



Whistle. Down

SUMMER POETRY ASSIGNMENT

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue 1

IT IS FALL AGAIN, SO YOU ARE INVITED-

Saturday, September 8, 1984
11:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front Street
Mankato, Minn.

A SEMINAR WITH ELVIRA T. JOHNSON

Also: A critique of members' poems

Rules: Submit one poem
not more than 20 lines, double sp.
No names, please.

Send, by AUG. 25th to:

Elvira Johnson
4425 West 7th Street
Duluth, Minn. 55807

Poems received after the deadline
will not be critiqued.

Elvira is an excellent critic, and her help is always appreciated. She is a past president of LOMP and the advisor and seminar critic of the Arrowhead Poetry Society. She recently completed the excellent editing of Heartsong & Northstar Gold, LOMP Golden Anniversary publication.

SMPS contributed the cake, name tags, and the honorarium for Speaker Michael Dennis Brown for that wonderful Celebration. If you did not contribute at the May meeting, you may still do so at the September meeting.

the PANTOUM, a poetry form originating in Malaysia, to the beat of a tom-tom. 4 line stanzas; the second and fourth line of each stanza become the first and third stanza 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 poem 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.

CONGRATULATIONS, SMPS members elected as LOMP

NEW OFFICERS

(elected at Spring meeting)

Bill Johnson....President
Patricia Johnson...Editor of Moccasin
Monica Haack...Corresponding Secretary
Cecelia Weaver...V.Pres, Southern Region
Norman Boe...V. Pres. and Membership

NORMAN BOE day was wonderful success, thanks to all attending, and all who submitted poems. A special thanks should go to Norman, for his wonderful program. It was a "Crystal Moment" for each of us.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR SEPT. 8

387-3730

LOMP UPCOMING EVENTS

Rex Hudson will lead the seminar, and critique members' poems. Poems should be submitted to him NO LATER than 10 days before the Duluth meeting--Sept. 29, 1984.

All of the rules noted for SMPS September submission are applicable. Mail your poem to:

Rex Hudson
625 West 2nd Street
Apt. B-14
Duluth, Minnesota 55806

If you plan to attend the Duluth meeting, please let us know, so we can discuss carpooling arrangements.



GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES will again be offered this fall. We encourage one and all to attend these fine meetings. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with a variety of authors. We will pass on meeting places and times as we receive the information.



HAVE YOU REMEMBERED YOUR DUES?

There are still a few members who have not paid their dues for 1984. Subscription to **THISTLEDOWN** is included in your membership. Please send \$6.00 today! Send, with your name and address to:

John C. Kolbe
SNPS Treasurer
623 South 2nd Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Use the month of August to exercise your writing skills. Write a new poem. Rewrite 2 or 3 old poems. Share a poem with a friend. Go to your favorite bookstore or library, and discover a poet you have not previously read.

ENJOY POETRY!!!

And remember, in October we will be celebrating **POETRY DAY**. Come to this meetings with ideas!!!

S. Chambers, Editor
R.R.2, Box 86
Good Thunder, Minnesota
56037

NEW WEATHER

Mist came up as a man's hand.
Fog lifted as a woman's shawl.
Fair weather rode in with a blue oath
One large cloud bellied in a white
wind.
Two new winds joined for weather.
Splinters of rain broke out of the
west.
Blue rains soaked in a lowland loam.
The dahlia leaves are points of red.
Bees roam singing in the buckwheat.
Russet and gold are the wheatstraws.
Forgotten bells fade and change.
Forgetful bells fill the air.
Fog shawls and mist hands come again.
New weather weaves new garments.

Carl Sandburg



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue 2

PLEASE COME & ENJOY:

Saturday, Oct. 13m 1984
11:30 - 3:30 p.m.
MR. RENE BANQUET HALL
119 S. Frant Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

Please make RESERVATIONS:
387-3730

October 12th is POETRY DAY!

To celebrate, our program
will focus on poets and
poetry.

THE OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT IS
THE OCTOBER PROGRAM--

so plan to participate!

Each member should bring
a poem by a favorite poet
(not other members of our
group, please)

AND

write a poem about either
poetry, a poet or other

theme which celebrates poetry.

Appreciation

A special thanks to ELVIRA
JOHNSON
a very special critic,
a very special lady.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

THISTLEDOWN's editor,
Joanne Ardolf Decker, has retired.
We appreciate the work done,
and her creative and artistic
flair will be missed.....

....especially by Sue Chambers,
new editor. Sue would appreciate
all news, comments, and support
in the upcoming months.

Sympathy

SMPS members extend their
sympathy to LUCILLE NITSKOWSKI
on the death of her brother
who lived in Rochester, Mn.

New Associate Members

Welcome!

Lucile Fitzimmons
Good Thunder, Minn.
56037



Proud new GRANDPARENTS:
Wilfred and Patricia Johnson
Proud new NEWLYWEDS:
Diane Rapp and Lon Evenson

SONNETS-UNREALITIES

I.

it may not always be so; and i say
that if your lips, which i have loved, should touch
another's, and your dear strong fingers clutch
his heart, as mine in time not far away;
if on another's face your sweet hair lay
in such a silence as i know, or such
great writhing words as, uttering overmuch,
stand helplessly before the spirit at bay;

if this should be, i say if this should be-
you of my heart, send me a little word;
that i may go unto him, and take his hands,
saying, Accept all happiness from me.
Then shall i turn my face, and hear one bird
sing terribly afar in the lost lands.

(E.E. Cummings,
1923)

S. Chambers, Editor
R.R. 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, Mn 56037



Wilfred & Patricia Johnson
732 Garfield Avenue
Mankato, MN 56001

LOMP NEWS

At the Duluth meeting on Sept. 29, 1984, the members voted to host the 1986 or 1987 National Convention of State Poetry Societies. Get in early on the planning of this major event.

Also, a Statewide contest will be organized, with a deadline sometime next August. Start polishing up your best poetry, so you can be a winner.

There are extra Moccasin's available at \$1.40, with envelope. These make a much better greeting card than Hallmark can put out, and a special, warm gift. They can be ordered by contacting

Patricia Johnson, Editor
732 Garfield Avenue
North Mankato, Minn.
56001

The Golden Anniversary book-
HEARTSONG & NORTHSTAR GOLD
may also be ordered--\$7.50
for softcover, \$11.00 for hardcover.
Don't forget \$1.25 for postage.



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue 3

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Join Us, and Bring a Friend:

Saturday, November 10, 1984
11:30 - 3:30 p.m.

MR. RENE BANQUET HALL
119 South Front Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

Call for Reservation: 387-3730

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be an Executive Board meeting at 10:30 a.m., on Nov. 10th. ALL OFFICERS should attend.

If any members have old or new business they wish to bring up, please call or drop a line to any officer, and we will see that that business is attended to. (We hope to dispense with some routine business that has accumulated)

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 1984 DUES--THEY ARE SERIOUSLY OVERDUE! Remember, new dues are due in January, 1985. Be the first in your crowd to renew your membership for 1985!

Program

BARBARA STEVENS, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota will present a program entitled:

"Going from Bed to Verse"

Barbara has participated in the Sioux Falls McKennan Hospital Poetry Therapy Program; is a past President of the South Dakota State Poetry Society; is the current editor of South Dakota's monthly poetry magazine, "Pasque Petals"; and is the Vice President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her talk will encompass much of her work.

Come... Join Us...

This month's assignment is a Cinquain. Cinquains always have a title, a serious topic and consists of 22 syllables in the following pattern:

2
4
6
8
2

ALSO: Please bring the summer assignment, the Pantoum, to share.

MAKE NOTE OF THE MOCCASIN DEADLINE
February 1st, 1985



SMPS is participating in the ARTS CONNECTION, sponsored by the Region Nine Arts Council on Saturday, November 10th. (After our meeting) 26 organizations will be present. There will be live performances of dance and music, good talk and great company. SMPS will have a display where books will be sold, and individual author's books are welcome. Plan to attend! If you can help "man the booth" or have other suggestions, contact President Patricia at 387-3730.

Sympathy

Our sympathy to Mae Buckeye on the loss of her son.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. The Moccasin will make a wonderful hostess gift--and a great bargain at \$1.40 each.

We also have the L.O.M.P. Anthology for sale--\$11.00 hard cover, \$7.50 for softcover.



GOOD THUNDER WRITER
AND SOCIETY SERIES

at Mankato State University
Tuesday, November 4, 1984
4:00 p.m. "A Talk with the
Author"
7:30 p.m. Reading
Admission Free

Poet, Playwright, Essayist,
Short-story Writer
MARISHA CHAMBERLAIN

Supported by the Mankato
Area Arts Council--your
participation is urged.

Appreciation

The November, 1984 meeting
marks SMPS 8TH Anniversary.
The group was organized
in November, 1976.

Mark this special occasion by
writing a poem, sharing a
poem with someone you care
for, rewriting an old poem,
entering a poetry contest...
whatever helps you enjoy
poetry!

Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037

IN MY CRAFT OR SULLEN ART

In my craft or sullen art
Exercised in the still night
When only the moon rages
And the lovers lie abed
With all their griefs in their arms,
I labour by singing light
Not for ambition or bread
Or the strut and trade of charms
On the ivory stages
But for the common wages
Of their most secret heart.

Not for the proud man apart
From the raging moon I write
On these spindrift pages
Nor for the towering dead
With their nightingales and psalms
But for the lovers, their arms
Round the griefs of the ages,
Who pay no praise or wages
Nor heed my craft or art.

Dylan Thomas (1914-1953)




NEW Grandparents:
Joe & Sylvia Kubicek
John & Margy Hengy



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 5 Issue 4

COME CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT
OF CHRISTMAS WITH US!



SMPS'S DECEMBER MEETING:
Saturday, December 8, 1984
Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
1130 9711

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW POLICY!
Each meeting a sign up sheet
will be circulated, so that
you can indicate whether or
not you will be able to attend
our next meeting. If you are
unable to attend the meeting,
or have a change in plans from
the time you signed up, please
Call:

387-3730

This should help out Bill &
Patricia a great deal, if we
all do our part, and make sure
we sign up, or phone.
And remember, we can accomodate
last minute comers, so please
attend, even if you have not
been able to sign up.

Come Join Us



Christmas Program

CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING
and our guest, who is fast becoming
a much appreciated annual event,
gives much of herself. Please
don't miss the excitement & joy of
the music of Carol Smith. She
plays the guitar, and has entertained
many audiences in this area, and
has much to share with us.

Roy Moore, who plays a wicked
harmonica, will be joining her,
so the afternoon promises to be
very special.

Our Assignment

Our Assignment for December,
which will be shared as a part
of our program, is to write a
poem with a Christmas or Winter
theme. Each of us should try
hard to avoid the obvious phrases,
and attempt to make our poems
sparkle. Let us leave the trite
phrases for the card manufactures.

Get Well Wishes

Our get well wishes go out to
Blanche Huntzicker, may the Holidays
speed your recovery.



News and Notes

On December 4, 1984, Tuesday,
the GOOD THUNDER WRITER &
SOCIETY SERIES will present
Novelist, Screenwriter, and
Educational Consultant,
Rebecca Hill. Ms. Hill was
a 1980 fiction winner in the
Loft Mentor Series Competition
and received awards for her
first novel BLUE RISE.
She is currently at work on
a second novel.
4:00 p.m. "A Talk With the
Author"
7:30 p.m., Reading
Centennial Student Union,
Room 253
Mankato State University
Admission is free.



Mildred Norman Pehrson
has recently married, and
is now at home at
1105 South 4th Street
St. Peter, Minn. 56382



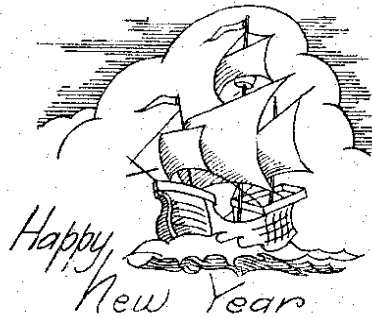
The MOCCASIN Deadline is
drawing closer.
Feb. 1, 1985

BLOW, BLOW, THOU WINTER WIND

Blow, blow, thou winter winde,
Thou art not so unkinde
 As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keene,
Because thou art not seene,
 Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh ho! sing heigh ho, unto
 the green holly,
Most friendship is fayning, most
Loving meere folly:
 Then heigh ho, the holly,
 This Life most jolly.

Freize, freize, thou bitter skie,
That dost not bight so nigh
 As benefitts forgot;
Though thou the waters warpe,
Thy sting is not so sharpe,
 As friend remembered not.
Heigh ho! sing heigh ho, unto
 the green holly,
Most friendship is fayning,
most Loving meere folly:
 Then heigh ho, the holly,
 This Life most jolly.

William Shakespeare

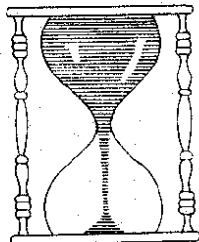


Make Early Payment of your
1985 SMPS Dues your first
NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

Remember, Dues include
a subscription to
THISTLEDOWN. Please send
\$6.00, your name and address
to:

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

LOMP 1985 memberships are
also due. Send in your
\$8.00 today!



RESOLUTION #2:

Write a new poem; rewrite
that not-quite-perfect-poem;
enter a contest; share poetry-
your own and the Masters,
with someone who would not
otherwise hear a poem.



Whistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue 5

Get well quick!

Our warmest wishes go out to Mae Buckeye, who broke her leg recently. Her winter address is: 7913 East Bonnie Rose Ave. Scottsdale, Arizona 85253

Assignment

Our JANUARY WRITING ASSIGNMENT:

The "Golda" Form

12 lines total in the poem, with lines 6 and 12 rhyming. The poem is always titled, and should have a flow and rhythm. The subject should be spiritual, deeply emotional, convey great beauty, or humorous. The syllabic count is as follows:

2-2-4-1, 4-2-2-1, 2-4-4-2.

You need not break the poem up into 3 stanzas; more natural flow and rhythm is attained in two stanzas.

OUTSTANDING

A special thank you to Carol Smith and the "Four Over Forty" Quartet who presented a lovely December musical program for SMPS members.

...And not to be forgotten, Barbara Stevens, who presented the November program...

Thank you all for informative and entertaining presentations.

A CAUTION TO EVERYBODY

Consider the auk;
Becoming extinct because he forgot
how to fly, and could only walk.
Consider man, who may well
become extinct
Because he forgot how to walk and
learned how to fly before
he thinned.

Ogden Nash

Coming Events -

Judith Guest is the next speaker for the Good Thunder Writer & Society Series. She is a novelist, Screenwriter, and Nationally acclaimed author of Ordinary People and Second Heaven.

4:00 p.m. "A Talk with Author"
Mankato Area Arts Council

120 S. Broad, Mankato

7:30 p.m. Reading

Centennial Student Union Room 253
Admission Free

New Associate Member:

Angela Ballman

Truman, Minnesota

The MOCCASIN deadline is Feb. 1st
Proofread your poem before
submission.

2me... Join us...

Saturday, January 12, 1985

Mr. Rene Banquet Hall

119 South Front

Mankato, Minnesota 56001

11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

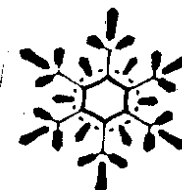
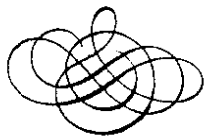
SMPS January Meeting

Program

Cynthia Shearer, of the MSU English department will be our guest speaker. She will be sharing poetry, and sharing her thoughts on good poetry.

ALSO: Each member is asked to please bring one poem of their own. Please do not put any identifying marks on your poem. Each member will bring one poem, and take home someone else's to be critiqued.

THIS IS A PERFECT CHANCE TO
WORK ON A POEM THAT NEEDS A
LITTLE PUSH TO BE JUST RIGHT!
You will also find critiquing
a learning experience!



SMPS IS HOSTING THE SPRING LOMP meeting. Many hands will help lighten the load. The following list of names and duties will make the task pleasurable.



JANUARY is SMPS Dues time. Dues include a subscription to THISTLEDOWN. Please send your dues in today! They are only \$6.00 and should be mailed to our Treasurer:

John C. Kolbe
623 South 2nd Street
Mankato, Mn. 56001

LOMP 1985 memberships are also due. Send in your \$8.00 today! Remember, membership in LOMP gives you automatic membership in the National Federation of Poetry Societies, and access to many national events and contests. Make a special effort to support our poetry organizations, so you can help poetry to live and thrive.



More get well wishes go out to Blanche Huntzicker and to Teresa Olson! We hope to see you soon.

Appreciation

A special thanks to John Domeier for his hand crafted gift to SMPS--a beautiful wooden gavel and stand. Now Pres. Patricia really has clout!

1. J. Kubicek--WagonMaster
2. J. Domeier--" "
3. J. Kolbe--" "
4. J. Ganey--" "
5. M. Boe--Admission Table
6. C. Weaver--" "
7. J. Domeier-- Name Tags
8. H. Simcox--Programs
9. R. Moore--Quote cards
10. T. Rochovitz--Typing
11. T. Rochovitz--Place Cards,
head table
12. L. Nitzkowski--CenterPieces
13. K. Lutes--" "
14. G. Olson--Used Book Table
15. L. Olson--" "
16. C. Davis--New Book Table
17. B. Wolle--" "
18. M. Offerle--Adver.--Madelia
19. M. Offerle--Guest Book
20. M. Hoppe--" "
21. E. Schmidt--Craft Table
22. C. Eilenfeldt--" "
23. V. Larsen--" "
24. S. Chambers--Hospitality
25. M. Haack--" "
26. I. Sarma--" "
27. L. Fitzimmons " "
28. M. Teigen--Adver.--Rochester
29. P. Stark--Adver.--St. Peter
30. B. Wolle--" --Truman
31. M. Cook--" --B. Earth
32. R. Newell--" --Mapleton
33. J. Liebhaber--" --Wells
34. B. Segerstrom--" --Hopkins
35. N. Boe--" --St. Paul
36. M. Davis--Door Prizes

Hopefully, we have not missed anyone, and I have not misspelled too many names. Any questions, Please call! 278-4200

Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037

Whistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue 6

"ARE YOU LISTENING?" is the intriguing title for the program of our next speaker.

Patricia Miesal, of the Mankato State University Speech Department will give us some insights on serious listening.

Plan to Attend!



Get Well Wishes

Speedy Recoveries to:

- Bill Johnson, recuperating from recent surgery and
- Patricia Emlie, recuperating from pneumonia

SHARE YOUR LOVE FOR POETRY!

SMPS February Meeting:
Saturday, Feb. 9, 1985
Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please remember...if you were not at the January meeting and did not indicate what your plans for the Feb. meeting were, OR if you have had a change of plans ...PLEASE contact Bill or Patricia at

387-3730

Don't forget to sign up at the next meeting!

Our January program, presented by Cynthia Shearer was thought provoking, and stimulated much discussion. Her insights into poetry were much appreciated, and we hope she can return many more times to lead us in similar philosophical adventures!

ALSO: In January each member dropped off one of their own poems, and took a different one home to critique. Remember, the dictionary definition of "critique" is: 1. a critical analysis or examination of the merits of a work of art or literature. 2. the art of criticism.....

Work to make your comments constructive, and strive for Art!

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

...(education's) purpose is at once the discipline of the mind for its own sake; these ends are to be achieved through the mastery of fundamental subjects which cluster around language and number, the two chief instruments by which man knows himself and understands his relation to the world...Allen Tate: To entering class, Univ. of Minn.1958

...Nothing makes one so vain as being told that one is a sinner. Conscience makes egotists of us all. Oscar Wilde

(As quoted in THE GREAT QUOTATIONS Compiled by George Seldes.)

News and Notes

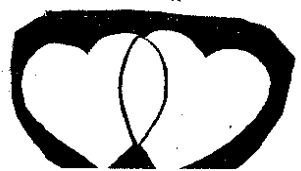
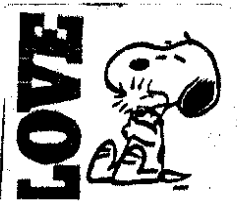
Robley Wilson is the next speaker for the Good Thunder Writer and Society Series.

On Tuesday, February 5, 1985 the following events will take place:

4:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author"
Mankato Area Arts Council
120 S. Broad
7:30 p.m., Reading
Centennial Student Union
Room 253

Admission Free

Mr. Wilson is a poet, novelist, editor, and short-story writer. His poems have appeared in many national magazines, and has two chapbooks. He currently teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Northern Iowa.



SMPS Membership dues were due

January 1st, 1985

Are you a member in good standing? Remember, we need these funds to keep our organization viable! Your dues include a subscription to THISTLEDOWN.

Please mail in your dues today. They are only \$6.00, and should be mailed to our Treasurer:

John C. Kolbe
623 South 2nd St.
Mankato, Minn. 56001

For those of you who also belong to LOMP, don't forget those dues. They are \$8.00, and include automatic membership in NFPS, and a subscription to the MOCCASIN.

The MOCCASIN is in the process of editing at this very moment, and promises to be a beautiful edition. Don't forget it when planning Mother's and Father's Day presents. Plan Ahead! Think Poetry!



Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037

THE QUARREL

Suddenly, after the quarrel, while we waited,
Disheartened, silent, with downcast looks, nor stirred
Eyelid nor finger, hopeless both, yet hoping
Against all hope to unsay the Sundering word:

While all the room's stillness deepened, deepened about us,
And each of us crept his thought's way to discover
How, with as little sound as the fall of a leaf,
The shadow had fallen, and lover quarreled with lover;

And while in the quiet I marveled—alas, alas—
At your deep beauty, your tragic beauty, torn
As the pale flower is torn by the wanton sparrow—
This beauty, pitied and loved, and now forsworn;

It was then, when the instant darkened to its darkest,—
When faith was lost with hope, and the rain conspired
To strike its gray arpeggios against our heartstrings,—
When love no longer dared, and scarcely desired:

It was then that suddenly, in the neighbor's room,
The music started: that brave quartette of strings
Breaking out of the stillness, as out of our stillness,
Like the indomitable heart of life that sings

When all is lost; and startled from our sorrow,
Tranced from our grief by that diviner grief,
We raised remembering eyes, each looked at other,
Blinded with tears of joy; and another leaf

Fell silently as that first; and in the instant
The shadow had gone, our quarrel became absurd;
And we rose, to the angelic voices of the music,
And I touched your hand, and we kissed, without a word.

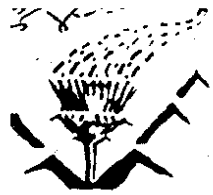
Conrad Aiken

Be my Valentine!

Don't forget our Assignment: Any form, choice of topics below (Or do one of each!)

1. Fury of the Storm
2. Space(Outer)/Astrology science of celestial bodies

Be creative!



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
Volume 5 Issue 7



Join Us

SMPS March Meeting:
Saturday, March 9, 1985
Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, Mn. 56001
11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Don't forget to sign up at the meeting, indicating whether or not you can attend next month's meeting. AND, if you did not sign up last time, or your plans have changed, PLEASE remember to contact Bill or Pat at 387-3730

Mark your calendars for the meeting! Save Bill & Pat more time, so that they can write Poetry. And, just because you didn't get a phone call, DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND, We love to have you!

Appreciation

A special thank you to our Feb. Speaker, Patricia Miesal, who helped us all to sharpen up our listening ability. Her list of the most common pitfalls when listening should help us all to be more enriched with future speakers. THANK YOU!

Assignment

Due to lack of time at the last meeting, our assignment remains the same as last month:

Any form, choice of two topics (or do both!) (1) Fury of the Storm and/or (2) (Outer) Space and Astrology, science of celestial bodies.

March Program

"FISHING YOUR LIFE FOR A POEM"

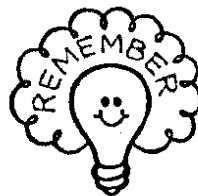
Bring your bait, and be sure to come and enjoy our March speaker:

RICHARD ROBBINS

Professor in the English Dept.
at MSU, whose specialty is poetry.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED YOUR DUES?
Subscription to ThistleDown
is included in your membership.
Please send \$6.00 today, to:

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



Special Program

On March 5, 1985--Tuesday--
The GOOD THUNDER WRITER AND SOCIETY SERIES will present Joseph Bruchac. The Author is a Poet, Novelist, Editor, Essayist, Folk Story writer, and Storyteller. He is the author of 20 books, including No Telephone to Heaven. He has 3 published volumes of poetry, and his poems and stories have appeared in more than 400 magazines.

SMPS members are encouraged to attend. We grow in our own poetry, when hearing others.

4:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author" Mankato Area Arts Council; 120 S. Broad

7:30 p.m. Reading
MSU Centennial Student Union Room 253

GOOD WORK

CONGRATULATIONS!
To everyone for a job well done in critiquing our poetry. You see, you can do it! It really wasn't too hard, it was fun, and it helps both the critic, and the writer!

Let's write on!!



Welcome ~

New Writing Members:

Margy Hengy
Mankato, Minn.

Meg Kramer
Truman, Minn.

Patricia Amlie
Mankato, Minn.

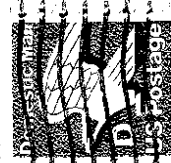
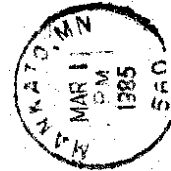


A little "gem" from the
3rd edition of The ELEMENTS
of STYLE, by William Strunk, Jr.
and E.B. White...

"Write in a way that comes
easily and naturally to
you, using words and phrases
that come readily to hand.
But do not assume that
because you have acted naturally
your product is without flaw...
Revising is a part of writing.
Few writers are so expert that
they can produce what they are
after on the first try."

DON'T FORGET THAT SMPS IS
HOSTING THE MAY LOMP MEETING.
Do you need an assignment?
Do you have a talent you
wish to loan to help us make
the meeting a success? Contact
Patricia Amlie

Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037



Wilfred & Patricia Johnson
732 Garfield Ave.,
No. Mankato, Mn. 56001

• BECAUSE YOU ASKED ABOUT THE LINE • BETWEEN PROSE AND POETRY

Sparrows were feeding in a freezing drizzle
That while you watched turned into pieces of snow
Riding a gradient invisible
From silver aslant to random, white, and slow.

There came a moment that you couldn't tell.
And then they clearly flew instead of fell.

HOWARD NEMEROV (b. 1920)



You Are Invited ~

An Invitation To ALL:

The NFSPS Contest, and many other
contest, deadlines are fast
approaching. Come and work with
others to get your poetry submit-
ted. Free typewriters & use of
the photocopy machine, and good
company!

When: Wednesday, 3/6/85 7:00p.m.

Where: Twin City Fed Bldg,

McLean, Peterson Law Firm.

You can park in the back lot, Sue
Chambers will have a key to let
everyone in.

Remember, we want as many Minn.
poets to submit to National con-
tests as possible. What better
way to organize your poetry?
COME JOIN US!!



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue 8

You Are Invited -

SMPS April MEETING:
Saturday, April 13, 1985
Mr. Rene Banquet Hall
119 South Front
Mankato, Minn. 56001
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

REMEMBER: If you did not sign up at the last meeting, or if you have had a change of plans, PLEASE contact Bill and Pat at 387-3730

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our April Program promises to be an event you will not want to miss.

...And while you are marking your calendars, don't forget that MAY 18th is a big day for SMPS, as we host the May LOMP meeting...We need to have everyone bring books to the next meeting, so that we can begin arranging a table to sell books.



Do you have a hobby that has created beautiful things for SMPS to sell at the May Meeting? We need crafts, gift items and other nice objects to sell at our fund raising table in May.

BE SURE AND BRING THESE ITEMS TO THE APRIL MEETING!

Our ASSIGNMENT for April will also be a part of our PROGRAM:

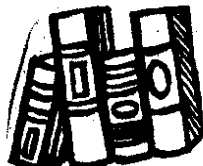
A Poem, any form, on EMOTION (for example: love, fear, hate, jealousy)

For the Summer Months our Assignments are :

1. Small form poetry
2. Concrete (Shape) Poems

Appreciation -

A special thank you to our Guest Speaker in March, Richard Robbins. His talk "Fishing your life for a poem" gave us some whale of ideas! His hints on the use of the Little White Lie should come in handy in working on our emotion assignment poems. Thank You Richard, and please join us again in the near future!



Welcome - New Associate Members

Judith A. Hoppe
Waldorf, Minn.
Emmett R. Smith
Eagle Lake, Minn.
Marian Segerstrom
Hopkins, Minn.
Mick Davis
Mankato, Minn.

New Writing Member

Jessee Poet
Portersville,
Pennsylvania

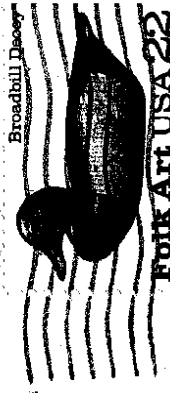
Congratulations to our newest out-of-state writing member, and the best of luck on his new magazine Poets at Work.



GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

Tuesday, May 7, 1985
CARY WATERMAN, will be the next guest speaker for the GOOD THUNDER WRITER AND SOCIE SERIES. She is a Poet, author of three publications, and is a Poet-in-residence with the Minn. Writers in the School Program. Plan to attend:
4:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author"
Mankato Area Arts Council
120 South Broad
7:30 p.m., Reading
Centennial Student Union
Room 253
Admission Free

When was the last time you picked up a book of poems, and just sat down to read and enjoy?



SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

The following is an excerpt from, "How To Write A Poem" by Lawrence Jay Dressner, Professor of English at the Univ. of Toledo RULES FOR WRITING POETRY:

1. Write a poem
2. Never treat your reader without respect - To be specific:
Do not lie to your reader
Do not expect your reader to believe anything you do not believe yourself.
Do not waste your reader's time.
Do not confuse your reader.
Do not force your reader to guess about what's going on in your poem.
Do not speak to your reader as if you were Moses just returned from an exclusive interview with the management.
Do not attempt to tell your reader how he should behave. You are a poet, not a guidance counselor.
Do not show off.
Do not boast.
Do not use unfair tactics to force your reader to say he likes your poem.
Do not attempt to take advantage of your reader's weaknesses.
3. Never treat yourself without respect.
4. Be specific ... never vague.
5. Do not use other people's words ... find your own language
6. Read other people's poems.
7. When in doubt, leave it out.
Do not argue with this rule. Do not try to find exceptions to it. There are NO exceptions to it.
8. Do not write history. Make it all up. History is what really happened; literature is always what the author invents.
9. A poem must have a hero.
10. Grow up be your "Best Self."

What it all boils down to, the rules and regulations, the various ways of getting started, the painstaking reading and rewriting, is: **TELL THE TRUTH.**

Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037



Wilfred & Patricia Johnson
732 Garfield Ave.
No. Mankato, Mn. 56001

By WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS
The Bitter World of Spring

On a wet pavement the white sky recedes
mottled black by the inverted
pillars of the red elms,
in perspective, that lift the tangled

net of their desires hard into
the falling rain. And brown smoke
is driven down, running like
water over the roof of the bridge-

keeper's cubicle. And, as usual,
the fight as to the nature of poetry
—Shall the philosophers capture it?—
is on. And, casting an eye

down into the water, there, announced
by the silence of a white
bush in flower, close
under the bridge, the shad ascend,

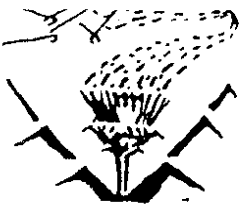
midway between the surface and the mud,
and you can see their bodies
red-finned in the dark
water headed, unrelenting, upstream.



CONGRATULATIONS TO
BONNIE WOLLE AND HER
FAMILY ON THEIR LATEST
ARRIVAL:

Maria Suzzane

Fantastic



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 5 Issue 9

Special Program

Barbara Stevens, First Vice President of the National Federation of Poetry Societies, soon to be President, is making a return appearance to Mankato. Her topic

" A POET KNEADS THE DOUGH"

is in keeping for the theme of this program.

SMPS members are asked to bring used books and crafts as early in the day as possible. All proceeds from the sale of books will go to SMPS' benefit. All proceeds from the sale of crafts will go to LOMP's benefit.



There will be an informal gathering over dinner of any and all members who just "can't get enough"; after the League meeting. We plan to gather at Adrian's in Mankato. Bring your Spouse!

Come Join Us ~

PRAIRIE BREAD

"Of all that we encounter;
Life and being and bread,
Poetry is bread
with wings."

John C. Kolbe

Assignment

This is our last meeting until September. However, the summer does not mean you should not keep up on your poetry! Use this time to read a favorite author, find out about a new poet, and write, write, write!

To encourage you, here are our summer assignments. Exercise your brain--do double what the assignments call for:

Concrete Poem : A Poem which takes the shape of its subject

and Small Forms: At least 1 each (NEW) haiku, cinquain, and tanka.

President Patricia requests that one copy of the small form poems be brought to the meeting for sharing, and that you consider submitting a second copy to be used in the MOCCASIN.

Coming Events -

The MOCCASIN deadline for the Autumn/Winter issue is JULY 1ST. Editor Patricia will take other than seasonal poems. She especially requests good Christmas poems--no triteness or over-used sentimentality, Please.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A VERY SPECIAL MEETING. SMPS IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEY ARE HOSTING

the LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS 1985 Spring meeting.

Where: Holiday Inn North
Highway 169
North Mankato, Minn.
56001

When: May 18th, 1985

Registration: 9:15 a.m.
Officer's Meeting: 9:30
General Assembly: 10:00
Featured Speaker: 11:00
Luncheon : 12:30 p.m.
Seminar 1:30

Theme: PRAIRIE BREAD

SMPS Members Please Note! This meeting will take the place of our normal May meeting. There will not be a meeting on May 11th.

Let us show the rest of Minnesota how pleased we are to host this meeting. It promises to be a great day, so everyone should make a special effort to be there.

Welcome

New Writing Member

Connie Butterbrodt
Faribault, Minn.

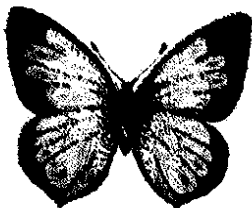
Excellent

A Special thank you to all SMPS members who participated in their own program in April. We often thank other guest speakers, and neglect the wonderful talent right in our own organization. For those who were not at the April meeting: Our deepest sympathy, you missed a great meeting.



DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE FUN IN MAY! Show the rest of the state how active our membership is. We dare you to help make this 100% attendance day on May 18th.

We will see you there!



Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037

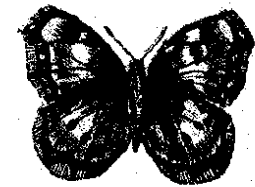


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No. Mankato, Mn. 56001

REMEMBER-- We now have a state contest to enter! The League of Minnesota Poets, Contest 1985 has published rules and prize amounts. If you were not at the last meeting, or did not receive a copy of the rules as an insert in the MOCCASIN please contact

SUE CHAMBERS
RR.2 Box 86
Good Thunder, Minn. 56037

for your copy. Let's get this first contest off to a great start. Plan on entering all categories. Hurry! Deadline is the end of July, 1985.



The Next Good Thunder Writer and Society Series will feature:

CARY WATERMAN.

Tuesday, May 7, 1985
4:00 p.m. "A Talk with the Author"
Mankato Area Arts Council
120 South Broad, Mankato

7:30 p.m. Reading
Centennial Student Union, MSU
Room 253

ADMISSION IS FREE