

WILLA CATHER PIONEER MEMORIAL

NEWS LETTER

Volume I

Red Cloud, Nebraska
Summer 1957

Number 1

THE WILLA CATHER PIONEER MEMORIAL was incorporated more than two years ago. One year ago this summer we opened the museum. Because of the rapidly growing interest in the MEMORIAL, we feel that it is time now to experiment with the effectiveness of a news-letter in stimulating our members and friends to increased activity in development of the MEMORIAL and its aims.

AIMS OF THE WILLA CATHER PIONEER MEMORIAL

1. To perpetuate an interest throughout the world in the work of Willa Cather.
2. To identify and restore to their original conditions, places made famous by the writings of Willa Cather.
3. To provide for Willa Cather a living MEMORIAL in the form of art and literary scholarships.
4. 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.

STAFF

Officers. Mildred R. Bennett, president; Carrie M. Sherwood, vice-president; Jennie M. Reiher, secretary-treasurer; Harry Obitz, director.
Board of Governors. Dr. L. V. Jacks, Frank O'Rourke, Helen Obitz, Josephine Frisbie.
New Staff Members. Dr. Bertrand Schultz, honorary curator; John March, honorary librarian; Bess Day, publicity director; and Miriam Mountford, corresponding sec.
Staff Activity. At their April meeting in Lincoln, plans were made to construct a contour map of the western half of Webster County, the setting for five of Willa Cather's books: O Pioneers, My Antonia, One of Ours, A Lost Lady, and Obscure Destinies. It is also the setting for a number of her stories. The relief map (4'x 8') shows the county in the colors of late June and soon will be on display in the museum. It is being constructed by Ruby Caha at the University of Nebraska Museum.

MUSEUM NEWS

Temporary quarters for the museum collection are on the second floor of the State Theater Building. Extensive redecorating was done this spring to provide a more cheerful atmosphere and to make room for new displays. Bruce Frame restored a table used in Charles Cather's office, Willa Cather's desk, and her high chair.
Summer Personel. Caretaker, Dale McDole. Receptionists: Gertrude Koon, Emma Bargman, Yola Swartz, Josephine Frisbie, Carrie Sherwood, and Bob Skjelver.

DONORS

Lydia Lambrecht, Inavale: A complete display of things sent to Mrs Charlotte Lambrecht by Willa Cather.
John March, New York City: Early magazines containing stories by Willa Cather.
Nebraska State Historical Society: Bound copies of the Red Cloud Chief 1900-1923.
Dr. Frank S. Hewitt, Hastings: Academic gown to be used in display of Willa Cather's academic hoods.
David E. Scherman and Life: Twenty-nine exhibition prints (16"x 20") of scenes from Willa Cather's books.
Louise Stegner, Omaha: Willa Cather's Red Cloud High School Diploma (1890), her letter from Naples to Mr. and Mrs. Goudy, and an order blank for her first book, April Twilights.
Other donors will be mentioned in later newsletters.

INTERESTING VISITORS

Mrs. Annemarie Puttkamer, Munich, Germany, is doing research for a book to go with a complete new German edition of Willa Cather's books.

Otakar Odlozilik, Prague, Czechoslovakia, is doing in Czech a series of impressions of places mentioned in some of Willa Cather's novels.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Stickney Coombs, Washington, D. C., were in Red Cloud to celebrate with the graduating class of 1907. In high school Mrs. Coombs was a student of R. C. Cather, Willa Cather's brother.

Makoto Ueda, Tokyo, Japan, a student at Washington State, is planning to translate into Japanese one of Willa Cather's books.

NEBRASKA ACTIVITIES

New Library. The Willa Cather Branch Library in Omaha was opened in November 1956. It was used as a model of modern library architecture at the American Library Association last winter. Our museum was honored to lend a number of its displays to the library for its dedication ceremony.

Book Fair. Temple Israel, Omaha, at its Book Fair in May featured and exhibit of colored scenes of Willa Cather country loaned by the WILLA CATHER MEMORIAL.

Professor's Podium. Dr. Frank S. Hewitt, Professor of English at Hastings College (Nebr.) in the February "Alumni News" cites the museum as an excellent research source. The Hastings College English department has made a tour of the WILLA CATHER MEMORIAL one of its projects in Modern American Literature.

We hope that other schools and colleges will take similar advantage of our facilities.

PUBLICATIONS

Our president, Mildred R. Bennett, has recently had published Early Stories of Willa Cather. You will notice as you read the book jacket that all proceeds will be given to the WILLA CATHER MEMORIAL. Already the Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Broken Bow, Cambridge, David City, Sidney, Superior, Valentine, and Wymore, Nebraska have purchased copies to be presented to their local libraries. Will you do the same?

MEMBERSHIP

We soon will be able to proceed with organizing Willa Cather Societies in cities of over 100,000 population. From Pittsburgh Mrs. Agnes L. Starrett and Mrs. Alfred W. Crozier report that by September there will be a Society formed and ready for a Charter.

Write for full information about obtaining a charter for your city.

REMEMBER

You can help the WILLA CATHER MEMORIAL by:

1. Buying Early Stories of Willa Cather. Send \$4.00 plus 12 cents postage.
2. Forming a Willa Cather Society in your city.
3. Buying a life membership in the Red Cloud Chapter for \$75.00.
4. Sending names and addresses of your friends who are interested.

Address correspondence to me.

Sincerely yours,

Miriam Mountford

Miriam Mountford, Corresponding Secretary
WILLA CATHER MEMORIAL
Red Cloud, Nebraska