

Cavett in NETV project

By Barbara Lutz

Former television talk show host Dick Cavett, a Nebraska native, was back home Tuesday to interview close friends of Nebraska author Mari Sandoz for a Nebraska Educational Television (NETV) documentary.

Although Cavett never met Sandoz, he said he is an admirer of her books and the life she wrote about.

The Nebraska Sandhills were the setting last week for the filming of Cavett's interviews with Sandoz's siblings, Jules, James, Caroline and Flora.

Time was essential, because Sandoz's oldest brother has terminal cancer, Cavett said.

Tuesday, Cavett talked with Sandoz's editor and publisher, Virginia Faulkner, editor of the University of Nebraska Press, and Dorothy Switzer, a former schoolmate of Sandoz.

The University of Nebraska Press has published five of Sandoz's books, including "Old Jules" and "Crazy Horse." Cavett said he enjoys Sandoz's nonfiction best.

Because of Cavett's appreciation for the Nebraska author, his family ties in this state, his understanding of Nebraska and

his talent as an interviewer, he was asked to narrate the Sandoz documentary, said Don Hall, NETV program manager.

Hall said he has known both Cavett and Sandoz. Because Cavett also interviewed John Neihardt, Nebraska poet-laureate, Hall contracted Cavett to conduct interviews for the Sandoz story, he said.

Cavett is being paid little more than expenses, the NETV director said.

Director Rod Bates said NETV is "trying to capture the real person" of Sandoz through Cavett.

NETV has wanted to do a documentary on Sandoz for a long time, Bates said, and it was not until the television station was awarded a remote film truck from NBC over a logo dispute that it was possible.

The film and recordings for the documentary will be entered in the NETV Heritage Library for research purposes, Bates said. Segments of the film will be made into an hour-long special or a mini-series, he said.

However, Bates said, it is unknown when the program will be aired.

Cavett said he was catching a flight back to New York Tuesday to finalize plans for a Public Broadcasting System daily or nightly talk show series.



Photo by Ron Ruggies

Nebraskan Cavett—a feeling for Mari Sandoz.

UNL professor analyzing impact of presidential debates

By Mary Jo Howe

Debating skills, relating to issues and giving a good impression on television are the most important factors in the presidential debates, according to James Klump, UNL assistant professor of speech and director of debate and forensics.

Klump is studying the debates between President Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter to provide an analysis for the Associated Press and local media.

"I am looking at the debates for three specific things," Klump said, "to determine who does the better job of debating, who will gain the most voter support from the debates and if the candidates accomplish what they want to accomplish."

Klump said he also tries to see which candidate will

gain the most voter support from the debates.

"This will depend on who makes the best impression and how the candidates relate to the issues. The style of the candidates is very important."

Klump said he thought Ford was "definitely superior" in the first debate.

"He refuted Carter's positions well in talking about his own tax programs, and in unemployment he managed to change the focus of the question in his favor. Ford also developed a central theme around decreasing taxes which was very good."

"On the other hand, Carter had no central theme and didn't pick out the weaknesses in Ford's arguments, missing many chances to refute Ford's position. For example, when Ford talked about his vetoing of congressional pro-

grams were, such as aid to the handicapped, which would show his support of compassionate-type programs."

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The second of three scheduled debates between presidential candidates Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter is tonight at 8:30. All three television networks will carry the forum live from San Francisco.

The candidates are supposed to discuss foreign and defense policy.

Technicians in charge of the broadcast have promised that technical problems which delayed the first broadcast for 27 minutes will not occur.



Evangelist Paul Hammond's traveling salvation show has seen poor attendance during its stay in Lincoln.

Photo by Bryant Brooks

Gospel revival preacher gets cold Lincoln reception

By Bryant Brooks

He looked a little like Elvis Presley with his long sideburns and 1950s hairstyle.

He normally would have been leaping around and waving his arm. His voice even quivers like Presley's when he brings the microphone to his mouth and asks, "How many of you have been tried by the Lord?"

Unfortunately though, the revival meeting was supposed to have started more than 15 minutes earlier. This night, like several nights this past week in Lincoln, the sermon had been cancelled.

Not frustrated

Paul Hammond, gospel tent preacher, stepped into the night air from the nearly empty 60- by 90-foot tent. The man did not look frustrated. He smiled as he admitted that sometimes he questions himself about his nomadic life and whether it is really worth it.

"As hard as I work . . . as many miles as I travel . . . isn't there a way I could use the same amount of money and energy to reach more people?" he asked. Tent revivals are a thing of the past. Hammond

said they had their peak about 25 years ago—before television and air conditioning. Nowadays, only a few people come usually out of curiosity.

"They take their kids and show them what it was like when they were that age," he said.

Hammond travels the country with his wife, Joy, his daughter Tammy, his son Paul and Pretty Boy Mac, the family's bulldog. Marty Kaffey goes with them and plays guitar at meetings.

Travel unsure

Hammond estimated he has one of about 40 or 50 traveling tent revivals in the nation. He said he has been through 40 states but does not have a set route.

"I just try to remain open to whatever the Lord says," he explained. "The whole world is so cut and dried. I don't believe that Lord wants it that way . . . A lot of people's problems are because they get strong-willed."

He walked back inside and straddled a folding chair. He said he was born in a trailer house in Texas.

His father also was a revival preacher.

"My father died when I was 12," he said. "I preached my first sermon at 17."

Owens tent

At 29, Hammond said he has had his own tent for ten years.

"It wasn't that I just sat down and said I want to be a tent preacher," Hammond said, noting it was just circumstantial.

"Within one week, a guy told me he'd give me a truck if I had a tent, and another guy said he'd give me a tent if I had a truck."

The ordained Pentecostal minister walked to the tent's doorway. There was no collection that night and Hammond, who said he needs to take in \$100 a day to cover expenses, turned to tell his family not to leave because he would be back soon.

"We gonna have a service?" one asked.

"We'll pray . . . or something," he said. He was still smiling.