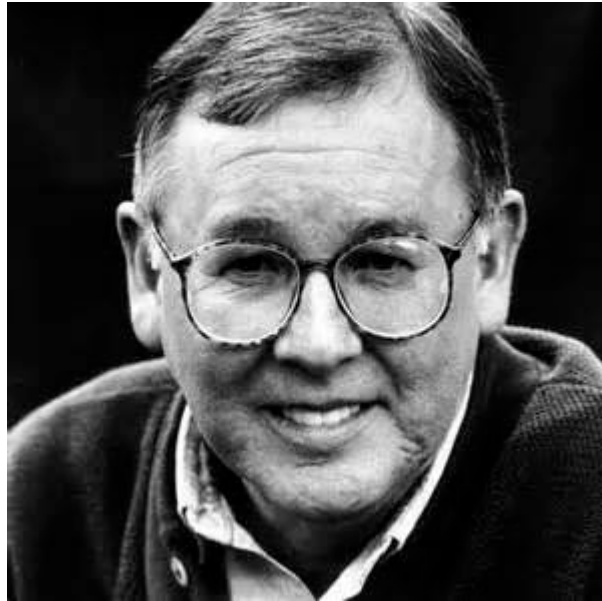


REVIEW

*Fools Crow* (1986)



James Welch

(1940-2003)

“This historical novel is a departure for someone whose poetry and fiction have been so relentlessly contemporary and uniformly pessimistic. Although the story ends tragically, with the massacre of the Blackfeet on the Marias River (a key incident of their subjugation which figures in both of the earlier novels), the picture of the Blackfeet, rendered from a vividly imagined inner perspective, is a feast for the mind and the mind’s eye. Animals talk, and it is not hokey. We are in a Blackfeet world, and white people speak a bizarre gibberish that makes no sense. People change names as their personalities grow and evolve, and they become new people. (Essays about the book must negotiate the thorny problem of explaining that three or four names are all the same person at various points in his life.) The novel provides the reader with puzzles, but they are stimulating rather than frustrating, and the final effect is to feel that we have been allowed, perhaps for the first time, to see the world as the special people of this gone time might have seen it.”

Mick McAllister  
*DancingBadger.com* (2014)