

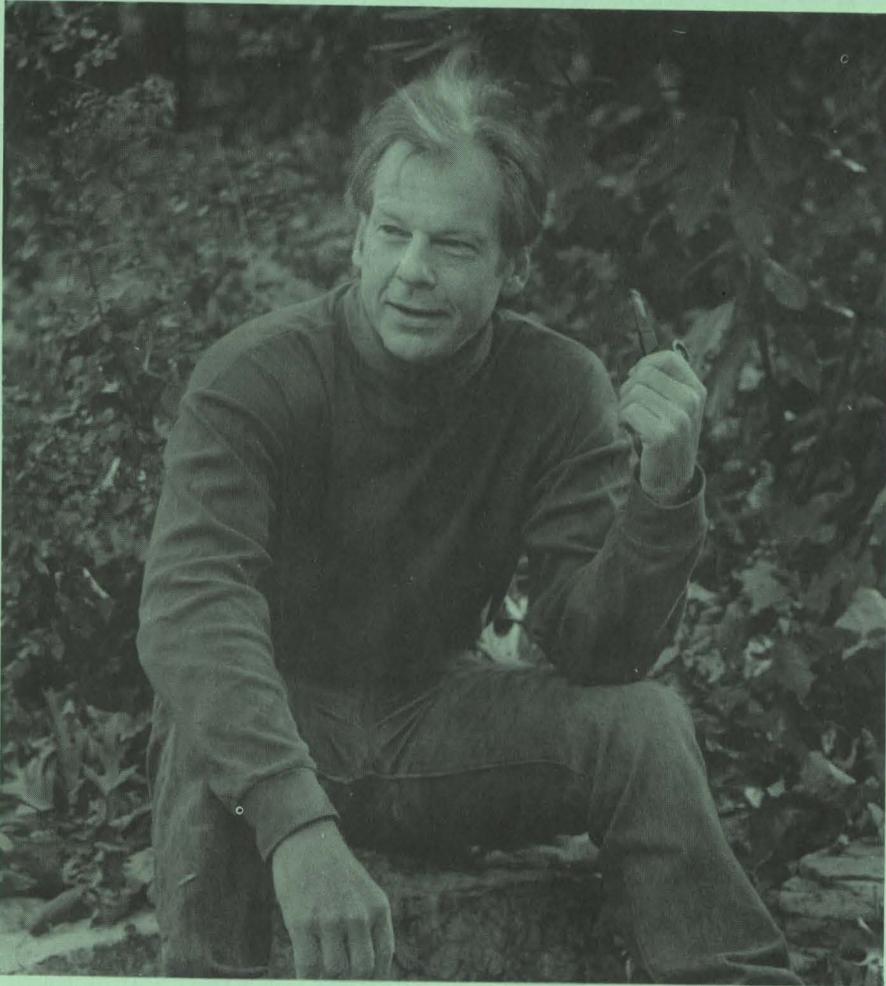
ARCHIVES

NCB Quarterly

Nebraska Center for the Book

Vol. 2

No. 2



National Book Award Recipient, Novelist John Casey



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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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David McCleery—*NCB Quarterly* Editor/Designer

Publication Schedule

NCB Quarterly is published four times a year: March, May, September, and December

Want to Advertise?

See page 11

About the cover: Novelist John Casey will be the keynote speaker at this year's Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Saturday, May 30th at Central Community College—Platte Campus, Columbus. Casey was the recipient of the National Book Foundation Award for Fiction in 1989 for his novel *Spartina*. Casey's other works include: *An American Romance* (novel), *Testimony and Demeanor* (short fiction). This year's Festival is presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book, in conjunction with the Nebraska English/Language Arts Council, and is sponsored by Central Community College—Platte Campus. Casey's appearances in Nebraska are made possible by grants from the National Book Foundation to the Nebraska Center for the Book.

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Jane Geske

Once a Librarian . . .



“Once a librarian...always a librarian.” That is one way in which Jane Geske describes her life. Since receiving her B.A. from the University of Omaha in 1941, through her work at the University of Chicago and as Director of the Nebraska Library Commission, to her current vocation as a bookseller, she has been in the service of books and people. “These are my great loves..libraries and people, and the combination is tremendous.”

Jane admits a fondness for the general library over the academic. “The academic library has a very great role to play, but the

general library needs to meet the needs of the individual. I think this is why I’ve always been fascinated by small community libraries. The small public library is never going to have the collection that it needs to serve the community, but it can serve as an access point in a very vital and a very crucial way.”

Even amid reports of funding problems for public libraries, Jane remains optimistic about their future and can cite numerous examples of small Nebraska libraries that have gone to great lengths to meet the needs

Continued next page



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of the community. "The library in a town of 300 like Thedford has gone far beyond what a city far, far larger has been able to accomplish for its citizens. It just depends on how the people of those communities want to reach out and take advantage of all the possibilities."

Jane's life has been a happy struggle to see that books are available and that people can and do read. "If people can learn to read, then the world is open to them. To be able to read, to be literate, is one thing, but it's up to you as to what you're going to do with it. Even in the bookstore I like to see that people buy the books that should have them. Some people say 'How can you sell your books?' Well, that's how you do it. Because, you say to yourself 'I've read it, I loved it, I want someone else to have it.'"

Jane recently was honored by her friends for her work in such organizations as the Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries, the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, the Nebraska Library Association, and the Nebraska Center for the Book. A Jane Geske Award will be presented by the Nebraska Center for the Book on an annual basis to an organization, business, library, school, association or other group which has made an exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries or Nebraska literature.

POEM FOR JANE

This happened more than twenty years ago.
There was a country wedding at a farm
set on a low green hillside where a red barn
tilted back into the past. Ours was a show

for the Sixties, though the Sixties were past
and the Seventies hard upon us by then,
Nixon in office, our long hair going thin,
our beads a little silly. We sat in the grass

and drank and smoked. Rosekrans was playing
acoustic guitar, Mike Burdic was blowing the blues
on a mouth harp. A thunderstorm came through
late in the afternoon, as we all were lying

drowsy from wine—a bathtub full of bottles.
The rain splattered over our smiles and we licked
our lips for the joy of it. We thought we lacked
nothing, for it was May and the world all mottled

like a scene from *Elvira Madigan*,
the light suffused and subtly dappled
under the blossoming, dripping apples.
The war? Oh, there was always that again,

but Nixon had promised to end it soon.
For this one day, we had set all that aside.
Sure, the groom had passed out, and his bride
was worried, but May was drifting into June

and we snatched at the day like a drifting petal,
laughing and loving. The Sixties were gone
but we didn't know it yet. We were out on
the edge of an age, but the clues were subtle.

We needed a sign that the world had changed,
that when at last our beads were scattered
and our tie-dyed T-shirts smudged and tattered,
we'd find our futures neatly arranged.

We awaited an omen. We were soon to lose
those hazy, dopey days. Then, following the rain,
we saw her coming down the hillside—Jane,
lifting her bright red rubber overshoes.

-Ted Kooser

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President's Column

-Dick Allen

The April 6 feature article on Nebraska Authors and their respective support groups or foundations in the Sunday edition of the *Omaha World Herald* reminded me of a document that turned up recently and on which I have been meaning to comment. The 37-page booklet, called *First Nebraska Authors' Week: October 23 to 29, 1923*, has the additional title "Also Containing A Directory of Nebraska Authors by Margaret Badollet Shotwell and Henry F. Kieser." The booklet was published by Kieser's Book Store, "The Pioneer Book Store," Omaha.

Margaret Badollet Caldwell was the then-Book Editor of the *Omaha Daily News*; it was at her suggestion that then-Governor Charles W. Bryan issue a proclamation, declaring Oct. 22-29, 1923, "Nebraska Authors' Week." Ms. Caldwell writes in her "Resume" that "the middle west is fast proving itself to be the source of the new realism in literature, and has become the birthplace of literary inspiration and ideals during the past five years." She cites as an example Willa Cather's winning of the Pulitzer Prize for the year of 1922 for her novel *One of Ours*. She further cites John G. Neihardt having been made Poet Laureate of Nebraska on April 18, 1921, and his having been awarded the Poetry Society Prize in 1919 with his American epic poem, "The Song of Three Friends." Further mentioned are Harvey E. Newbranch for having won the Pulitzer Editorial Prize for 1919 and Roscoe Pound, for having been chosen as one of the judges for the Edward Bok Peace Prize in 1923.

Ms. Caldwell goes on to say: "Nebraska has over 300 authors, who, although not prize winners, are doing work of a great value to the literary world and during Nebraska Authors' Week their books were displayed in the libraries and book stores of the state."

The many activities of the week are summarized and the resume concludes with the notice that a Nebraska Authors' Club was launched by George C. Shedd, acting president and Ms. Caldwell, secretary. "Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, Keene Abbott, and Mary Learned were named a committee to form the constitution and the by-laws for the organization."

My question: Does anyone know whether or not the organization was in fact established, what became of it, etc? Further information will be published in a later issue of this publication.

We are excited about the upcoming visit of a more recent author, John Casey, to our state. Casey is the recipient of the National Book Foundation Award for Fiction in 1989 for his novel *Spartina*. If you haven't yet had a chance to read it, I would recommend your doing so before his visit to our state May 29 and 30. The novel deals with the building of a fishing boat by Rhode Island commercial fisherman, Dick Pierce. In the course of the novel we learn a lot about Rhode Island, about commercial fishing, about the "haves" and the "have-nots" of

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that state (Pierce falls into the latter category). There is also an extra-marital love affair that has a more-or-less happy resolution. The boat, the affair, and the "swamp Yankee" personality of the protagonist come together to transcend the high degree of New England regionalism and realism and speak to the universal human condition.

John Casey is now teaching at the University of Virginia, but has already established a Mid-Western connection, so to speak, having attended the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop. His earlier novel, *An American Romance*, is partly set in that state. He will speaking in Lincoln on May 29 at 2 p.m. at the Christlieb Room, Love Library, UNL, Lincoln, and on May 30 at noon at Central Community College, Columbus Campus. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

Casey's appearances in Nebraska are made possible by grants from the National Book Foundation to the Nebraska Center for the Book. The grants, in turn, were made possible by a generous gift to the National Book Foundation from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, which promotes the growth and appreciation of the arts in America through community outreach, partnerships, and collaboration to support artistic endeavors. The National Book Foundation, sponsor of the National Book Awards, promotes the cultural value of good writing in America.

Good-byes & Hellos

A big thank you to Elaine Norton, who had found it necessary to step down from the Nebraska Center for the Book Board. Elaine has been with the Center from the first planning meetings and served as a very effective Membership Committee Chair. Her ideas and enthusiasm will be remembered! We wish both her and her husband Jim well in their travel-filled retirement years. We will all miss you, Elaine!

Elaine's unexpired term on the Board will be filled by Elmer Baker of York, Nebraska. Elmer will also serve on the Membership Committee. Elmer is Dean of York College and President of the York Public Library Board; he is also a member of the Southeast Library System Board. We feel fortunate in having him join us, and working with us to meld our membership into a true "Nebraska community of the book."

1992 NCB Membership Directory

CURRENT NCB INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AND THEIR INTERESTS

As of April 14, 1992, the Nebraska Center for the Book had 155 paid and 3 honorary individual members. (In addition, there were 55 paid organizational members for a grand total of 213 memberships. The fall issue of the *NCB Quarterly* will contain a directory and analysis of the Center's organizational members.) Thinking of the state as comprised of three sectors—Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney—the breakdown of individual memberships by sector is as follows:

Omaha (including Auburn, Bellevue, Columbus, Elkhorn, Fort Calhoun, Fremont, Greenwood, Norfolk, Papillion, Peru, Plattsmouth, Ralston, Wakefield, West Point, and Ames, Iowa): 72

Lincoln (including: Blue Springs, Crete, Eagle, Ericson, Fairbury, Geneva, Malcolm, Palmyra, Seward, York): 57

Kearney (including: Albion, Arapahoe, Burwell, Central City, Gordon, Grand Island, Hastings, Henderson, Red Cloud, Shelton): 29

Most of our individual members have furnished "interest codes" which appear in the Directory. (As you will note, individual members identified from 1 to 18 "interests.") A compilation of the interests of our individual members follows in descending order:

NE (Nebraska Authors)	90	ST (Storytelling)	26
LB (Libraries)	63	PB (Publishing)	19
WR (Writing)	63	PC (Popular Culture)	18
LC (Literacy)	60	PV (Preservation)	14
PR (Promotion of Reading)	58	BA (Book Arts)	13
RD (Reading)	58	IL (Book Illustration)	11
NH (Nebraska History)	57	PG (Printing)	11
DI (Book Discussions)	49	SP (Print-Handicapped)	11
CH (Children's Books)	43	SE (Book Selling)	10
CN (Censorship)	40	FL (Foreign Language)	6
TG (Teaching)	38	RV (Reviewing)	1
CO (Book Collecting)	29		

We hope that the Directory will serve a number of purposes: to enable like-minded members to contact one another, to enable the NCB Board and various committees to better plan programs and projects in keeping with our members' various interests, and to offer these at the most convenient locations for our membership.

(A note regarding the interest codes above. Since RD (Reading) and PR (Promotion of Reading) came out the same, we are inclined to drop one of these, probably the former. It is assumed that most of our members read and like to read. But the promotion of reading among persons of all ages is certainly a worthy cause—the combatting of "aliteracy," the condition of being able to read and not doing so.)



Publications and Directories Committee members Molly Fisher, Shirley Maly, Dick Allen, and Dave McCleery look over proposed logos for the Center.

Interest Codes

Book Arts	BA	Popular Culture	PC
Children's Books	CH	Printing	PG
Censorship, Right to Read	CN	Promotion of Reading	PR
Book Collecting	CO	Preservation	PV
Book Discussions	DI	Reading	RD
Foreign Language	FL	Reviewing	RV
Book Illustration	IL	Book Selling	SE
Libraries	LB	Print-Handicapped, Special Needs	SP
Literacy	LC	Storytelling	ST
Nebraska Authors and Nebraska Literary Tradition	NE	Teaching	TG
Nebraska History	NH	Writing	WR
Publishing	PB		

-A-

Abariotes, Polly

3920 Grand Ave.

Omaha, 68111

DI LB LC NE NH PB PG WR

Adair, Peggy

1871 S. 155 Circle

Omaha, 68144

CH CN LC PB PC PR RD TG WR

Adams, Kate

2226 Woodscrest Ave.

Lincoln, 68502

CH PC NE

Adamson, Tom

7325 Ames Ave.

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WR

Alexander, Harold

1105 South 4th St.

Norfolk, 68701

CO

Allen, Dick

2002 F St.

Lincoln, 68510

CO DI FL LB LC NE PC PR RD WR

Alfred, Betty

6220 Sumner

Lincoln, 68506

CH CN LC NE NH PR RD SP ST TG

WR

Apley, Dorothy

645 No. 8

Geneva, 68361

PR TG WR

-B-

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808 Elmer Ave.

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Baker, Dr. Mark

4822 Cleveland Ave.

Lincoln, 68504

BA CH CO IL LB PG RD

Bamesberger, Linda

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CH DI IL NE NH PR RD ST TG

Baucom, Charles Van

York College

York, 68467

DI LB NE NH

Beaver, James

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PB PC PR PV

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Bellamy, Marlys

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Bockbrader, Golda

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Grand Island, 68803

LC

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Boyle, Thomas

1005 N. Nye Ave.

Fremont, 68025

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Brill, Naomi

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Bumann, Margaret

15129 Adams St.

Omaha, 68137

CH CN CO DI PR RD WR

Busch, Nancy J.

Nebraska Library Commission

1420 P St.

Lincoln, 68508

CN LB LC NE NH PB PG PR PV SP WR

-C-

Callahan, Rachel

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Palmyra, 68418

RD WR

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Clarke, Vicki Pike
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TG

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CO CN RD RE

Studer, Dan
183 Oregon Trail
Lincoln 68521
CN CO NE NH PC TG

Swigart, Phyllis
810 Cedarberry Rd.
North Platte, 69101

Swingle, Ruth
Hastings Regional Center
Box 579
Hastings, 68902
LB LC NE NH RD

-T-

Taczek, Carol
856 17th Ave.
Columbus, 68601
LB LC NE NH PR

Trautwein, Robert
1512 26th St.
Columbus, 68601
LB LC

Trinkle, Ann
900 Calmar Circle
Bellevue, 68005
CH LC PR RD TG WR

Trojanowski, Julia Waggoner
3830 Cass St., # 6
Omaha, 68131
CH CN IL LB

Tuttle, F.M.
1910 Lake
Lincoln, 68502
BA CO IL LB LC NE NH PB PG PVRD WR

-U-

Utecht, Lori
P.O.Box 38
Wakefield, 68784
CO CN LC NE NH PB PR TG

Uzendoski, Emily J.
2323 Pershing Rd, Apt. 21
Columbus, 68601
DI NE PC ST TG WR

-V-

Van Waart, Ellen
2309 Lloyd
Bellevue, 68005
CN LB PR PV TG

Velde, John E., Jr.
8405 Indian Hills Dr.
Omaha, 68114
CO LB PR

-W-

Wagner, Rod
3205 W Pershing
Lincoln, 68502
CH CN LB LC NE NH PB PCR D SP ST WR

Warner, Karen
2009 Sunset
Norfolk, 68701
CH LB PR RD

Welch, Don
611 W. 27
Kearney, 68847
NE WR

Weymouth, Laura
6110 Meadowbrook Lane
Lincoln, 68510
DI LB NE NH PR PV

Whalen, Anita
12717 Miami Circle
Omaha, 68164

Wild, Lynn
412 E. 13th St.
Grand Island, 68801
LB NE NH SP ST

Wilken, Betty
855 South 37th
Lincoln, 68510
BA IL CN CH FL LB NE NH PC PV SP
PG PR PB ST WR

Williams, Jeffrey
15010 Eureux
Omaha, 68123
LC PB SE WR

Wolff, Silvia
411 No. 14
Ft. Calhoun, 68023
BA DI CN FL NE NH PB PG PR ST WR

Wool, Greg
611 16th St.
Ames, IA 50010
CN FL LB LC NE NH PC PR RD WR

Wydeven, Joseph
807 Waterford Circle
Papillion, 68046
NE

-Y-

Yost, Dee
724 E. 7th St.
Hastings, 68901
CH CN DI LB NE PR RD

-Z-

Zuegner, Carol
5435 Western Ave.
Omaha, 68132
CN LC NE PR WR

NEBRASKA CENTER FOR THE BOOK

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2

3

4

5

CALENDAR

1992: EXPLORE NEW WORLDS—READ!

May

- May 21 Lincoln. Poet Fred Zydek, reading in the Heritage Room, Bennett Martin Public Library, 14th & N Streets, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association, John H. Ames Reading Series.
- May 29 Lincoln. Novelist John Casey signing books, Nebraska Bookstore, 1300 "Q" Street, 10:30 p.m.
- May 29 Lincoln. "The Creative Process," featuring 1989 National Book Award recipient John Casey, Christlieb Room, Love Library, 2nd floor, UNL, 2:00 p.m. To be followed by book signing. Co-sponsored by Friends of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries and the National Book Foundation.*
- May 29 Columbus. Public Reception for National Book Award recipient John Casey, Columbus Public Library, Art Gallery, 2504 14th Street. 8:00 p.m.*
- May 30 Columbus. 1992 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Central Community College—Platte Campus, novelist John Casey, Keynote Speaker. Contact Dr. Mel Krutz, Co-Chair, Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Central Community College—Platte Campus, Box 1027, Columbus, NE, 68602, for more information.*

June

- June 3** **Kearney. "The Female Detective in the Mystery Novel," featuring Kansas mystery writer, Nancy Pickard, speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Meridian and Republican Valley Library Systems (location to be announced.) ***

July

- July 7** **Lincoln. NCB Board of Directors Meeting. Lincoln Public Schools Administration Building, 5901 "O" Street, 1:30 p.m. Dr. Clara Rottman, Host.**
- July 25-26** **Omaha. Used Book Fair. 6,000 books in all fields of interest. Holiday Inn Central, Interstate 80 at 72nd Street Exit, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

In The Months To Come

- Sep. 25-26** **Kearney. Second Nebraska Literature Festival, University of Nebraska at Kearney**

* The NCB Creative Process Series events are made possible by a generous gift to the National Book Foundation from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, which promotes the growth and appreciation of the arts in America through community outreach, partnerships, and collaboration to support artistic endeavors. The National Book Foundation, sponsor of the National Book Awards, promotes the cultural value of good writing in America.

Your organization is invited to submit items for the Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar, a free listing of literary and book events and activities in Nebraska. If you would like to be included, please send a description of the event; time, date and place, including street address; and a name and daytime telephone number for verification. Deadline for next issue is August 15th.

Send to: Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar,

Dave McCleery, Editor, c/o Lincoln City Libraries, 136 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE, 68508



Off the Press

Recent Books by or of Interest to
Nebraskans

Dragging Sand Creek
for Minnows poems by William Kloefkorn

Maternity Ward by Susan Stanley

Windmills
Walk the Night poems by Marilyn Dorf

The Tri-State Tornado by Peter S. Felknor

The Luckiest Outlaw by Harold Hutton

A Storyteller's
Ghost Stories, Book 3 by Duane Hutchinson

Eyewitness at
Wounded Knee by Richard E. Jensen

Thanks to Herb Hyde for supplying copies of his Sunday Lincoln Journal-Star book columns so that this listing could be compiled. If you know of other recently published books that would be of interest to the members of the Nebraska Center for the Book, please contact us.

NCB Seeks Calendar Listings

Your organization is invited to submit items for the NCB Calendar, a free listing of literary and book events and activities in Nebraska. If you would like to be included, please send a description of the event; time, date and place, including street address; and a name and daytime telephone number. Deadline for our next issue is August 15th. Send to:

Nebraska Center for the Book Calendar
c/o Lincoln City Libraries
136 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Authors Read Works on "Sound of Writing"

The Sound of Writing series, featuring authors reading their works, premiered Friday, April 3, at 10:10 p.m. on the Nebraska Public Radio Network's KUCV-FM (90.9), Lincoln station only.

The Sound of Writing will be broadcast on KUCV through June. Each half-hour broadcast features two short literary pieces by both rising and established authors.

Want to Advertise?

If you have a business or product that you would like to let people know about, *NCB Quarterly* is a great way to get your message out. Our advertising rate per issue is:

—full page	7" x 8 1/2"	\$60.00
—half page	7" x 4 1/4"	\$35.00
—quarter page	3 1/2" x 4 1/4"	\$20.00

NCB Quarterly prefers photo-ready ads. Typesetting and layout services are available to advertisers for a fee:

—full page	\$15.00
—half page	\$8.75
—quarter page	\$5.00

Deadline for our next issue is August 15th

Prairie Schooner

Selects Winners of Writing Prizes

Prairie Schooner has awarded a total of fourteen writing prizes for work published in its 1991 volume.

Linda Pastan is the winner of the \$1,000 Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing for two poems and her essay, "Washing my Hands of the Ink," published in the Winter 1991 issue. Pastan's eighth collection of poetry, *Heroes in Disguise*, was published by W.W. Norton in 1991.

The 1991 Bernice Slote Award, a \$500 prize for the best work by a beginning writer, goes to Marsha Truman Cooper for a group of three poems published in the Fall 1991 issue. Her poetry won first prize in the *New Letters* 1987 Literary Awards Competition and has been published in *The Bloomsbury Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and *Kalliope*.

Darrell Spencer is recipient of the \$500 Lawrence Foundation Award for the best short story in the 1991 volume, "Union Business," which appeared in the Spring issue. Spencer lives in Orem, Utah. His collection of short stories, *A Woman Packing a Pistol*, was published by Dragon Gate Press.

The 1991 *Prairie Schooner* Strousse Award of \$500 goes to Pattiann Rogers for a group of five poems from the Spring 1991 issue.

Rogers is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *Splitting and Binding* from Wesleyan University Press.

Debra Spark is the 1991 winner of the \$250 Hugh J. Luke Award for her story "The Year of Our Father" published in the Fall 1991 issue. Spark was editor of *Twenty Under Thirty* (Scribner's) and received a 1990 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship.

The first \$100 Edward Stanley Award is given to B.H. Fairchild for a group of three poems published in the Fall 1991 issue. Fairchild has published a book, *Arrival of the Future* (Swallow's Tale Press), and a chapbook, *The System of Which the Body is One Part* (State Street Press).

Prairie Schooner Readers' Choice Awards of \$250 each go to Nancy Willard for an essay, Michael J. Bugeja, Linnea Johnson, Christopher Merrill, and Xiaofei Tian for poetry, and Tony Ardizzone, Rod Val Moore, and Wenying Xu for fiction.

Prairie Schooner subscriptions can be obtained by writing to: *Prairie Schooner*, 201 Andrews Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 68588-0334.



NCB Spring Book Programs



Ruth Lenser, Tom Boyle, Elaine Booth, Barbara Leffler, Dick Allan, and Betty Alfred, discuss 1989 National Book Award recipient John Casey's novel Spartina. The book discussion was part of three public programs held April 16 in Lincoln and sponsored in part by the NCB.



Golda Bockbrader, Rev. Del Eslinger, Ann Trinkle, Robert Trautwein, and Karla Wendelin, share their views on the importance of reading. The public meeting was sponsored by the NCB and was held April 16th in the Heritage Room of the Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln.



Ken Lincoln



Mark Monroe

Lakota authors Ken Lincoln and Mark Monroe read and discussed their work April 16th in Lincoln.

Ken Lincoln, a native of Alliance and author of *The Good Red Road*, has written a number of books related to American Indian Studies, has edited some eight volumes on Native American Poetry, and has a book forthcoming: *Indi'n Humor: Biocultural Play in Native America*. He has been a

Professor in American Indian Studies at UCLA since the early 1970's. Mark Monroe is an author who currently lives in Alliance, Nebraska. He is active in Indian Affairs and on the American Indian Council.

The program was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences at UNL, The Nebraska Humanities Council, the National Book Foundation, and the Nebraska Center for the Book.

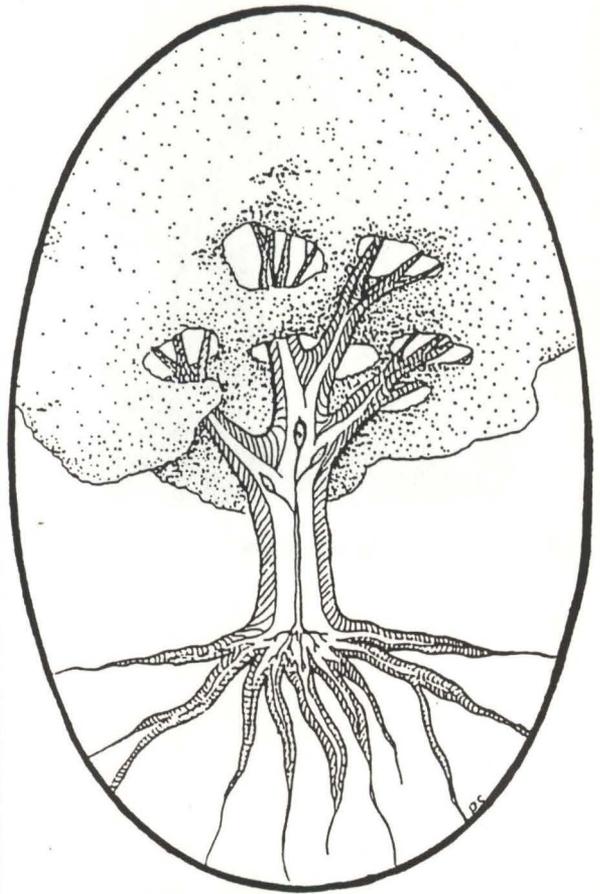


1992 Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival

The Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival has had a successful eleven-year history. It is held each year to enable Nebraskans to share their experiences in stories, poems, histories, and reminiscences. This year the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) is proud to announce that the Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival has become an official committee of the NCB.

This year's Festival is sponsored by Central Community College-Platte Campus, Columbus, and given additional support by the National Book Foundation. The Festival will be held on the campus of Central Community College-Platte Campus, Columbus, on May 30th. This year's focus is on writing as an avocation, and will feature workshops by writers who don't make their living primarily from their writing. The programs will cover a variety of topics, feature individual manuscript conferences, and exhibits by publishers and booksellers.

The 1992 keynote speaker is 1989 National Book Award recipient John Casey. Workshop leaders include Ted Kooser, Sheila Reiter, David McCleery, Leon Satterfield, Muffy Vrana, Lorraine Duggin, Connie Yost, and Robert Reed. Registration is \$40



and includes membership in the NCB. Registration for current NCB members is \$25. Registration deadline is May 22nd.

For more information, contact Dr. Mel Krutz, Co-Chair, Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival, Central Community College-Platte Campus, Box 1027, Columbus, NE, 68602, 402-564-7132.

Nebraska Center for the Book Committees for 1992

Executive (General governance, committee and committee assignments, over-all directions): *Dick Allen, Elaine Booth, Tom Boyle, Ellen Scott

Funding (General and festival fund-raising): *Rod Wagner, Tom Boyle, Kira Gale, Bob Runyon

Membership (Membership recruitment)
*Dick Allen, Elmer Baker, Peggy Benjamin, Joann Crocker, Jane Neal, Gari Pinkerton, Senator Jennie Robak, Robert Trautwein, Morrie Tuttle

Program (NCB programs including annual meeting): *Elaine Booth, Carol Connor, Morrie Tuttle

Liaison (Connecting with particular types of organizations and their membership recruitment; development of "targeted" programs and projects for these audiences): *Carol Connor, Golda Bockbrader, Brenda Cornelius, Chlorene Hardy, Mary Jackson, Barbara Leffler, Roland Luedtke, Bob Runyon, Ellen Scott

Publications (NCB publications and publicity): *Shirley Maly, Molly Fisher, Alyce Green, Fern Heim, Vernice Johnson, Dave McCleery, Mary Jo Ryan

Nebraska Authors (Special programs and projects dealing with Nebraska authors; Nebraska Literature Festival continuity from

year to year): *Molly Fisher, Kira Gale, Maxine Kessinger, Rita Price

Nebraska Writing & Storytelling Festival (Implementation of the annual Nebraska Writing & Storytelling Festival) *Mel Krutz, Dick Allen, Rose Beck, Rachel Callahan, Jean Johnson, Lorraine Duggin, Jay Garrison, Dave McCleery, Betty Wilken, Connie Yost

Nebraska Literature Festival (Implementation of the annual Nebraska Literature Festival): *Susanne George, Bob Clougherty, Hal Colony, Charles Peek, Kay Stahly, Don Welch

(* = committee chair)

Wanted:

NCB members with interest, enthusiasm and ideas for our Publications and Directories. Our goal-to assure that NCB print materials reflect the organization and its purpose. New logo and bookmarks are scheduled for Publications committee discussion, 1:30 P.M., Thursday, June 4 at the Nebraska Library Commission offices. Join our committee! Call 402-488-4026 for Publications chairperson, Shirley Maly or write Box 5041, Lincoln, NE 68505.



Literature Festival Scheduled for September 25 & 26 at University of Nebraska at Kearney

We have been working hard for what we hope will be another successful Nebraska Literature Festival. This second annual festival is scheduled for September 25 and 26, 1992, at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Thus far the activities planned include:

September 25:

This day is a special day dedicated to high school students. A variety of events scheduled are student/teacher panels, poetry reading, writing, and publishing workshops, dramatic presentation, and a "Brain Bowl" competition. Highlights for the day include Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn as keynote speaker in a general morning session and a special luncheon presentation by Dr. James Work, Colorado State University professor and specialist in Western Literature. Prizes will be awarded in various categories for creative writing and dramatizations as well as for the winners of the inter-high literary quiz bowl. Friday evening the Museum of Nebraska Art, who will have a special exhibit in conjunction with the Festival, will host a reception featuring a special program by Hilda Neihardt accompanied by her son Robin.

September 26:

Saturday offers a variety of options, and festival-goers may choose to attend any one of seven different sessions each hour. Panels of scholars and literary enthusiasts will hold lively discussions on the six major Nebraska

writers (Aldrich, Cather, Eiseley, Neihardt, Morris, and Sandoz) while selected speakers will present programs on the diversity in Nebraska literature with special subjects such as Weldon Kees, Tillie Olson, Louise Pound, and Malcolm X. In addition, Nebraska Native Americans, Sitting Bear (Matt Jones) and Phyllis Stone, will discuss the oral tradition and will explain Indian customs and traditions. Meanwhile, contemporary creative writers will be reading their works and workshops on poetry, fiction, and mystery writing as well as publishing workshops will be in the offering. Also, festival-goers may choose to watch video presentations of Nebraska writers or attend story-reading sessions with their children. In the Atrium and throughout the Nebraskan, bookstores and literary organizations will set up booths for your pleasure. The grand finale of the afternoon will be the special musical and narrative production, "Vision For All", an adaptation of Neihardt's *Black Elk Speaks* composed, arranged and conducted by Rick Swanson formerly with Mannheim Steamroller and Fresh Aire. Afterwards, the public will be invited to the University of Nebraska at Kearney Walker Art Gallery to view a special exhibit and enjoy refreshments.

As you can see another exciting and instructive festival is in the making!

-Susanne George, Chair



From the Editor: Big and Tall Books

-David McCleery

War and Peace is the classic “Big” book. Of all the big long books, I mean the truly fat books, *War and Peace* is the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. *The Brothers Karamozov*, is another that weighs in on the heavy side. So does anything by James Michner. The *Bible* is a pretty healthy specimen (but only when printed in large type) and *The Norton Anthology of Poetry* can make most poets' arms a little weak. Simone de Beauvoir had a couple of big ones. Henry Miller did too.

Yea, I do like a book with some heft. I like a book that takes two hands to handle—a book that when you drop it on your foot you know your big toenail's a goner.

I know there are others like me out there — hungry readers who get all weak in the knees when they pass one of those behemoth Webster's in the public library, who judge a book not by its cover, but by the thickness of its spine.

So what makes us so fond of the big book? For one thing, I think we admire the book's ambition in the same way we admire large buildings, or the marathon runner. In a world where healthy, well placed ambition is not always encouraged or valued, the big book thumbs its nose at the paltry effort, the quick fix, and the easy road. In a world

where experience is often reduced to a two-hour screenplay, or an evening at the opera, the big book is a testament to human endurance, concentration, and imagination.

When we first take up the big book there is an immediate understanding that reading it isn't something we can do without a great expenditure of time. To read the book is going to require a commitment which says that literature and reading are an important use of our time. Literature has been so repressed and de-emphasized in the last half century that big books, new or old, are testaments that reading is still important, that human experience is complicated and not easily defined or labeled.

I've made my commitment to big books. Once I even played around with the idea of starting my own book club. I couldn't call it the “Book of the Month Club”. For one thing that name's already taken, and besides the books I'd offer would be so damn long you couldn't read them in a month. I'd call my club, “The Book of the Year Club”. We'd have one selection and that would be that. It would be some obscure novel so heavy that you'd have to take out a loan just to pay the postage. I also considered starting a chain of bookstores, Big and Tall Books. No book would be under 400 pages.

Novelist John Casey

Here May 29 & 30

Novelist, short story writer, critic, and nonfiction writer John Casey will be in Lincoln and Columbus, May 29th and 30th respectively. Casey will be speaking in Lincoln at 2:00 p.m. at the Christlieb Room, Love Library, UNL, and on May 30 at noon at Central Community College-Platte Campus, Columbus. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

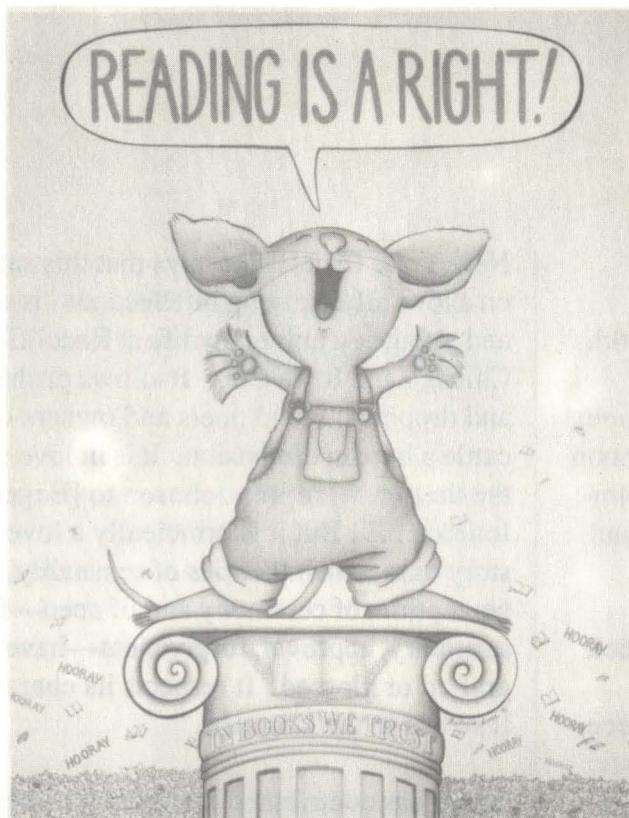
Casey is the recipient of the National Book Award for Fiction in 1989 for his novel *Spartina*. *Spartina* focuses on Dick Pierce, a brooding, quick-tempered, individualistic fisherman who lives off the coast of Rhode Island. At odds with the local fish-and-game laws as well as his wealthy neighbors, Pierce plans to build a fishing vessel in order to live a self-sufficient existence and provide for his family. Susan Kenny noted: "It is [Casey's] fearless romantic insistence on lyric, even mythic symbolism, coupled with the relentless salt-smack clarity of realistic detail, that makes *Spartina* just possibly the best American novel about going fishing since *The Old Man and the Sea*, maybe even *Moby Dick*."

Casey's first novel, *An American Romance*, Atheneum, 1977, drew some admiring notices from critics like John Leonard of the

New York Times, who says that this satire on a love affair among intellectuals "is witty and savage on university life at Radcliffe, in Chicago and Iowa City. It allows pushers and dropouts, failed poets and owners of cattle a human dimension. It is in love with the theater, from Ben Johnson to [Eugene] Ionesco But it is principally a love story onto which theories of sensuality, of perception, of ceremony and of need—for sanctuary, approval, forgiveness—have been grafted or glossed. It respects its characters. It swims in the language."

Casey has contributed to numerous magazines, including *New Yorker*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *Ploughshares*, and *Shenandoah*, and to newspapers. His other works include: *Testimony and De-meanor* (short stories and novella), Knopf, 1979; (Author of afterword) *The Stories of Breece D'J Pancake*, Little Brown, 1983; *South Country* (novel), Knopf, 1988.

Casey has been the recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.



Reading is a Right!, a new Children's Book Council poster, urges children to celebrate their freedom to read. This 17" x 22" poster by Felicia Bond is only \$4.95 (prepaid only), and can be featured during Banned Books Week celebrations September 26—October 3, 1992. The poster is an effective reminder any time of the year of the importance of the First Amendment. For further information send a self-addressed, stamped (1 oz., 1st class) #10 envelope with a request for "Materials Brochure" to: Children's Book Council, 568 Broadway, Suite 404, New York, NY 10012.



EXPLORE NEW WORLDS—READ!
THE CENTER FOR THE BOOK

In Our Next Issue:

Beginning in the next issue of the *NCB Quarterly* (September) look for a selection of poetry and prose from participants in this year's Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festival! We will also be printing our directory of Nebraska book discussion groups compiled by Barbara Leffler.

If you know of anyone interested in book discussion or creative writing please let them know about the Nebraska Center for the Book!

Individual Membership

Renewal _____ New _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone with area code (not for directory use): Home _____ Work _____

Will you serve on a committee? _____ Comments: _____

**Each year we will publish a membership directory.
Help us learn your Center for the Book interests by circling all that apply:**

Book Arts	BA	Popular Culture	PC
Children's Books	CH	Printing	PG
Censorship, Right to Read	CN	Promotion of Reading	PR
Book Collecting	CO	Preservation	PV
Book Discussions	DI	Reading	RD
Foreign Language	FL	Reviewing	RV
Book Illustration	IL	Book Selling	SE
Libraries	LB	Print-Handicapped,	
Literacy	LC	Special Needs	SP
Nebraska Authors and		Storytelling	ST
Nebraska Literary Tradition	NE	Teaching	TG
Nebraska History	NH	Writing	WR
Publishing	PB	Other: _____	

Sample Individual Listing:

Note that directory of individual members will not include telephone numbers.

John Smith, 1234 Reading Ave., Literacy, Ne 68000 CO, DI, LC, PC, RD

**Please enclose a check in the amount of \$15.00 made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book."
Mail your check and this form to:**

**Nebraska Center for the Book
c/o Lincoln City Libraries
136 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508**

Organizational Membership

Renewal _____ New _____

Name of organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone with area code (for directory use): _____

Name and title of contact person: _____

Additional information about organization: _____

(Attach sheet if needed)

**We will be publishing a membership directory
so Center Members will be aware of interests and services.
Circle all the Center for the Book interests that apply to your organization:**

Book Arts	BA	Popular Culture	PC
Children's Books	CH	Printing	PG
Censorship, Right to Read	CN	Promotion of Reading	PR
Book Collecting	CO	Preservation	PV
Book Discussions	DI	Reading	RD
Foreign Language	FL	Reviewing	RV
Book Illustration	IL	Book Selling	SE
Libraries	LB	Print-Handicapped,	
Literacy	LC	Special Needs	SP
Nebraska Authors and		Storytelling	ST
Nebraska Literary Tradition	NE	Teaching	TG
Nebraska History	NH	Writing	WR
Publishing	PB	Other: _____	

Sample Organizational Listing

Note that the directory of organizational members will include a telephone number, a contact person with title, and a brief description of the organization.

Nebraska Literary Foundation.

Nebraska State College, 1234 Writers Way, Bookville, NE 68000. Tel 308-123-4567. Contact: Jane Bookworm, President. NE, PB, WR. Publishes "The Nebraska Muse," holds an annual meeting in July. Supported in part by Nebraska State College. Promotes programs and research on published Nebraska women writers.

Please enclose a check in the amount of \$25.00 made out to "Nebraska Center for the Book."

Mail your check and this form to:

**Nebraska Center for the Book
c/o Lincoln City Libraries
136 South 14th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508**

Welcome New Members!

New members as of April 15, 1992

Organizational

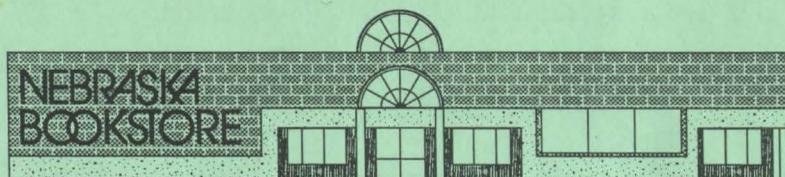
Gretna Public Library	Gretna
A Slow Tempo Press	Lincoln
McGoogan Library of Medicine	
University of Nebraska Medical Center	Omaha

Organizational memberships allow the organization to exhibit at both Nebraska Writing and Storytelling Festivals and the Nebraska Literature Festival without charge.

Individual

Betty Wilken	Lincoln	Rachel Callahan	Palmyra
Betty Alfred	Lincoln	Nancy McCleery	Lincoln
Ruth Lenser	Lincoln	Dr. Mark Baker	Lincoln
Dan Holtz	Auburn	Patricia Kaltenberger	Lincoln
Lori Utecht	Wakefield	Nancy Larsen	Lincoln
Ellen Van Waart	Bellevue	Edythe Cascini	Lincoln
Margaret Bumann	Omaha	Paul Canny	Lincoln
Mary Mjeldheim	Omaha	James Beaver	Tekamah
Don Welch	Kearney	Liz Conley	Lincoln
Mary Rabenberg	Fairbury	Irene Moore	Lincoln
Sandra Robare	Omaha	Linda Bamesberger	Lincoln
Leslie James	Grand Island	Helen Holmes	Lincoln
Ann Trinkle	Bellevue	Mary Ann Satterfield	Lincoln
Rev. Charles Stephen	Lincoln	Dan Studer	Lincoln
Jay Garrison	Eagle	Lois Frogge	Lincoln
Jean Johnson	Palmyra		

Nebraska Bookstore *the Store*
**For Nebraska Books and Fiction and
Literature and Children's Books and Science
and History and Technical Reference and
Biography and Poetry and Cookbooks and
Philosophy and Business Books and . . . *So Much More!***



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