

THISTLEDOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 1987

MEETING

Saturday, October 10, 1987
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
734 Marsh, Mankato
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Dutch treat lunch)

REMINDERS

Use West parking lot (Valley side) and entrance. Please, call Wilfred Johnson (507/387-3730) to make lunch reservations, and the cooks will love you.

PROGRAM

We will have a workshop on critiqueing.

Mail an unidentified copy of a poem and a cover sheet giving name, address, title and first line of the poem to: SMPS Program Committee c/o I. J. Sarma, 1577 Sharon Dr., N. Mankato, MN 56001

Postmark deadline - October 5, 1987. Preferred are poems of 25 lines or less. No PERFECT POEMS, please.

The executive board of the SMPS is of the opinion that our programs provide opportunities for all of us to enhance our writing, and it appears that a significant number of our memmbers support this view.

One thought is that we need more programs which foster active participation by all members in a quest for insights and practices leading to better poetry.

In the coming months we will try and evaluate several such programs.

In the October workshop, we will try to form several groups, and attempt to critique unidentified poems. The exact proceedure will depend on attendance, and will be explained at the outset.

The program committe will see to it that at least one replicate copy of each poem sent in is available per two attendees.

It is further suggested that you send a poem which you feel has promise, but of which you are not sure of and have not read before in public.

SMPS NOTES

We welcome new members P. J. Doyle and Mavis Christensen and wish them good writing.

All our "Get well!" wishes go to Monica Haack who has a pinched nerve. Don't let that un-nerve you too much, Monica, and hurry back, you hear!

Don't miss--if you can help it--the writer's conference sponsored by MINNESOTA INK, at Mankato, on October 24. P. J. Doyle, our new member, is one of the speakers. Details will be available at our meeting.

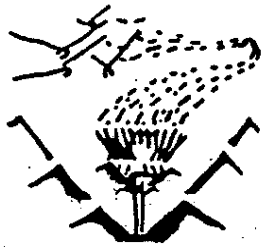
LOMP LIGHTS

36 poets were in attendance at the fall meeting in Minneapolis September 26 th. Elvira T. Johnson gave an enjoyable talk on: "A Primary Tool - the Text." Barbara Stevens held the seminar, and I understand it was quite educational. 33 poems were submitted, and SMPS members walked off with the lion's share of the awards. Aren't you sorry you missed the meeting! I am but I HAD TO! Make plans for the future.

The good turnout by SMPS members was appreciated, especially the work done at the registration desk.



I. J. Sarma, Ed.
1577 Sharon Drive
N. Mankato, MN 56001



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 8

ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY

1988

THIS MONTH

MEETING

Saturday, February 13, 1988
Bethany Lutheran College - Cafeteria
734 Marsh, Mankato
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Dutch Treat Lunch

You are requested to phone in lunch reservations to Wilfred Johnson at 507/387-3730.

PROGRAM

Dr. Donald Youel, retired MSU Professor Emeritus and Head of the English Department is our guest speaker. He will talk about Chaucer and discuss and read, in the original Middle English, excerpts from the Canterbury Tales.

ASSIGNMENT

The assignment was given in last month's Thistle*Down. If you missed it, it is to be a poem in traditional meter and rhyme not to exceed 32 lines and about the future (ca. 2038 A.D.) - optimistic, persuasive, sensitive and imaginative. Since this is a category in the upcoming NFSPS contest, write it and consider submitting it to same by February 15, 1988.

DUES

If you have not already done so, please plan to pay your SMPS (\$6.00) and LOMP (\$10.00) dues now. The deadline was January 1, 1988. Send SMPS dues to John Kolbe, 224 1/2 Carrol St., Mankato, MN 56001.

LOMP dues should be mailed to Eleanor Burns, 3415 Lake Avenue S., Duluth, MN 55802. Include a SASE for the LOMP membership card.

LAST MONTH

We were treated to a well thought out presentation on Carl Sandburg - the man, the citizen, the poet and his life and work. Thank you, Sue Chambers.

Cold weather did not stop a good turnout. Some faces we had not seen for months. Almost everyone did bring the assigned Villanelle.

NEXT MONTH

ASSIGNEMENT

A short poem, 12 lines or less, any form, on a serious subject.

PROGRAM

Roy Moore was non-committal. I wonder what he has up his sleeve now. Since his last surprise program had to do with Thanksgiving, I would place my bet on Valentine's Day. Anyone willing to take me up on that? He did, however, admit he has misplaced the list of members serving on the program committee and cannot remember which month's program was assigned to whom. Will the members please help him out and report in. Call Ike at 507/345-2211(work) or 345/4014(home). For reason, read on.

SMPS NOTES

By the way, Roy has a pinched nerve and is currently unable to walk well. He is undergoing some treatment now, but may have to have an operation. We all wish him speedy recovery from whatever.

MOUNTAIN MADNESS

The deadline for this special contest sponsored by the Utah Poets to celebrate the upcoming NFSPS Convention to be held there is February 15. You still can make it.

The deadline for the 1988 NFSPS Contest is also February 15. Why not try for a double whammy.

MY APOLOGY (to Monica Haack)

1988 Officers and Appointments (Corrected)

Officers:	President	- Susan Chambers
	Vice President	- Bonnie Wolle
	Recording Secretary	- Berneal Schindle
	Treasurer	- John Kolbe
	Historian	- Patricia Johnson
	Corresponding Sec'y	- Monica Haack
Appointments:	Book Table & Contests	- Meredith Cook
	Editor, PRAIRIE BREAD	- Patricia Johnson
	Editor, Thistle*Down	- Ike Sarma
	Membership Committee Chair	- Wilfred Johnson
	NFSPS Committee Chair	- Shirley Ensrud
	Program Committee Chair	- Roy B. Moore

A C H I E V E M E N T R E P O R T
of
THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY
January/February 1988
Compiled by Patricia M. Johnson

WE POINT WITH PRIDE to our out-of-state poets: FRANK ANTHONY, true friend and contributor to our Southern Minnesota Poets and League of Minnesota Poets. Remember, FRANK traveled from Vermont for a SMPS residency in February 1982 and, then lectured on "Poetry of the Unconscious" at the Mankato NFSPS convention last summer. He is founder and president of the New England Writers - Vermont, teaches freshmen English at Florida State University and is hard at work on the creative dissertation for his Phd toward which he has written over 1,000 poems in the last five years.

MAE DONALDSON BUCKEYE of Scottsdale Arizona, has had two splendid books published this year: HOUSE OF HIRAM (family account) beautifully illustrated and RUBY THROAT, finely achieved book of poems published by JESSEE POET PRESS. Mae had received (2) Honorable Mentions from *Byline*, (2) from *Midwest Poetry Review* and a number of recognitions from *Poets at Work*. It is difficult to believe that sparkling MAE is ninety one years young!

CHARLOTTE L. SEWARD, one of our founders, who now resides in Ottawa, Illinois, is starting a poetry group in that state. GOOD LUCK CHARLOTTE! She recently received an Honorable Mention from *World of Poetry* for her poem "Courthouse Square" - Free Verse: New American Category.

BARBARA STEVENS' poem, "Too Much Talk on a Walk," appeared in *Bell's Letters*. She also received a Special Honorable Mention in *Byline's* "Autumn Poem Contest" and an Honorable Mention in their "Any Theme" competition.

Other *Byline* recognitions went to PATRICIA JOHNSON for Honorable Mentions in their "Free Verse" and "Poems for Children" events; and to WILFRED JOHNSON, Special Honorable Mention - "Halloween Poems." He also received an Honorable Mention in the 1987 *Byline Literary Awards* in which only one monetary prize was given - the editor of *Bronco Press* of Oklahoma judging. In their last competition, judged by the editor of *Nimrod*, Bill received Fourth and Sixth Place.

Back to out-of-state members: ASTRID VAN DE WEGE is vice president of The Sun City Arizona Poetry Society. ASTRID has had ten poems published in the *National PEO Record Magazine* and given talks (2) to PEO organizations; also had poetry published in the *Sun City News*.

JUDGING EVENTS: Florida State Poetry Association's 1987 contest: SUSAN S. CHAMBERS - Gilbert Maxwell Memorial Award; BARBARA STEVENS - Jeanne Burns Memorial Award; JESSEE POET - Katherine F. Gordy Award; and WILFRED M. JOHNSON - #27 Student Awards. SMPS members who received awards in these competitions were PATRICIA JOHNSON, First Place #16 *Poems for Children* and JESSEE POET, 2nd Honorable Mention - *Russel Leavitt Memorial Award*.

Mississippi Poetry Society - Senryu - JESSEE POET, sponsor and judge. In other categories - JESSEE received a Third Place - *Thomas Oliver Tate Memorial Award* and 3rd Honorable Mention in the *Poet Laureate of Mississippi Award*.

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA, - #12 *Hill Award* was judged by WILFRED JOHNSON and #15 *McBurney Award* was judged by PATRICIA M. JOHNSON.

WILFRED & PATRICIA JOHNSON also judged the *Social Significance Category* for the *Second Annual Howlin' Owl Poetry Contest*, Tecolote Chapter of the California Federation of Chaparral Poets; *Poets at Work Quarterly Contest* - Theme: Love; *First Jessee Family Awards Category #16 Religious* - WILFRED judged the *Jerilynn Award* (over 300 entries) in the *Second JFA Awards* and PATRICIA, the *Bonus Contest: Sonnets and Villanelles* - October.

Continued (other side)

PATRICIA JOHNSON judged the **Evy Glassberg Hodson Award** (Free Verse - any subject) and WILFRED JOHNSON, the **Edna Schoemaker Memorial Award** (any subject - any form) for the **Pennsylvania Poetry Societies' 35th Annual Contest**.

WILFRED, PATRICIA and JESSEE POET sponsored and judged **Mini-Contests** for the Florida State Poetry Assoc. in 1987, The JOHNSONS' form: **Cameo** -- JESSEE - Subject: **Green**.

BARBARA STEVENS judged the **Grand Prize, League of Minnesota Poets' 1987 annual contest**

* We urge each of you to "Dress-Up" your poems and enter them in National Competitions. When you have received a significant number of top awards, you will be requested to judge. It is then you will learn what excellent poets we have throughout our states. It is a "growing and humbling experience, motivating each of us to work harder."

PUBLICATIONS; MAVIS CHRISTENSEN - 5 poems published - **IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS** - Publisher: Legacy House, California. This book is a collection of original and traditional devotional material for the holiday season from Thanksgiving through Epiphany.

MEG KRAMER'S poetry book - **FIRST FRUITS** - arrived in the mail today. It was printed by Crescent Publishing, Inc., Hills, MN and illustrated by DELPHINE HEIN, CONTRATULATIONS, MEG! It is exceptional! (copies for sale at February SMPS meeting)

MONICA HAACK's poem, "This Donkey's Destiny," appeared on the cover of a recent issue of **River of Life Publication**, also a short article was used. MONICA had a poetic tribute for Fr. Charles Kerr published in **St. Peter and Paul's Parish Newsletter**. Her poem "Journey of Life" in calligraphy and illustrated by MARGY HENGY was framed for the Birthright office.

ROY MOORE had a recent article in **WRITE ON** section of the **MANKATO FREE PRESS** - "Santa Claus in Bethlehem." ROY was also named to the Mankato Ambassador's list and received a certificate from the mayor during a ceremony at City Hall.

MEREDITH COOK and SHIRLEY ENSRUD each had a display of their poetry on exhibit at the first Annual Winterfest in Blue Earth, January 9-10, 1988.

AWARDS AND CONTEST RESULTS: DR. JOSEPHINE LIEBHABER has been selected as a recipient of the American Biographical Institute's Commemorative Medal of Honor. This is a limited issue medal bestowed upon a select group of 175 men and women whose achievements on local, state, national and/or international levels are worthy of documented recognition. JO also had a Christmas poem published in the Wells Newspaper.

** **ERROR CORRECTION** from the November/December report: (Bill asks forgiveness for omitting a line in retyping the report) PATRICIA's poem "Unexpected Shangri-la" received First Place in the **Nature Category at Midwest Chaparral**. However, it was "Bittersweet" that received the First Place in **Syllabic Verse**, Maxine A. Larson judging. Patricia also received Second Place nationally - **The Schofield Award** for this same poem; Second Place in the **JFA Awards** and since the last report - First Place - **Stanzaic Form - Poetry Jacksonville's 1987 National Contest** to be published in **Prize Poems of Jacksonville** - judge Ralph Hammond.

Market Lesson: Watch your contest rules. The reason this poem could win those four top awards is because it had not been published before. Remember, also there are a number of contests that **will** accept published poems.

DR. ROY B. MOORE received a Certificate of merit for an entry in latest **The Muse Competitions** and WILFRED JOHNSON received (2) Merit Certificates. Congratulations, Colleagues! **JUDSON JEROME JUDGED.**

PATRICIA hit the jackpot with an \$80.00 check from **The Village Writers, Atlanta, GA.**; First Place in their **Sonnet Category** - "The Threat of War"; and (2) Third Places: **Poetry for Children** and a Haiku. PATRICIA also received (4) awards in the Mississippi Poetry Society's National Contest (South Branch): Second Place (Villanelle) - Second Place - **Haiku Award**; First Honorable Mention, The **Grand Award** and 3rd Honorable Mention. - **Writers' Unlimited Award.**

WILFRED received First Place in **Time Theme Contest - Poets at Work** - BILL's poem "Timestream."

Nice going SMPS!

GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

Poet WILLIAM STAFFORD -

February 11 Morning: Classroom Visits / Manuscript Conferences
 (for time/reservations call MSU English
 Department at 507/389-2117)

Talk: "You Must Revise Your Life"
 3:00 p.m. Centennial Student Union 253

Public Reading
 7:30 p.m. Centennial Student Union 253

Poet and Translator ROSEANN LLOYD -

March 2 Morning - Classroom Visits
 (for time call MSU English Department
 at 507/389-2117)

Talk: "On Craft: Letting in More of the World"
 3:00 p.m. Centennial Student Union 253

Writing Workshop 6:00 p.m. Armstrong Hall 101
 (Bring original writing and 8 copies)

March 3 Talk: "Hearing the Sound and Shape of a Poem
 Before the Words (or: How I Go About Writing)"
 10:00 a.m. Centennial Student Union 101

Manuscript Conferences 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
 (for reservations call MSU English Department
 at 507/389-2117)

Public Reading 7:30 Armstrong Hall 101

TOP SECRET

The following is for your eyes only. Please, DO NOT LET ANYONE ELSE SEE
 THIS COPY OF THE Thistle*Down UNTIL M A R C H 1 2.

Herewith, March 12 is proclaimed DAY OF HONOR for Patricia Johnson and
 Wilfred Johnson. IT IS TO BE A S U R P R I S E.

All members are enjoined to bring a 'present of appreciation' for them.
 As much as they have done for us and our growth, a short, good poem will
 do. This is a second, unofficial assignment. If you have any further
 ideas, let President Sue know.

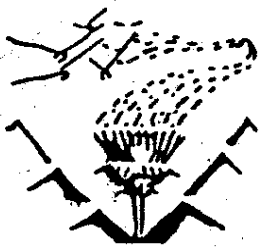
LOMP NOTES

The 1988 Spring Meeting of the League will be held in Minneapolis on May 21. It will be hosted by a new Chapter of the League, the recently formed Minnesota Valley Poets and Writers group. I know you will join in wishing them GOOD WRITING. Good guess to their acronym? How about MVP Writers.

Thistle*Down
c/o Ikars J. Sarma
1577 Sharon Drive
N. Mankato, MN 56001



Meredith Cook
527 No. Gailbraith
Blue Earth, Mn. 56013



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 8

ISSUE

APRIL 1

198

THIS MONTH

MEETING

Saturday, April 9, 1988
Bethany Lutheran College - Cafeteria
734 Marsh, Mankato, Minnesota
11:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Executive Committee Meeting - 11:00 A.M.

Dutch Treat Lunch - 11:45 A.M.

Please phone in your lunch reservation to Wilfred Johnson 507/387-3730.

PROGRAM

"SELLING YOUR POETRY"

Our guest speaker is Heidi Schmidt of Fairmont. She writes both prose and poetry, and has been selling her work to magazines and greeting card companies since 1977. According to Meredith Cook, who made the arrangements, Heidi is a great speaker and is rumored to have to report her income from her writing to the IRS.

ASSIGNMENT

Just a reminder that you 'may' bring your humorous poem to share. Other, non-assigned poems will not be rejected.

DUES

To your editors chagrin (who has been exhorting all to pay their dues?), has discovered that he has not, repeat, has not, paid his LOMP dues (surely a mere oversight which he immediately corrected.) If that is your case, I will find a small, round orange sticker attached to your THISTLE*DOWN. Send \$10.00 to Eleanor Burns, 3415 Lake Ave. S., Duluth, MN 55802.

IN MEMORIAM

We are deeply saddened by the death, March 28, of our beloved member Juc Norman Nitzkowski. Our most sincere sympathy to Lucille and family.

Memorial service is to be held Monday, April 4th, 7P.M. at the Centenary Methodist Church in Mankato. Memorials to Mankato Rehabilitation Center, Inc. are preferred.

LOMP LITES

~~Congratulations, on their first anniversary, March 19, to the new chapter (the) Mississippi Poets & Writers.~~

Patricia and Wilfred Johnson report that the new chapter, under the co-leadership of Marlys Binger and Helen Desich, is quite active, and a number of their members are planning to attend our May meeting. They are the hosts for:

LOMP Spring Meeting - May 21, 1988

Ritz Hotel - 312 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis

LITERARY HOUR SPEAKER: P. J. Doyle - "The Sense of Place"

SEMINAR LEADER: Edward R. Brandt

SEMINAR CHAIR: Marilyn Mathews
4517 15th Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55407 612/825-3353

RESERVATIONS: Valerie Bump
979 W. Iowa
St. Paul, MN 55117 612/487-1898

RULES FOR SUBMITTING POEMS TO IN-STATE SEMINAR - LOMP MEMBERS

Mail (must be received by May 7.) two clear copies of your entry, one poem, 20 lines or less, double-spaced on standard size paper to seminar chair, Marilyn Mathews. Place your name and address in upper left corner of one copy only. On both copies identify the form: free verse, Sonnet, Villanelle, etc.

If you cannot attend, send S.A.S.E. for return of your poem w/critiquing

PLAN TO ATTEND

and contact Wilfred Johnson to see if arrangements for transportation - group or shared, can be made. Reservations must be received no later than May 16th. Last minute cancellations must be phoned in.

NFSPS CONVENTION

It is not too early to plan for going to the C O N V E N T I O N. Susan Chambers has found round trip airfare for \$208, but sharing ride in car is a possible option. Start making contacts with other members or speak to our officers.

NEXT MONTH

Refurbish your plans for the March meeting. We will honor Patricia and Wilfred JOHNSON for their service to GMS. ~~Yes!~~ The cat is out of the bag, as threat of bad weather and other circumstances prevented keeping it there.

You are to write a narrative poem to share for the May meeting.

GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

MARJORIE DORNER

Wed., April 6, 3 P.M. Centennial Student Union 204 - "The Writer's Craft"
 Thu., April 7, 10 A.M. CSU 202 - "Mystery/Suspense:Formula & Anti-Formula"
 7:30 P.M. CSU 200S - Reading

JOY WILLIAMS

Thu., May 19, 3 P.M. CSU 253 - "The Writer's Craft"
 7:30 P.M. CSU 253 - Reading

NOTE: In addition to above, there are classroom visits and manuscript conferences available. For details call MSU's English Department 389-2117.

Congratulations to MSU Professor Robbins for winning the \$1000 1st prize from the Poetry Society of America for a poem sequence.

ATTENTION ALL POETS

The Guild Press has extended the deadline for submissions to FULL CIRCLE 9 to April 15th. Send submissions to Guild Press, P.O. Box 22583, Robbinsdale, MN 55422.

Copies of FULL CIRCLE 8 may be obtained for \$6.00 from above address. You may find it helpful to examine the type of material they publish before choosing your submission.