



**News Release
For Immediate Release**

Date _____

Contact: Pioneer Memorial Library, 785/460-4470

Book and Film Series Continues with *Mules and Men*

Colby – Pioneer Memorial Library will offer the second in a four-part book and film discussion series about the 1930s entitled *Bright Dreams, Hard Times*. A book discussion of *Mules and Men* will take place on Thursday, March 18, at 7 PM at the library, 375 W. 4th St. Members of the community are invited to attend the free program. For more information about the series, contact the library at 460-4470.

The series is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council, a nonprofit cultural organization, in conjunction with the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua coming to Colby June 2-6. The Chautauqua will feature tent programs by scholars portraying famous historical figures from the 1930s: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Louisiana Senator Huey Long, Pentecostal leader Aimee Semple McPherson, writer Zora Neale Hurston, and humorist Will Rogers. The Council's Resource Center is furnishing the books, films, and discussion leaders for the Colby series.

Mules and Men is a treasury of African American folklore, compiled by folklorist and author Zora Neale Hurston. Ann Birney, an independent scholar and co-director of Ride Into History, will lead the book discussion. Birney will also be one of the leaders for the Youth Chautauqua Day Camp for 4th-8th graders offered during Chautauqua week.

The books and films in the series reflect the themes of the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua. The Chautauqua explores 1930s themes that are familiar today: environmental devastation, economic concerns, the relationship between Americans and their government, the flowering of intellectual and artistic activity, and the role of new media in American lives.

Upcoming *Bright Dreams, Hard Times* events include a screening of the documentary *Stories from the Dust Bowl* and a book discussion of *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. To check out books or for more information about the series, contact the Pioneer Memorial Library at 460-4470. For more information about the *Bright Dreams, Hard Times: America in the Thirties* Chautauqua, visit www.kansashumanities.org.

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