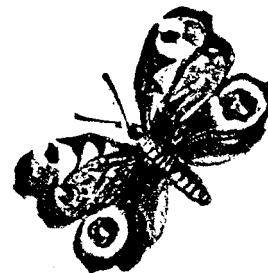
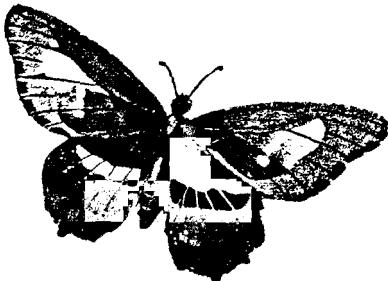


THE CARAVAN



"We have joined the caravan, you might say, at a certain point; we will travel as far as we can, but we cannot in one lifetime see all that we would like to see or learn all that we hunger to know."

--The Immense Journey



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Loren Eiseley:

What a splendid September we shall have in honor of a friend, colleague, and mentor Loren Corey Eiseley.

Mark September 3 and 26 on your calendars.

September 3 is the day that Loren Eiseley becomes a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be at 10:30 am in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building. Come one, come all to this beautiful and well-deserved tribute to Loren's life and work. This event, the culmination of much work by many people, is appropriately set for Eiseley's birthday.

On September 26 is our annual Symposium-Celebration, and this landmark year will be a special gathering.

Our evening speaker at the banquet at Morrill Hall will be Gale Christianson, author of the soon-to-be-released biography of Loren Eiseley. Tickets for the dinner are \$15, and are available from the Friends. The lecture is free.

The day-long program begins earlier on the 26th at the Lincoln City Library with a Walking/Driving tour of Eiseley sites in Lincoln from 9 am to 10 am.

The Heritage Room on the Library's 4th floor will display Eiseley photographs, writings and other memorabilia, plus a slide-show of Eiseley's years in Lincoln, the videotape of the UNL Memorial Service for Eiseley, the videotape of the first Eiseley Celebration, and all of the 24 "Animal Secrets" films narrated by Dr. Eiseley.

From 10:30 to 11:30 am the Old South Party (the UNL field research team who worked with Eiseley 1931-33) will meet at the library for an informal discussion of their work with Eiseley.

Living members of the Old South Party include Emery Blue, Frank Crabill, Bob Long, Marian and Bertrand Schultz, and Mylan Stout.

After a box lunch at the library at noon, a panel of scholars will discuss their areas of interest in Eiseley research

and join together for some lively conversation. Biographer and Eiseley scholar Fred Carlisle will moderate the discussion among panelists Peter Heidtmann, Gene Glass, Robert Franke, and Erleen Christiansen.

At some point in the afternoon we will be treated to a dramatic reading of Eiseley works by several area poets.

We hope you will join us this fall! Registration (\$15) is required for meals, and your check reserves your registration. Write to us soon.

Sincerely,
Sherrill Daniels, President
Friends of Loren Eiseley
PO Box 80934
Lincoln, NE 68501-0934

P.S.
The Fall issue of the Prairie Schooner is featuring a special Eiseley portfolio. It can be obtained at the Symposium or by writing to the Friends of Loren Eiseley at the address above.

THE FRIENDS OF LOREN EISELEY:
THE FOUNDERS' STORY

The Friends of Loren Eiseley came into being on May 21, 1981, at a meeting in the alfalfa-green basement of the Governor's mansion.

Called by Ruth Thone, wife of the Governor at that time, Charles Thone, the Friends' first meeting had been preceded by much thought and discussion about collecting Eiseley friends and scholars into a group. These founders included Lincoln Journal editor Dick Herman, and long-time Eiseley friends And colleagues Bert and Marian Schultz.

Coincident with this first meeting were the thoughtful and detailed plans by the staff at the Bennett Martin Public Library to host a celebration of Eiseley's work. So, the first annual Friends of Loren Eiseley Fall meeting was also held in 1981.

Curator Pam Gossin and Library Director Carol Connor did all the background and logistical work, bringing in the Lincoln Junior League to research and produce a slide show about Eiseley's Lincoln years.

John Carter, Joann Kimball, Charles Mignon, Eloise Herrick, and Robert Knoll, all of Lincoln, were active in the early days of the Friends. The first meeting, as well as subsequent ones, consisted of sharing memories of Eiseley, and discussing his writings and ideas that attracted people to Eiseley's work.

A pattern established itself of having our annual meeting in the fall, as close to Eiseley's September 3 birthdate as possible, and including dinner and a speaker in the evening.

The Friends also have a Spring meeting that is less formal, a potluck luncheon at Marian and Bertrand Schultz' Hilltop Road home north of Lincoln, and including a program of discussion and readings from Eiseley's writings.

A mailing list grew, and dues were collected, and the Friends of Loren Eiseley became a reality. Letters were sent out three or four times a year to update the Friends about plans, and the Spring and Fall meetings became a tradition.

A host of activities have occurred over the years: contacting Eiseley scholars, reprinting various special articles, and encouraging the interest in and study of Eiseley's writings wherever possible, through publicity, speeches, and personal contacts.

The Heritage Room at Bennett Martin Library has served as the repository of Eiseley writings, photographs, and videotapes (including the "Animal Secrets" films narrated by Eiseley and produced and donated to the Friends by Nebraska native Ed Stanley).

This year we are working on some of our most ambitious projects, (see other articles in this newsletter) to continue to share information about Eiseley and his idea with all.

--Ruth Thone

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE
FRIENDS OF LOREN EISELEY?

The Friends of Loren Eiseley
is very much in need of your
PAID membership!

We know there is deep and sustained interest in Dr. Eiseley and his work. So please send your check to help us keep in touch with all Eiseley fans and increase awareness of his writings.

Just \$5 keeps you on the mailing list for a year and includes a subscription to the new quarterly newsletter, The Caravan.

You can be a contributing member for \$25, a supporting member for \$50, and a patron for \$100.

Dues were payable at the first of the year, so let us hear from you this summer, please!

We need your support.

Comments and contributions
are welcome (250-500 words or less).
Send to:
Friends of Loren Eiseley
P.O. Box 80934
Lincoln, NE 68501-0934

*S.A.S.E.
Enclose
please!*

WHAT IF

"What if" has always been an amusing game of speculation to fill idle hours, although television has made large inroads in the game's playing. "What if" engages and energizes brain cells. Most television neutralizes those cells.

What if Loren Eiseley were alive today? What would be his concerns? What, beyond the constant of the human condition and its mystic connections with time and space, would command his interest?

Yes, the threats to human order and life which existed a decade ago are still here--catastrophic nuclear war, the relentless increase in human numbers, and the impact of those numbers on the landscape and environment, including the threatened extinction of many animal species.

Especially in his darker, later years, those threats were known to Eiseley. He was not, however, a political person. He was never a participant in any movement appealing to humankind's conscience, or even to acts linked to enlightened self-interest.

I think he would have found some pleasure, however, in recent symbolic efforts of people to atone for the destruction our kind has visited on other forms of animal life.

Homo sapiens appears to be the only life form on the planet able to create its own habitable environment. But this astonishing achievement has a price--and its ultimate cost may be immense.

Eiseley the paleontologist might have been fascinated to learn that Chinese scientists have found fossils of the giant panda dating back about 4 million years. Today, less than 1,000 such animals exist. That condition has much, much less to do with the clumsy (and reluctant)



mating habits of pandas in captivity than it does to the human destruction of much of their natural habitat, with its supply of a particular species of bamboo. Eiseley would probably have endorsed worldwide efforts to maintain the giant panda habitat in Asia.

(An interesting side issue -- a question that a thinker such as Eiseley might raise-- Would we be as eager to save the pandas if they were --to our thinking--repulsive rather than appealing? Would we go to such lengths for the Komodo dragon, a monitor lizard?)

Eiseley the humanist might be warmed at the exertions of New Englanders who saved three young pilot whales after a mass beaching on Cape Cod last December.

Thousands of human hours of volunteer labor and thousands of dollars were involved in the rescue, maintenance, and finally, the fulfilling summer return to the ocean of the marine mammals--mammals we have recklessly slaughtered for years in the name of misguided utility.

Eiseley might have been interested in what the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is doing, desperately seeking to prevent the extinction of the black-footed ferret.

Human destruction of the ferret's primary food source, the prairie dog, and human occupation of the High Plains landscape has spelled almost complete extinction for the ferret.

And Eiseley the scientist could have been enthralled by the evolutionary issues raised by the findings of the scientists who salvaged yet more hominid fossils in Africa's Olduvai Gorge last summer.

More than 300 pieces of bone were gathered of a primate species, Homo habilis, that appeared in the vicinity about 1.8 million years ago. Eiseley would have noted Homo habilis evolved about a million years later than Australopithecus afarensis. The fossils of the two hominid species suggest little change in body or cranial size. But →

Homo erectus, which showed up in the same region about 1.6 million years ago, was markedly different.

Not only was *Homo erectus* taller, but its arms were more like those of *Homo sapiens*; that is, they no longer hung to the knees. *Homo erectus*, in the relative wink of just 200,000 years, did not need to take refuge from its predatory enemies in the trees, as do many of today's primates.

What happened to make this condition so? Why was there no evolutionary change in hominid species for a million years and then such a pronounced change in one-fifth that time? Would not such a line of inquiry -- dealing with the idea of an abrupt, jerky evolutionary change -- capture the mind of Loren Eiseley, were he alive today?

What if? --

--Dick Herman



FALL ISSUE OF PRAIRIE SCHOONER DEVOTED TO LOREN EISELEY

The Fall 1987 issue (Volume 61, Number 3) of the Prairie Schooner will feature a portfolio of eight essays about Loren Eiseley and his work. The contributors include:

Naomi Brill, a writer of natural history articles for her newspaper column, "The Amateur Naturalist," has written an essay, "Loren Eiseley and the Human Condition."

Fred Carlisle is Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Miami University in Ohio, and has written books and articles on Eiseley. His article is entitled "The Literary Achievement of Loren Eiseley."

Gale Christianson, professor of History at Indiana State University, is writing a new biography of Eiseley to be published by Holt. His contribution to the portfolio is "Loren Eiseley in Lincoln: Two Poems and a Remembrance."

Erleen Christiansen is a professor of English at the University of Kansas and an Eiseley scholar. Her essay is "Loren Eiseley: Student of Time."

Peter Heidtmann, Professor of English at Ohio University, has a book in progress about Eiseley. His essay about Eiseley is entitled "An Artist of Autumn."

Ben Howard, Hagar Professor in the Humanities at Alfred University, New York, is the author of three books. His contribution is "Loren Eiseley and the State of Grace."

Howard Nemerov is a noted poet who recently won the first Aiken Taylor Award for Modern Poetry, as well as a President's Award. He has written "Loren Eiseley 1907-1977" for this issue.

Caroline Werkeley is a retired research librarian who was Eiseley's assistant for many years, and her contribution is "Eiseley and Enchantment."

This special issue of the Prairie Schooner should please all those who admire Eiseley and his work, and its publication also coincides with this year's Fall Symposium and Celebration where a number of the magazine's contributors will be

making presentations: Gale Christianson, Erleen Christiansen, Peter Heidtmann, and Fred Carlisle.

It is also fitting that the Prairie Schooner present an issue focusing on Eiseley, for it is reported that Loren Eiseley was once a member of the Schooner's staff as, in its earlier days, were Mari Sandoz, Willa Cather, and Weldon Kees.

The Prairie Schooner also will contain a number of other poems and stories, and will be available September 1. It can be purchased from the Friends at the conference, or by mail. Please add \$1 to the cover price to pay postage. Issues cost \$3.25. (\$4.25 if ordered from FOLE)

"Somewhere, just a short time before the close of the Age of Reptiles, there occurred a soundless, violent explosion. It lasted millions of years, but it was an explosion nevertheless. It marked the emergence of the angiosperms--the flowering plants. Even the great evolutionist, Charles Darwin, called them "an abominable mystery" because they appeared so suddenly and spread so fast."

Flowers changed the face of the planet. Without them, the world we know--even man himself--would never have existed."

--"How Flowers Changed the World,"
The Immense Journey