



WELCOME TO ALL SMPS MEMBERS!

"MINNESOTA BOUND"--OUR THEME AS
SMPS LENDS A HELPING HAND WITH THE
NFSPS CONVENTION

Don't forget we have A NEW MEETING
PLACE!



SMPS OCTOBER MEETING
SATURDAY, October 11, 1986
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
734 MARSH
MANKATO, MINN. 56001

11:30 TO 3:30 P.M.
DUTCH TREAT LUNCH \$4.75

Bethany College is on the "top of the Hill"--the easiest way to get there is to go up either Main Street, or Madison Avenue, and watch for the signs to Bethany College. Go through the main gates, and park anywhere along the road. Go through the door on the southeast side of the Main building, and follow the corridor to the cafeteria. Signs will be posted. There are no stairs to climb.

Our thanks to all who attended our September meeting, and took time to share what they did over the summer, as well as their poetry.

PET PEEVES PET PEEVES PET PEEVES

[Editor's note: Each month we will highlight the Pet Peeves of some member--if you haven't filled out a form, please do so]

SHIRLEY ENSRUD is really put off when she hears people saying "I seen" and "I have went". Both are grammatically incorrect, and often misused. "I have went" does not have subject-verb agreement. Verbs have different forms for singular and plural subjects only in the present and present perfect tenses. Recall that the present perfect tense is formed by adding one of the present-tense forms of HAVE (HAS OR HAVE) "He has gone" "They have gone". (Taken from ENGLISH REVIEW MANUAL, James A. Gowen McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1965)



THISTLEDOWN has a new look this issue! Your editor would greatly appreciate any comments--especially suggestions about future features! This is your newsletter, so send along any information you would like to see included. Thanks! Sue Chambers



THEODORE ROETHKE THEODORE ROETHKE

THE DECISION

I

What shakes the eye but the invisible?
Running from God's the longest race of
all.
A bird kept haunting me when I was
young--
That phoebe's slow retreating from its
song,
Nor could I put that sound out of my
mind,
The sleepy sound of leaves in a light
wind.

II

Rising or falling's all one
discipline!
The line of my horizon's growing thin!
Which is the way? I cry to the dread
black,
The shifting shade, the cinders at my
back.
Which is the way? I ask, and turn to
go,
As a man turns to face on-coming snow.

Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037

HURRAY!



SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT
SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, this spot will highlight a SMPS member. The method by which this person is picked will be totally random, and will utilize those handouts members have previously submitted. If you have not filled out a handout, please request one (if by mail, send a SASE, please).

LORAIN SCHWANKE MUELLER

Lorraine is a new member, but not a new poet. She is also a LOMP member, and a member of the South Dakota State Poetry Society. Lorraine likes poetry because it comes so naturally--she just thinks poetically, and has written poetry since she was a child.

She has receive much of her inspiration from poetry workshops, and poetry society meetings, and loves to be challenged. We hope to continue challenging her!

Lorraine also loves music, and plays the piano, and has even composed. She likes to visit those who need a lift, and often takes along her poetry to read. We have found her companionship at our meetings to be a "lift" -- welcome Lorraine, and thank you for being such an enthusiastic member!

Program

OUR NOVEMBER SPEAKER:

DR. VICTORIA AMADOR

Mankato State University Professor of Creative writing, also a published writer will speak. Her topic is "Poems in Autumn and Autumn in Poems". Dr. Amador has joined the staff at MSU and we are happy she is able to take time out of her busy schedule to share poetry with us.

This will be exciting! Plan to attend!

Welcome ~



If you have not made your reservation, signed up at the last meeting, call Bill Johnson 387-3730.

BRING A FRIEND!!!



SMPS News and Notes

Assignment



OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT:

The TERZA RIMA: Interlinking rhymes, that is aba, bcb, cdc, ded, ee. A terza rima may be formed of four three line stanzas with a couplet. This makes a fourteen line poem, and has been used by Poets from Dante (DIVINE COMEDY), Robert Browning (THE STATUE AND THE BUST), and Edna St. Vincent Millay (DIRGE).

COMING EVENTS

SMPS has been invited to participate in a ORCHESIS presentation of Poetry interpreted through dance. The program will take place on November 28th, at 8:00 p.m. Plan to attend and support your local poets, and dance students. Further information can be obtained by contacting Francis Cobb at MSU.

Sympathy

Our heartfelt thoughts are with members Helen Simcox, whose mother recently died; Barbara Stevens, whose father recently died; and for Roy and Willie Moore, whose brother is terminally ill.

Get Well Wishes

SMPS extends loving Get Well Wishes to MILDRED HOPPE, who is recovering from foot surgery.

PRAIRIE BREAD UPDATE

SMPS will soon publish their second book. Patricia Johnson, Editor, has requested that each member of SMPS submit up to 10 longer poems, and 8 short poems, so that there will be plenty of material to select from. Please make your submissions by the November meeting, so that we can make sure our publication comes out in time for the National Federation Convention in June.

LOMP NEWS

The Newest edition of the MOCCASIN is out! OUR LOMP publication needs your support. Buy one, two, three, twenty copies as gifts. Think ahead to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Wouldn't you really rather give a gift of this quality, rather than just "another card"? At only \$2.50 plus postage and envelope (.75), this is ART at a bargain! Order your copies today!!!

REMEMBER! Copies of the MOCCASIN are available on the book table at each meeting of SMPS. Don't you know someone who would appreciate a "just thinking of you" gift which is unique and QUALITY?



The Rules and categories for the 1987 LOMP Contest are out! Do you know someone who would be interested in entering? Do you know a teacher who might like to distribute them to her class? Please ask Sue Chambers for as many copies as needed. If your request is coming by mail, please enclose a S.A.S.E.. Thank You!

★ SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT
SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT ★

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SMPS member LUELLA OLSON

Luella faithfully attends SMPS meetings with her sister, Gertrude. They travel from Winthrop, Minnesota to attend, so her presence is always greatly appreciated. She has also attended LOMP meetings, as recently as the fall Duluth meeting. Luella's favorite form of poetry is the narrative form, so she should enjoy hearing the assignment poems at our October meeting.

Luella is an active member of her church, and its varied organizations, and attends Study Club (Federated) and VFW Auxiliary. She tats, and enjoys crocheting and reading--especially historical novels and biographies.

Luella was among our Associate Members who were saluted at our Dec., 1983 meeting for untiring devotion to SMPS. We are PROUD to have Luella Olson as a SMPS Member!



Come Join the Fun!

Program

OUR OCTOBER SPEAKER:

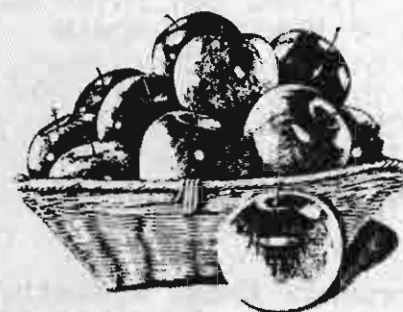
Sigurd Lee, Professor, Bethany College

His topic will be the importance of the oral presentation of our poetry. To illustrate his point, he will utilize the services of theater students from Bethany College, as well as his own presentations from the works of William Shakespeare.

This will be exciting! Plan to attend!

If you have not made your reservation, or signed up at the last meeting, call Bill Johnson 387-3730.

BRING A FRIEND!!!



SMPS News and Notes

COMING EVENTS



SMPS has been invited to participate in ORCHESIS presentation of Poetry interpreted through dance. Our poems are needed. You may submit several.

Mail clean copies to:

Florence A. Cobb
Mankato State University
Box 28
Mankato, Minn. 56001

Our poems will be set to music, and performed at a program to be held on NOVEMBER 20th, at 8:00 p.m. (Remember, this does constitute a publication of your poem)

Our Assignment

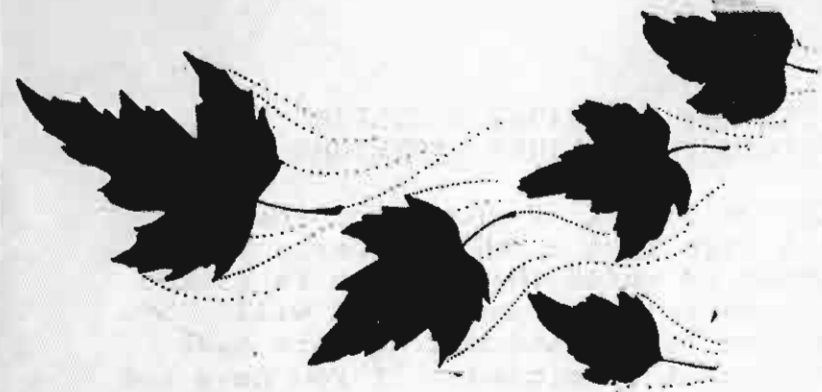
SEPTEMBER ASSIGNMENT:

The Narrative Poem--a poem telling a story about a person, place or thing. In it, the poet tells the story as if he had been a spectator. One commentator states that narratives are not lyrical. (But see--Longfellow's HIAWATHA, Edgar Lee Masters' SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY)

SUBJECT: (If you can think of an idea)
PROGRESS OF WOMEN OR WOMAN
40 lines or less.

Sympathy

SMPS extends their sympathy to Verna Larsen, who recently lost a sister and a niece.



LOMP NEWS

The fall meeting in Duluth was well attended by SMPS members. Much poetry was shared, friendships renewed, and there was a great deal of enthusiastic support for the upcoming NFSPS convention next June.

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Order your copies today!!!



Personal Mention

BLANCHE HUNTZICKER has moved to Hillcrest Nursing Home, in Mankato, and all cards and letters can reach her there. SMPS good wishes go with her.



Thistle. Down



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 7 Issue 3

Come Join Us~

WELCOME TO ALL SMPS MEMBERS!

"MINNESOTA BOUND"--OUR THEME AS SMPS
LEND A HELPING HAND WITH THE NFSPS
CONVENTION

Don't forget we have A NEW MEETING PLACE!

SMPS NOVEMBER MEETING
SATURDAY, November 8, 1986
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
734 MARSH
MANKATO, MINN. 56001

11:30 TO 3:30 P.M.
DUTCH TREAT LUNCH

PARKING available anywhere
inside main gate.

Appreciation~

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO our September speaker, Professor Sigurd Lee of Bethany College, and to his able and talented assistants, Alayne Angstman and John Langr. They did an excellent and entertaining job of showing us how to present our poetry in public. Thank you so much, and please join us for future meetings!



PET PEEVES PET PEEVES PET PEEVES

[Editor's note: Each month we will highlight the Pet Peeves of some member--if you haven't filled out a form, please do so.]

ROY B. MOORE is continually irritated by those poets who do not have broad horizons, but only write themes limited to one topic--such as nature, religion, personal life or politics.

Another writing quirk which makes him wince is the lack of meter or rhymes (inner or outer).

We can all benefit by reviewing our poems to make sure we do not dwell on just one topic--the best cure for poor rhymes and meter is to read the poem aloud!

SYLVIA PLATH SYLVIA PLATH SYLVIA PLATH

POPPIES IN OCTOBER

Even the sun-clouds this morning cannot
manage such skirts.
Nor the woman in the ambulance
Whose red heart blooms through her coat so
astoundingly--

A gift, a love gift
Utterly unmasked for
By a sky

Palely and flamily
Igniting its carbon monoxides, by eyes
Dulled to a halt under bowlers.

O my God, what am I
That these late mouths should cry open
In a forest of frost, in a dawn of
cornflowers.



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MEG KRAMER MEG KRAMER MEG KRAMER MEG KRAMER

At the age of 62, Meg was forced into retirement by arthritis. Did that slow her down? Of course not, not our MEG! She decided since she could no longer play the organ in the Congregational Church at Fairmont or her piano, she needed another outlet for her creative urges, so she turned her hand to poetry. She had not written poetry before, but writes beautifully and has already taken home cash prizes for her efforts.

Meg has written for two newspapers, and before retirement, taught in South Dakota and Welcome, Minnesota. She has four children, seven grandchildren and many special friends.

Meg enjoys camping, belonging to Great Books in Fairmont, and attending symphony concerts. Her favorite poets include Shakespeare, Keats, Whitman, Frost and Dickinson.

It should come as no surprise that many include MEG KRAMER as a favorite poet, and we are proud she is a member of LOMP and SMPS!



Our Assignment

DECEMBER ASSIGNMENT:

Write a strong Christmas poem. Write A Christmas poem with a different twist, something more imaginative than a Hallmark card or old Carol. Those have their place--but we, as poets, must strive to write uniquely!



Christmas Program



OUR DECEMBER PROGRAM:

Music is traditional during the Christmas season, and we share in that tradition with the help of a very special guest, CAROL SMITH. As in past years, she will bring her guitar and share her beautiful voice and bring us the wonderful carols of Christmas. We also hope her QUARTET will be able to join her.



Plan to attend! Bring your family to share in the warmth of our Poetry Family! If you have not made your reservation, or signed up at the last meeting, call Bill Johnson 387-3730.

BRING A FRIEND!!!

Sympathy

Our deepest Sympathy to member Kathie Lutes, upon the death of her husband, Richard.

contest are out! Do you know someone who
will be interested in entering? Do you
know a teacher who might like to distribute
this to her class? Please ask Sue Chambers
for as many copies as needed. If your
request is coming by mail, please enclose a
S.A.R.E. Thank You!
This contest has a JULY, 1987 deadline.

Happy Holidays



Special Coming Events -

Mankato is currently celebrating a FESTIVAL
OF LIGHTS. Thousands of soft white
twinkling lights frame the twin bluff
towns. Surely we can find a poem in all
the beauty here!

THE MERELY PLAYERS are presenting
"CINDERELLA" December 5 -7, at 8 p.m., at
the Lincoln Community Center, in Mankato.
Call the Center for info.

The Mankato Ballet Company is presenting
the "NUTCRACKER" Ballet, Dec. 12 -14, 7
p.m. at Fitzgerald Middle School. Call
387-5822 for info.

Cherry Creek Theatre presents "Walkin' Jim
Stoltz" on Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. This is a
special concert by a folk troubador who
combines amazing skill as a songwriter with
a deep, rich voice.



New Writing Members:

Welcome to new writing members:

Ted Oftedah
Mankato, Minn.

Dr. Victoria Amador
Mankato, Minn.

SMPS News and Notes

This Holdiday
Season Give the
Gift Everyone
Can Use...

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out! OUR LOMP publication needs your
support. Buy one, two, three, twenty copies
as gifts. Think ahead to Christmas.
Wouldn't you really rather give a gift of
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appreciate a "just thinking of you" gift
which is so special and has such QUALITY?

OUTSTANDING

PRAIRIE BREAD UPDATE

Have you made your submissions to PRAIRIE
BREAD yet? Time is very short! Contact
Patricia Johnson immediately if you wish to
be a part of this SMPS publication. We
hope to have the book back from the
printers in time for the NFSPE Convention
in June.



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 7 Issue 4

Welcome

WELCOME TO ALL SMPS MEMBERS!

"MINNESOTA BOUND"--OUR THEME AS SMPS
LEND A HELPING HAND WITH THE NFSPS
CONVENTION

Come, celebrate the Christmas Season with
special friends:



SMPS DECEMBER MEETING
SATURDAY, December 13, 1986
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
734 MARSH
MANKATO, MINN. 56001

11:30 TO 3:30 P.M.
DUTCH TREAT LUNCH

PARKING available anywhere
inside main gate.

Appreciation

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO our November
Speaker, Dr. Victoria Amador, who shared
her exciting poetry with us, and who
sparked our imaginations. We are pleased
to announce that we will see Victoria at
future meetings, and will be able to enjoy
her works again, as she has joined us.
WELCOME!

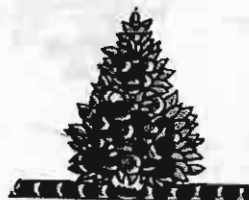


PET PEEVES PET PEEVES PET PEEVES

[Editor's note: Each month we will
highlight the Pet Peeves of some member--if
you haven't filled out a form, please do
so.]

All of us know of some sort of English
usage which grates on our ears, or nerves.
Bill Johnson suffers when he is exposed to
archaic words in poetry.
Archaism ... "gives warning that the word is
dangerous except in the hands of an
experienced writer who can trust his sense
of congruity... Archaic words thrust into a
commonplace context to redeem its
ordinariness are an abomination" (excerpt
from A DICTIONARY OF MODERN ENGLISH USAGE
by H.W. Fowler)

One example of a archaic word that "gets
to" Bill is the word "STRIFE".
It spoils any poem where it is used in
Bill's eyes.



NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION #1

Pay your SMPS Dues early!
Only \$6.00, and this includes
a subscription to THISTLEDOWN.

RESOLUTION #2

Join LOMP! Membership is
\$10.00, and entitles you to
the MOCCASIN, and much more!

Three thousand feet up! Up the side of
Mt. Crumpit,
He rode with his load to the tiptop to dump
it!

"Pooch-pooch to the WHOS!" he was
grinch-ish-ly humming.

"They're finding out now that no Christmas
is coming!

"They're just waking up! I know JUST what
they'll do!

"Their mouths will hang open a minute or
two

"Then the WHOS down in WHO-ville will all
cry BOO-HOO!

"That's a noise," grinned the Grinch,

"That I simply MUST hear!"

So he paused. And the Grinch put his hand
to his ear.

And he DID hear a sound rising over the
snow.

It started in low. Then it started to
grow...

But the sound wasn't SAD!
Why, this sound sounded MERRY!
It couldn't be so!

But it WAS merry! VERY!

He stared down at WHO-ville!

The Grinch popped his eyes!

Then he shook!

What he saw was a shocking surprise!

Ever WHO down in Who-ville, the tall and
the small,

Was singing! Without any presents at all!

He HADN't stopped Christmas from coming!

IT CAME!

Somehow or other, it came just the same!

And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet
ice-cold in the snow,
Stood puzzling and puzzling: "How COULD it
be so?"

"It came without ribbons! It came without
tags!

"It came without packages, boxes or bags!"

And he puzzled three hours, till his
puzzler was sore.

THEN the Grinch thought of something he
hadn't before!

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "DOESN'T
come from a store.

"Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little
bit more!"

excerpt from HOW THE GRINCH STOLE
CHRISTMAS by Dr. Seuss (1957)

Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037



GREETINGS

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

Our Assignment -

Program

OUR JANUARY PROGRAM:

Our own members have been studying hard and present a lively Panel Discussion on the lives of "Master Poets". Those present in the program include: Mildred Hoppe, John Kolbe, Meredith Cook and Shirley Ensrud. Plan to attend! Bring your family to share in the warmth of our Poetry Family! If you have not made your reservation, or signed up at the last meeting, call Bill Johnson 387-3730.

BRING A FRIEND!!!



JANUARY ASSIGNMENT:



ITALIAN [PETRARCHAN] SONNET

Like any sonnet, is a fixed pattern of fourteen lines of iambic pentameter rhythm, that is, fourteen iambic five-foot lines. Rhythm is the flow of accented and unaccented syllables. An iambic foot is a short syllable followed by an accented syllable. Thus, the rhythm of a sonnet is fourteen lines of: - / - / - / - / - / with true accent on words and the end words in each line a rhyme word.

This form sets itself aside from other forms by its rhyme pattern: abba, abba, cde, cde. The sestet, or last six lines, may differ as: cd cd cd. The first eight lines are called the octave, and it is not permitted to break or vary the octave pattern and rhyme scheme. The first quatrain should introduce the theme, the second is a development of theme. The sestet leaves room for contrast, contemplation, and conclusion.

(This excellent explanation of the Italian Sonnet is an excerpt from "THE STUDY AND WRITING OF POETRY: AMERICAN WOMEN POETS DISCUSS THEIR CRAFT", edited by Wauneta Hackleman; sonnet information by Guanetta Gordon)

NOTE: The poem on the back is an example of an Italian Sonnet.

Come... Join Us...



PET PEEVES PET PEEVES PET PEEVES

Who among us have not winced when hearing incorrect grammar used in conversation? Today, it seems that even on radio and television, clear grammatical errors are allowed to stand.

BONNIE WOLLE knows the pain of hearing someone tell her "he DON'T care"; "she DON'T do it that way", etc.

Remember--our ears sometimes get accustomed to these sounds when they are repeated over and over. This is why it is so important to revise and rewrite.

SMPS News and Notes



SMPS EVENTS

SMPS is ready to help host the NFSPS Conventions in June. An assignment list for workers is attached. Remember, we need YOUR help to make this convention one of the BEST ever attended. If there are additional duties which you would like to undertake, please contact Bill Johnson for further assignments.

Also, if you have something "uniquely Minnesotan" which could be used as a door prize, please let the members of that committee know, right away.

Your support is vital! We want to shine as an organization in June. Thank You for your continued support.

SMPS Dues are now payable!
Please take the time today to renew!
Send your \$6.00 to our Treasurer:
John Kolbe
224 1/2 Carroll Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

LOMP DUES of \$10.00 are also due NOW!
Send them in today. Your financial support is needed greatly!

PRAIRIE BREAD UPDATE

SMPS 2nd publication is in the making! We hope to have the book back from the printers in time for the NFSPS Convention in June.

There is a Bookroom which is open during much of the convention, all sales of personal and organization publications are coordinated through that room.

LOMP News and Notes

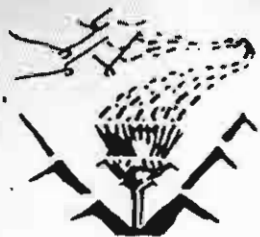


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This contest has a JULY, 1987 deadline.

LOMP is also sponsoring a "CONVENTION MADNESS" Poetry contest--deadline is Feb. 15th. You could win your lodging and meals, as well as registration, at the NFSPS Convention June 18th through the 22nd. Send a S.A.S. E. to Sue Chambers; RR2, Box 86, Good Thunder, Minn. 56037 for complete rules.





Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 7 Issue 5

WELCOME TO ALL SMPS MEMBERS!

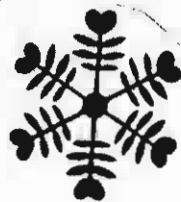
"MINNESOTA BOUND"--OUR THEME AS SMPS
LEADS A HELPING HAND WITH THE NFSPS
CONVENTION -June 18 - 22. 1987

Ring in the NEW Year with POETRY FRIENDS!

SMPS JANUARY MEETING
SATURDAY, January 10, 1987
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
734 MARSH
MANKATO, MINN. 56001

11:30 TO 3:30 P.M.
DUTCH TREAT LUNCH

PARKING available anywhere
inside main gate.



Appreciation

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DECEMBER
ENTERTAINERS: NIKKI AND HOWARD HAUGE. They
provided a delightful program of Christmas
music, with an emphasis on those songs
written by poets. It put all of us in a
Christmas Mood. THANK YOU, Nikki and
Howard!

Fantastic



SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT
SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT

MONICA HAACK MONICA HAACK MONICA HAACK
MONICA HAACK

Monica's own confession: "I love people,
poems and posies" sums up this wonderful
woman. She has long held the post of
Corresponding Secretary for both SMPS and
LOMP, sending thoughtful, personal letters
on behalf of our organizations to someone
who is ill or has lost a loved one.

Monica has often won poetry contests with
her "gems", but states that she likes most
of all to share poetry on a personal basis
with family and friends.

Her favorite poets include Edgar Guest,
Longfellow, and Robert Frost. She likes
simple, easily understandable poems, and
especially likes humorous poetry--"The
world needs laughter".

Monica notes that her family and friends
are the most important things in her
life--and she is an important part of our
group, and a cherished member of LOMP and
SMPS!



COMING EVENTS

Your editor always welcomes news about what
is happening in our region, especially as
it relates to literature and poetry.
Please let me know of your events--well in
advance.

SONNET 43
Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and
height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of
sight
For ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men strive for
Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from
Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's
faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints--I love thee with the
breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life!--and, if God
choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

USA
22



Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037

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

FEBRUARY ASSIGNMENT:

VISSER SONNET. Like the ITALIAN SONNET, with iambic pentameter, and the same rhyme pattern: abba, abba, cde, cde. The sestet, or last six lines, may differ as: cd cd cd. The Visser sonnet differs in that the rhymes are not at the end of lines, but scattered internally. The poet is free to choose the location of the rhyme within the line, as it is totally random. It is permissible to put one or two of the rhymes at the end of the lines. Much appreciation to AUDRAE VISSER, creator of the form, who took time over the phone to elaborate on this form, and gave her kind permission to print this sample:

AUNT SARAH'S SALE

- A The dear familiar things have little worth-
B They're marred by scratches, cracks, and cryptic stains.
B No item matches any other one,
A And yet my heart to each of them still clings.
A No Chippendales, Reveres, fine Mings nor Spodes-
B Just pinewood chairs and chests with latches off,
B Each dime store plate, and batches of brilliant jell-
A My eye now stings with tears to see them all.
C To me a thousand dollars could not buy
d The pleasure that her wooden rocker gave
e Or the comfort of her feather bed at night!
C I sigh to see her sewing box, and fern,
d Her coffee pot, her doilies and her clock-
e For Auntie's dead-she'll use these things no more.

Program

OUR FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

It is almost contest time! Have you mad start on entering any contests? This is big year for us, and we would like convention goers to know how many good poets SMPS has. But we can't do it unless you enter the contests! Who has won more contests than anyone else in SMPS? BILL AND PATRICIA JOHNSON, of course. They will share the secrets of how to enter, and win contests. This should be a lively discussion! Bring your poems and be prepared to be motivated!

If you have not made your reservation, or signed up at the last meeting, call Bill Johnson 387-3730.

BRING A FRIEND!!!

Come Join Us - Welcome -

COMING EVENTS

Your editor always welcomes news about what is happening in our region, especially if it relates to literature and poetry. Please let me know of your events--well in advance.

Mankato State University invites us to go to theater productions as a group, and receive a group discount. Groups of 15 or more may attend upcoming performances of MACBETH (2/26 - 3/8) or PIRATES OF PENZA (5/1 - 5/17). Regular admission is \$5.00, groups pay only \$4.00. If there is enough interest, we will send around a sign up sheet. MSU also will arrange for a speaker after the performance.

SMPS News and Notes

SMPS EVENTS

SMPS is ready to help host the NFSPS Conventions in June. An assignment list for workers was distributed in the last THISTLEDOWN. If you did not receive an assignment, please notify Bill Johnson.

Remember, we need YOUR help to make this convention one of the BEST ever attended. If there are additional duties which you would like to undertake, please contact Bill Johnson for further assignments.

Also, if you have something "uniquely Minnesotan" which could be used as a door prize, please let the members of that committee know, right away.

Your support is vital! We want to shine as an organization in June. Thank You for our continued support.

WASHINGTON



PET PEEVES PET PEEVES PET PEEVES

Our long distance friend and member CHARLOTTE SEWARD is irritated by the mispronunciation of the following words:

1. PRERogative - not PURR, as pronounced by teachers, lawyers, professional people as well as radio announcers.
2. UMPire - not EMpire, which has even been mispronounced by some umpires!



SMPS Dues are now payable!
Please take the time today to renew!
Send your \$6.00 to our Treasurer:
John Kolbe
224 1/2 Carroll Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

LOMP DUES of \$10.00 are also due NOW!
Send them in today. Your financial support is needed greatly!



LOMP NEWS



REMEMBER! Copies of the MOCCASIN are available on the book table at each meeting of SMPS. Don't you know someone who would appreciate a "just thinking of you" gift which is so special and has such QUALITY?

The Rules and categories for the 1987 LOMP Contest are out! Do you know someone who would be interested in entering? Do you know a teacher who might like to distribute them to her class? Please ask Sue Chambers for as many copies as needed. If your request is coming by mail, please enclose S.A.S.E.. Thank You!

This contest has a JULY, 1987 deadline.

OUTSTANDING

LOMP is also sponsoring a "CONVENTION MADNESS" Poetry contest--deadline is Feb 15th. You could win your lodging and meals, as well as registration, at the NFSPS Convention June 18th through the 22nd. Send a S.A.S.E. to Sue Chambers, RR2, Box 86, Good Thunder, Minn. 56037 for complete rules.

!
HURRY AND GET YOUR ENTRY IN TODAY! TIME SHORT, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WIN!



Christina Down



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 7 Issue 6

WELCOME TO ALL SMPS MEMBERS!

"MINNESOTA BOUND"--OUR THEME AS SMPS
LEND A HELPING HAND WITH THE NFSPS
CONVENTION -June 18 - 22, 1987
(COUNTDOWN - only FOUR months left!)

Valentine's Banquet

SMPS FEBRUARY MEETING
SATURDAY, FEB. 14, 1987
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
734 MARSH
MANKATO, MINN. 56001

11:30 TO 3:30 P.M.
DUTCH TREAT LUNCH

PARKING available anywhere
inside main gate.

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

A Special Thanks to our own members:
Meredith Cook, Shirley Ensrud, and Mildred
Hoppe for their excellent presentation on
Poets of their choice. We thoroughly
enjoyed the talks, and learned much. Thank
you!

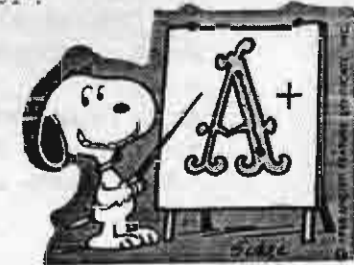


SHIRLEY ENSRUD SHIRLEY ENSRUD SHIRLEY
ENSRUD

Shirley is one of our newer members, but
shows much skill as a poet. For those of
you who might not know, Shirley is married
has 3 daughters, 1 foster daughter, 7
grandchildren and 2 foster grandchildren.
She lives in Blue Earth, and is a licensed
public accountant, with her own office.
(Do you think she writes poetry there
rather than working on tax returns?)

Shirley loves to read, play bridge and
golf. Some of her children live near her,
so her home is filled with family members.

shirley believes the joining SMPS was
"probably the most productive thing i have
done toward furthering my writing. I have
written more this year than ever before."
Her presence stimulates us as well, and we
are glad she is a member!



IT IS A T-SHIRT CONTEST!!!

T-SHIRTS? Let your imagination run wild!
Each hosting state sells T-Shirts as a
souvenir at the NFSPS convention. The
year, NFSPS and the state should somehow be
represented.
The state colors of maroon and gold should
also be incorporated. Put your artistic
talents to work! Bring your ideas to the
next meeting. Members will vote on the
best.

RUPERT BROOKE RUPERT BROOKE RUPERT BROOKE
RUPERT BROOKE

THE HILL

Breathless, we flung us on the windy hill,
Laughed in the sun, and kissed the
lovely grass.

You said, "Through glory and ecstasy we
pass;
Wind, sun, and earth remain, the birds sing
still,
When we are old, are old..." "And when we
die

All's over that is ours: and life burns
on
Through other lovers, other lips," said I,
- "Heart of my heart, our heaven is now, is
won!"

"We are Earth's best, that learnt her
lesson here.
Life is our cry. We have kept the faith!"
we said;

"We shall go down with unreluctant tread
Rose-crowned into the darkness!"...Proud we
were,
And laughed, that had such brave true
things to say.
-And then you suddenly cried, and turned
away.



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

14
FEBRUARY

Chambers
Route 2, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037