

NCB Quarterly

Nebraska Center for the Book

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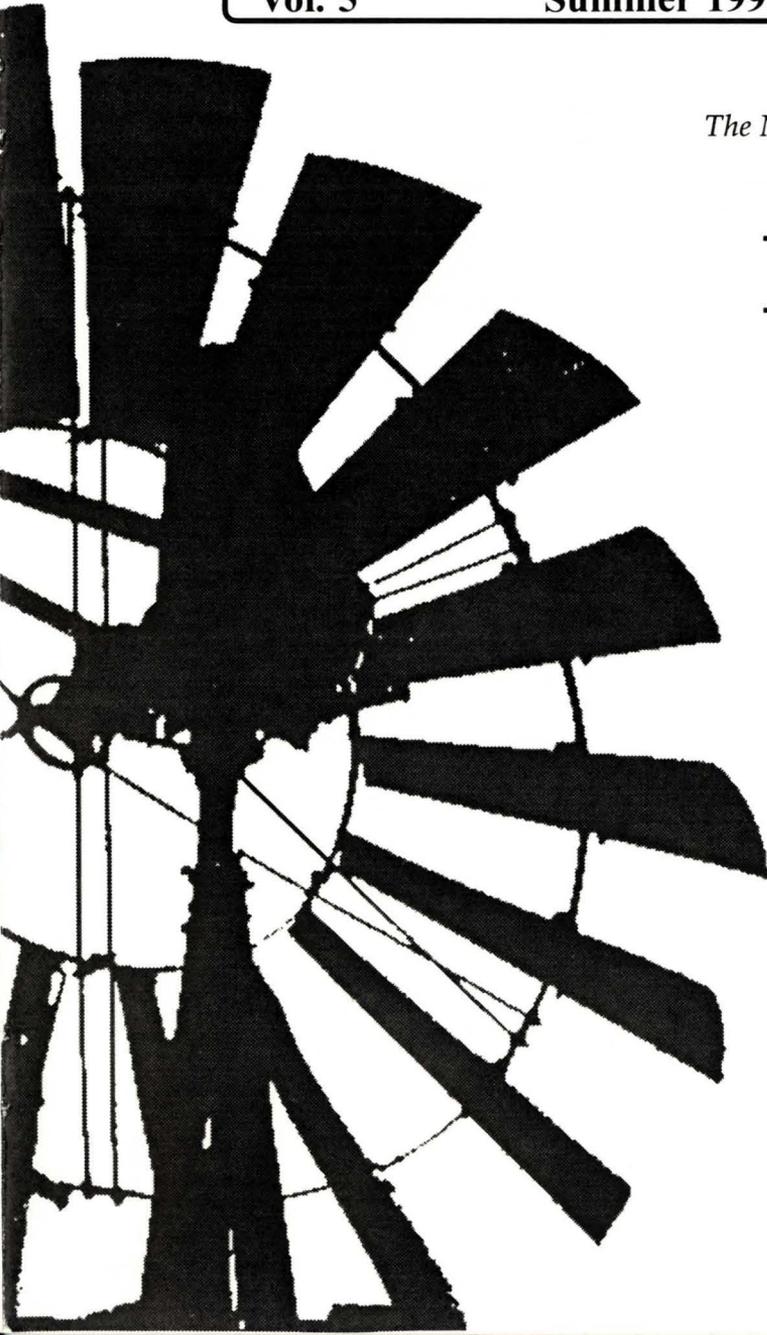
The Nebraska Center for the Book

an affiliate of the Library of Congress



Nebraska Literature Festival

September
22 & 23
1995





Board of Directors

The Nebraska Center for the Book is the 23rd state affiliate of the Library of Congress's National Center for the Book. The Center is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. The Center acts as a catalyst, bringing together individuals and organizations to build the Nebraska community of the book. The Center serves as a partner and supporter of programs, events, and unique projects which celebrate the written word. The current board members are:

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Rod Wagner	Lincoln

Nebraska Center for the Book Board of Directors Meetings 1995

August 31 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney

November 2 at the Heritage Room at the Lincoln City Library.

Note: All Board of Directors Meetings are preceded by morning programs and committee work convening at 9:30 a.m. All NCB members are encouraged to join us for these activities and become more involved in our planning programs. Members may also attend Board Meetings in a non-voting status.

NCB Quarterly is published quarterly by the Nebraska Center for the Book. Subscription is free with Nebraska Center for the Book membership. We welcome your contributions and correspondence. Write to *NCB Quarterly* c/o Lincoln City Libraries, 136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508.

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Golda Bockbrader

President's Message — Golda Bockbrader

The summer came and went so rapidly it is hard to believe.

In just a few weeks, school bells will be ringing and many youth will return to the task of learning reading and

writing. If you have a few spare hours, this would be an opportune time to offer to tutor and help those who are struggling with reading to keep up with their classmates and/or strengthen their skills.

Helping someone, at any age, improve their reading and writing skills is one of the most rewarding things a person can do. In my last article, "Shape Your Future — Read," which is the national program of the Library of Congress Center for the Book, was outlined and it is my hope that some of our members implemented some of their ideas. "Shape your future — Read" would also be the words of wisdom I would give each and every student in any school system if I could.

Those of you who are avid readers, may find it difficult to understand why anyone would ever struggle with reading. Trust me — there are many people in your communities who do not possess the necessary reading skills to cope with a changing environment.

The holiday season is quickly approaching and it is my hope that those reading this message, will consider helping with my pet project "Share the Joy of Reading." This is a project sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book which involves collecting good used or new books for distribution to needy children at Christmas. If you would like to start a project in your community, be sure to contact Lori Utecht who will chair the project this year.

The Nebraska Center for the Book board met in July and heard a report from Chuck Peek on the Literature Festival scheduled for September 23 at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Many hours of volunteer effort have gone into planning this event and all of you are encouraged to participate. See the information on pages 6 and 7. Advanced registration is encouraged.

The NCB Committees are functioning and tentative plans have been made to look to the future and determine goals and objectives for the organization.

In closing, I will say goodbye as your President. A career opportunity has necessitated my resignation as your President — but Tom Boyle and the Board members will do a great job in moving forward!



Life Stories

Peggy H. Benjamin

Peggy Benjamin has been collecting stories, memories, family stories, and historical stories to be published for the first time. She believes that these Nebraska stories relate personalities and actions contributing to the growth and development of our state. This is the reason it is important to record as many stories as possible, otherwise they will be lost. Peggy lives at Riverside Lodge in Grand Island, Nebraska, and is author of several books including *Andy*, the story of her grandson, a Downs Syndrome child. She is also a member of the board for the Nebraska Center for the Book.

The following story and the poems by Hannie Wolf and Helen Harris were collected by Peggy . She continues to work on the project and other stories will appear in future issues.

Memories

Mildred Jelinek

I had a very unusual childhood. When I started kindergarten at the age of five in South St. Louis, where we lived, I couldn't talk because I didn't know the right words and there was no one to teach me. My wonderful, loving parents were deaf mutes due to virulent childhood diseases. My mother had measles. My father had scarlet fever. The two met at the St. Louis School for the Deaf, where they studied through high school and business training. After they married, father, who was adept at machine sewing, earned good wages in a men's clothing factory. Mother, of course, stayed home, caring for my two younger brothers and myself.

Even though my kindergarten teachers were very kind and gave me special attention, I had to spend two years there before

advancing to first grade. I felt very ashamed not being allowed to go on with my classmates but I worked hard to make up the lost time.

I made new friends. When I reached high school, I could talk as well and as fast as my closest friend. Before long she and I became inseparable, sharing secrets, enjoying dates with boys we liked.

One day she told me her cousin was coming from Crete, Nebraska. His name was George Jelinek. His father owned a hardware store in Crete and George came on and off on buying trips. This time he surprised her. He had come to take a job with a friend of his father who was in the hard-

continued on page 8



Literary Chautauqua in Denver

The Colorado Center for the Book will present literary Chautauqua as part of the 1995 Rocky Mountain Book Festival. Literary Chautauqua combines scholarship with drama to feature famous figures from America's literary past. It is a highlight of the Festival which will be held October 13-14, 1995 in Denver.

Dramatizations representing the rich literary heritage of our country will include Bette Johnson, American Literature scholar from Mosca, Colorado, as Anne Sexton, Michael McCarthy, Professor of History, Community College of Denver, as F. Scot Fitzgerald; Lynn Miller, Professor of Performance Studies at the University of Texas, as Gertrude Stein; Thomas Napierkowski, English Department chair at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, as Geoffrey Chaucer; Ken Pellow, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, as James Joyce; and, Carrol Peterson, Professor of English at Doane College, as Jack London.

Festival visitors can meet their favorite authors; appearances are scheduled throughout the two days as well as other activities. The two-day event is free and open to the public. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days – October 13-14, 1995.

The Rocky Mountain Book Festival is held at Currigan Exhibition Hall in Denver. It is a project of the Colorado Center for the Book.

For information call (303) 273-5933.

A Community of Poets

David McCleery

Hello, Nebraska poets, regional poets, Lincoln poets, Omaha poets, local poets, minority poets, beat poets, women poets, men poets, gay poets, Chicano poets, Cowboy poets, African American poets, Democratic poets, Republican poets, Libertarian poets.

Hello, young poets, old poets, dead poets, published poets, unpublished poets, would-be poets, known poets, unknown poets, obscure poets, romantic poets, surrealistic poets, political poets, scholarly poets, good poets, bad poets, big and tall poets, poets with something to say, poets with nothing to say, wealthy poets, starving poets, high-class poets, middle-class poets, and poets of no class.

A big hello to, erotic poets, exotic poets, conatonic poets, poets of sex, sexy poets, freelance poets, free verse poets, free love poets, rhyming poets, found poets, un-found poets, and confounded poets, U.S. poets, world poets, African poets, tribal poets, poet's poets, anarchist poets, children's poets, concrete poets, ethnic poets, experimental poets, collaborative poets, handicapped poets, imagist poets, Jewish poets, nature poets, traditional poets, truly fine poets, finely tuned poets, naughty poets, and of course haughty poets.

Hello poets of association, poets of disassociation, and god help us, poets of free-association.

This years' Literature Festival offers a new resource guide on Nebraska poets (Twyla Hansen, Margie Saiser, Susan Strayer, Bill Kloefkorn, Don Welsh and Ted Kooser).

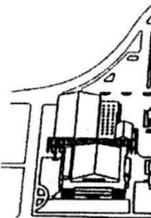
The Fifth

September 23, 1995

8:00 a.m.	U
	Aspen-Maple-Willow
9:00-10:15	Workshop: Writing Your Family Tree Marlene Plambeck
10:30-11:45	Workshop: Writing From Your Life Ruth Raymond Thone
11:50-1:25	
1:30-2:45	Workshop: Organizing Writers' Support Groups Jennifer Henry Diana Lambson
3:00-4:15	Workshop: Writing Poetry Ted Kooser
4:30-8:30	Voices of

Legend

1. Nebraskan Student Union
 2. Calvin T. Ryan Library
 3. Fine Arts Center
 - *4. Parking
 5. Parking
 6. Parking
 7. Parking
 8. Parking
- * UNK Ambassadors will assist you with parking when you register.



To pre-register

Mail to/call: Kearney Community Theatre, 83 Plaza Blvd, Kearney, Ne. 68847 (308)234-1529

*Pre-Registration Payment must be received by 9/14/95

Name _____ Date _____

Pre-registration

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| #1 festival day | \$3.00 |
| #2 festival luncheon | \$8.50 |
| #3 festival gala/buffet | \$15.00 |
| or #4 all three of the above | \$25.00 |

Address _____

Day-time phone () _____ Payment method *Check (enclosed)

Visa # _____

Mastercard # _____

Expiration date: _____

Signature for credit card _____

Nebraska Literature Festival

Nebraskan Student Union
and
Copeland Hall

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Registration, Book Fair, Photo Display, Open Microphone: Nebraskan Student Union/UNK
Ambassadors will assist you in parking at parking lots East of the Student Union on 28th St. and 9th Ave. See map below.

Music Room	Copeland Hall	Copeland Hall	Cottonwood
Writers Reading: Brian Jones Terri Shiffers J.V. Brummels Nancy Westerfield	"Visit with Black Elk" Hilda Neihardt 	"Aldrich and Cather: Their Early Stories" Diana Wendt 	Meet the Publishers and Producers Don Cunningham Carolyn Johnson Hilda Raz Dan Ross Sponsored by: NEBRASKAland Nebraska Public Radio Prairie Schooner University of Nebraska Press
Writers Reading: Eamon Wall Roy Scheele Nancy McCleery Marge Saiser	"Dramatizing Cather" Joel Geyer 	"Reflections of a Bonehunter: The Life of Loren Eiseley" Christine Lesiak 	

Festival Luncheon

Ponderosa Ball Room

Host: Helen Winter Stauffer

Program: Betsy Downey: "Mari Sandoz's 'Love Song to the Plains'"

Writers Reading: Susan Deal Hilda Raz Ted Kooser Barbara Emrys	"Mari Sandoz: Her Young Adult Novels" Sandoz Society and Friends 	"Wright Morris: Female Voices in His Life" Lone Tree Literary Society	Storytelling: Native American Stories Matt Jones
Writers Reading: Annette Murrell Bill Kloefkorn Twyla Hansen Don Welch	"Our State Capitol as 'Text'" Robert Ripley	"The Nebraska Roots of Weldon Kees" Steve Shively	Slide Presentation: "Kate Cleary: A Gallant Nebraska Lady" Susanne George

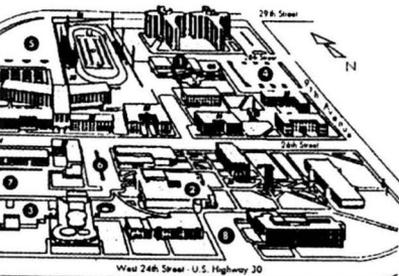
Color in Nebraska: The African Americans

Museum of Nebraska Art 24th Street and Central Ave. (free parking)

An evening of music and readings with buffet Host: Dr. Gladys Styles Johnston, UNK Chancellor

Featuring: **Annette Murrell** Lincoln's Queen of Jazz & Blues; and **Images** Special programs in the galleries with Mary Cloud and Rick Wallace.

Author's Images David Routon ©



Partial Funding has been provided by:



Theodore Baldwin Foundation
U.S. West

For the High School Festival on September 22, please call (308)865-8299.



Memories

continued from page 5

ware business. He would be staying in St. Louis indefinitely.

Since he didn't know many young people in St. Louis, she asked me if I would like to meet him. Reluctantly, I agreed.

I had never believed in love at first sight but the moment we met it was evident that we would spend the rest of our lives together.

One and a half years later we were married. In ten years we had four sons, Dave, Don, Randall and Howard. By this time we were living in Grand Island, Nebraska. Here our sons grew up and attended school. On his own Dave became a successful psychologist in Grand Island. Don remained in Grand Island as well. Randall and Howard moved to Colorado where they followed their father in the hardware business.

Shortly after moving to Grand Island, George and I opened the first Ace hardware store. Starting on a shoestring, we borrowed an additional \$2,000 from Mr. Knickrehm to buy shelving and stock them with merchandise to sell. His kindness and generosity gave us insight into the kind of people we would be dealing with in Grand Island.

All the while we worked hard and saved every penny we could to pay off our debt. George, through the association with his father in Crete, Nebraska, knew the hardware business well and never wavered in his management, and I, though I had much to do at home, spent long hours helping

George at the store. Taking the four boys with us to keep an eye on them, it was often midnight before we carried them home sound asleep.

During those early years, I often prayed for a daughter. Prayers that were never answered, much to my great disappointment. Why had God, who had granted me so many wishes, forsaken me in my most fervent prayer of all?

Suddenly I understood that God knew what he was doing when he gave us four sons, Without them, I would have been helpless. A complete failure.

George was stricken with heart trouble which later caused his death. Since he was unable to carry on the business as before, it was up to Don and me to take charge.

At different times Randolph and Howard came from Colorado to help out. Dave, who lived in Grand Island, was always there in case we needed him. But Don was my mainstay. With him at my side, our business grew and thrived.

George provided well for my livelihood and personal needs and care. With his usual care and foresight, I continue to live comfortably at Riverside Lodge Retirement Center. Here I share with the other residents the stimulating activities that keep us alert and in friendly touch with each other. When I have time alone in my apartment, I relive and relish my memories.

As I look back over the years, I feel blessed for my four sons who have had such an active part in their father's small beginnings to the realization of his dreams and for God's loving care.



Golden Sower Awards

When children participate in the selection process of the “best book” to read, all of us are winners. Librarians know what children’s reading tastes are and young people share enthusiastically with their peers — “the good book they just read.” The Golden Sower program in Nebraska is a wonderful program for fulfilling the needs of children for reading a good book and having access to terrific authors.

The schools have a major role in running the Golden Sower program, while the public libraries of the state play supporting roles. All of us try to have the Golden Sower books available for youth use. Libraries try to have as many copies of the books as is feasible in order to have the books accessible to children. The Lincoln City Libraries prepares Golden Sower bookmarks which are title and author bibliographies for the program each year.

Criteria for selection of nominees includes the guidelines that the books nominated should be worthy on a literary and/or artistic standpoint. Titles must be current and not Newberry or Caldecott award winners. Only fiction is considered and the titles must be in print when the book is nominated. The authors, and/or illustrators should be living in the United States. The Golden Sower committee also considers variety of genre, type of story, equity, reading level, and length when selecting nominees. If at all possible, children are involved in the nomination process in order

to have children participants at all levels of the program.

The fun parts of the Golden Sower award process occur in the spring and fall of the year. In the spring, the children of the state elect their favorite books. The children will have read all school year or had the books read to them and in April they make their choices. This award is definitely a children’s choice award.

The awards for 1995 are *Martha Speaks* by Susan Meddaugh for the picture book category, *Rescue Josh* McGuire by Ben Mikaelson for grades 4-6, and *The Giver* by Lois Lowry for the young adult award. The children of the State of Nebraska have chosen these books and hopefully in the fall at the NLA conference the authors will be present to receive their Golden Sower Awards from representative children in each age group.

The Golden Sower program in Nebraska is an outstanding process of youth involvement in recognizing their reading tastes. It also allows children to acknowledge their right to be discerning readers. Most often in the schools they talk with each other, their teachers and librarians about why books are special to them — for plot, character development, descriptive passages or for just plain excitement and fun. Children being involved in their reading likes and dislikes is the “winning” part of this program.



Innocence Lost

Hannie Wolf

On an April morning in 1995,
A great tragedy occurred.
In the heartland of America,
A vast explosion was heard.
Killing and maiming many,
From small children to the old.
Tales of horror and heroism began
to unfold.
What evil minds plotted the crime,
That would change our country forever?
The terror stemming not from without,
But from within our midst.
Striking at the heart of our country,
Where the north shakes hands with the
south;
Where tornadoes and floods mingle with
drought.
Will Rogers called this land "home."
Rogers and Hammerstein brought it fame,
When "Oklahoma" became a big name.
"Oh What a Beautiful Morning,"
Now is a song of mourning,
For the loss of our innocence.

Nebraska - Aksarben Is My Home

Helen Harris

There's a state that lies west of the
Mississippi and east of the great divide,
It's a state where the hillsides are covered
with cattle, and among them cowboys ride.
In the canyons the deer find protection,
there are trout in the streams nearby,
And a man can find a grouse in the corn-
field, over lakes there are ducks that fly.
Oh Nebraska Aksarben, is the state that I
sing of, where a man's way of life is his
own,
He can think what he thinks and do just as
he pleases,
O Nebraska, Aksarben is my home.
In the springtime, the wind steals your hat
and you like it, in the summer the sun
shines free,
In the autumn the haze turns to Indian
summer, as the last leaf goes drifting from
the trees.
O Nebraska, Aksarben, is the state that I
sing of, where a man's way of life is his
own,
He can think what he thinks and do just as
he pleases
O Nebraska, Aksarben is my home sweet
home, O Nebraska Aksarben is my home.



Classic Mysteries Reissued by University of Nebraska Press

Two classic mysteries by Mignon G. Eberhart, born and raised in Lincoln, have been reissued by the University of Nebraska Press.

Bison Books Editor Jay Fultz was a driving force behind the rediscovery of Eberhart. When Eberhart's failing health prevented her from taking part in reissuing these two novels, Jay interviewed her and her nephew William Vogelsang extensively to write new introductions for the books.

Originally published in 1929 and 1930, *The Patient in Room 18* and *While the Patient Slept* introduced amateur sleuth Nurse Sarah Keate. *While the Patient Slept* won a prestigious \$5,000 Scotland yard Prize and launched Eberhart's career. With Agatha Christie and Mary Roberts Rinehart, she

was one of the top-paid women mystery writers by the mid-1940s. Her novels remain in print today, translated into almost 20 languages.

Born in Lincoln, in July 1899, Mignon spent most of her first three decades in Cornhuskerdom. Part of her heart is still there: the family home stands on a busy Lincoln street and her parents are buried in a nearby cemetery.

Mignon Eberhart was almost ninety when she wrote her fifty-seventh and last book *Three Days for Emeralds*, for Random House in 1988. Today she lives in a condominium in Greenwich, Connecticut, with a large devoted dog.



Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference

October 14, 1995
Doane College Crete, Nebraska

For more information call (402) 475-1123
or write Nebraska Writers Guild • 941 'O' Street • Lincoln, NE 68508-3625



Attention Mystery Lovers

On October 25 in Kearney, at a pre-conference day of the Nebraska Library Association, the regional library systems have lined up a trio of experts to look at mystery and romance. Featured will be Dr. LeRoy Panek of Western Maryland College and author of *Probable Cause: Crime Fiction in America*. This program received major support from the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Open to the public, the day will close with a mystery dinner. For further details contact your local library or your systems library.

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