

EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue of *Heritage of the Great Plains* will have an appeal to a wide variety of interests—from sports buffs to military historians to literary scholars. Geographically, the focus is on the Central Plains—Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado.

Some of the best, and best-known, players in baseball (Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, and Walter Johnson among them) learned the game as boys growing up in Great Plains states (Oklahoma, North Dakota, and Kansas, respectively). Travis Larsen's article on semi-pro ball in Wichita describes the contributions that Hap Dumont made to the game, as well as to national morale during World War II. It is interesting to speculate on the effect that his attempts to integrate black players into the tournament may have had in helping to integrate the big leagues.

I have always been fascinated with nineteenth century diaries, especially when the life of some ordinary person happens to coincide with a major historic event. Sometimes we get added insight from these diary entries; sometimes they disappoint. I have both reactions to the activities Charles Eaton records while serving in the army at Fort Lyon at the time of the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864. His entries, from mid-1864 to late 1866, certainly give us a fascinating look at the life of a soldier on the Plains during the time of the Indian Wars, but unfortunately he had cut his foot a few days before Sand Creek and thus did not directly experience the aftermath of the massacre.

Nebraska, it seems to me, has produced more serious authors, especially in proportion to its population, than any other Plains state: Willa Cather, Mari Sandoz, Wright Morris, John Neihardt come immediately to mind. Thus, although I had not known of her before, I was not surprised to learn of Marion Marsh Brown, whose life and works are detailed for us by Dan Holtz. Although reared in the loess hills of far southeast Nebraska, not on the High Plains of Cather or Sandoz, Brown's writing nevertheless exhibits the same sort of connection to the land, the same quality of sense of place that qualifies her for a spot in the canon of Nebraska fiction.

As always, I hope that readers will enjoy and learn from these articles, as I did.