

March 8, 1983

PRESIDENT MCGINLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: This morning our guest chaplain is the Minister of Visitation at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Lincoln. I introduce now Reverend Patsy Moore.

REVEREND PATSY MOORE: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Roll call. Members, please record your presence. Members, please record your presence. The Clerk will record.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Quorum present. The Legislature is in session. Now to introduce to you Senator Marsh in line with Women's History Week.

SENATOR MARSH: This is all week Women's History Week and with that in mind we are learning more about Nebraska women in history. Senator Carol Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: This morning I will be telling you about Mari Susette Sandoz born in 1893, died in 1966. Mari Susette Sandoz, one of America's greatest authors, wrote some 27 books about the history and folklore of the Nebraska plains and the cattle country of the Old West. She grew to womanhood in the rugged sandhills of the Nebraska panhandle, the setting for most of her stories. Her hard work and fiercely independent spirit enabled her to accomplish what most would consider impossible. Born in a shack in Sheridan County she was the daughter of Jules Sandoz, a hot-tempered violent gun-toting Swiss immigrant. The oldest of six she was expected and did the work of a man. As a child she barely missed death in a prairie fire and was blinded in one eye during a blizzard. She started school at age nine, went as far as eighth grade and taught country school when she was sixteen. Between 1922 and 1930, she managed to get in three and a half years at the University of Nebraska and wrote her first book, Old Jules, the story of her father. The book was rejected thirteen times before it won the Atlantic Monthly \$5,000 nonfiction award in 1935 and brought Miss Sandoz, then 39, to national prominence. As a chronicler of the Old West for more than three decades, Mari Sandoz was noted for her colorful writing style and meticulous research. Her numerous books include Crazy Horse, The Cattlemen, Cheyenne Autumn, These Were The Sioux, Slogum House, Hostiles and Friendlies, The Horsecatcher, Miss Morissa, and Love Song to the Plains. She was awarded an