Seldom paid Badger liked his ‘credit’

by Ann Connery Frantz

It was his favorite poem, though it did not receive as much attention as A Cowboy’s Prayer from the public. But at least he got credit for writing The Job. He frequently became “author anonymous” when A Cowboy’s Prayer appeared on postcards, in magazines, even in anthologies. It is my personal favorite, too — the one I go to when just a few words of encouragement will do. So does his grand-niece, Shelly Lee of Rapid City, who is working arduously on the 1983 centennial celebration of Badger Clark’s birth, with the Clark Centennial Committee.

South Dakota’s first poet laureate, Clark continues to captivate South Dakotans 25 years after his death from lung cancer. Shelly attributes that high level of interest to “Uncle Charlie” as he was called, friendly and, above all, vivid. “When we did our film documentary on him five years ago,” said Shelly (who worked with her husband, Milt, on that well-received project), “we had a terrible time preventing people from defiling him. People loved him. So, we limited the interviews, removed the most ‘glowing’ things people said and put in a few of the truths about him, to make him more human. Like the fact that he was thrown out of college. A lot of writers like to put it in terms like College walls could not contain the man, but the truth is he was kicked out of Dakota Wesleyan. It could have been for smoking, he was a life-long smoker and that was a conservative college, or it might have been for drinking, although he was a teetotaler for most of his life. He may have drunk a little in college, though... then there was something about a goat in a dormitory room. A youthful prank,” she said. “That was probably true.”

His grand-niece shares the hero worship that surrounded Clark and}

The Job
Badger Clark

Badger Clark was as interesting a character as these photos of the state’s poet laureate indicate. His grand-niece, Shebby Lee, shared photographs from her collection.

Above, before he settled in the Black Hills, Clark traveled nation-wide, lecturing and reciting his poems. He “went native” in Miami. On his 29th birthday, Clark celebrated with his nieces, Naomi and Mary, and nephew Edwin, Shebby’s grandfather and Clark’s close friend. They lived in Hot Springs... On the lecture circuit, Clark was easily recognizable in the jodhpurs, tall boots and dark tie he enjoyed wearing.

Below, a bearded Clark with his father, Charles, Sr., a Methodist minister who served for years in Deadwood. The back of this 1900 postcard, written by his step-mother Anna, says the “two boys” are “having a fine time together... they attended the Corn Palace and visited Hays at Loomis. Charlie leaves in a few days to return to his ranch house in Arizona. He is very well but likes the dry climate better.” He stayed in Arizona four years.

In the middle, he is pictured with Anna, his “literary” step-mother, who helped him get his start as a recognized poet. At right, grand-niece Shebby and her family, with Clark at rear, left. He died when Shebby was 10, but left a vivid impression with her.

Shebby Lee

Photos
Agenda set for 10th annual history conference

"Charlie Collins - Dakota Newspaper Entrepreneur" will be profiled when Frank Vyraelek, Bismarck, N.D., author and historian, addresses the banquet session of the Tenth Annual Black Hills History Conference April 22 at the Holiday Inn of the Northern Black Hills near Spearfish, S.D.

The two-day conference will open with registration from noon to 1 p.m. on April 22.

"Preserving Our Culture" will be the theme for the opening session scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. All sessions will take place in the Swarm Room of the Inn.

Mike Reis, Lead, S.D., will lead off the conference with a presentation on "The Homestake Opera House: Preservation and Utilization." The initial session will also include "A Case Study of the Restoration of a South Dakota Historic Property: The Buell Building (in Rapid City, S.D.)." The topic will be discussed by Jim Wilson, Vermillion, S.D., Donovan Rypkema and Mark Thomas, both of Rapid City.

Following a coffee break at poolside, the second session, "From the Badger's Den," will get underway at 3:30 p.m. with two papers on the late Badger Clark, long-time South Dakota Poet Laureate. The first will be presented by Carolee Jeffries, Spearfish, who has titled her paper, "Badger Clark: South Dakota Bachelor Poet."

Shelby Lee, Rapid City, grand niece of the poet, will follow with "A Personal Reminiscence."

A social hour starting at 6 p.m. at poolside, will precede Vyraelek's banquet address.

On Saturday, April 23, latecomers may register from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Session III, "In Days of Yore," will follow with two papers: "History of the Cuny Table" by Virginia Lundenschlager, Hot Springs, S.D., and "Lieutenant-Colonel M.H. Day and the Dakota Militia of 1890" by Phil Hall, Rapid City.

The final session, "Probing and Preserving the Past," will start at 10 a.m. It will feature Paul Heidav of the BHSC faculty speaking on the topic, "Pursuing the History of BHSC," and Larry Hipsman, Pierre, S.D., whose topic is "Archives Work in South Dakota."

As usual, the conference will conclude with a noon luncheon address. This year's speaker will be Charlotte Forsberg, Spearfish, who will speak on "The Gingerbread Lady of Children's Literature: Laura Ingalls Wilder."

Registration will be $2.50 per person with the Friday evening banquet charge $8.50 and the cost of the Saturday luncheon $5.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Sever L. Eubank, chairman, social science division, Black Hills State College, Spearfish, S.D. His telephone number is (605) 642-6212.

Area writers are honored

Eleven Black Hills area writers received special recognition during the Second Annual Awards Luncheon held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Friends of the Case Library. The event was held at the Holiday Inn of the Northern Black Hills near Spearfish, S.D.

Certificates of appreciation were presented by the Friends organization in recognition of the work the writers had performed in disseminating information about regional history and fostering interest in it.

Among the honorees were Helen Rezatto, Case Library field historian, who is now writing her second book tentatively titled "Tales of the Black Hills," a veteran free-lance and creative writing teacher, Rezatto had earlier displayed as he took first place in a college sponsored literary meet. The topic area was world civilizations. Athletically he was the Mississippi state junior college singles tennis champion for two consecutive years, 1941 and 1942.

He was also a partner on the state's 1941 junior college doubles championship team. Eubank continued to display his athletic prowess as he won the Rocky Mountain Conference tennis singles championship in 1947 while attending Colorado College, where he completed his bachelor's degree that same year.

In 1964 the social science division chairmanship was vacated when Dr. Keith Jewitt was promoted to dean of academic affairs. The social science chairmanship was offered to Eubank. He accepted and remains chairman to this day.

Commenting on his tenure at BHSC, Eubank explained that social placement files in 1962, he was contacted by Dr. Russell Jonas of Black Hills State College concerning employment in the social science division. "He offered me a job over the phone...I accepted it," explained the surprised history professor.

"In 1964 the social science division chairmanship was vacated when Dr. Keith Jewitt was promoted to dean of academic affairs. The social science chairmanship was offered to Eubank. He accepted and remains chairman to this day."
Dr. Sever Eubank displays a framed picture of the archway in Ida Henton Park which was given to him by the BHSC Alumni during their annual Swarm Day banquet.

His first teaching assignment took him to Central High School in Jackson, Miss., where he taught social science courses and served as a part-time guidance counselor from 1947-51. It was during this time that he completed the requirements for a master's degree from Colorado College in 1950. Prior to a brief stint as a junior high school social science teacher in 1953-54, he began his doctoral studies at George Peabody College for Teachers. He acquired his Ph.D. degree in 1954.

Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., was the site of his first collegiate assignment as a professor of history from 1954-56. Leaving Texas, he assumed an assistant professorship in history at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, Okla.

Following the activation of his science course offerings have increased substantially during the past 20 years. Majors in sociology and political science have been added to the curriculum. "We have been able to put together an exceptional social science staff," noted Eubank. "In my opinion, it is one of the strongest divisions on campus." As far as future projections regarding the division are concerned, he would like to add majors in human services and economics. That, however, is subject to South Dakota Board of Regents' approval, he cautioned.

Outside the realm of academia he continues to pursue numerous civic and political interests. He has been particularly active in the Democratic Party. In 1968 Eubank served as chairman of the state platform committee. In addition, he has served on many other local political boards and commissions.

Serving on committees that relate to higher education has been important to him. He served on the state Internship Advisory Council and the regents' committee on curriculum development for the state's colleges and universities.

Associations outside of the education and political arena which have been personally rewarding for him are those dealing with health services and housing for the elderly. He is chairman of North Central Health Services, Inc. and Pioneer Apartments, Inc. He also serves as a board of directors member for Health Central, Inc.

As for the future, Eubank plans to continue teaching and directing the college's social science program. "I have always enjoyed my association with the various presidents and deans...it has been rewarding working with the staff and most of all the students," he reflected.

Appreciated

On behalf of the entire Board of the Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies I want to express our grateful thanks to Bob Lee for his work editing "The Black Hills Historian." It has been a masterful job and successful project. We will miss his expertise and wish him continued success in all his endeavors. This is the last issue under Mr. Lee's editorship as he has resigned. Thank you again Bob, for your support.

Irene Semones
President
Poet's Centennial

(Continued from page 1)

"Of course my stuff has been quoted and mis-quoted in many places but that is rather flattering to a small-time writer, and I don't mind so long as they keep my name attached to the verse. About the only wandering child of mine who has given me any trouble is A Cowboy's Prayer. It was written forty years ago last summer and is still going strong, so it may outlive me, which is a writer's dream. Its use on picture postcards, though, has been both amusing and annoying. Years ago a friend traveling in the West sent me a postcard published in Denver, bearing a cowboy picture and half of the Prayer, beneath which were the words Author Unknown... They had obtained the words from a Chamber of Commerce in Wyoming and had been assured that it was very old and very anonymous. They also said they had out 200,000 of the cards and could hardly call them back. Best of all, they said, Anyway, you ought to be thankful for the advertising we are giving you. Anonymous advertising!"

Another firm, contacted by Clark's cousin about the 'anonymous' tag on his work, received a reply which The Westerners Foundation also owns. In part it said...

"Mr. Badger Clark did include this poem of the 'Cowboy's Prayer' in his book 'Sun and Saddle Leather', but he is not the author of this poem. This poem is an old cowboy lament and has been published in various forms since the early frontier days of Wyoming. It appears in many old historical records of Wyoming and is always noted Author Unknown."

"Since the publishing of this Poet's Centennial, named him Poet Laureate in 1937, a title he wryly dubbed 'Poet Lariat' because the position carried no remunerative benefits but necessitated that he compose something for every civic occasion, dedication, anniversary and other notable event for the next 20 years.

He never married, although once engaged, while a journalist for the Lead Daily Call. Said Sheppy, "He ate two meals a day. He hated to cook, hated all domestic chores but he liked being alone more, so he never married to get somebody to do those things for him. He used to say, "No one would have me."

Clark died at 74, in 1957, when Sheppy was 10 years old, yet she remembers him vividly. She hopes that this year's activities will help fund a volunteer staff at the Badger Hole, as well as the repairs needed for upkeep. If all goes along according to a loose plan, the repairs will be done by the time the summer, 1983, tourist season opens. Sheppy hopes so. She wants to see the improvements made, like opening up the blocked up fireplace (which keeps squirrels from ransacking the cabin's interior).

"I don't go there anymore," she said, "the ropes, the runners to keep people off the rugs, the iron bars on the windows... they're necessary but I'm a purist. I'd like it as it was. Yet, I know that isn't possible. A fire in the fireplace would make it so much more homey."

Clark commemorative

The Fall River Historical Society opened up Badger Clark's 100th commemorative celebration with a Jan. 3 birthday party for the Poet Laureate, born Jan. 3, 1883.

That event, highlighted with personal reminiscences by people who met Clark in their younger days, started the ball rolling. More events are still planned.
Family histories focus of Lawrence Co. book

Deadwood, S.D.—The Lawrence County Historical Society has completed a year-long project culminating in a gold hard cover, five pound book.

The 728 pages include family histories of residents and former residents of Lawrence County. Nine thousand three hundred names comprise the index of families together with a total of 700 photographs. The general index of 800 items covers a section on environment—weather and climate, botanical history, geology, mining, business and banking, agriculture and cattle raising.

Communities of Central City, Crook City, Deadwood, Dumont, Elkhorn, Galena, Hanna, Lead, Nemo, Roby, St. Onge, Spearfish, Terraville, Terry, Tinton, Whitewood and Two Bit are summarized. Communications, education, transportation, disasters, government, law and health are included in the historic text.

There are two maps—Lawrence County, 1980, and Lawrence County, Dakota Territory in 1875. Books may be purchased at the Deadwood Public Library. Price each copy is $25 plus $2 for postage and handling, total cost $27 per copy.

Purpose of the Friends of the Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies as described in Article II of the organization's by-laws: “The purpose of this organization shall be to focus campus regional and national attention on the Leland D. Case Library as an appropriate center for studies, to stimulate gifts of appropriate books, letters, manuscripts and other memorabilia and to raise funds through memberships and other gifts.”
Many repeat donors among library contributors

Forty-one donors from four states and the District of Columbia have contributed research material to the Case Library since the last issue of The Black Hills Historian, reports Special Collections Librarian Dora Jones.

As usual, South Dakota continues to lead the list with 34 donors from 11 communities. Spearfish also continues to be a major source of material with 11 persons contributing to the ever-growing depository. Seven Rapid City residents contributed material while five Custer and three Sturgis residents are among the latest donors.

The names of three Hot Springs residents who have consistently provided gifts appear again on the latest list. Other contributions are residents of Martin, Sioux Falls, Deadwood, Lead, Pierre and Hermosa, reflecting statewide awareness of the Case Library’s mission.

Two donors each from Arizona and California are listed along with one each from Wyoming and the District of Columbia.

Although the list of out-of-state donors is small this time, Jones points out their contributions have been voluminous and significant. Boxes of material came from Arizona and the District of Columbia and this material is being accessioned into the archives on a regular basis.

Donors since the last report, by states, include many repeat contributors along with many highly appreciated new ones. They are:

South Dakota
Spearfish - Dr. J. Gilbert Hause, Dr. David B. Miller, Donald P. Howe, Dr. Paul Haiva, Dr. Sever L. Eubank and Donald E. Young, all of the Black Hills State College staff; Mrs. Kathryn J. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Myrtle G. Hanson, Mrs. Elaine Perry and Mrs. Lois Blosmo.


Custer - Mrs. Korczak Ziolkowski, James R. Mathers, Mrs. Francis H. Case, Mrs. Dorothy Deicate and Mrs. Martha Lade.

Sturgis - Mrs. Carol Davis, Richard T. Hart and Bob Lee.

Rapid City - Mrs. Genevieve Howard, Mrs. Elizabeth Doolittle, Dave Strain, John V. Leach, Harold Shunk, Dawn Mazzio and Bruce G. Helihoff.

Lead - Mrs. Irene Semones.
Deadwood - Mr. and Mrs. S. Cushman Clark.
Martin - Mrs. Grace Hays Hammer.
Sioux Falls - Alan M. Schwartz, archivist, The Center for Western Studies, Augustana College.

Pierre - Dayton Canaday, State Historian.
Hermosa - Peter J. Sterth.
District of Columbia
Washington - Tom Colosimo, Arrow, Inc.

Arizona
Tucson - Dr. William B. Steen and Dr. Leland D. Case.

California
Alhambra - Arthur T. Rainville.

Wyoming
Sundance - Mrs. Mary Garman.

Those familiar with the Library will recognize the names of nine Field Historians, five members of the Library Committee and three officers of the Friends of the Library organization among the donors. Letters of appreciation were sent to all donors by the Special Collections Librarian.

History scholarship deadline is April 10th

April 10, 1983, is the deadline for applications for the 10 scholarships to be awarded by the social science division of Black Hills State College, Spearfish, S.D.

Dr. David B. Miller of the division staff reports the scholarships for the 1983-84 school year will be awarded to entering freshmen who plan to major in history or other areas of social science at BHSC.

The scholarships are made possible through the generosity of Leland D. Case and the Friends of the Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies at BHSC. These scholarships are limited to residents of western South Dakota, Carter County, Montana, and Crook and Weston Counties in Wyoming.

Interested persons should send a letter indicating their desire to excellence of the applicant. Scholarship awards will be for $100 each and will be presented at BHSC when students enroll for the Fall semester 1983.

Prospective scholarship winners are nominated by their high school principals, counselors, and social studies teachers. A committee consisting of BHSC social science faculty members and representatives of the Case Library make the final scholarship award determination. Students are judged on the basis of their academic record, character, and commitment to historical studies.

Other divisional scholarships may be granted to incoming freshmen students in addition to the Case scholarships. The college will draw upon the pool of applicants for the above for the selection of the Social

A cherished friend gone

The Case Library lost a cherished friend and principal contributor when Joyce Case Wilson of Hot Springs passed away recently.

During World War II, Mrs. Wilson was the Fall River County Chairman of the United States Services Board.
Methodists publish Clark centennial book

"God of the Open," the first new compilation of the works of former South Dakota poet laureate Badger Clark to be published in many years, has been released through the Black Hills United Methodist Historical Society.

Clark was a son of a Methodist preacher in early-day Deadwood. The new publication, including illustrations and commentary, focuses on Clark's deeply religious nature and environmental concern for the western outdoors, said Dean Nauman of the historical society's publications committee.

Nauman, Louella Hottman and the Rev. John Leach compiled the book on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the poet's birth, Jan. 1, 1983. It is available through South Dakota United Methodist churches, the Dakota Wesleyan University archive commission in Mitchell and the history center the historical society operates in Deadwood for the preservation of Methodist-related history and church archive material relating to western South Dakota and the surrounding four-state region.

Science Division scholarship winners.

Letters of application should be received by April 10, 1983, and should be sent to:

Dr. David B. Miller
Social Science Division
Black Hills State College
Spearfish, SD 57783

Springs, sister of the Library's benefactor, died June 29, 1982. Services were held at the Chapel of the Hills in Hot Springs and interment was in the Evergreen Cemetery there.

She was born July 4, 1895, in Renwick, Iowa, the daughter of the Rev. Herbert L. Case and Mary Ellen Grannis. She attended Dakota Wesleyan University, South Dakota State College and the Mankato Commercial College in Minnesota.

She helped begin Nettleton Business College in Sioux Falls in 1919.

On Jan. 21, 1920, she married Clifford Allen Wilson, an attorney in Hot Springs.

Committee and received the Treasury Department's Silver Medal for distinguished service in war finance. She was a member of the board of directors of the Miss South Dakota Pageant for the first 25 years of its organization, serving as its executive director for six years.

In 1938, she helped to organize the Hot Springs Girl Scout Council and served as chairman of the Girl Scout Community Committee for seven years. During that time, she was elected first commissioner of the Black Hills Girl Scout Council.

She was past matron of Martha Chapter No. 22, Order of the Eastern Star, and was a member of the board of trustees of the Hot Springs Public Library since 1938. She was a member of the Hot Springs Business and Professional Women's Club and served as president of the South Dakota State Federation of Business and Professional Women Clubs. She was chosen the first BPW Woman of Achievement in 1951.

She is survived by her son, Allen G. Wilson of Hot Springs; two daughters, Mrs. Phil (Lois) Saunders of Chevy Chase, Md., and Mrs. H. Douglas (Dorothy) Fowler of Horicon, Wis.; 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and two sisters, Carol Goddard of Hot Springs and Mrs. Raymond (Esther) Sunderman of Le Sueur, Minn.

She was preceded in death by her husband and one brother, U.S. Sen. Francis Case.

An Open Invitation

Those interested in becoming Friends of the CASE Library (everybody is welcome) are encouraged to "saddle up" with those already in the vanguard of enthusiastic supporters. Cash contributions as well as gifts of western historical material are earnestly solicited. Make checks payable to Friends of the Case Library and mail to Richard Hart, treasurer, 1517 Davenport St., Sturgis, S.D. 57785.

Membership fees are:

- Annual Sustaining: $7.50
- Annual Contributing: $5.00
- Annual Endowing: $100.00+
- Life Fellowship: $1,000.00+
- Life Donor: $2,500.00+
- Life Benefactor: $5,000.00+

Annual Endowing Memberships are cumulative; ten will bring a Life Fellowship.

**Funds become Endowment Principal (only income used).**

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