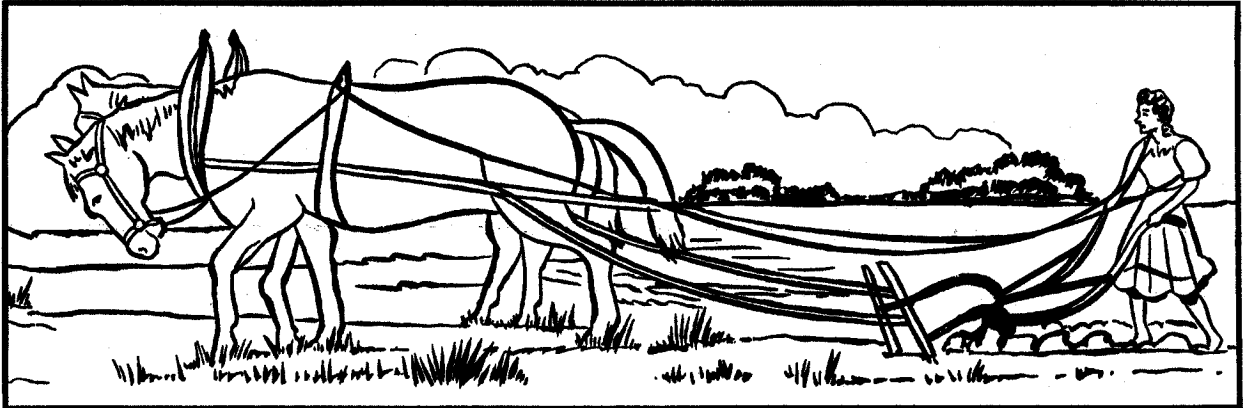
Fall Newsletter - - - - 1960

WILLA CATHER PIONEER MEMORIAL

Volume IV

RED CLOUD, NEBRASKA

Number 2



PROGRESS REPORT

As we summarize what has been accomplished during 1960 toward fulfilling the four AIMS of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial, we are sure you will agree that this has been our most successful year.

AIM 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

THE SILAS GARBER BANK BUILDING is being transformed into our Memorial headquarters and museum just as rapidly as donations to the building fund will allow.

Meanwhile at the old museum further donations of artifacts are being assimilated and new displays are being created. For example, articles belonging to G. P. Cather, prototype of Claude in One of Ours, and given by his neices are being featured in a new display. Mrs. Louie F. Rockemann is also a generous contributor to the exhibit. In conjunction with the display is a collection of letters written to Miss Cather by World War I veterans after One of Ours was published. Just completed is a large One of Ours diorama done jointly by Mrs. W. F. Wyss and by artist Bonnie Griffeth.

In recognition of the fine work being done by our museum, Mildred Bennett was named chairman of the Third Nebraska Museums Conference held at Lincoln October 21, and our staff members were chosen to present the morning program, "Problems of the Small Museum".

The Memorial Museum is now a member of five organizations: The Nebraska Museum Conference, The Mountain-Plains Museum Conference, The American Association of Museums, The International Council of Museums, and The American Association for State and Local History.

AIM TO IDENTIFY AND RESTORE TO THEIR ORIGINAL CONDITION, PLACES MADE FAMOUS BY THE WRITINGS OF WILLA CATHER

WILLA CATHER'S CHILDHOOD HOME has been purchased for the Memorial. A foresighted benefactor has given the Memorial title to the house that is the setting for The Best Years, Song of the Lark, and Old Mrs. Harris as well as the original Cather home in Red Cloud. Furthermore he has taken care of immediate repairs to insure that no further deterioration takes place until the museum building is finished and additional contributions make a new restoration project possible.

AIM TO PROVIDE FOR WILLA CATHER A LIVING MEMORIAL IN THE FORM OF ART AND LITERARY SCHOLARSHIPS.

A WILLA CATHER AWARD has been established by Dr. Frank S. Hewitt, Chairman of the English Department at Hastings College from 1947 to 1960. Dr. Hewitt's contribution makes possible the awarding of an annual \$100 prize for graduate work to a Hastings College senior who shows a commendable interest in the work of Willa Cather. By transmitting his enthusiasm to his students and by giving his ardent support to the Memorial, Dr. Hewitt continues to perpetuate an interest in the work of Willa Cather at his new post at Austin College, Sherman, Texas.

AIM TO PERPETUATE AN INTEREST THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IN THE WORK OF WILLA CATHER

A NEW EDITION OF THE WORLD OF WILLA CATHER by Mildred R. Bennett is being prepared by the University of Nebraska Press. Scheduled to be out in March, the \$1.50 Bisbon Book edition will be available at the Memorial as well as at bookstores.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will be turned over to the Memorial. Revenue from Mrs. Bennett's books (the first edition of the World of Willa Cather and Early Stories of Willa Cather) is continuing to contribute substantially to the rapid expansion of the Memorial's activities.

The following is reprinted from the University of Nebraska Press Spring Catalog:

When The World of Willa Cather appeared in 1951, it was immediately recognized as indispensable to everyone interested in the work of the author of O Pioneers!, My Antonia, and A Lost Lady. Although several biographical studies of Willa Cather have since been published, none contains such uniquely valuable material about the people and places that figure so importantly in many of Miss Cather's best-loved and most distinguished novels and stories; and none contains more that is provocative and illuminating about the writer herself.

"The existence of a new Cather audience has, as much as anything, prompted the reissue of this book..." Mildred R. Bennett writes in the foreword to the present edition. "Since much of this information is no longer available elsewhere, there seems a very real obligation to keep the book in print...In a decade of research since The World of Willa Cather was first published, everything that I have been able to discover confirms my belief that all Willa Cather was to do and become can be read in the story of these early years."

Along with the notes documenting and amplifying the text, the Bisbon Book edition also includes a two-part index, a brief chronology, a genealogical table, and two previously unpublished photographs.

John S. Randall III chose for his doctoral dissertation the cultural-history approach to an evaluation of Willa Cather's work. Published last May, his Landscape and the Looking Glass: Willa Cather's Search for Value was awarded the New England Quarterly Fellowship.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

PROGRESS in the restoration of the Garber building is short of our ambitious goal for 1960, the first year of the \$10,000 five-year plan. The museum has not yet been moved. Our goal for 1961 is to finish what your contributions have given such a good start--weather-proofing the entire building and rennovating the ground floor for museum quarters.

THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM of the Memorial has infinite possibilities for development limited only by the size and number of your contributions. Dr. Jacks and his committee are prepared to handle your money as you specify--whether a large sum earmarked for use at a certain school or a smaller amount to be dispensed in conjunction with other donations at the discretion of the committee.

NEXT YEAR we will increase the \$500 publication budget to accommodate an extra issue of the Newsletter and provide for the growing circulation.

OUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, as always, call for carrying out the four AIMS of the Memorial as swiftly as contributions allow and at the same time as slowly as is necessary to maintain the firm footing that we have so carefully prepared.

THANK YOU for your enthusiastic help with the various projects of the Memorial, for your ideas, and for your letters. Thank you for joining the Memorial as a life member (\$75) or as a sustaining member (\$5 annually). Thank you for contributing to the building fund and the scholarship fund. Thank you for buying and reading Mrs. Bennett's books. Please continue with your support and interest.

NEW READERS of the Newsletter, please accept this invitation to join the 5,000 other readers in building a living Memorial to Willa Cather.

TO ALL READERS of the Newsletter, heartiest wishes for a Very Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year from the Memorial, the Officers and Board of Governors, and the President, Mildred R. Bennett.

Josephine Frisbie
Virginia Faulkner
Dr. L. V. Jacks
Helen Lengfeld
John March
Miriam Mountford
Mamie Meredith

Sincerely yours,

Miriam Mountford

Miriam Mountford, Secretary
WILLA CATHER PIONEER MEMORIAL

Harry Obitz
Helen Obitz
Frank O'Rourke
Jennie M. Reiher
David E. Scherman
Dr. C. B. Schultz
Carrie M. Sherwood



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