

EDITOR'S CORNER

On occasion, *Heritage of the Great Plains* is devoted to a thematic issue. Our recent edition with a Great Depression emphasis springs to mind as an example. Most of the time, though, managing editor Julie Johnson and I try to present a potpourri, a diverse assortment of offerings which we hope possess a capacity for appealing across a broad spectrum of interest. So it is with this, our Fall/Winter 1997 collection.

Lisa R. Lindell provides insight into a deservedly renowned author inextricably linked to this region in "Conquering a Wilderness: Destruction and Development on the Great Plains in Mari Sandoz's *Old Jules*." Lisa Knopp makes an intriguing contribution in her "Homestead National Monument: An Album," reminding us about an icon that retains a strong grip on the regional consciousness. "Indian-Hating and Popular Culture: The Iconography of John Wayne," by Seth Bovey, turns the spotlight onto a Hollywood Western star who became nothing less than an American archetype. Patricia Murphy's "The Years That Were Eaten: The Tree as Sacred Symbol in the Works of McPherson, Manfred, and Neihardt" brings together some seemingly unrelated folks to see how their roots (so to speak) unite through the symbol of the tree.

With this issue we inaugurate a new feature: "Ephemera," to which readers are invited to contribute. All we ask is that you query us before sending any fragile materials..

By the way, those of you who are teachers, and who do not yet receive our complimentary resource publication *Tales Out of School* will be put on the mailing list should you so ask. In a similar vein, our website at <http://www.emporia.edu/S/www/cgps/grplsst.htm> is available for your perusal, use, and suggestions.

Finally, all of us at Emporia State University's Center for Great Plains Studies wish you and yours a good New Year spent traveling smooth trails.

Ron McCoy
Editor