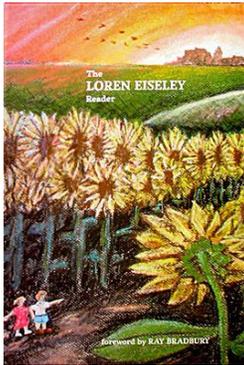


One Book One Nebraska 2015 winner and finalists

Meredith McGowan

curator of the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors



Loren Eiseley, [The Loren Eiseley Reader](#), 2009

-born in Lincoln, 1907, died 7/9/1977

-as an undergraduate at the University of Nebraska he contributed poetry and essays to *Prairie Schooner* and became one of the journal's student editors

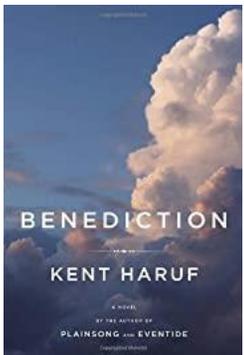
-drawn to literary pursuits as well as the sciences, Eiseley made of himself a kind of poet-scientist

-his career as an anthropologist took him from the University of Kansas, to Oberlin College, to the University of Pennsylvania where he was Benjamin Franklin Professor of Anthropology and the History of Science

-an anthropologist who taught for many years at the University of Pennsylvania, he became one of the most admired nature writers of the twentieth century

"*The Reader* is an anthology of Eiseley's most popular essays, intended for K-16 classroom use. The foreword is by noted author Ray Bradbury, and illustrations are by Lincoln artist Aaron Franco.

Published in 2009, *The Reader* has an illustrated map of Loren Eiseley's Nebraska, including locations of archaeological discoveries by Eiseley and The South Party from the University of Nebraska State Museum. Also included are several photos of Eiseley, his family and colleagues." (eiseley.org)



(Alan) Kent Haruf, [Benediction](#), 2013

-born in 1943, Pueblo, CO, died 11/30/2014

-lived in Lincoln, 1961-1965, 1986-1992

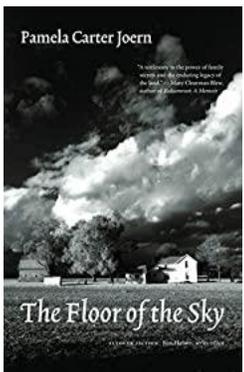
-graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1965

-taught at Nebraska Wesleyan University

-all of his novels take place in the fictional town of Holt in eastern Colorado, *The Tie That Binds*, *Plainsong*, *Eventide*, *Benediction*

"When Dad Lewis is diagnosed with terminal cancer, he and his wife must work together, along with their daughter, to make his final days as comfortable as possible, despite the bitter absence of their estranged son. Next door, a young girl moves in

with her grandmother and contends with the memories that Dad's condition stirs up of her own mother's death. A newly arrived preacher attempts to mend his strained relationships with his wife and son, and soon faces the disdain of his congregation when he offers more than they are used to getting on Sunday mornings. And throughout, an elderly widow and her middle-aged daughter do all they can to ease the pain of their friends and neighbors." (goodreads.com)



Pamela Carter Joern, [The Floor of the Sky](#), 2006

-grew up in western Nebraska

-holds an MFA in creative writing from Hamline University

-holds two other master's degrees: communications and secondary education from University of Nebraska at Omaha and religious studies from United Theological Seminary

-is an award-winning novelist, short story writer, playwright, and a teacher of writing

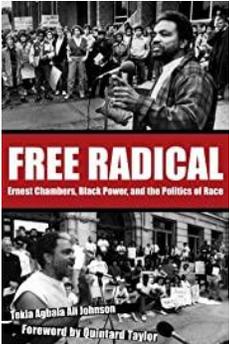
-has published books, *The Floor of the Sky*, 2006, *The Plain Sense of Things*, 2008 and *In Reach*, 2014

-has been published in a number of magazines and in an anthology, *Times of Sorrow*, *Times of Grace* (Backwaters Press, Omaha)

-teaches at the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis

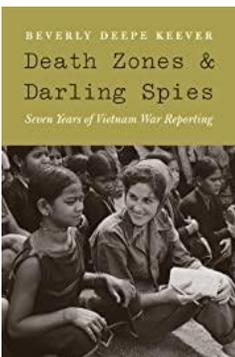
"This novel about guilt and forgiveness takes place in the remote Sandhills region of Nebraska. Toby Jenkins, a

72-year old widow, lives with her embittered sister Gertie in the ornate Sears mail-order house their father built in 1920. Toby's determined to hang onto her ranch even though the banker threatens to foreclose and she has no one to leave the land to since her adoptive daughter, an airline stewardess, hates the place. Then Toby's 16-year old pregnant granddaughter, Lila, shows up for the summer. Surly and disaffected, Lila renews a childhood relationship with Clay, Gertie's grandson, who's in over his head with farming, drugs, and his neighbor's wife. Slowly Lila is drawn into the long-buried secrets of her grandmother's life. Disclosure could destroy the fragile family bonds, or it could lead to deeper understanding and renewed compassion.” (pamelacarterjoern.com)



Tekla Agbala Ali Johnson, [Free Radical: Ernest Chambers, Black Power, and the Politics of Race](#), 2012

- born and raised in North Omaha
- book began as her history thesis at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- served as a consultant to the Great Plains Black History Museum in Omaha and helped catalog its collection
- is assistant professor of history at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina
- “A political biography of Nebraska state senator Ernest (Ernie) Chambers, investigating the tumultuous local, national political climate for African Americans from the late twentieth century to today.” (Texas Tech University Press)



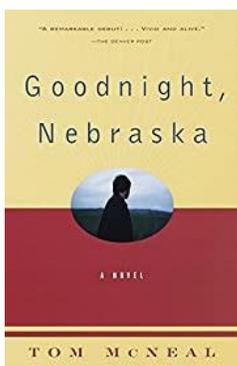
Beverly Deepe Kever, [Death Zones and Darling Spies: Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting](#)

- born in Hebron, 6/1/1935, lived in York, Thayer County
- attended UNL
- earned a master's degree from Columbia Journalism School
- worked as a journalist covering the Vietnam War for seven years successively for Newsweek, the New York Herald Tribune and the Christian Science Monitor
- coverage of the besieged outpost of Khe Sanh in 1968 was nominated by the Monitor



for a Pulitzer Prize in international reporting

- professor emeritus in College of Social Sciences, University of Hawaii, Manoa
- during her career bridging the profession and the professorate, she has received awards from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism Alumni Association and the University of Nebraska College of Journalism and Mass Communications Alumni Association
- “In 1961, equipped with a master's degree from famed Columbia Journalism School and letters of introduction to Associated Press bureau chiefs in Asia, 26-year old Beverly Deepe set off on a trip around the world. Allotting just 2 weeks to South Vietnam, she was still there 7 years later, having earned the distinction of being the longest-serving American correspondent covering the Vietnam War, garnering a Pulitzer Prize nomination.” (worldcat.org) [2015 SELECTED TITLE]

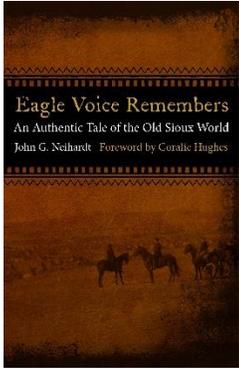


Tom McNeal, [Goodnight, Nebraska](#), 1998

- born and raised in Santa Ana, California
- spent part of every summer at the farm in Northwest Nebraska where his mother grew up
- earned a BA in English at UC Berkeley and an MFA in Creative Writing at UC Irvine
- lived, worked in region of Nebraska that inspired his novels, *Goodnight, Nebraska* & *To Be Sung Underwater*

-has written four young adult novels in collaboration with his wife, Laura Rhoton McNeal: *Crooked*, *Zipped*, *Crushed*, and *The Decoding of Lana Morris*; have also published a picture book: *The Dog Who Lost His Bob*

“At the age of 17, Randall Hunsacker shoots his mother's boyfriend, steals a car and comes close to killing himself. His second chance lies in a small Nebraska farm town, where the landmarks include McKibben's Mobil Station, Frmka's Superette, and a sign that says The Wages of Sin is Hell. This is Goodnight, a place so ingrown and provincial that Randall calls it "Sludgeville" - until he starts thinking of it as home. In this pitch-perfect novel, Tom McNeal explores the currents of hope, passion, and cruelty beneath the surface of the American heartland. In Randall, McNeal creates an outcast whose redemption lies in Goodnight, a strange, small, but ultimately embracing community where Randall will inspire fear and adulation, win the love of a beautiful girl and nearly throw it all away.” (randomhouse.com)



John Neihardt, [Eagle Voice Remembers: An Authentic Tale of the Old Sioux World](#), 1951, 2011

-born 1/8/1881 in Sharpsburg, Illinois, died 11/24/1973 in Columbia, Missouri

-moved to Wayne, NE with his family when he was 10

-graduated from Nebraska Normal College in Wayne at age 16

-taught in rural schools near Hoskins

-was an American writer and poet, an amateur historian and ethnographer, and a philosopher of the Great Plains

-moved to Bancroft, NE in 1901

-moved with his family to Branson, Missouri in 1920

-was elected by the Nebraska Legislature in 1921 as the state's poet laureate, a title he held for fifty-two years until his death

-most well known work is *Black Elk Speaks*; *Eagle Voice Remembers* “should be considered a companion volume to widely known classic, *Black Elk Speaks*

-appeared on the Dick Cavett Show in 1970

“*[Eagle Voice Remembers]* is John Neihardt's mature and reflective interpretation of the old Sioux way of life. He served as a translator of the Sioux past, whose audience has proved not to be limited by space and time. Through his writings, Black Elk, Eagle Elk, and other old men who were of that last generation of Sioux to have participated in the old buffalo-hunting life and the disorienting period of strife with the U.S. Army found a literary voice. What they said chronicles a dramatic transition in the life of the Plains Indians; the record of their thoughts, interpreted by Neihardt, is a legacy preserved for the future. It transcends the specifics of this one tragic case of cultural misunderstanding and conflict and speaks to universal human concerns. It is a story worth contemplating both for itself and for the lessons it teaches all humanity.” Raymond J. DeMallie (universitypress.unl.edu)