

The **NCB** News

Volume 11

Summer 2001

No. 2

A Publication of the Nebraska Center for the Book

Tenth Nebraska Literature Festival Set for September 21-22 at Peru State College

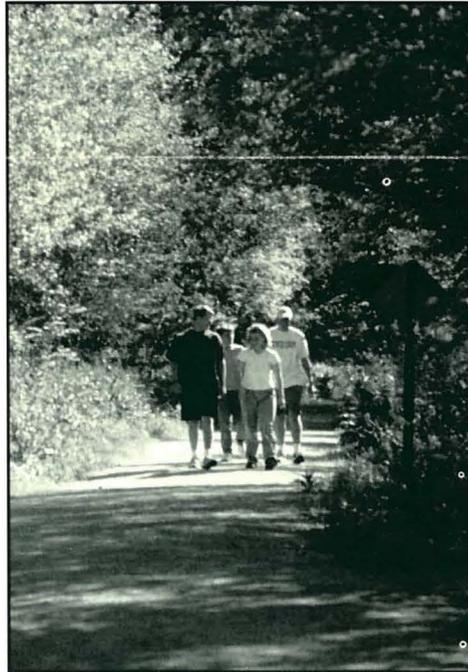
On September 21 and 22, Peru State College will host the Nebraska Center for the Book's 2001 Nebraska Literature Festival.

The tenth Nebraska Literature Festival will focus on living writers, with the theme, "The Writing Life." The two-day festival will provide activities for students and adults. Registration is free for all readings and panels.

Friday, September 21: Groups of authors reading individually, and panels of authors talking about why they write, how they write, and why they choose particular genres will be presented.

The Friday evening testimonial dinner honoring **Bill Kloefkorn** and **Don Welch** for their enormous contributions to Nebraska's literary heritage will be the central event of the Festival. **Governor Mike Johanns** and **First Lady Stephanie Johanns** will participate in the event, held at 7:00 p.m. at the Steinhart Lodge in the Lied Center complex in Nebraska City, twenty miles north of Peru. **The Mildred Bennett Award** and the **Nebraska Book Awards** will be announced. To reserve a place at the table, send a check for \$20 to Dr. Andrew Elkins, Dean, Arts and Sciences, Peru State College, Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010.

Saturday, September 22: Authors will read and panels of authors will discuss why they write, how they write, and why they choose particular genres. The evening will feature a fiddlers' contest, cookout, open mike poetry reading, and street dance in the historic, brick-paved downtown of Peru.



Peru State College Campus

Booksellers and Nebraska author organizations will present displays and books for sale at a Festival Book Fair. Book Fair participants include Aldrich House, Black Star Press, Friends of Loren Eiseley, Logan House Press, Mari Sandoz Heritage Society, Nebraska Book Arts Center, and John Neihardt Center. To register to participate in the Book Fair contact Dr. Andrew Elkins, Dean, Arts and Sciences, Peru State College, Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, 402-872-2237, e-mail: <aelkins@oakmail.peru.edu>.

Major funding for the Festival is provided by the Nebraska Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress,

Peru State College, and the Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC).

The NHC is a private, nonprofit organization funded with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the State of Nebraska and private contributions. Contact NHC at 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 225, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-474-2131, fax: 402-474-4852, e-mail: <nehumanities@juno.com>, home page: <www.nebraskahumanities.org>. ▲

Celebrating 75 Years of the "Prairie Schooner"

by **Gerry Cox**,
Nebraska Center
for the Book
Editor

Seventy-five years in the life of a literary magazine is something to celebrate.

Early in the history of the University of Nebraska, Willa Cather, Nebraska's best-known author, and her friends published their writing in the college's literary magazine, *The Hesperian*. In 1926, English Professor Lowry C. Wimberly was elected head of the board of editors of a new literary magazine. He guided the *Prairie Schooner* until 1944 when Mari Sandoz brought Karl Shapiro to the university and he took over the editorship. Bernice Slote succeeded Shapiro in 1963. Hugh Luke succeeded Slote in 1980, and present Editor Hilda Raz succeeded Slote. Only five editors in seventy-five years is unusual among literary magazines, as well as mainstream magazines.

Paul R. Stewart, who published *The Prairie Schooner Story: a Little Magazine's First 25 Years* in 1955, attributed this publication's ability to surmount financial difficulties that defeated most other "little" magazines to the longevity of its editors, their tenacity, and the breadth of editorial policy. As a result, "the *Schooner* has encountered more currents in American literature and a wider variety of social, political and economic conditions than have magazines of shorter duration or more specific direction. It has, of course, published a larger number and a greater variety of writers."

Nebraska writers Loren Eiseley and Weldon Kees worked on the first issue in 1927 which ran "The Vine," a story by Marie Macumber, later known as Mari Sandoz, the author of distinguished books like *Old Jules* and *Crazy Horse*.

Eudora Welty, who died at 92 in July, was quick to credit the *Prairie Schooner* for publishing four of her stories. Bernice Slote said, "One of Eudora Welty's earliest stories was published here. She has always said the *Prairie Schooner* gave her a start. And that's a good example of the magazine's intention and fulfillment." Slote was quoted by Al Pagel in the *Omaha World-Herald Magazine of the Midlands*, January 4, 1976.

Christine Pappas, who wrote a *Lincoln Journal Star* review of *Best of Prairie Schooner: Personal Essays* edited by Hilda Raz and Kate Flaherty, observed, "Even though the *Prairie Schooner* has taken on an international flavor of late, Nebraskans are still represented in its pages, as well as in this collected volume."

Joyce Carol Oates will headline the *Prairie Schooner* 75th Anniversary Conference, celebrating seventy-five years of continuous publication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on October 11-13. Oates, Marilyn Hacker, Greg Johnson, and a hundred other writers, will hold readings and take part in panels and presentations.

continued on page 3...

The **NCB**News

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Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

By-Laws

Molly Fisher, President; Joan Birnie, Vice President/President Elect; Katherine Walter, Past President; Dee Yost

Funding/Membership

Connie Osborne, Committee Chair; John Butler; Molly Fisher; Mel Krutz, Secretary

NE Literature Festival

Katherine Walter, Committee Chair, Past President; Jerry Kromberg, Treasurer; Kathy Johnson; Dee Yost

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Gerry Cox, Committee Chair; Richard Allen; Shelly Clark; Oliver Pollak; Mary Jo Ryan, staff

Awards Art Coordinator

Denise Brady

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner is an ex officio member of all committees.

2001 Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meetings

May 5

University of Nebraska at Omaha Library, 9:30 A.M.

August 11

Broken Bow Library, 9:30 A.M.

November 4, Annual Meeting in Lincoln, Gere Library

2-3 P.M., Membership Meeting

3-4 P.M., Board Meeting

Advertising

The *NCB News* can accept up to four 1/8 page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8 page. *NCB News* is issued May 1, August 15, and November 1. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; phone 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mjryan@nlc.state.ne.us>.

The *NCB News* is published three times a year by the Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023. Subscription is free with membership. Editor: Gerry Cox. Design and Production: Valerie Dayton. Staff: Mary Jo Ryan, Jacqueline Crocker.

All book cover art reprinted by permission of the publisher.

Students Encouraged to Plan for Letters about Literature Contest

December 1, 2001 is the deadline for students to enter the Letters About Literature 2002 national writing contest, sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Weekly Reader Corporation.

To spotlight the special relationship between young readers and authors, the Nebraska Center for the Book, as an affiliate of the National Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, invites Nebraska readers in grades four through twelve to write letters to authors, living or dead, describing how the authors' book or story changed the young readers' way of viewing themselves or the world. The contest

has two competition levels: Level I for students in grades four through seven; Level II for students in grades eight through twelve. Cash awards will be presented to the national finalists on each level and the Nebraska Center for the Book will award cash prizes to the top Nebraska essayists.

To receive a copy of the official contest guidelines, plus the required entry coupon, log on to the Nebraska Library Commission home page at <www.nlc.state.ne.us>, search on Letters About Literature or contact Mary Geibel at 402-471-2045, 800-307-2665, e-mail: <mgeibel@nlc.state.ne.us> for a print copy. Letters must be postmarked by December 1, 2001. ▲

What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?

The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are the people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Library of Congress National Center for the Book since 1990.

"Prairie Schooner" continued...

Teachers of creative writing will discuss the use of literary magazines in creative writing classrooms. One of the forum moderators is Robert Brooke, professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and director of the Nebraska Writing Project. For the past decade, he has used the *Prairie Schooner* and other literary magazines in his classes.

Conference Coordinator Kate Flaherty said, "We see this event as our chance to return to the Nebraska literary community the incredible support they have shown us over the past seventy-five years." Contact her at 402-472-0945, e-mail: <Schooner75th@aol.com>. ▲

Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail: _____

Name/address of a friend who might be interested in NCB membership:

- ___ \$15 Individual Membership
- ___ \$25 Organizational Membership
- ___ \$50 Octavo Membership
- ___ \$100 Quarto Membership
- ___ \$250 Folio Membership

**Please send this form and a check to:
Nebraska Center for the Book
The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023**

2001 Nebraska Literature Festival Schedule

The Writing Life

Friday, September 21

- 9:00 to 10:30 A.M. Readings:**
Susan Aizenberg
Deb Carpenter
Kelly Madigan Erlandson
Charles Fort
Bill Kloefkorn
Marjorie Saiser
Karen Shoemaker
Don Welch
Jan Chisom Wright
- 10:45 A.M. to Noon Readings:**
Jonis Agee
Ron Block
Annette Murrell
Leon Satterfield
Brent Spencer
- Open Mike:**
Creighton University and
Wayne State College Creative
Writers
- Panel:**
A Tribute to Larry Holland
J.V. Brummels and
Jim Reese
- 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. Readings:**
William Coleman
Twyla Hansen
John Janovy
Robert McEwen
Lyn DeNaeyer-Messersmith
Roy Scheele
Barbara Schmitz
Brent Spencer
Mary Helen Stefaniak
Fred Zydek
- 2:15 to 3:30 P.M. Readings:**
Ron Block
J.V. Brummels
Charles Fort
Neil Harrison
Art Homer
Nancy McCleery
Jim Reese
Robert Richter
Lisa Sandlin
James Solheim

- 3:45 to 5:00 P.M. Panel:**
Friends of Loren Eiseley

Saturday, September 22

- 9:00 to 10:30 A.M. Readings:**
Deb Carpenter
Charles Fort
Neil Harrison
Lyn DeNaeyer-Messersmith
Marjorie Saiser
Lisa Sandlin
Mary Helen Stefaniak
- Panels: *Small Presses***
J.V. Brummels and Jim Reese
*Organizing Book and Writing
Groups*
Nebraska Center for the Book
The Role of Research
William Coleman, Dan Holtz,
John Janovy, and Leon
Satterfield
- 10:45 A.M. to Noon** Susan Aizenberg
Ron Block
William Coleman
Kelly Madigan Erlandson
Nancy McCleery
Robert Richter
Barbara Schmitz
Karen Shoemaker
James Solheim
Mary Helen Stefaniak
Don Welch
Jan Chisom Wright
Fred Zydek
- 12:30 to 2:00 P.M. Readings:**
Jonis Agee
Twyla Hansen
Art Homer
John Janovy
Leon Satterfield
Don Welch
- Panels:**
The Land-Image and Reality
Charles Fort, Bill Kloefkorn,
and Roy Scheele



Invoking The Muse
 J.V. Brummels, Kelly
 Madigan Erlandson,
 and Barbara Schmitz

2:15 to 3:30 P.M.

Readings:

J.V. Brummels
 Bill Kloefkorn
 Nancy McCleery
 Robert McEwen
 Annette Murrell
 Roy Scheele
 Brent Spencer

Panels:

*Making It Real or
 Unreal?*

Jonis Agee,
 Susan Aizenberg, and
 Ron Block

Are There Any Rules?

Neil Harrison,
 Lisa Sandlin, and
 James Solheim

**Participating
 Authors**

Jonis Agee
 Susan Aizenberg
 Ron Block
 Kevin Boos
 J.V. Brummels
 Deb Carpenter
 Bill Clemente
 William Coleman
 Kelly Madigan
 Erlandson
 Charles Fort
 Twyla Hansen
 Neil Harrison
 Dan Holtz
 Art Homer
 John Janovy
 Bill Kloefkorn
 Greg Kosmicki
 Doug Marr
 Nancy McCleery
 Robert McEwen
 Lyn DeNaeyer-
 Messersmith
 Annette Murrell
 Chuck Peek
 Jim Reese
 Robert Richter
 Marjorie Saiser
 Lisa Sandlin

Leon Satterfield
 Roy Scheele
 Barbara Schmitz
 Karen Shoemaker
 James Solheim
 Brent Spencer
 Mary Helen Stefaniak
 John Walker
 Don Welch
 Jan Chisom Wright
 Fred Zydek

Registration is free for all panels and readings. For more information see <www.peru.edu/Arts-Sci/litfest/index.html>.

Peru-Area Lodging

Peru:

Peru State College Dorms (Centennial Complex)
 Renovated, new carpet, paint, Internet connections
 2 beds per room
 \$10 per night, BUT you must furnish linens. Sheets should be single, extra long.
 Contact: Ms. Erin Sayer, Residence Life, Peru State College, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, 402-872-2246.

Coleman Bed and Breakfast

Includes breakfast
 Single Rooms \$50; double Rooms \$55
 Contact: 402-872-7715

Auburn:

Auburn is thirteen miles southwest of Peru.

Arbor Manor Motel

Single, one person: \$41, extra person: \$7
 Contact: 1617 Central Avenue, Auburn, NE 68305, 402-274-3363

Auburn Inn:

One bed, one person: \$30.75; Newer rooms, one person \$34.75; Two beds, two people: \$42.75
 Contact: 517 J Street, Auburn, NE 68305, 402-274-3143

Cooper House Bed and Breakfast:

Includes breakfast
 \$60 for one person, \$65 for two persons (private bath, one bed).
 \$55 for two persons (bath in hall, one bed).
 Contact: 712 13th Street, Auburn, NE 68305, 402-274-3335

Palmer House Motel

(U.S. Highway 73-75 South):
 Double: \$30.75; Queen: \$32.75; King: \$42.75
 Additional Person: \$6;
 Contact: 402-274-3193

Nebraska City

Nebraska City is twenty miles north of Peru.

Apple Inn (U.S. Highway 75 & NE Highway 2)

Single: \$40.36; Double (two beds): \$50.22
 Queen: \$40.36; Queen (two persons): \$46.27
 King w/hide-a-bed: \$52.11
 Contact: 502 South 11th Street, Nebraska City, NE 68410, 800-659-4446

Lied Center

King or two double beds: \$109
 Contact: 800-546-5433

Days Inn

\$50
 Contact: 1715 South 11th Street, Nebraska City, NE 68410, 402-873-6656

Best Western (U.S. Highway 75 and NE Highway 2):

\$65 (two queen beds)
 Contact: 402-873-7000

Whispering Pines Bed and Breakfast (Highway 75)

Includes breakfast
 \$55 to \$65, some with private bath
 Contact: 21st and 6th Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, 402-873-5850

Sparrow's Rest Bed and Breakfast

\$50-\$75, one with private bath
 Contact: 1102 1st Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410, 402-873-4166

Review:

A Reliable Car and a Woman Who Knows It: The First Coast-To-Coast Auto Trips by Women, 1899-1916

by Curt
McConnell
(McFarland &
Company, 2000.)
ISBN:
0786409703;
paperback

Reviewed by
Bob Boyce,
Reference
Librarian, Lincoln
Nebraska City
Libraries

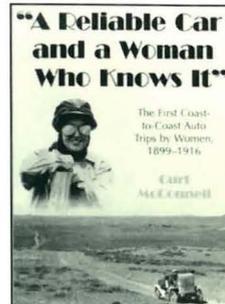
Nebraskan Curt McConnell gives us a well-written, thoroughly researched story of five early attempts by women to cross the U.S. in an automobile. McConnell's attractive book has exciting photographs and extensive quotations from newspapers of the day, magazines, and the writings of the women themselves. You can almost feel the mudholes, shifting sand, washouts, and heat of the sun these women endured.

McConnell makes it clear that these trips were not simply personal adventures. In each case, the automobile manufacturer provided extensive support, in the knowledge that success would be a major boost to their image. Mechanics worked on the cars at many stops. Pilot cars accompanied the women's cars to increase publicity, to help them find their way, and to provide assistance (when needed). Although they had support, each of these five women endured hardships such as slogging through miles of gumbo,

dealing with balky engines and broken axles, and winching their cars through gulches.

McConnell points out how these trips contributed to changes in attitudes. They showed that cars were more than toys, that they were a viable means of transportation, fueling public demand. The descriptions of poor roads contributed to the efforts of bicyclists, farmers, and others for better highways. The accounts showed that women could be competent drivers, as well as showing that women were potential purchasers and operators of automobiles. In these two latter points, the trips contributed to freeing women from sexual stereotypes of the time.

This is a good read—get a copy from your bookstore or library and enjoy!!



Postcards from the Past

by Oliver B.
Pollak,
Department of
History, University
of Nebraska at
Omaha

My law office is in the former Omaha Public Library. It was designed by Thomas Kimball and opened in 1893. A bronze plaque proclaims its placement on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Alongside the third-floor windows on Harney Street, are busts of Demosthenes, Aristotle, Socrates, Sophocles, Homer, Cicero, Caesar, and Virgil. On the west, on 19th Street, are Horace, Plato, Seneca, Herodotus, and Pluto. Above the second-floor windows are the names Schiller, Goethe, Dante, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Tasso, Racine, and

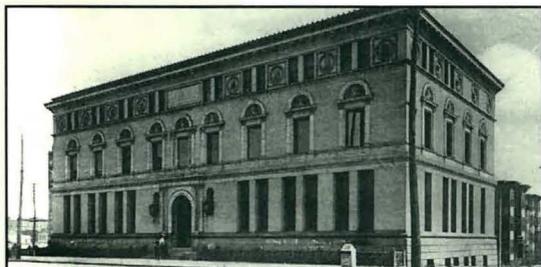
Corneille. On the west are Longfellow, Hawthorne, Emerson, and Irving. The library closed on February 16, 1977. It was rehabilitated with special attention to preserving the original exterior masonry wall roundels, copper roof, and interior iron staircase.

In April of this year I met Burnice Fiedler. This octogenarian has been collecting postcards for many years and has acquired about 18,000 views of Omaha. Even though some are multiple copies, it is

still a prodigious and unique accomplishment. Among her cache were eleven different postcards of the Omaha Public Library, at least eight of which were made in Germany, the major manufacturer of postcards. My mother, like many other children in the twenties and thirties, collected postcards. I have some postcards sent and received from the '40s through the '60s.

Libraries evoke memories. The Egyptian and UNESCO resurrection of the Alexandria Library shows the 2,000 plus-year hold of a memory, idea, and ideal. The Library of Congress, British Library, and Bibliotheque Nationale are national and international icons. Hannah Logasa worked at the library from 1904 to 1911 and remembered it in her will. Wright Morris recalls his father's wonderment at the library when returning some of his son's books. Tillie Lerner Olsen claims to have consumed A through M. I used this Omaha Public Library building in 1974 upon arriving in Omaha just before the library was closed and in 1983, I hung my shingle in the same building, the Historic Library Plaza.

Next issue I hope to highlight the postcards of other Nebraska libraries. Readers interested in sharing or obtaining postcards of libraries, contact <OBPOMNI@aol.com>.



Radio Programs Help Connect Readers and Books

by Gerry Cox

When book lovers look for something to read, they frequently rely on someone else's descriptions and opinions. I recently talked to reviewers from the two locally-produced, regularly scheduled book reviews programs on Nebraska radio. The first, *All About Books*, features two Lincoln pastors, Charles Stephen, who is retired, and Otis Young. They have given listeners information about thousands of books since before Nebraska had a state-wide public radio network.



Revs. Young (left) and Stephen in the studio.

Thirty years ago, the Reverends Darrel E. Berg and Clarence Forsberg were televising *Book Shelf*, a book discussion show on Nebraska Educational Television, and broadcasting *All About Books*, first on an A.M. radio station, and then on the original public radio in Lincoln, KUCV (90.9 F.M.). In the mid-1970s Forsberg moved, the television show ended, and Otis Young filled in on the radio station. Later, when Berg retired and moved, Young teamed with Stephen. Now National Public Radio Nebraska broadcasts *All About Books* at 12:05, Thursday afternoons, on 90.9 F.M.

Because both reviewers have led congregations during their years on air, I was curious about their parishioners' reactions to the different kinds of books they discussed. Both agreed that reaction to books they used in their sermons and on the radio program were well received. People are glad to hear comments about their reading. Stephen noted that parsons used to be the most educated persons in a community, which looked to them for educational as well as spiritual purposes.

During the session I watched, Stephen talked about the biography of John Adams and Young discussed the recent autobiography of Warren Buffett. Problems have been minimal with only a lost tape or two. The hosts complimented Jeff Smith, their engineer.

The Revs. Young and Stephen agree that they benefit from the enforced deadline of the program which is similar to having a sermon ready each week. They look for different kinds of works that have wide appeal, but don't discuss which books they will review, even though their interests are similar. Asked about which they deem important and which best sellers they like, Stephen named the recent David McCullough biography, *John Adams* that reveals Adams as one of the most important founding fathers. Young spoke of Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*, as did Stephen who also mentioned *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* by Simon Winchester. They both appreciated Dava Sobel's *Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His*

Time. Their advice is inexpensive and simple: "Try books on tape. Buy a book. Read to each other. Keep reading."

Lincoln radio listeners can hear a more eclectic literary discussion program on Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. on the community radio station KZUM (89.3). *Book Talk: A Variety Show about Books and Authors* has several hosts who take turns doing the half-hour programs.

The program premiered on Dec. 6, 1996. Lezlie Roper, then KZUM Development Director, asked Mary Jackson at the Library Commission to do a program about books, to be underwritten by Nebraska Book Store. Jackson enlisted help from Kit Keller, Mary Jo Ryan, and Sally Snyder at the Library Commission, and Pat Leach at Lincoln City Libraries. The premier show included all five "Booktalkers" and Keller remembered, "We each talked about one of our favorite books as a way of introducing ourselves to our audience."

Christine Pappas, a university graduate student, and Laura Lacy, a librarian at Lincoln City Libraries, later joined the group. They recruited Jerry Johnston to serve as volunteer engineer, succeeded by John Keller.

Usually the programs are live book reviews. Sometimes they feature author interviews, live or taped. Occasionally two or three people discuss a book. Often guests appear to review books or interview authors. The group meets several times a year to take stock of their work, consider any changes, and discuss upcoming programs. Highlights have been interviews with Mary Pipher, Marly Swick, Hilda Raz, Hobe Hayes, Kent Haruf, Kathleen Norris, and Sharon Oard Warner. Leach recalled discussions of Romance Writers on Valentine's Day and cook-books before holidays that are celebrated by feasting.

The half hour goes fast, but complications can arise. Tapes and CDs might malfunction. Some guests clam up during interviews, while others have plenty to say. Once Pappas invited her University students to discuss a series of Bosnian stories, *The Suitcase*. When no students showed up, Engineer Johnston played some music and they took turns reading excerpts from the book. Ryan says, "It's community radio, after all. We have had our share of equipment failure, dead air, building lockouts, and other minor setbacks. The only real disaster is when the book-talker or guest fails to show up. Then we tread water like mad."

These two programs complement other local and national network radio book discussion programs, (see "The Radio and the Book: Book-Related Programs on Public Radio" by Oliver Pollak in *NCB Quarterly*, Spring 1998). Radio serves as a tool to enrich reading selections. ▲

The NCBNews



Calendar of Events:



THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

an affiliate of the Library of Congress

c/o Nebraska Library Commission
The Atrium
1200 N Street, Suite 120
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023
34-00-00

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Lincoln, NE

**Literature Festival
September 21-22**

**Radio Connects
Readers and Books**

- John G. Neihardt Foundation Native American Art Show**
Contact: John Neihardt Center, 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net>September 9-October 15Bancroft
- Paul A. Olson Seminar**, Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082, <cgps@unl.edu>September 19Lincoln
- John H. Ames Reading Series:** Mary Stillwell, poet, Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors,
Contact: 402-441-8516, <heritage@rand.lcl.lib.ne.us >September 20Lincoln
- David McCullough on "First Principles,"** Governor's Lecture in the Humanities at Joslyn Art Museum
Contact: Nebraska Humanities Council, 402-474-2131September 20Omaha
- Nebraska Literature Festival**, Peru State College,
Contact: Andy Elkins, 402-872-2237, <aelkins@oakmail.peru.edu>September 21-22Peru
- Banned Books Week**, Celebrate Your Freedom To ReadSeptember 22-29National
- Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival**,
Contact: Janell Uffelman, 402-643-7318 <juffelman@seward.cune.edu>September 27-29Seward
- Pen Pointers Writers' Workshop: Elkhorn Valley Arts Unlimited**,
Contact: LaRayne Meyer, 402-396-3369, <lrmeier@ncfcomm.com>September 29Pilger
- Bess Streeter Aldrich Remembrance Day**, Lunch and Activities for the Family, Contact: 402-994-3855October 7Elmwood
- Prairie Schooner 75th Anniversary Celebration and Conference**, Joyce Carol Oates, Keynote Speaker
Contact: Conference Coordinator Kate Flaherty, <Schooner75th@aol.com>October 11-13Lincoln
- Neihardt Center: History of Todd Randall at Pine Ridge**, Charles Trimble, Presenter
Contact: John Neihardt Center, 888-777-4667, <neihardt@gpcom.net>October 14Bancroft
- Old West Days**October 11-14Valentine
- Nebraska Cowboy Poetry Gathering**, Contact: Mary Mulligan, 402-376-3834October 12,13Valentine
- Nebraska Writers Guild Fall Conference**, Contact: Hugh Reilly, 402-498-1994, <HReilly333@aol.com>October 13Seward
- Paul A. Olson Seminar**, Contact: Great Plains Studies, 402-472-3082, <cgps@unl.edu >October 17Lincoln
- Western Literature Association Conference**, Headwaters and Watersheds: Literary Tributaries of the West
University of Nebraska at Omaha; Contact: Sue Maher, 402-554-2772, <smaher@mail.unomaha.edu>October 17-20Omaha
- NLA/NEMA Conference**, Nebraska Library Association & Nebraska Educational Media Association
Contact: Sharon Osenga, <sosenga@nol.org>, Register: <www.nol.org/home/NLA/conf01.htm>October 17-19Kearney
- John H. Ames Reading Series:** Grace Bauer, poet
Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors, Contact: 402-441-8516, <heritage@rand.lcl.lib.ne.us>October 18Lincoln
- Woven on the Wind Reading & Book Signing**, Center for Great Plains Studies
Contact: Linda Ratcliffe, 402-472-3965 or Twyla Hansen, 402-466-5839, <cgps@unl.edu>October 21Lincoln
- Nebraska English Language Arts Council (NELAC)**
Contact: Clark Kolterman, 402-643-2988, <ckolte00@connectseward.org>October 22Lincoln