

America's epic traditions. It has been said that Sandburg was a figure as prairie-haunted, and as rough-hewn as the Lincoln he had memorialized. Winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, Carl Sandburg ranged widely as a writer. His finest poems celebrated the lusty industrial growth of the Nation. The second part of his Lincoln biography, *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*, won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1940; his *Complete Poems* won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1951. Other works were—*Chicago Poems* (1916), *Cornhuskers* (1918), *Smoke and Steel* (1920), *Slabs of the Sunburnt West* (1922), *Rootabaga Stories* (1922), *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years* (1926), *The American Songbag* (1927), *The People, Yes* (1927), *Remembrance Rock* (1948), *Always the Young Strangers* (1953), and *Honey and Salt* (1963).

Carl Sandburg's roots were in the Midwest, but he spent his last 22 years in North Carolina where he wrote *Always the Young Strangers*, an account of his first 21 years, and considered by some as the greatest autobiography ever written by an American. With its vast collections of books, papers, correspondence, and its vivid association with Sandburg, the farm is a fitting memorial to the poet.

When Carl and Paula Sandburg looked for a new home in the early 1940's, they were seeking a milder climate and a more spacious residence. In 1963 Mrs. Sandburg visited western North Carolina and looked at several places, one of which was "Connemara," a 241-acre farm at Flat Rock, 20 miles south of Asheville. The Sandburgs acquired the farm and moved in after World War II in 1945.

At "Connemara," Sandburg continued his writing, turning out more poems, a novel, his autobiography, collections and condensations of his own works, and introductions and prefaces to books by others. He worked mostly at night, at his typewriter in the top-floor study. Farm chores called the rest of the family out at dawn, but Sandburg stayed in bed until midmorning and took his breakfast from a tray. He did not usually come downstairs until the noon meal. During the afternoon, he usually chatted with friends, tended to his correspondence, or walked about on the farm. Dinner was a relaxed, leisurely affair.

The Sandburgs lived simply at "Connemara." While Carl Sandburg moved easily among the great and famous, he never affected sophistication; nor was his house pretentious. The windows were uncurtained and the furniture was functional. The vast floor-to-ceiling bookcases, collections of magazines and clippings, boxes of letters, and other personal items and furniture will remain with the home and will become part of the interpretive program for the national historic site.

"Connemara" has from the 1830's been managed as a farm estate. The house was built about 1838 as a summer residence by Christopher G. Memminger of Charleston, Secretary of the Treasury of the Confederacy. The white colonial-style house, with its hewn timbers and floor-to-ceiling bookshelves in every room is surrounded by forests of white pine, oak, tulip tree, and maple. Thickets of rhododendron and flame azalea dot the landscape. Two ponds have been created on the grounds.

The interpretive theme for the national historic site will seek to preserve and carry forward the pastoral character of the farm, with which Carl Sandburg was so completely identified. As he stated at the age of 70:

"Why don't I live in Chicago? That's simple . . . I am a country boy. When I wake up in the morning, I've got to be able to see either the prairie or the mountains . . . When I am in the city, I feel like a visitor . . . I am not certain of myself . . . I can't think."

Self-guiding simple trails around the grounds and audio exhibits will be maintained to tell the visitor about Carl Sandburg.

Senator Moss. Our first witness will be the Honorable Sam J. Ervin, senior Senator from the State of North Carolina. I am happy to recognize you, Senator.

Senator ERVIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator Moss. You may proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. SAM J. ERVIN, JR., A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

Senator ERVIN. Mr. Chairman, I am indeed happy to give testimony to S. 3050, a bill to authorize the establishment of the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site in my home State of North Carolina.