



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 4 Issue 1 Sept. 1983

You Are Invited —

FIRST MEETING OF OUR NEW YEAR:

SEPTEMBER 10, 1983
11:30 - 3:30

Mr. Reneé Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: POETRY SHARING: (after three month hiatus).

Members and guests -- bring your September assignment poems - the Shakespearean Sonnet - and other poetry to read as time allows.

To refresh your memory:

The Shakespearean Sonnet is written in iambic pentameter; this consists of three quatrains and a closing couplet. The rhyme scheme is typically:
abab cdcd efef gg.

Also bring award poems, including LOMP spring contest winners to be read with Bill Johnson's Achievement Report.

PLEASE PHONE IN YOUR RESERVATIONS:
387-3730

SMSP News and Notes

All members' poems for the 1983-1984 anthology PRAIRIE BREAD are due September 10, 1983, at the SMPS meeting or mail to Membership Chairman, Bill Johnson, 732 Garfield Ave., North Mankato, Minnesota 56001.

The assignment poem for October 8 is: any form -- free or traditional -- poems on the prairie. Selections will be made from these to be included in a special section of PRAIRIE BREAD. Poems may relate either to the past or present.

Elvira T. Johnson, League of Minnesota Poets president, will be our speaker and seminar leader October 8. Each writing member may send her one poem (any subject or form) to be critiqued; one page limit, unidentified. Place SMPS Seminar Poem on your return address; enclose \$1.00. Address: Elvira T. Johnson, 4425 West 7th Street, Duluth, MN 55807. Deadline: September 24, 1983.

September 25 -- ARTFEST '83: REGIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL -- a celebration of the Visual and Performing Arts Sunday from 11-5 p.m. at the Mankato Art Center. Continual displays, demonstrations, workshops, good food and live performances will take place indoors and outdoors. SMPS will be helping with this. Everyone come!

Appreciation

Our thanks to all who participated in sharing poetry at our May meeting.

SPECIAL THANKS to JOE KUBICEK for his helpful report in May on "Foundations and Grants" and to BILL AND PATRICIA JOHNSON for sharing their insights on "The Art of Entering Poetry Contests".

Our thanks to those who prepared all the useful handouts distributed in May.

Welcome —

New Associate Member:

Alva Wachter
Route 1, Box 56
Kenyon, MN 55946

New Writing Members:

Mae Buckeye
1628 North 4th Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Al Mackdanz
401 Moreland Avenue
Mankato, MN 56001

Ike Sarma
36 Gretchen Court
Mankato, MN 56001

Sympathy —

SMPS members extend loving sympathy to ELVIRA JOHNSON on the death of her mother, August 17; and also to REV. LELAND AND HELEN SIMCOX on the death of Rev. Simcox's mother in August.

Special Thanks



Toi Rochovitz has retired as editor of THISTLEDOWN -- after much work well done. SMPS owes a round of rousing applause to Toi for her creative development of this newsletter during her tenure as editor.

MANY THANKS TO YOU, TOI,
WE APPRECIATE YOUR FINE WORK!

New Editor



That means that THISTLEDOWN has a new editor: Joanne Ardolf Decker.

Although I am rather new to the SMPS community, I have accepted the opportunity to serve as editor of THISTLEDOWN this year.

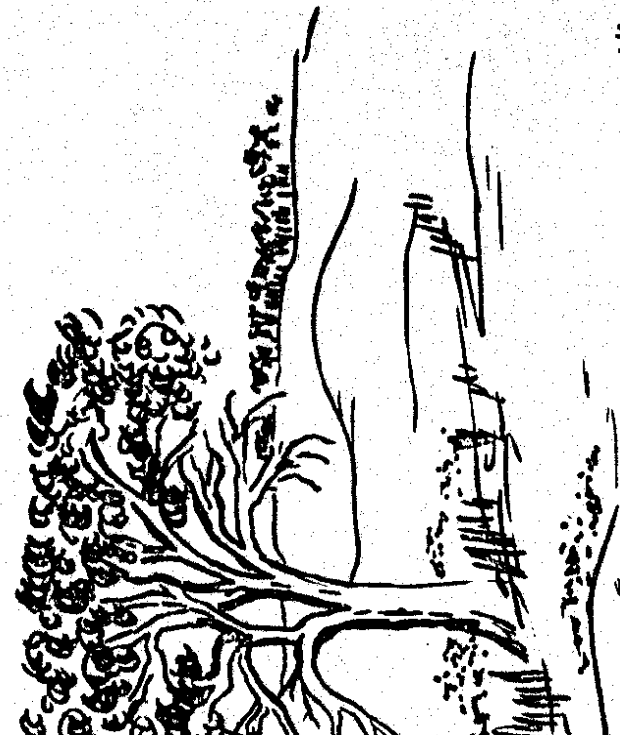
In my professional life I teach at MSU in the Department of Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services. My membership in SMPS is my way of treating myself to a new leisure experience in my life.

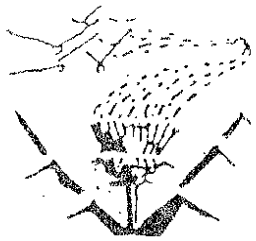
As editor of THISTLEDOWN, I hope to become better acquainted with all you fine poets. I look forward to serving you and count on your help, support and understanding.

Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001

AND WHEN TO THE HEART OF MAN
WAS IT EVER LESS THAN A TREASON
TO GO WITH THE DRIFT OF THINGS,
TO YIELD WITH A GRACE TO REASON,
AND BOW AND ACCEPT THE END
OF A LOVE OR A SEASON?

Robert Frost





Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 4 Issue 2 October, 1983

Come... Join Us...

FOR THE OCTOBER SMPS MEETING:

October 8, 1983
11:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, MN 56001

AN AFTERNOON WITH ELVIRA T. JOHNSON.

Elvira T. Johnson, a native of Duluth, is the advisor and seminar critic for the Arrowhead Poetry Society and is now serving her fourth year as president of the League of Minnesota Poets. She has edited several poetry anthologies and has had her own book of poetry, INTO THE DAYBREAK, published in 1968. In 1974 she received the first ARROWHEAD POET OF DISTINCTION AWARD for meritorious service to poets and poetry.

We look forward to having Elvira with us as our speaker and seminar leader for the afternoon, October 8.

PLEASE PHONE YOUR RESERVATIONS:
387 - 3730.

SMPS News and Notes



Please continue working on poems related to the prairie. The deadline has been extended to November 12, 1983. At that meeting we will read those poems following the speaker. Thereafter, they will be submitted to Bill Johnson to be incorporated into one chapter of this year's anthology: PRAIRIE BREAD.



Plan to participate in the GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES this month:

October 13, 1983, Doris Grumbach, novelist, critic, biographer and Professor of Literature at American University in Washington D.C. and currently visiting professor at the Iowa Writers Workshop.

3:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author"
7:30 p.m. the reading.

MSU Student Union, Room 253.

Appreciation

Many thanks to all who joined us for the September meeting and to all who participated in the "Getting-back-together Poetry Sharing".

We were pleased to meet Ellen Thomson who visited our September meeting and encouraged all SMPS members to take part in the Mankato Area Arts Council's sponsored activities. Ellen is the director and coordinator for the Regional Arts Festival.

Welcome ~

New Writing Members:

Susan S. Chambers
Good Thunder

Bruce Segerstrom
Hopkins

New Associate Member:

Marian Segerstrom
Hopkins



As imperceptibly as grief
The summer lapsed away, --
Too imperceptible, at last,
To seem like perfidy.

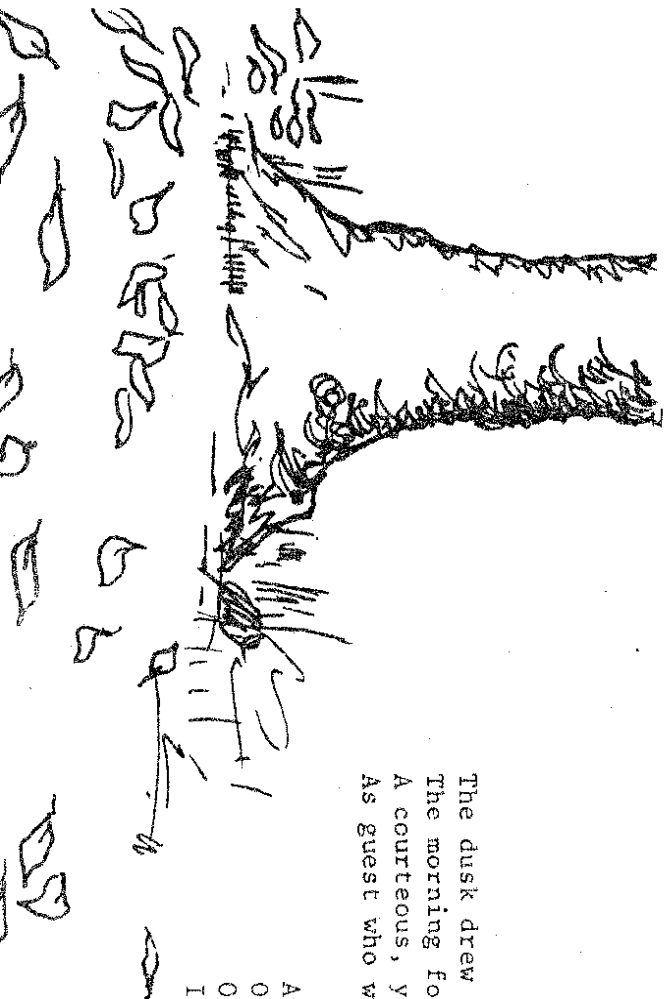
A quietness distilled,
As twilight long begun,
Or Nature, spending with herself
Sequestered afternoon.

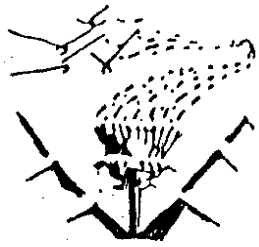
Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Napieridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001

The dusk drew earlier in,
The morning foreign shone, --
A courteous, yet harrowing grace,
As guest who would be gone.

And thus, without a wing,
Or service of a keel,
Our summer made her light escape
Into the beautiful.

Emily Dickinson





Thistle · Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 4 Issue 3 November, 1983

Come, Join Us -

Saturday, November 12, 1983
Mr. René Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, MN 56001
11:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Karl Heise will speak on the topic:
"PERSPECTIVES OF LATIN AMERICAN POETS
AND POETRY."

Dr. Heise is an associate professor in
the Foreign Language Department at
Mankato State University, coming to
Mankato in 1976. His language specialty
is Spanish, and he teaches a course in
the poetry of Latin America.

His presentation will broaden our
knowledge and interests to include
the topics and forms of poetry as
written beyond the boundaries of our
own country.

PLEASE PHONE YOUR RESERVATIONS:
387 - 3730.

SMPS News and Notes



The theme for our poems in
November will be "The Prairie."
Poems on that topic are to be
submitted to Bill Johnson on
November 12 for possible
inclusion in this year's
anthology, PRAIRIE BREAD.



Please bring one or two other
poems to the November meeting
to be shared as time permits.



GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

offers the following opportunities
during the month of November:

Noted poet-author, Carol Muske,
University of California at Irvine,
will appear at the MSU Student Union,
Room 253, November 8, 1983,

3:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author";
7:30 p.m. Readings.

Poet, playwright, novelist,
John Solensten, will appear at the
MSU Student Union, Room 253,
November 29, 1983,
3:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author";
7:30 p.m. Readings.

(Admission is free for both events)

Appreciation -

Our sincere thanks to
Elvira T. Johnson for preparing
her comments on poems submitted
to her for the October seminar.
Many thanks, too, to Patricia
Johnson for standing in for
Elvira in her absence.

New Writing Member:

Sister Bernetta Quinn, OSF
Box 4900 Assisi Heights
Rochester, MN 55903

New Associate Members:

Ronda L. Leech
2018 - 7th Avenue
Mankato, MN 56001

Veronica L. Christ
527 South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Get Well Wishes

Our love and prayers are extended
to two SMPS members who are on
the mend with broken bones:

Monica Haack, who broke
her wrist, and Blanch
Huntzicker who broke her hip.

We wish you both speedy recovery!

HAPPY Anniversary

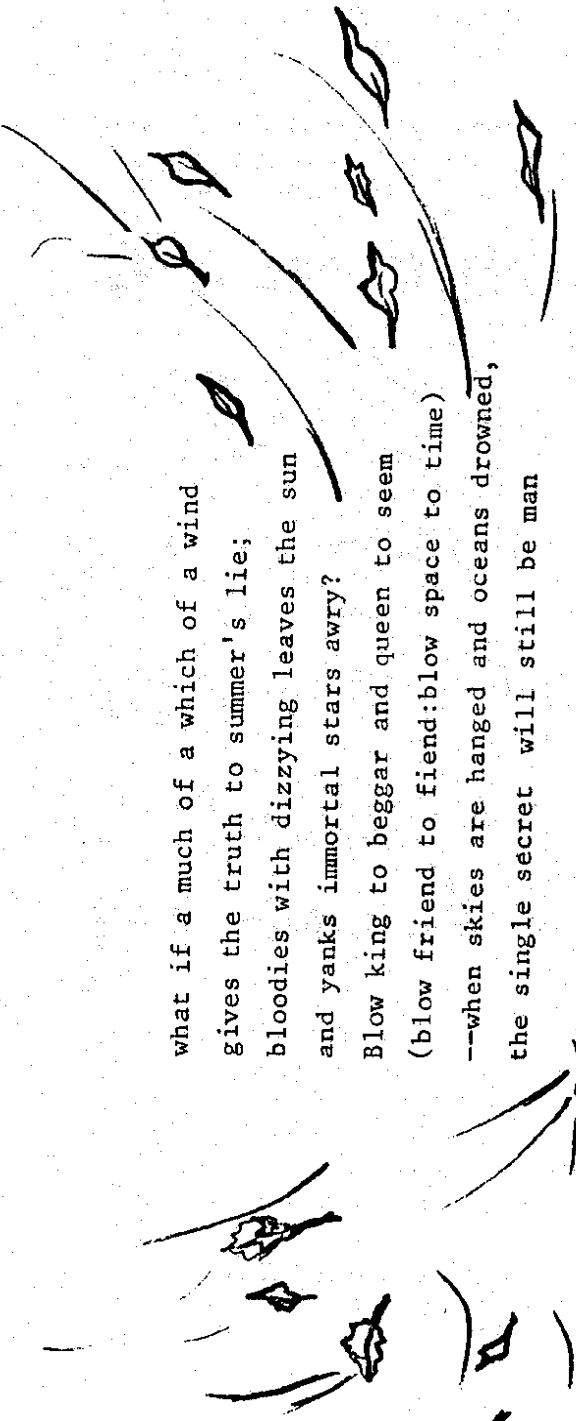
The November, 1983, meeting
marks the
SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY.

The group was organized
in November, 1976.

Now, in November, 1983,
there are 76 members
in the group.

MANY THANKS to all
who have been a part
of the growth and
development of this
special group.

Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Maple Ridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001



what if a much of a which of a wind
gives the truth to summer's lie;
bloodies with dizzying leaves the sun
and yanks immortal stars awry?
Blow king to beggar and queen to seem
(blow friend to fiend:blow space to time)
---when skies are hanged and oceans drowned,
the single secret will still be man

E.E. CUMMINGS



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 4 Issue 4 December, 1983

Come Join Us —

Saturday, December 10, 1983
Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota

A FESTIVE AFTERNOON TO HONOR
OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS --

AND ENJOY

THE MUSIC OF POETRY/POETRY OF MUSIC.

Carol Smith will sing and play the guitar. She has entertained for many audiences in this area and will share music for the occasion. She is employed at Mankato State University in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Our associate members are very precious and important to the organization. This December meeting will give us all a chance to get to know them better and take opportunity to express our gratitude to them for joining us because they just love poetry!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS:
387 - 3730

The Honored Guests

These are the associate members who will be honored on December 10th.

Martha Boe
Verne Brielmaier
Billie Carleton
Veronica L. Christ
Dr. Ron Gower
Burton Greenwald
Mildred L. Hoppe
Dick Jensen
Barbara Lamson
Ronda L. Leech
Caroljean Newell
Norman Nitzkowski
Martin Offerle
Luella Olson
Dr. John Otis
Fern Rosenquist
Marian Segerstrom
Heidi Thorson
Alva Wachter
Maxine Wade
Romi White
Esther Wick

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

Mildred L. Hoppe
Route 2
Good Thunder, Mn 56037

Appreciation

Our sincere thanks to Dr. Karl Hei for his excellent and informative presentation at our November meeti

Our Assignment —

The Cameo form will be used for our December poems.

Originated by Alice Maud Spokes, the Cameo is a free verse form containing seven lines -- one sentence -- with exact syllable count. Each line must end on a strong word. The thirty-five syllables are arranged:

2-5-8-3-8-7-2.

Good luck, and bring your Cameo poem and others to share on December 10th. There will be poetry sharing of Christmas poems or others as time permits.

Help!

Someone submitted three poems to Bill Johnson without a signature. Would the author please identify these so that you may be accepted as a writing member. (One poem title: SEASIDE).

League Notice -

MESSAGE TO ALL SMPs MEMBERS
WHO ARE ALSO LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA
POETS MEMBERS:

Please send three poems for the
Anniversary (50th) League Anthology
to Elvira T. Johnson, 4425 West
7th Street, Duluth, MN 55807.

Editors, Elvira and Norman Boe
will make two choices from your
submissions to be included in the
50th Anniversary Edition.

RULES: Double-spaced, one poem
to a page, line limit preference:
20 or less. Send only your BEST
poems. They may have been
published. Put any credits after
your name and address in upper
left corner. Please include one
suggestion for a name for the
anthology. The name selected will
be awarded a prize. DEADLINE:
to be received by January 1, 1984.

Dr. Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001

...At the winter's midnight
we went to the trees, the coarse
holly, the balsam and
the hemlock for their green

At the thick of the dark
the moment of the cold's
deepest plunge we brought branches
cut from the green trees

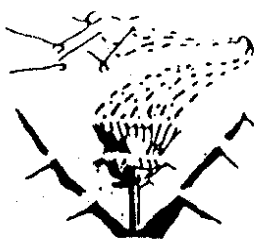
to fill our need, and over
doorways, about paper Christmas
bells covered with tinfoil
and fastened by red ribbons

we stuck the green prongs,
in the windows hung
woven wreaths and above pictures
the living green. On the

mantle we built a green forest
and among those hemlock
sprays put a herd of small
white deer as if they

were walking there. All this!
and it seemed gentle and good
to us. ...

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS



Thistle · Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 4 Issue 5 January, 1984

Come Join Us —

Mr. René Banquet Hall
Saturday, January 14, 1983

METAPHORS AND PAPERCLIPS:
THE HUMANITIES' CONNECTION
OR
"WHERE SHALL WE DINE?"

Dr. Curtis Dornberg, Professor of English and Director of the Humanities Program at Mankato State University will speak about the use of metaphors and similes based upon Humanities.

Dr. Dornberg is a native of Mankato who obtained his B.S. Degree from Mankato State University, his M.A. and Ph.D. Degrees from the University of Iowa. He joined the MSU faculty in 1959.

He comes to us recommended by John Dohmeyer who was inspired as his student in the course entitled: Myths and Symbols.

Make your reservations:
387 - 3730

SMPS News and Notes

Election Results:

The following officers were elected by Unanimous Acclamation on December 14, 1983:

President: Patricia M. Johnson;
Vice President: Mildred Offerle;
Recording Secretary: Susan S. Chambers;
Corresponding Secretary:
Monica Toohey Haack;
Treasurer: John C. Kolbe.

Appointed Committees for 1984:

Membership & Publicity Chairman:
Wilfred M. Johnson;
Program Director: Roy B. Moore;
Poetry Information & Contest Chairman:
Carolyn Davis;
THISTLE.DOWN Editor:
Joanne Ardolf Decker;
Advisors: Norman R. Boe and
Cecelia Weaver.

The 1983 Nominating Committee was composed of the following persons:

SMPS ADVISORS: Norman R. Boe &
Cecelia Weaver and Carolyn Davis as
Spokesperson.

Appreciation —

Our many thanks to Carol Smith for the lovely Christmas music which set the tone for a holiday spirit and good time at our December meeting.

Welcome —

NEW WRITING MEMBER:

Mildred L. Hoppe
Route 2 Box 87
Good Thunder, MN 56001

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER:

Leona Schalow
Route 4 Box 112
Mankato, MN 56001

Get Well —

Get well wishes to Blanch Huntzick who is convalescing at the Hillcrest Health Care Center, Highway 169 S, LeHillier, MN 56001

Membership —

SMPS dues for 1984 are due!
Just \$6.00 will win your membership (either as a writing member or as an associate member) plus bring THISTLE.DOWN to your mailbox every month. Best buy in town!

Reminders

* GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES
at Mankato State University:

Tuesday, January 17, 1984,

Patricia Hampl,
novelist, essayist,
librettist, poet,

Student Union, Room 253

3:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author"
7:30 p.m. Reading.

* DEADLINE FOR POEMS FOR
THE MOCCASIN, Spring, 1984,
FEBRUARY 15, 1984.

* SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENT FOR JANUARY:
The Cadence Form.

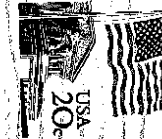
Wilfred & Patricia Johnson
732 Garfield Avenue
Mankato, MN 56001

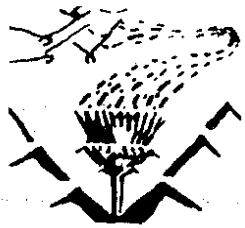
Dr. Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001

THE SNOWSTORM

Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
Arrives the snow, and, driving o're
the fields,
Seems nowhere to alight:
the whited air
Hides hills and woods, the river,
and the heaven,
And veils the farmhouse at the
garden's end.
The sled and traveler stopped,
the courier's feet
Delayed, all friends shut out,
the housemates sit
Around the radiant fireplace, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of storm.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON





Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 4 Issue 6 February, 1984

Come Join Us

Mr. René Banquet Hall
119 South Front St.
Mankato, MN
11:30-3:00 p.m.

Noted local poet, Cary Waterman, will give an appropriate Valentine's Day program entitled, FROM THE HEART. ♥

She will read some love poems written by poets through the ages, such as Elizabeth Barrett Browning, John Dunne, William Shakespeare, Thomas Hardy.

Members of SMPS are asked to bring one of their own poems which they have written for a loved one. Let us make this a warm, loving meeting, sharing our hearts with each other.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS:

387 - 3037

Please bring your suggested assignment poem on Heroic Blank Verse and one Love Poem (any form or free verse) to share following our speaker.

March Program

Our March program will include poem critiquing by our own member, Dr. John Otis of the MSU English Department.

John has done much critiquing for his students and is well qualified. He asks that each member bring a poem for critiquing to the February 11 meeting. Otherwise it may be mailed to him by March 3, 1984.

It must be typed and unsigned. Send to:
Dr. John Otis
Box 53
Mankato State University
Mankato, MN 56001

February Assignment

This month's assignment is a poem written in blank verse.

An unrhymed form, blank verse is usually written in iambic pentameter, referred to as heroic blank verse. Most meditative poetry and nearly all peotic drama have been composed in this medium. Untermeyer observes that because the rhythm of iambic pentameter is so close to speech, it is therefore so flexible, scholars consider it to be the most important meter in the literature of the western world. Blank verse is not confined to stanzas of uniform length. The breaks come at the conclusion of thoughts, as paragraphs in prose. The freedom of expression in blank verse lends itself to the use of run-on lines, which to

complete their meaning, run over to the next line without a pause.

--Viola Jacobson Berg
from PATHWAYS for the POET

Appreciation

Our many thanks to Dr. Curtis Dornberg of the MSU English Department for his stimulating, entertaining presentation at our January meeting.

Welcome

New Associate Members

Margy Hengy
Route 4 Box 41
Mankato, MN 56001

Dr. Curtis Dornberg
Route 1 Box 304
Mankato, MN 56001

New Writing Member

Richard Melcher
221 Cherry Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Sympathy

Our sympathy to Esther Wick on the loss of her sister.

Reminders

Memberships

SMPS 1984 memberships were due January 1, 1984. Subscription to THISTLE.DOWN is included in your membership. Please send \$6.00, your name and address to:

John C. Kolbe
SMPS Treasurer
623 South 2nd Street
Mankato, MN 56001

LOMP 1984 memberships are also due. Please send \$8.00, your name and address to:

Eleanor Burns
3415 Lake Avenue
Duluth, MN 55802

FOR LOMP MEMBERS ONLY:

The MOCCASIN deadline is
February 15, 1984.

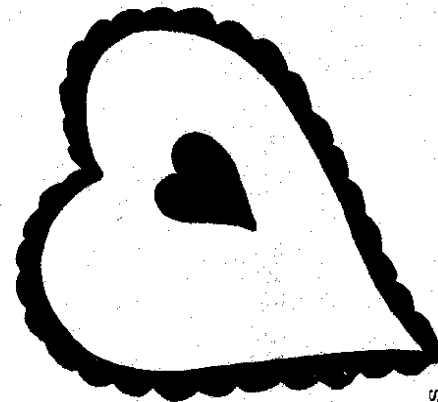
GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES at Mankato State University:

Tuesday, February 21, 1984:

Thomas Lux
poet, editor,
author of three collections
with Houghton Mifflin.

Student Union, Room 253
3:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author"
7:30 p.m. Reading ADMISSION FREE

Dr. Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001



i carry your heart with me(i carry it in
my heart)i am never without it(anywhere
i go you go,my dear;and whatever is done
by only me is your doing, my darling)

i fear

no fate(for you are my fate,my sweet)i want
no world(for beautiful you are my world,my true)
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

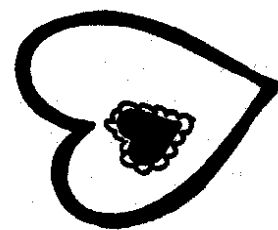
here is the deepest secret nobody knows

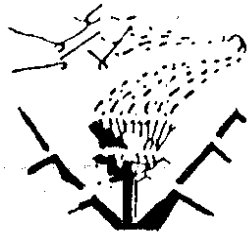
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud

and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)

and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart(i carry it in my heart) E. E. CUMMINGS





Thistle · Down

Norman Boe Day — A Tribute

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 4 Issue 7 February 1984

Come, Join Us —

Saturday, March 10, 1984
11:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Mr. René Banquet Hall
119 South Front Street
Mankato, MN

A SEMINAR WITH DR. JOHN OTIS
during which he will critique
members' poems.

Dr. Otis is a professor in the
Department of English at
Mankato State University. He
teaches poetry and regularly
critiques his students' poems.

Dr. Otis received his B.A. at
Hamlin University; Masters at
North Dakota State and
Doctorate of Arts at Drake
University.

ASSIGNMENT FOR THIS MONTH:

A PEACE POEM

any form, structured or free.
Please bring this and others
to share as time permits.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS
call: 387 - 3730

OUR APRIL 14, 1984 MEETING
WILL HONOR MR. NORMAN BOE.

This talented poet has donated
much time and energy to SMPS
— never receiving any
compensation for the excellent
programs and seminars he has
presented, sometimes traveling
in treacherous weather to keep
his commitments. He and his
charming wife, Martha, are
unselfish in their dedication
and encouragement to all
poets.

We ask that every member make
a SPECIAL effort to be at the
April meeting when, following
Norman's program on "The
Crystal Moment", we will read
our dedicatory poems to Norman
and honor him and Martha with
Life Memberships.

Members of the Martin County
Humanities Guild and the Root
River Poetry Society of
Rochester are also invited to
be with us and submit and read
poems for Norman.

EVERY MEMBER - ASSOCIATE AND
WRITING - is invited to write
a poem or tribute lines for
Norman or dedicate one of your
BEST poems to him. We suggest
illustrating your tribute page
in some manner since these
will be placed in a notebook
for our honored member to
keep.

Please submit your contribution
in your finest effort on
regular 8 1/2" x 11" standard
quality paper so that all
pages will be the same size
for the booklet.

A special day for Norman and for SMPS

Appreciation

Our sincere thanks to Cary Waterman for so lovingly sharing with us poems of love during our February meeting.

New Associate Member

Patricia B. Amlie
412 Moreland Avenue
Mankato, MN 56001

Get Well Soon

We continue to extend our get well wishes to Barbara Nelson Boler, Carol Eilenfeldt, and Blanche Huntzicker.

Another Opportunity

GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES
at Mankato State University:
Wednesday, March 7, 1984

GERALD STERN - POET, ESSAYIST.
The recipient of numerous
top awards, he currently
teaches creative writing at
the Iowa Writer's Workshop.

3:00 p.m. "A Talk with the
Author"

7:30 p.m. Reading ADMISSION
FREE

Dr. Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001

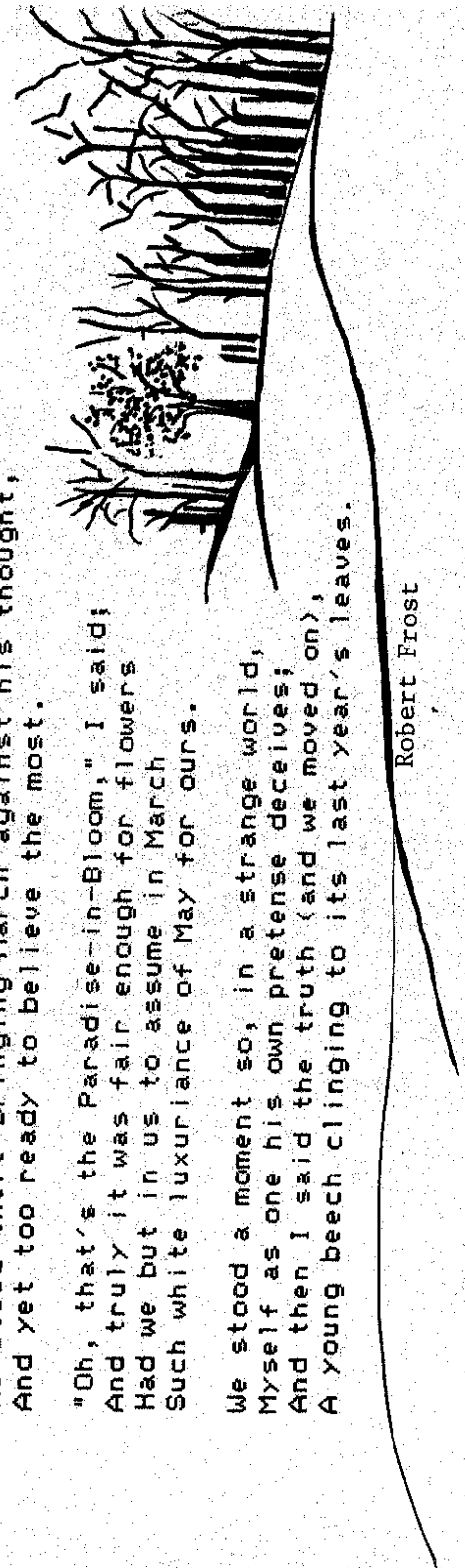
A BOUNDLESS MOMENT

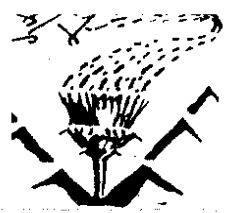
He halted in the wind, and -- what was that
Far in the maples, pale, but not a ghost?
He stood there bringing March against his thought,
And yet too ready to believe the most.

"Oh, that's the Paradise-in-Bloom," I said;
And truly it was fair enough for flowers
Had we but in us to assume in March
Such white luxuriance of May for ours.

We stood a moment so, in a strange world,
Myself as one his own pretense deceives;
And then I said the truth (and we moved on),
A young beech clinging to its last year's leaves.

Robert Frost





Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 4 Issue 8 April, 1984

Please Note:

Because SMPS is striving to save money and be able to sponsor Michael Dennis Browne's LOMP presentation at the Golden Anniversary celebration, there will be NO MAY ISSUE OF THISTLE.DOWN. This issue, then contains information regarding all April AND May programs. THISTLE.DOWN will not be published again until September.

Appreciation

Many thanks to Dr. John Otis for his time, energy and worthwhile comments during his critique of SMPS poems at our February meeting.

Special thanks goes to Heidi Thorson who has faithfully taken care of the THISTLE.DOWN mailings this year. She was a student at MSU, has now graduated and is employed in Bettendorf, Iowa. THANKS, Heidi, and we hope you will return to visit SMPS sometime.

SMPS April Meeting

Saturday, April 14, 1984
11:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front Street
Mankato, MN

NORMAN R. BOE DAY

PART I: THE CRYSTAL MOMENT:
a program presented to us by Norman R. Boe.

Norman R. Boe is the recipient of innumerable awards in state, national and international poetry competition. His poems have been published in countless newspapers, magazines and poetry journals. Mr. Boe is an active poet, speaker and seminar leader.

He served as president of the League of Minnesota Poets for 16 years.

PART II: TRIBUTE TO NORMAN BOE
Following his presentation, SMPS members will read their dedicatory poems to Norman and honor him and his wife Martha with Life Memberships in SMPS. Those who wish may include lines of tribute for Martha as well.

This month's assignment, then, is to prepare a poem for Norman on regular 8 1/2" X 11" paper to be read to him in his honor.

A special afternoon for all!

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS:
387 - 3730

May Specialty

Saturday, May 12, 1984
Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the League of Minnesota Poets

Festivities will take place at the Granada Royale Homotel, St. Paul. SMPS members will travel together, leaving at 7:00 a.m. from the Holiday Inn, North Mankato. Reservations must be made by April 14 with Bill Johnson. Phone: 387-3730 or write: 732 Garfield Ave., North Mankato, Mn, 56001 or notify Bill at the April 14 meeting.

SMPS members' contribution to the anniversary celebration will be sponsoring the program HEADLINER

by Michael Dennis Brown during the Literary Hour.

He is Professor of English at the University of Minnesota since 1971. A published poet and author, Mr. Browne has taught at Columbia University and Bennington College, also in Finland and France. He is widely known for his excellent workshop presentations.

SMPS members have agreed to sponsor his program at the Anniversary celebration as our contribution to the event in an effort to reserve LOMP funds for the League Anthology. Assistance is needed to meet these costs. Please bring a contribution to the April meeting or mail to Bill Johnson.

SMPS May Meeting

Because LOMP Golden Anniversary festivities fall on SMPS usual meeting date, OUR MAY MEETING will take place on the third Saturday, May 19, 1984.

It will be a Potluck Poetry and Luncheon Gathering at the home of Susan Chambers, rural Good Thunder. Bring the family, your poetry notebooks and a dish to pass. Time: 11:30. Maps to the site will be distributed at the April 14 meeting. If you cannot be there, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Susan S. Chambers, RFD #2, Good Thunder, MN 56037 to receive directions.

Summer Assignment

The poem assignment over the summer months will be a PANTOUM, a poetry form originated in Malaysia to the beat of the tom-tom.

It is written in four-line stanzas; and the second and fourth line of each stanza become the first and third of the succeeding stanza. In the last stanza, the second and fourth lines repeat the third and first lines of the first stanza; so that the opening and closing lines of the Pantoum are identical and the theme is brought full circle. This form may contain any number of four-line stanzas. The rhyme scheme is: 1,2,1,2; 2,,3,2,3; 3,4,3,4, . . . n,1,n,1,.

Dr. Joanne Ardolf Decker
32 Mapleridge Court
Mankato, MN 56001

News and Notes

GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES
PATRICIA JONES

Poet, film critic, essayist, editor, Patricia Jones was the 1983 New York State Creative Artist's Public Service Fellowship Winner in Poetry.

April 17, 1984

3:00 - A Talk with the Author

7:30 - Reading

Free Admission

THE THIRD ANNUAL ROBERT WRIGHT WRITER'S CONFERENCE at MANKATO STATE UNIVERSITY, April 28.

Workshops will be presented throughout the day by ten leaders in the writing and publishing fields to help authors and writers advance their work and develop their skills.

The cost of the day-long conference, including lunch, is \$30 to be mailed to Judy Mans, coordinator of the conference, Box 109, MSU, or call 389-1515 for additional information.

SMPS Greetings

Get Well Wishes to Lucile and Norman Nitzkowski and to Martha Boe, each of whom has been hospitalized recently.

Our sympathies to Bill and Patricia Johnson on the death of Bill's sister in February.

Congratulations to Toi and Jim Rochovitz on the birth of their granddaughter, Stephanie Suzan.