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OSU PRESS BOOK ON WORLD WAR II CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS' INFLUENCE  
ON THE SIXTIES IS FINALIST FOR PRESTIGIOUS DAYTON LITERARY PEACE PRIZE  
— THE FIRST-EVER FROM A UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oregon State University Press is pleased to announce that Steve McQuiddy's *Here on the Edge* is a finalist for the [Dayton Literary Peace Prize](#), the prestigious international award presented each year to one author each for fiction and nonfiction.

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize is the only international literary peace prize awarded in the United States. It was founded in 2006 as an outgrowth of the Dayton Peace Prize, which commemorates the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords ending the war in Bosnia. Winners receive a \$10,000 honorarium. An annual lifetime achievement award is also bestowed upon a writer whose body of work reflects the Prize's mission; previous honorees include Studs Terkel, Elie Wiesel, and Barbara Kingsolver.

*Here on the Edge* tells the story of how a small group of World War II conscientious objectors on the Oregon Coast helped plow the ground for the social and cultural revolutions of the 1960s. It is the first-ever DLPP finalist published by a university press.

"I am excited and humbled by this honor," McQuiddy says. "It brings attention to how a small group of dedicated people helped an entire generation see more clearly the complicated topics of war and peace."

*Here on the Edge* gives the complete story of Civilian Public Service Camp #56, located just south of Waldport on the central Oregon coast. There, pacifists and political objectors to World War II spent their daylight hours planting trees, crushing rock, building roads, and fighting forest fires—fifty hours a week, for no pay.

At night, they published books, produced plays, and made art and music—all during their limited non-work hours, with little money and resources. They called themselves the Fine Arts Group at Waldport, and their focus was not so much on the current war, but on what kind of society might be possible when the shooting finally stopped. "Here on the edge," they wrote, "we can only watch ... and bide on the time when what we are, and that for which we have taken this stand, can be tangent again to the world."

This talented group included poet William Everson, later known as Brother Antoninus, the “Beat Friar” for his involvement with the 1950s Beat Generation; violinist Broadus Erle, founder of the New Music Quartet; fine arts printer Adrian Wilson, an early recipient of a MacArthur Genius Grant; Kermit Sheets, co-founder of San Francisco’s Interplayers theater group; architect Kemper Nomland, Jr.; and internationally renowned sculptor Clayton James.

Other notables involved with the Fine Arts Group included artist Morris Graves, poet William Stafford, fiery antiwar poet Kenneth Patchen, and iconoclastic author Henry Miller.

After the war, camp members went on to participate in the San Francisco Poetry Renaissance of the 1950s, which heavily influenced the Beat Generation of Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, who in turn inspired Ken Kesey and his Merry Pranksters, leading the way to the radical upheavals epitomized by San Francisco’s Summer of Love.

As the Fine Arts Group carved an unpopular path during the dark days of the 1940s, they were showing the way for the next generation, when a new set of young people, facing a war of their own in Vietnam, would populate the massive peace movements of the 1960s.

Twenty years in the making and packed with original research and more than eighty photographs, this definitive history of the Fine Arts Group at Waldport explores how a legacy of art and peace resonated far beyond the borders of an isolated work camp for those who refused to fight what is often called “The Good War.”

“Nearly all the great social movements in history can be traced to small groups working in obscurity, sometimes for years,” McQuiddy observes. “It can be very useful for people to actually see the evidence of how small actions can make a big difference.”

McQuiddy is available for interviews and commentary. *Here on the Edge* is available for review.

For more information:

OSU Press: [osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/here-on-edge](https://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/here-on-edge)

Author’s website: [hereontheedge.com](http://hereontheedge.com)

Dayton Literary Peace Prize: [daytonliterarypeaceprize.org](http://daytonliterarypeaceprize.org)

Author bio

Steve McQuiddy writes and lectures on the eccentric margins of our history and culture. His feature writing has been recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists, and his credits include *Salon*, *Mother Jones*, and the *Seattle Times*. His monograph, *The Fantastic Tale of Opal Whiteley*, has been widely cited and reprinted, and he was a featured commentator on the topic for Oregon Public Broadcasting. He teaches writing at Lane Community College in Eugene.

Oregon State University Press

For fifty years, Oregon State University Press has been a scholarly publisher of exceptional books about the Pacific Northwest—its people and landscapes, its flora and fauna, its history and cultural heritage.

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