



Capitol inspired author Sandoz, instructor says

By Kema Soderberg

Mari Sandoz and her relationship to the 50-year-old Nebraska Capitol was discussed by UNL instructor Claire Mattern in her speech to the Midwest Federation of Chaparral Poets Saturday.

Sandoz, born in the Sandhills of Nebraska, moved to Lincoln in time to see the Capitol be built. She later worked for the Nebraska State Historical Society, then housed on the ninth and 10th floors of the tower, Mattern said.

While working at the Capitol, Sandoz lived at 1226 J St. In one of her many personal letters, which usually included descriptions of the Capitol, Sandoz described how the Sower reached his perch:

"Sorry you couldn't see the ascent of the Sower to his permanent place of business. You might have liked it. Everyone except the blind, including the halt and the dumb, were there. With a giant crane on the tower and several steel cables, the chap started his chief rise in life, turning gracefully to left and to right as though scattering dormant life to all the winds, the morning sun red on his magnificent bronze chest. And suddenly a veritable cloud, including surely, every dove in town, swirled about the tower, greeting the Sower, I like to fancy. It was certainly symbolic, if accidental, and behind it all the blue - Nebraska blue - sky, the tower, a pedestal of silver."

Besides mentioning the Capitol in her letters, Sandoz also included the building in many of her books and short stories.

Mattern said Sandoz found the Capitol a "source of inspiration" and suggested that many times "the Capitol Building emerges as a character" in her work.

"Mist in the Tall White Tower," a short story, is based on an encounter Sandoz had with a starving boy in the Hall of Heroes, Mattern said.

Mattern said Sandoz's writings are "very timely," especially her book, "Capitol City." In this novel, she discusses the "turmoil of the times."

The Depression, union problems and scandalous politicians are a few of the problems mentioned in the book that Mattern said still are being dealt with today.

Mattern received her doctorate in English this month after completing a thesis about Sandoz.

State Fair route added

The Lincoln Transportation System has announced that during the State Fair, it is adding a special route between downtown and the fairgrounds to accommodate expected crowds.

The route will originate at 11th and O streets, the site of Gold's Galleria, and depart every half hour between 9:15 a.m. and 10 p.m. for the fairgrounds. Return service to downtown will operate every half hour from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. or whenever the last attraction of the evening is over.

Buses on this route will use the regular downtown loop, making the usual stops before ending up at the Bob Devaney Sports Complex, where a temporary bus stop will be established.

Fares on State Fair buses will be the regular LTS charges of 60 cents for adults and 35 cents for children. Transfers and passports will be honored.

Further information is available through LTS.

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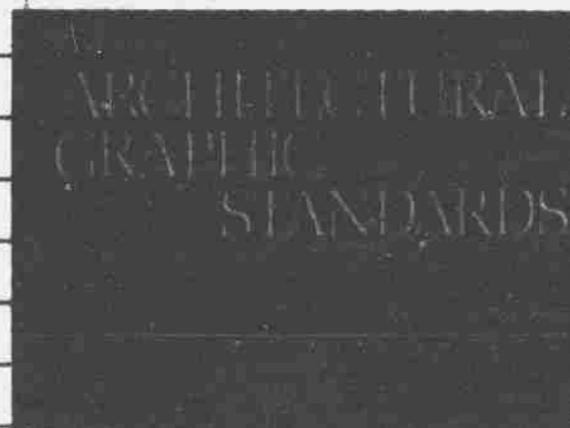


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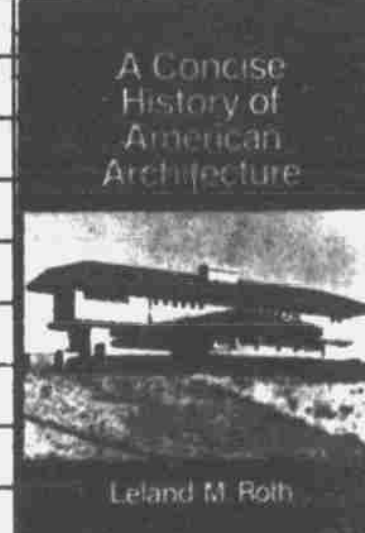


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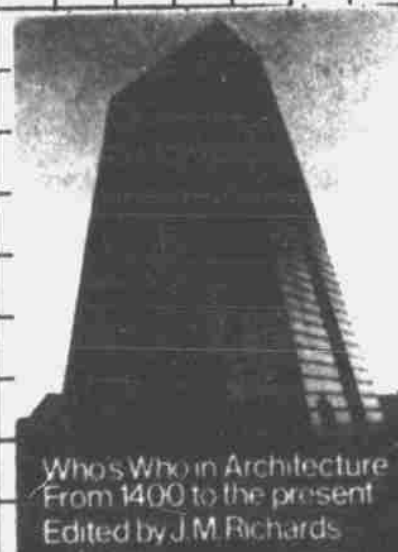
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