



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 3 Issue 1 Sept 1982

YOU ARE INVITED

September 11 11:30 - 3:00

Mr. Rene's (2nd floor)
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota



The program of the first fall meeting of SMPS will involve informal poetry sharing, reading of assignment and award winning poems, and an emphasis on THE TURNING WHEEL, the group's first book. Members also plan to get reacquainted after a full summer of productive activities.

The location at Mr. Rene's has been secured for every second Saturday throughout the year with only one change: Our luncheon will be self-served. At 12:45 members will make individual menu selections from Mettler's Salad Bar next door and then return to the Sunset Room. Hopefully, the advantages of this method will outweigh the possible disadvantages.

All guests are welcome!

WELCOME TO NEW WRITING MEMBER

Maynard Teigen
RFD #2
Stewartville, MN 55976

Appreciation

--SMPS hosted another successful LOMP Spring meeting! The leaders, Dr. Keith Gunderson and Betty Bridgeman, were superb and the turnout rewarding. SPECIAL THANKS to Joe Kubicek & Co. for artistically arranged table and room decor. The displays were touches of "natural" genius.

--Alane Lee and children, Brett, Lance and Kimberly, prepared a warm, friendly atmosphere in a fabulous rural environment for the POTLUCK POETRY PICNIC held August 14th at their Amboy farm to celebrate the publication of THE TURNING WHEEL.

CONGRATULATIONS to Michael Paul Gallo who graduated from MSU on Friday, August 13th.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joe Kubicek on his appointment to the Minnesota State Arts Board.

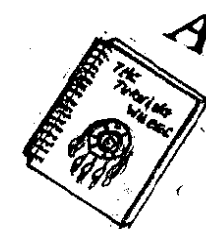
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SYMPATHY



The members of SMPS were deeply shocked to learn of the death of Thomas Lee, age 39, husband of member Alane Lee. Tom died on June 14th after a brief illness. Love and prayers to Alane and their three children.

SMPS members also extend loving sympathy to member Monica Haack and family upon the death of James O. Haack, father of husband, Jim. He died on May 20th at the age of 94.



Achievement



SMPS poets are pleased to announce the July 10th, 1982, publication of their first book of poetry, THE TURNING WHEEL. This book, the accumulated work of 32 poets, contains six sections of poetry that describe the emotions and situations of LIFE, that "unending wheel which is ever turning." The book is available for \$6.95.

Hopefully, all of the poets will be on hand for the autograph-signing session to be held SEPTEMBER 20th - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the READMORE BOOKSTORE, 123 South Front, Mankato, Minnesota.

A "dress-up" celebration party at a "fancy" restaurant is being planned for the same evening. Details to be announced later.

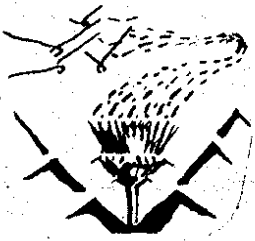
OCTOBER 9 -- SMPS MEETING

Elvira T. Johnson, of Duluth, will speak on the ways writers can assist editors. Her experiences have given her many ideas on this topic. Mrs. Johnson will also critique SMPS member poems.

Send a one-page (unidentified) poem:

Elvira T. Johnson
4425 West 7th Street
Duluth, MN 55807

Be sure to enclose \$1.00 and mail before SEPTEMBER 30th.



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SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 3 Issue 2 Oct 1982

YOU ARE INVITED

OCTOBER 9 11:30-3:30

Mr. Rene's (2nd floor)
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota

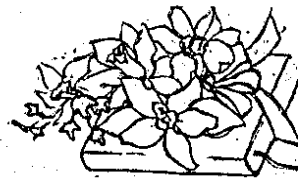
SMPS members are looking forward to the October program, "Ways Writers Assist Editors," to be presented by Elvira T. Johnson of Duluth. Elvira's previous programs and seminars have always been well received and appreciated. Elvira is the advisor and seminar critic for the Arrowhead Poetry Society and is president of the League of Minnesota Poets. She also is the editor of the anthology, NORTH COUNTRY CADENCE, which has been published annually since 1976 by the APS. Her son, Rodney and wife, who live in Minneapolis, often visit when Elvira speaks to our group. We welcome them and all other guests.

REMEMBER that the procedure for luncheon has been changed. Menu selections will be made from Mettler's Salad Bar next door and carried individually to the Sunset Room.



APPRECIATION

The autograph-signing session held at the Readmore Bookstore on September 18th from 1:00 to 4:00 was well attended by SMPS poets. Members are grateful to the Readmore owners and staff for the invitation and for the refreshments. "Fancy" plans to celebrate after the session were changed to an informal "Kentucky Fried Chicken" supper and fellowship at the home of Jim and Toi Rochovitz.



CONGRATULATIONS

-- to Michael Paul Gallo who married Joyce Peterson on September 17, 1982. Michael secured a teaching position in Moorhead at a pre-school day care center called The Children's House. Best wishes for a lifetime of joy!

-- to Elvira T. Johnson and Norman R. Boe for their honor of being chosen the first poets laureate of the League of Minnesota Poets.

ANTICIPATION

Next SMPS meeting - NOVEMBER 13th
Program to be announced later.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Doris Gregerson
Rt. #3, Box 361A
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Michael Paul Gallo
921 23rd Ave., S., #21
Moorhead, MN 56560

WELCOME TO NEW WRITING MEMBERS

Kevin Fortin
1113 Sunrise Drive
North Mankato, MN 56001

Judi Bernstein
1881 Knollwood Drive
Fairmont, MN 56031





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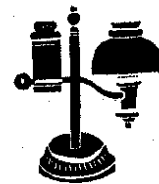
APPRECIATION

Thank you, Elvira T. Johnson, for another inspiring and instructional program for SMPS in October. The correct grammar reminders, the manuscript submission tips, and the critiquing seminar were received by SMPS members with immense gratitude. How fortunate we are that you will travel the distance from Duluth to Mankato to share your expert opinions with us.

WELCOME

TO

NEW WRITING MEMBERS



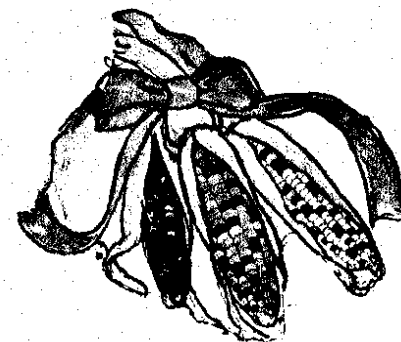
Verna Larsen
315 Glenwood
Mankato, Minnesota

Dr. Jo Liebhaber
36½ Franklin Street
Wells, MN 56097

CONGRATULATIONS

--to the proud new grandparents, Norman and Lucile Nitzkowski. Their son and wife, Kari and Norman, Jr., welcomed a new baby boy into their home and hearts on October 8th. The baby's name is Adam.

--to Jo Liebhaber who also was accepted in the League of Minnesota Poets this past month.



GET WELL WISHES

--to Marsha Paske who will enter Immanuel/St. Joseph's Hospital on November 8th for surgery. She would welcome visitors and/or cards and letters, I'm sure.



OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT

The suggested assignment for November 13th is to write a geographical or historical poem about the southern Minnesota area.

Authors... Writers...

Dr. John Solensten will be the featured speaker for the next program in the STORIES FOR OUR PLACE series.-- at Mankato State University. The program will be held Sunday, November 14, 1982, at 2:00 p.m. in the Conference Auditorium of the MSU Student Union. It will last about one hour and a discussion will follow.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 3 Issue 3 Nov 1982

YOU ARE INVITED

November 13 11:30-3:30

Mr. René's (2nd floor)
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota

The November program, "Beyond Imagism: Corridors and Wildernesses," will be presented by Dr. John Solensten of the English faculty at Concordia College in St. Paul. He will use slides to illustrate his "informal program with the formal title."

Dr. Solensten, a native of Madelia, Minnesota, formerly taught English at Mankato State University from 1968 to 1974. He has published several poems, plays and novels. His narrative poem, "Oahe," about the South Dakota dam, was featured in the 1981 AMICAS. His play, "Watowan," was produced by Centre State in Minneapolis in 1978. He also has written a novel, Good Thunder, and his play, by the same name, will be produced in New York City next spring.

Informal Poetry Sharing will follow.

SMPS welcomes all members and guests.



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 3 Issue 4 December 1982

YOU ARE INVITED

December 11 11:30-3:30

Mr. René's (2nd floor)
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota

SMPS is pleased to welcome Kathy Callaway, Writer-in-Residence at Mankato State University, as the featured speaker at the December meeting. Ms. Callaway was raised in Prior Lake, Minnesota, and moved to New York City in 1967. She lived and worked there for nine years, writing approximately 250 scripts for three major soap operas. Since then, she has traveled extensively, earned a Master of Fine Arts in Writing Poetry degree at the University of Montana at Missoula, and received many honors and awards for her poetry and fiction. Her book of poetry, "Heart of the Garfish," recently won the Agnes Lynch Starrett award for poetry and was published in the spring of 1982. She has also written a young adult novel, "The Bloodroot Flower," and her poetry and reviews have appeared in numerous journals, such as Iowa Review, Antaeus, and The Nation.

Reservations should be made with Bill or Pat Johnson at 387-3730.

APPRECIATION

Twenty-two members and five guests attended the November 13th SMPS meeting to hear **John Solensten** of Concordia (St. Paul) English Department. Dr. Solensten shared several of his own excellent poems to illustrate his topic, "Beyond Imagism." THANK YOU, Dr. Solensten, for such an inspiring journey down the "corridors" and through the "wildernesses" into the direct experience of "Nature" for poet and reader alike!!

OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT

The optional assignment subject for December 11th is a poem about "walls" or "fences." Any style or form is acceptable and the barrier/divider concept can be imaginary or concrete.



BONUS

Following Ms. Callaway's presentation on December 11th, several students from SMPS member Claire Beetch Bock's Creative Process class will read poetry they have written during this past quarter. The students are from West High.

NOTICE

SMPS dues and Thistle.Down subscriptions are due by January 1, 1983. Both should be given or sent to:

Joe Kubicek
RFD #1
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

WELCOME

NEW

WRITING MEMBER

Dianne Rapp
221 Marcy Street
Mankato, MN 56001

IN MEMORIAM

Word was received recently of the death of SMPS charter member, Margaret Aamodt of Lake Mills, Iowa. Ill health had prevented her from attending the SMPS meetings for the past several years. She will be sorely missed.

MISCELLANEOUS

--The November 12, 1982 meeting SMPS marked the 7th Anniversary of Southern Minnesota Poets' Society!!

--Monessa Newell, six year old daughter of SMPS members, Ron and Caroljean Newell, is home to Mapleton from St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester after undergoing surgery on Oct. 27th.



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 3 Issue 5 January 1983

YOU ARE INVITED

JANUARY 15 11:30-3:30

Mr. René's
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota



The January meeting of SMPS will feature SMPS poets themselves as they participate in an entire program of informal sharing. No other program is planned unless one or two poet members wish to share a "teaching gem of wisdom" that they believe will be especially helpful to other members.

During the informal sharing session, poets will be allowed to read three poems each. Two of these may be the optional assignment poems, as follows:

1) TANKA: a Japanese fixed form of verse consisting of five lines with a syllable count of 5-7-5-7-7. (An example appears elsewhere in this issue.)

2) A "New Year" poem, relating to a poetic experience of an old ending and new beginning.

All guests are always welcome!!

RESERVATIONS -- 387-3730 - Bill & Pat
Johnson

APPRECIATION

A big thank-you to KATHY CALLAWAY, writer-in-residence at MSU, who gave a fine program for SMPS on December 11th. Her topic, "The Expatriot Life," gave thirty members and eight guests a valuable insight into her self-banishment from the traditional life and her adventure-filled travels to London, France, India and other places. Several members commented favorably on her inspiring use of metaphors, especially.

Big thank-you's to CLAIRE BOCK and her creative writing students from East High School. Ron Reemer, Karl Keltgen, Sandy Evans, Roger Hanson, Paul Near and Tim Halldin read their own poems. Another two poems by Rhonda Zinke were read by Mrs. Bock.

IN MEMORIAM

The members of SMPS extend their love and sympathy to fellow member, Esther Wick, in the loss of William, her beloved husband of over fifty years, on December 2, 1982.

WELCOME

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Joanne Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001
278-3874

Ike Sarma
1033 Oak Terrace Drive
North Mankato, MN 56001
345-4014

Note: Both Joanne and Ike plan to become Writing Members soon.



OPTIONAL ASSIGNMENT

TANKA: A Japanese form of five lines with a syllable count of 5-7-5-7-7. This strict form is still the official form for poetry competition in Japan.

EXAMPLE:

TRANSFORMATION

I awoke one dawn
To a world encased in soft
Banks of snow. The vines
And the hanging shrubs bent low
To form fairy-castled halls.

-- Madeline Weaver
(from MEMO TO A MUSE, 1964, p. 57.)

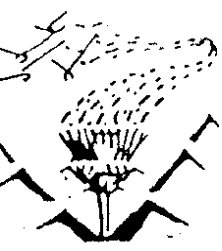
NOTICE

January 18, 1983 -- Candy Clayton will read her poetry at the Writers' Reading Series at MSU Union - Room 253 at 7:00 p.m.

Misc.

Monica Haack reports the good news that she is "on the mend" after breaking her arm about the first week of December.

Congratulations to Jim and Toi Rochovitz, whose second grandchild arrived the day after the record blizzard. Ryan James was born to Rhonda and Mark Taylor on December 29, 1982, in Minneapolis. The precious boy weighed 7# 13½ oz. (Adjective supplied by editor!)



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 3 Issue 6 FEB 1983

YOU ARE INVITED

FEBRUARY 12 11:30-3:30

Mr. René Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota

The February SMPS program, "The Extraordinary in the Ordinary," will be presented by DR. DAVID JOHNSON, a new faculty member in the English Department at Mankato State University. Dr. Johnson, a native of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, received his M.F.A. at the University of Arkansas. He is a fine poet who has recently published a chapbook entitled, Much Toil, Much Blame.

SMPS members warmly welcome David Johnson - both to our meeting and to our community!

Members, please make reservations to Bill or Patricia Johnson at 387-3730.

FEBRUARY

The suggested assignment poems for February are:

- 1) a humorous poem
- 2) a rondeau

The Rondeau is a set French verse pattern consisting of fifteen (15) lines, with the 9th and 15th lines short (usually the first half of the first line.) Only two rhymes (exclusive of the refrain) are allowed, as: aabba abc aabbac.

There are two other accepted forms; one with twelve (12) lines: aabba abc abbac, and the rondeau redoublé, which has six (6) quatrains of abab. The first four (4) lines form each of the last lines of the remaining quatrains. More info can be found on pp. 442-443 of A Handbook of Literature, by Thrall, Hibbard and Holman.

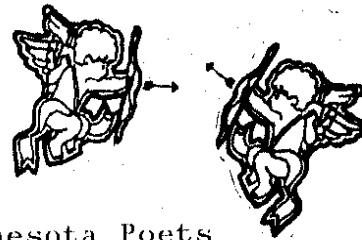
NOTICE

Poems can be submitted now for the next SMPS book to be published in the spring of 1984. Members should submit ten (10) poems (from 2-30 lines each) in various styles and themes. Several filler-type poems also will be gratefully accepted. SEPTEMBER 10, 1983, the date of the September meeting, will be the final deadline for submissions.

SMPS NOTES

PAST - Last month, twenty-three members and guests attended the January meeting of SMPS. Roy Moore led into the annual informal sharing session with a lively harmonica rendition. Poets read their poems in order of approximate seniority of SMPS membership and stated how they came to write it, what difficulties they encountered writing it, and whether they were happy with the results.

FUTURE - The March 12th SMPS meeting will feature Michael Dennis Browne. He will speak on the theme, "Poetry and the World," which will cover aspects of contemporary poetry. He will also critique twelve (12) poems in his customary professional manner. These poems will be the first 12 member-poems to reach Bill Johnson by February 19th!!



REMINDER

League of Minnesota Poets

Remember to send your \$5.00 annual dues by MARCH 1, 1983 to:

ELEANOR BURNS
3415 LAKE AVE., SO.
Duluth, MN 55802

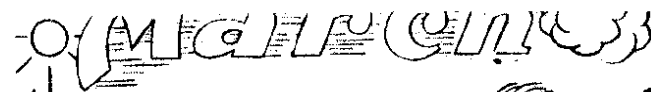


Thistle. Down

Thanks!



Words of appreciation and praise are due to Dr. David Johnson, MSU professor, for his excellent and well-received program, "The Extraordinary in the Ordinary," at the February SMPS meeting! It was a special meeting complete with valentines and apples and members reading their assignment Rondeaus, humorous poems and/or poems of the poets' choice. Twenty-five members and guests were present.



SMPS NOTES & NEWS



1) The following persons were appointed to the 1983 Auditing Committee by President Patricia Johnson: Elinor Schmidt, Martin Offerle, and John Kolbe.

2) Sincere appreciation goes to Ike Sarma for offering "publishing" services for Thistle Down! (Previous copy charges of \$.05 rose to \$.15 per newsletter last month -- and the editor almost fainted!!)

NEW WRITING MEMBER

Joanne Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Burton Greenwald
Box 301
Minnesota Lake 56068



BRING A FRIEND!

to the APRIL 9th SMPS meeting!! St. Paul member, Norman R. Boe, will be the program speaker. Details will be announced in the next issue of Thistle Down.



Special Event

Florence Cobb, MSU instructor, has invited SMPS to take part in an interesting program combining poetry and interpretive dance for Thursday, April 28, 1983. Poets are requested to submit several poems of various themes and forms depicting "everyday" life which could be favorably choreographed. A board will select poems according to their interpretative possibilities and "common" emotion content, not necessarily on "light, musical" qualities. Rehearsals will begin soon after the March 12th submission deadline. Submit poems to SMPS President, Patricia Johnson at 732 Garfield, North Mankato, MN 56001 or at the March 12th SMPS meeting.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 3 Issue 7 MARCH 1983

MARCH 12 -- 11:30-3:30

Mr. René Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, Minn.

*You're
invited!*

Michael Dennis Browne, associate professor of English at the University of Minnesota, will speak on the topic, "Poetry and the World," covering aspects of contemporary poetry and will critique 10-12 submitted member-poems. Michael Dennis Browne was born in England, attended Oxford and Hull Universities and taught in Finland and France before coming to the U.S. in 1965 as a Fullbright Scholar. After receiving his M.A. in English Literature from the University of Iowa, he taught at Columbia University and Bennington College prior to joining the U of M faculty in 1971. He has published two books of poetry: The Sunfletcher and Wife of Winter and is author of four texts for the English composer, David Lord, three of them for children. He also was the seminar leader for the May 1980 LOMP meeting held in Mankato.

SMPS members welcome Michael Dennis Browne and his new wife, Lisa.

RESERVATIONS: Call 387-3730