

"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."



Proclamation

WHEREAS

the third of September 1987 marks the eightieth anniversary of Loren Corey Eiseley's birth and is a fitting day to honor this acclaimed native Nebraskan, it is with great pride that we induct him into the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

Described by Wall Street Journal critic Edmund Fuller as "one of the most remarkable individual minds among us," Loren Eiseley's vision as an anthropologist and a poet spanned geological and biological time. He wrote eloquently of man's "Immense Journey," blending scientific insight with poetic wonder and delight.

Born and educated in Nebraska, Eiseley held a distinguished chair in anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, published several volumes of poetry and prose, lectured widely throughout this country, and was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

Nebraska is proud of its shared heritage with this gifted native son, of those years when he spent here forming his vocation and his craft, and of those times that became part of the literature of Loren Eiseley.

Loren Corey Eiseley appropriately joins other great Nebraskans in this Hall of Fame, bringing honor to his native state, insight and knowledge to those touched by his life, furthering the work of increasing human consciousness, and celebrating the gift of life.

NOW, THEREFORE

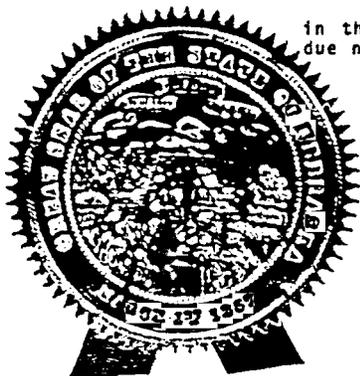
I, Kay A. Orr, Governor of the State of Nebraska, under the authority vested in me by law and in accordance with the established custom, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the induction of

LOREN COREY EISELEY

in the Nebraska Hall of Fame and urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this 3rd day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand nine-hundred and eighty-seven

Attest:



Allen J. Beermann
Secretary of State

Kay A. Orr
Governor



Letter from the President

Our Celebration and annual meeting for 1987 are over. Now is a good time for me to report to you what the Friends have done this past year. Several items are discussed more fully in articles in this issue. One of the most important achievements is, of course, the Celebration. While all the work isn't done yet, I have read all the evaluations. We requested the audiences at both the afternoon panel and the evening program to respond, and they did, over 45% at each event. In every response we received high marks for a stimulating and thought-provoking program.

The other important thing we have done is in your hands. We established an Editorial Board, composed of Kathryn Bellman, Naomi Brill, and Dick Herman, and began **The Caravan**.

Working with other organizations we inducted Loren Eiseley into the Nebraska Hall of Fame and published a portfolio of articles on him in the fall issue of *The Prairie Schooner*. Another cooperative effort was recently completed. Members of the Friends moderated two sessions of papers about Loren Eiseley at the annual meeting of the Western Literature Association here in Lincoln in October.

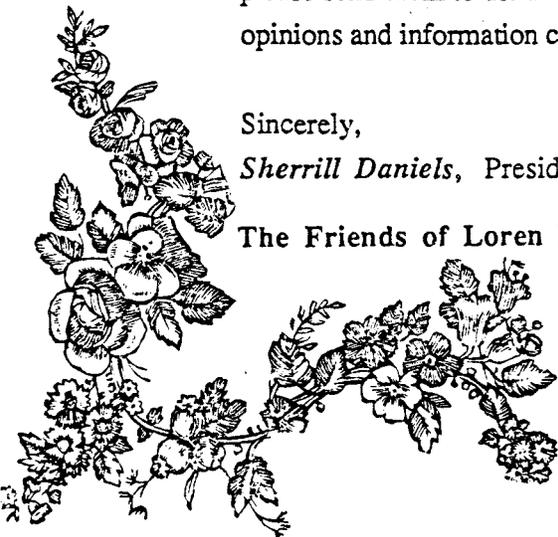
Internally, the board made some changes in the Bylaws. At the September board meeting, seven positions on the board became three-year terms. Another seven positions will be added in 1988. So by 1989 all board positions will be renewable three-year appointments. We expect to work further on defining and describing the duties of board members in the coming year.

We have established an Executive Committee, composed of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and an at-large member. Currently these positions are filled by myself, Mary Liz Jameson, F.M. Tuttle, Kathryn Bellman, and Eloise Herrick. This committee meets on the second Monday of each month to set the agenda for the full board meeting on the third Monday of each month.

I believe that our goal for the next few years should be to encourage the reading and exploration of Eiseley's works by the public, particularly high school students, to support consideration of his writings and ideas by scholars, and to increase our cooperation with other institutions and organizations in achieving these goals. The board is now planning ways and means to try to realize these things. If you have suggestions or comments, please send them to us. **The Caravan**, it seems to me, makes an ideal forum to exchange opinions and information concerning our future activities.

Sincerely,
Sherrill Daniels, President

The Friends of Loren Eiseley



EMERY L. BLUE: 89 YEARS DID NOT DIM HIS ZEST

by Dick Herman

What a lucky break! In seeking out a back-of-the-hall luncheon table that recent noon in the basement of the Governor's Mansion, chance allowed me to sit for an hour with an 89-year-old blind man.

Chance could not have been kinder. For me. On Monday, 10 days after that event, the remarkable Emery L. Blue died.

We had been among the Statehouse crowd that morning, attending the Nebraska Hall of Fame induction of Loren Eiseley, Blue's companion in the early 1930s Panhandle fossil-collecting expeditions.

When Blue lost his vision, I do not know. What he apparently never lost was his zest. And his sharpness. After his wife Janis--"I am his eyes"--introduced us, I furtively studied that craggy face under a great shock of white hair, and listened, with increasing admiration, to lively recollections of the past.

Back then, Blue said, it was a much longer drive from Lincoln to the scientific digs and outcroppings in the southern part of the Panhandle-- hence the Old South Party, as contrasted with an Old North Party posted in the Sioux and Dawes County country. Cars didn't have radios. "So to amuse all of us, we made Loren recite his poetry."

At night, there wasn't much for the paleontological explorers to do, either.

Again, Eiseley--who developed a compelling platform style--was called upon to recite or spin stories. Blue laughed, conjuring up experiences now actively shared by no more than five still amongst us.

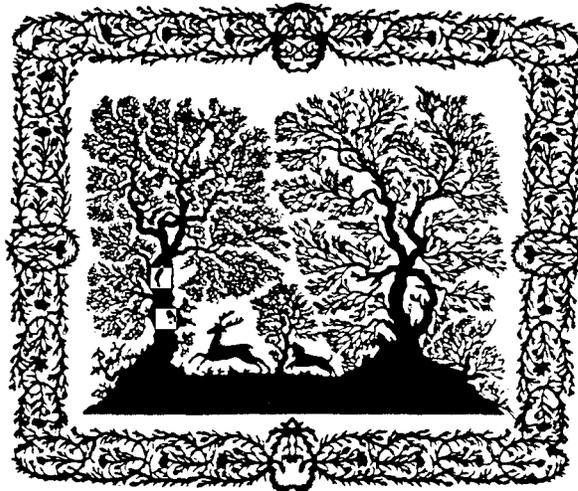
Here was a man whose boyhood president was also a Roosevelt, but Teddy, not Franklin. Here was one of the dwindling number of surviving Nebraskans who wore a military uniform during World War I, a national experience virtually as remote today as the Civil War. Here was a man who taught science at a junior high school that once stood at 26th and Streets.

My colleague, the gentle and wise Gilbert Savery, retired Journal managing editor, remembers Blue as his junior high teacher during the beginning days of the Great Depression. Savery delights in telling the story of how Blue saved all the bones of a Thanksgiving turkey and brought them to school for young Savery to shellac and

articulate to learn more about vertebrates. Blue's departure for the private sector--personnel work with Western Electric and then real estate--"was a great loss to the profession of teaching."

The life passage from oblivion to oblivion can be a hard trudge for most of us. For those with special receptors capable of seeing the uncommon in the common, there are bound to be exalting moments. Say, standing motionless in Wildcat Hills, suspended in time, penetrated by the silence
For some graced with heartiness and spirit, life can be a challenging adventure.

A final luncheon companion of Emery Blue sensed that's just the way it was for him.



(Reprinted from the Lincoln Journal with permission of the author.)



EISELEY BIOGRAPHER KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE 1987 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF LOREN EISELEY

by Kathryn Bellman

We were fortunate to have had the opportunity this September to hear the author of a new biography of Loren Eiseley, Gale E. Christianson of Indiana State University, speak on "Loren Eiseley: A Poet in the White River Badlands." He discussed Eiseley's early years as a fossil hunter with the Old South Party in the 1930s.

When the new Morrill Hall museum was completed in 1928, expeditions were formed to gather fossils in western Nebraska, where a number of important fossil finds were soon to be discovered. The Old South Party, as the fossil hunters were called, was formed in haste, because different groups of fossil hunters had been sent by various museums and competition for important finds was keen.

Loren Eiseley at this time was a young student still looking for a direction in life. Through his friendship with Bertrand and Marian Schultz, he became a member of the Old South Party and participated in several digs. On one occasion the party unearthed the skull of a saber-tooth tiger, with one of its fearsome teeth piercing the bone of another tiger. It is possible that this arresting scene, frozen forever in the bones of these long-extinct mammals, was one of the early events that aroused in Eiseley a lifelong interest in paleontology leading to a career in research.

Christianson said that Eiseley kept a notebook while on these expeditions which he never showed to anyone. Robert Long, another member of the Old South Party, thought it must have contained something important. They weren't field notes, for the duty of keeping those rested with more senior members of the team. It is likely, Christianson concluded, that Eiseley was jotting down poetry notes or ideas that would later be included in his essays and books.

Following his lecture, Christianson showed slides of Eiseley's early years, including childhood photographs, as well as photos of Eiseley and the other members of the Old South Party.

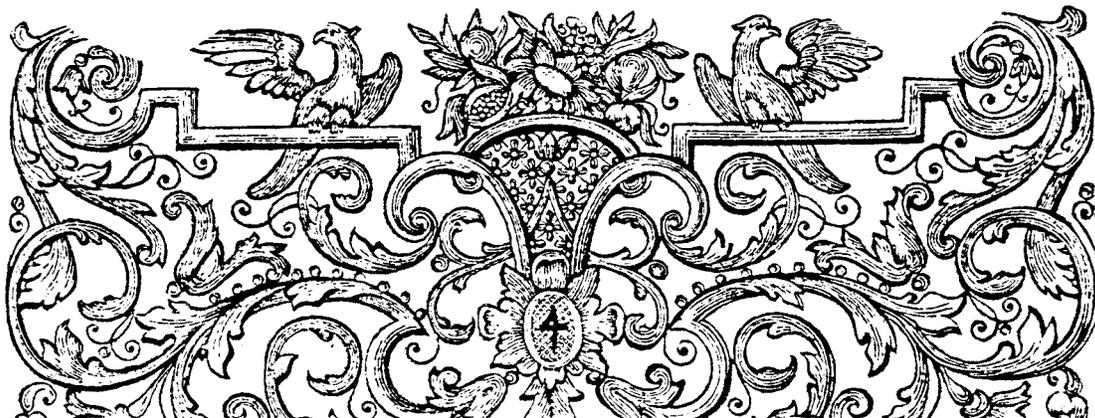
#####

Western Literature Association Meets in Lincoln

The Western Literature Association met in Lincoln October 15 through 17 at the Lincoln Hilton Hotel, and two sessions were devoted to the life and work of Loren Eiseley, said Professor Susan Rosowski, President of the Western American Literature Association.

On Friday October 16th, Sherrill Daniels, President of the Friends of Loren Eiseley, chaired the morning session, "Loren Eiseley: The Man." Erleen Christensen (University of Kansas at Lawrence), Caroline Werkley (Eiseley's former assistant), and Kathleen A. Boardman (University of Nevada at Reno) presented papers on biographical topics.

The afternoon session, "Loren Eiseley: The Writing," was chaired by another board member of the Friends, nature writer Naomi Brill. Presenting papers on Eiseley's writings were Peter Heidtmann (University of Ohio), Katharine W. Cohen (Murray, KY), and Gale E. Christianson (Indiana State University).



Loren Eiseley Inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame

by Herb Hyde

A son of the Great Plains and the ages was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame on September 3, 1987. Had he been present, he probably would have been embarrassed by all the fuss, for he was a very private individual who found peace and inspiration in the natural world. I have a feeling, though, that he would have been just a little bit inwardly pleased with the honor accorded him.

Secretary of State Allen Beerman was an excellent master of ceremonies who kept the program moving along at a steady pace from the presentation of colors by the UNL ROTC to the unveiling of artist Kappy Wells' bronze bust of Eiseley.

UNL President Ronald Roskens gave the invocation and Governor Kay Orr delivered the proclamation (reproduced on page one). Greetings and announcements followed from NEBRASKAland Foundation President Bill Ramsey, Nebraska Academy of Sciences Executive Director C. Bertrand Schultz, Friends of Loren Eiseley founder Ruth Thone, and Friends President Sherrill Daniels. The Hall of Fame Commission Chair Pamela Fuchs and Secretary James Hansen handled the induction, and UNL Professor of Music Donna Harler and Director of Opera Theatre Charles "Chip" Smith provided beautiful music for the occasion.

But the heart of the program were those parts that dwelt on Eiseley and his wife Mabel, and the unveiling of the bust that will repose in the Hall of Fame. These are the scenes I like to play back in the videocassette of my mind.

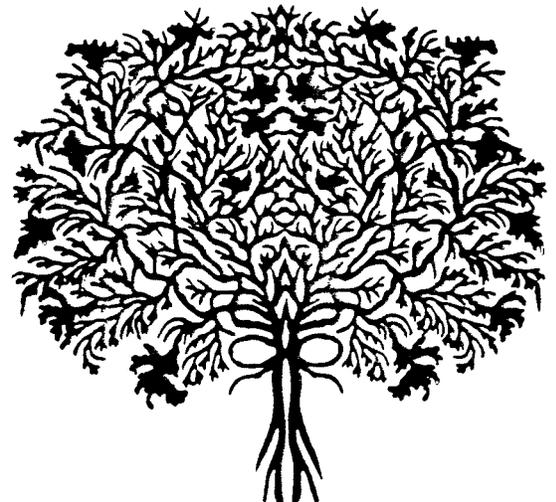
UNL Professor Emerita and nature writer Naomi Brill gave a brief biography of Eiseley, just touching on his many achievements. That so much more could be said about him suggests perhaps why the rather shy scholar would find withdrawal more comfortable.

Perhaps the most moving account of the day was Marian Schultz's eloquent tribute to Mabel Langdon Eiseley. A gifted musical artist, Mabel found fulfillment for her talent even as she supported her husband in his. As I listened to Marian I could not help but remember Dorothy Thomas Buickerood's poetic description of the Eiseleys' courtship and marriage. Equally pleasing were University of Pennsylvania Professor Ward Goodenof and former Nebraskan Frank Crabill's reminiscences of Eiseley. Phil Heckman then gave a marvelous dramatic reading of an Eiseley poem.

But the highlight of the day was the unveiling of the bust itself by members of the Old South Party Emery Blue, who died so shortly afterwards, Frank Crabill, the Bertrand and Marian Schultz, Robert Long, and Mylon Stout. Another sadness to add to the loss of Emery Blue is that another close friend of Eiseley's, Wilbur Gaffney, did not live to see the induction. But overall, the occasion was a joyful one, a time to remember and to celebrate.

In Kappy Wells' likeness of Eiseley is a quality that imparts to this viewer a sense of his character: its sharp, crisp angles, the expressiveness of the eyes, show how well the bronze captured his essence. I see Eiseley caught at the instant when his individual life roles fuse into a whole, gazing across the ages into eternity. The artist has captured the essence of one who is a man of science when viewed from one angle, and a sensitive artist who could turn fossils into poetry when viewed from another.

After lunch at the Governor's mansion, as I walked back to work I reflected on the kind of day September 3 had turned out to be. It meant a great deal to those who were there, but I would not have faulted Eiseley if he had sneaked out and gone for a walk on such a beautiful autumn day. Happy birthday, Loren, wherever you are!



SELECTIONS FROM LOREN EISELEY'S NOTE BOOKS PUBLISHED

The *Lost Notebooks of Loren Eiseley*, edited and with a reminiscence by Kenneth Heuer, was published by Little, Brown & Co. in September 1987. The book includes unpublished material spanning nearly seventy years of Eiseley's journal-keeping. Editor Kenneth Heuer arranged the material in three chronologically ordered sections. For Heuer, the book's preparation involved "four years of intermittent literary detective work," for some of the notebooks had been dismantled and given to the University of Pennsylvania, and some were perhaps lost or destroyed.

Eiseley recorded daily thoughts and ideas in his notebooks, but few of his friends and colleagues knew what the notebooks contained, for during his lifetime he showed them to no one. However, five years after Eiseley's death, his wife Mabel Langdon Eiseley permitted an edited version of the journals covering the years 1953 to 1960 to be printed in a magazine. Now Heuer has prepared this larger edition of selections from the journals for readers.

The reviews of the journals have been mixed. For the notes jotted down in haste, or even in quiet moments of reflection are necessarily not the polished final product of Eiseley's creative genius. Yet in these notes one finds the seeds of ideas which later appear in their more finished form in his published works.

Heuer notes that "with Loren, notebook keeping was not drudgery. He made an entry when he saw something or was thinking, and, like all writers of original genius, he glimpsed wonderful things in commonplace life which makes the ordinary reader look about him and wonder what he is missing."

There are those of Eiseley's close friends who wonder if any publication of his private journals is appropriate, and they have a strong argument to make in favor of respecting Eiseley's desire for privacy. But the journals now exist in published form, and one can also say that those who never had the good fortune to know Eiseley personally might find another glimpse into the thought processes of a fascinating scholar and poet in this book.

If one chooses to read the Notebooks, one should bear in mind that they are just that: notes, and view them as signposts pointing towards the finished writings which are his legacy to all of us, and read those as well.

* * * *

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. 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 soon, 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 (Enclose S.A.S.E. please, if you would like MSS returned to you.)

