

Death Zones & Darling Spies

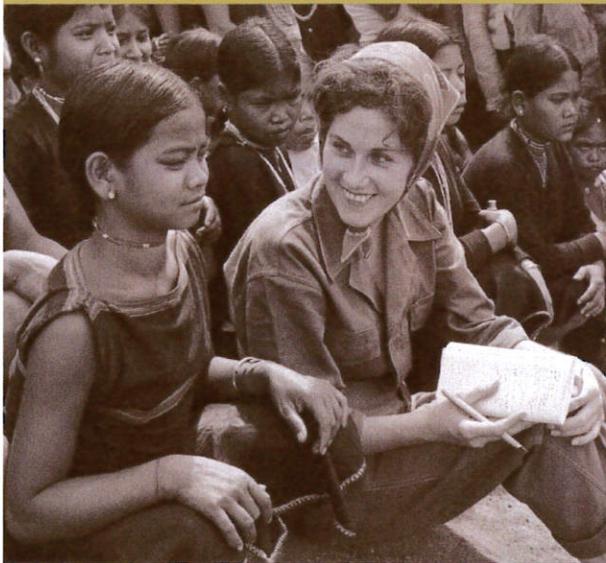
Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting

by Beverly Ann Deepe Kever

BEVERLY DEEPE KEEVER

Death Zones & Darling Spies

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May 2013

360 pp. 6 x 9 30 photographs,

1 map, 2 appendixes

—\$26.95* paperback

978-0-8032-2261-8

\$30.95 Canadian/£19.99 UK

STUDIES IN WAR, SOCIETY,
AND THE MILITARY SERIES
Peter Maslowski, David Graff, and
Reina Pennington, series editors

In 1961, equipped with a master's degree from famed Columbia Journalism School and letters of introduction to Associated Press bureau chiefs in Asia, twenty-six-year-old Beverly Deepe set off on a trip around the world. Allotting just two weeks to South Vietnam, she was still there seven years later, having then earned the distinction of being the longest-serving American correspondent covering the Vietnam War and garnering a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

In *Death Zones and Darling Spies*, Beverly Deepe Kever describes what it was like for a farm girl from Nebraska to find herself halfway around the world, trying to make sense of one of the nation's bloodiest and bitterest wars. She arrived in Saigon as Vietnam's war entered a new phase and American helicopter units and provincial advisers were unpacking. She tells of traveling from her Saigon apartment to jungles where Wild West-styled forts first dotted Vietnam's borders and where, seven years later, they fell like dominoes from communist-led attacks. In 1965 she braved elephant grass with American combat units armed with unparalleled technology to observe their valor—and their

inability to distinguish friendly farmers from hide-and-seek guerrillas.

Kever's trove of tissue-thin memos to editors, along with published and unpublished dispatches for New York and London media, provide the reader with you-are-there descriptions of Buddhist demonstrations and turning-point coups as well as phony ones. Two Vietnamese interpreters, self-described as "darling spies," helped her decode Vietnam's shadow world and subterranean war. These memoirs, at once personal and panoramic, chronicle the horrors of war and a rise and decline of American power and prestige.

Beverly Deepe Kever is professor emerita at the University of Hawaii and the author of *News Zero: The New York Times and the Bomb*.

"Few correspondents engaged in the protracted, ugly war in Laos and Vietnam were as diligent and perceptive as Beverly Deepe. As energetic and intrepid as her male counterparts, she slogged through dense jungles, flooded rice fields, and thick rubber plantations, filing dispatches that shed insights on that futile conflict. Her account of that experience is authoritative, credible, lucid, vivid, and above all readable."—Stanley Karnow, author of *Vietnam: A History* and winner of the 1990 Pulitzer Prize in history.

HEBRON LIBRARY SPEAKER SERIES

Death Zones and Darling Spies

Seven Years of Vietnam War Reporting

Presented by

Beverly Deepe Keever

In 1961, twenty-six year-old Beverly Deepe, a farm girl from Thayer County NE., arrived in Vietnam as a war correspondent. She has the distinction of being the longest-serving American correspondent covering the Vietnam War and garnering a Pulitzer Prize nomination. Her account of that experience is authoritative and credible. Beverly is professor emerita at the University of Hawaii and the author of *Death Zones and Darling Spies*. The public is welcome to come and meet Beverly and listen to her presentation and slide show.

Where: Hebron Courtyard Terrace Activity Room
(Hebron Assisted Living Facility)

When: Monday, March 9, 2015

Time: 2:00 p.m.