



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 10

ISSUE 2

OCTOBER

1989

THIS MONTH

MEETING

Saturday, October 14, 1989
J. D. Truffle's
503 Belgrade, North Mankato, Minnesota
11:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Dutch Treat Lunch - 11:45

Note the temporary change of venue. We must adhere to times given.
Be prompt and, please, phone in your lunch reservations to Wilfred Johnson, 507/387-3730 by 5 P.M. Friday, October 13th.

PROGRAM

Mavis Christensen will share a study entitled:

First Steps into Poetic Symbolism.

ASSIGNMENT

Our assignments are not mandatory, but are a challenge, or a stimulus to write a poem which, otherwise, might not ever be written.

For sharing, bring your July 'assignment', a Nonce form. This is any original fixed form poem, e.g., the very first Golda written was one, as was the very first Beymorlin.

If you should write a four stanza poem coded aDa'/bEb'/cFc'/FED, where aa', bb', and cc' are near or slant rhymes, and D, E, and F are line ending words you might have a Nonce poem unless someone else has already done that.

You have at your disposal, as building blocks, such elements as: variable line length (including syllable count); rhyme scheme - including internal, skewed, slant or near rhyme; mixed meter (consider non-traditional, multi-syllabic 'feet', or cadences); etc.

Important: Important: Important:

Bring short poem (12 lines or less), any subject, any form, for the November program. Typed copy is preferred, but a readable handwritten one is better than none.

SMPS NOTES

On behalf of SMPS, the THISTLE*DOWN extends to Patricia Amlie wishes of quick recovery from her recent surgery.

SPECIAL! SPECIAL! SPECIAL! SPECIAL!

Romanian-born poet Andre Codrescu will read at a Loft sponsored event to be held at the Bridgman Hall, Hamline University on Friday, October 13th at 8 p.m. If you wish to go and share a ride, call Sue Chambers at 278-4200.

The Good Thunder Reading Series

As announced last month, this year's series are being launched October 5th at 7:30 p.m. from MSU's Centennial Student Union Auditorium with readings by Mankato Area poets and writers:

George Berg Edward Micus Roy B. Moore
Kim Nielsen Beth Siebert

Next date, probably same place and time, is October 26th - with Rick DeMarinis and C.L. Rawlins. For details call Richard Robbins at 389-1354 or the MSU English Department at 389-2117.

LAST MONTH

It was good to be together again. J. D.'s was a good place to meet. Quite roomy. To recount all that went on would take more reams of paper than the T*D can afford. Oh, yes! Pat Berg, a former member is in town for a prolonged visit, and attended the meeting. Welcome back, Pat, even if only for a short while.

DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES-DUES

A number of you, to the extent current records are correct, appear to owe dues for 1989 (\$6.00 /__) and even for 1988 (\$5.00 /__). If you find an X, in the space within the parentheses and following the amount, please contact John Kolbe (at 507/625-6849 or 532 Page Ave., North Mankato, MN 56001) to bring them (or the records) up to date.

A C H I E V E M E N T R E P O R T
S O U T H E R N M I N N E S O T A P O E T S ' S O C I E T Y

September/October 1989

Compiled by Patricia M. Johnson - Prepared by Wilfred M. Johnson

SMPS is proud of our colleagues who brought home many honors from The League of Minnesota Poets' Conference at The Normandy Inn in Minneapolis. The Mississippi Valley Poets and Writers were superb hosts! SMPS member Marlys T. Binger was chairperson for Sister Rafael Tilton's League seminar. Southern Minnesota Poet Members who received awards were: **Norman R. Boe**, 1st Place, "Musing Under A Solar Eclipse"; **Wilfred M. Johnson**, 2nd Place, "City Blocks and Boxes"; **Shirley Ensrud**, 3rd Place, "Small Change"; 4th Place, **Roy B. Moore**, "Earth's Calendars"; 6th Place, **PJ Doyle**, "Lifeline"; 1st Honorable Mention, **Susan S. Chambers**, "Winter Writer" and 2nd HM, **Lorraine Schwanke Mueller**, "Sonnet For Our Wedding." We missed the 4th HM so if it was one of our poets please let us know and your name will appear in the next report.

SMPS members who received awards in The League's National Contests: **Norman R. Boe**, 2nd Place, "Flea-market Prize"; 1st HM, "Unsanctified City"; 4th HM, "White Canes"; 4th HM "Forward to the Critical Reader"; **Meredith Cook**, 1st Place, "Woman in Her Sense"; 3rd HM, "Fair Spell"; 3rd HM, "The Other Travelogue"; **PJ Doyle**, 1st HM, "The Reunion"; 3rd HM, "Steeping Tea"; 4th HM, "Posted Property"; 4th HM, "Tending Time"; **Shirley Ensrud**, 4th HM, "It's So Little"; **Wilfred M. Johnson**, 3rd Place, "One Step Ahead"; 1st HM, "Solitaire"; **Roy B. Moore**, 2nd Place, "Circling The Scythe"; 1st HM, "Song of Prairie Grass Once Heard"; **Lorraine Schwanke Mueller**, 1st Place, "Model T On A Minnesota Farm"; 3rd Place, "The High Adventures of Hulda Crooks"; 1st HM, "Identity Not Identical"; 2nd HM, "Escape The Fire Serpent"; **Jessee Poet**, 1st Place, "In Knee-high Grass"; **Barbara Stevens**, 1st Place, "I Must Go Where The Good Poems Are"; 1st HM, "Women In Photographs"; 2nd HM, "The Flying Machine"; 2nd HM, "Years Later"; 2nd HM, "Canoeing Down Pine River"; 3rd HM, "Things That Go Bump In The Night." We are proud of each of you. Please bring your 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place award poems to be read at the October 14th meeting. **Barbara Stevens**, SMPS member from South Dakota judged The Nonce Form Award in this LOMP contest.

Other national awards: **PJ Doyle**, 1st HM from Poets' Study Club of Terre Haute, Indiana - Theme: "Windows" - her poem - "February Azalea." **Patricia Johnson** received the following JFA monthly and quarterly awards in Jessee Poets' (Pennsylvania) national spring competitions: 2nd Place, "New Life Candidate" (Judge: Jessie Ruhl Miller); 3rd Place and 1st HM - Humor (Judge: Timothy Russell) plus 3rd HM (2), 4th HM and (3) citations. In the last round of national contests sponsored by Jessee Poet, Patricia received: 1st Place, Quarterly, "The Lone Wolf" (Judge: Diane Glancy); 2nd Place (1st HM) "Love Story--Chapter I" (Judge: Jaye Giammarino); 2nd Place, (1st HM) "Mission Accomplished" (Judge: Patricia Lawrence) and 3rd HM; 4th HM; 5th HM; plus two judges' Special Mentions and 2 Citations.

Wilfred Johnson recieved the following honors in recent national PAW contests - JFA Awards, monthly and quarterly competitions: 1st Place, "Gamblers' Casino--A Hospital" (Judge: Ann Gasser); 2nd Place (1st HM) "Time to Kill" and 3rd Place (2nd HM) "Flood of Terror" (Judge: Ernestine Gravely) and 1st HM, "Death Trap" (Judge: James Shott). Wilfred also received 2nd HM ; 3rd HM; 5th HM (2), 8th HM, Judge's Special Mention and (2) citations.

Now we would like to make this statement about Jessee Poet's contests: **Nowhere are poetry contests handled with more integrity** - both sponsor and judges! The competition is intense and the learning experience, unequalled! Although many of our nation's top poets subscribe and contribute to **Poets at Work**, Jessee also encourages new, aspiring poets. We highly recommend participating in his contests and subscribing to **PAW**. His adress is: **Poets at Work, RD 1, Portersville, Pa 16051**. Be sure to include S.A.S.E. with 45¢ postage. PAW magazine awards will be included next month.

SMPS ACHIEVEMENTS CONTINUED

Patricia received a 2nd Place for "New Life Candidate" - Midwest Chaparral Spring Magazine Award. She also received 1st Place in the first annual **Tucumcari Literary Review's** contest for her rondeau, "Victims Of Vesuvius"; 1st Place, "The Cosmic Curse" (Villanelle) from **Felicity**; 1st Place, "Jagged Rocks and Crystals" from **Galaxy of Verse**; 2nd Place, Poetry Jacksonville (fixed form); "Mental Chilblain" (Judge: Jeanette Maes); 2nd Place, "State University" (Blank Verse) and 3rd Place, "Court of Appeals," Massachusetts State Poetry Society; 2nd Place, South Dakota Arts Month, "The Immortal James Cagney"; 2nd Place, Milford Fine Arts; "In a Doctor's Office"; 3rd Place, "My Mother's Music" (by readers' vote) in the premier issue of **Omnific** and 3rd Place - Arkansas Writer's Conference, "A Father--A Tree." **Wilfred** received 1st Place, Massachusetts Poetry Society, "Our Mother the Mariner"; 1st Place, **Galaxy of Verse** (Inspirational) "All That Heaven Allows"; 1st Place, California Chaparral Poets, "Time To Kill"; 1st Place, "Winter Was Forever," **Felicity**; 1st Place, Arkansas Writers' Conference, "Heart of His Home," Walter Wise Sr. Award and an "Excellence in Literature" Award from Pinewood Poetry - Iowa.

Carolyn Behr had a poem selected for Kathleen Mandel's children's book - **Lizards, Lions and Lady Bugs**. Carolyn also received a scholarship and not only traveled to Yugoslavia this spring but she and **Shirley Ensrud** attended Michael Dennis Browne's Split-rock workshop in Duluth. **Susan S. Chambers** is our newly elected Treasurer of NFSPS. She received a certificate of Merit Award from The Muse Competition; Wilfred Johnson received (2). We hope many more SMPS and League poets will attend the **Stevens' Cottage Poetry Retreat** in 1990. It is a rewarding experience.

Meredith Cook came in second in a talent show at her fifteenth high school class reunion. She also received third prize in the portrait division of amateur photography at the Faribault County Fair with a picture of Patricia and Bill Johnson taken at the NFSPS Utah Convention. **Lucille Fitzsimmons** had a fine picture and article in **The Mainline Summer Newsletter**.

Monica Haack read poetry to three 3rd grade classes at Monroe School. **Mildred Hoppe** was her assistant for one day. Monica gave a poetry reading for the Ladies' Craft Group at Chateau La Mer, Destin, Florida and her poem "Surfside Valentine" was read at their potluck. She also shared her poem, "Alumni Toast to Holy Rosary School" at an alumni assembly and her poem "Unity" plus a prose article was published in the "Living Waters" prayer group newsletter. Monica's tribute to 90 year old friend Gert Kelly was published in **The National Catholic Daughters' magazine**, **State Magazine** and the **Holy Rosary Bulletin**. Monica read her "Eternal Daisy" at a cousin's funeral in Madison Lake; her "Prayer of Bride and Groom" was used at a wedding in the Gustavus Chapel, St. Peter; her "Art Exhibit" and "May Basket" poems were shared at a Good Counsel Alumnae Reunion.

Patricia and Wilfred Johnson presented a workshop for Leon Knight's writing class at the Brooklyn Center Community College; **Phyllis Kuehl** gave poetry readings at a prayer breakfast for the Trinity Lutheran church at Jeffers; **Meg Kramers'** poem, "Wrinkles" was published in the MSU Alumni paper, **TODAY**, and she also had two poems in the 1989 **Compass Collection**.

Roy B. Moore has been busy writing and reading poems for retirement parties at MSU for Robert Isdahl, Anita Stone, Dr. Andrew Een and Dr. Winston Benson. Roy has completed and published, **Chronicle of Athletics at MSU 1890 to 1990**, including his poem - "The Finish to Start." The following poems of Roy's were recently published: "Remembering the Dance" and "Mother Was a Witch" in **The Compass Collection**, '89; in **bereavement**, April '89, "Keepsake"; Roy's "The Gallant Ghost of Handball" was published in **Quest**, August, '89 issue entitled **Poetry and Art in Sports and Movement**. Roy was part of The Good Thunder Readings at Mankato State University, October 5th.

Loraine Schwanke Mueller received two Golden Poet Awards from World of Poetry for poems: "Viva La Compagnie" and "To Have and Hold Forever." Other Golden Poet Awards went to **Edna Busekist**, **Verna Larson** and **Mildred Perhson**. Loraine Mueller was installed as president of the Wabinika Study Club, September 7th, and she also presented poetry readings at the Tracy Senior Center; June 25, she served Tracy UMC; August 20, served Verdi and Ruthton UMC's.

What an ambitious group! CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

NEXT MONTH

PROGRAM

We will hold a workshop/seminar on critiquing in a continuing attempt to provide opportunity for members to polish their craft.

Your Editor is very opinionated as to the merit of scholarly study of what poetry is/is like/is about. The THISTLE*DOWN is certain that he is staying up nights, waiting for such events, and beseeches all members to bring in their poems and take part in the workshop. Who knows? He may (out of excessive joy) burst a seam, and there can not be a better, quicker and more humane way to get rid of him than that!

ASSIGNMENT

You are encouraged to take a haiku that has been published and expand what you find into a new poem. Make it no longer than 28 lines.

OPPORTUNITY

Poets' Study Club of Terre Haute, Indiana announces:

50th Annual Contest

No fee. Deadline - February 1, 1990

You may enter one or all of three categories:

- 1) Serious poem 2) Light verse 3) Traditional haiku

one poem only in each category. Prizes \$25 and \$15 in each category.

Manuscripts will not be returned, but will be destroyed. Poems will not be published and author retains copyright.

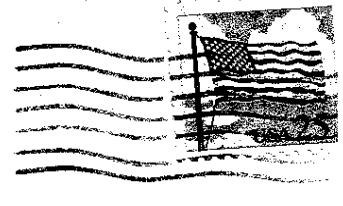
Type each poem on a separate 8-1/2 by 11 inch paper, name and address in upper left corner, category in upper right corner.

Mail to: Poets' Study Club
c/o Esther Alman
826 S. Center Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807

OPPORTUNITIES - more

On Fridays, October 6, 13 and 20, turn on your TV set at 9:00 p.m. and select Channel 2 - KTCA. For one hour you will enjoy poetry. The 6-part series - **The Power of Words**, started three weeks ago. Your scurvy ed. has taped the first three parts, and may be persuaded to show/lecture you on them. The **THISTLE*DOWN** assures you you will enjoy this. Bill Moyer is the narrator and poets appearing so far include: Robert Bly, William Stafford, Kinney Galway, Octavio Paz, Sharon Olds, Jim Autry, Quincy Thorp and others whose names escape us at the moment.

THISTLE*DOWN
1577 Sharon Drive
North Mankato, MN 56001



Meredith Cook
527 No. Galbraith
Blue Earth, MN 56013



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 10
ISSUE

DECEMBER 1989

THIS MONTH

MEETING

Saturday, December 9, 1989
Bethany Lutheran College
734 Marsh, Mankato
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dutch Treat Lunch

To make reservations, please call Wilfred Johnson at 507/387-3730 b
Thursday evening, December 7.

PROGRAM

We will be entertained by a group of MSU Chamber Singers. So, do come
and join the rest for some Christmas Carols.

ASSIGNMENT

Don't be shy and bring a seasonal (the subject is to be Winter, o
Christmas) poem. It may be of any form, the line limit is not fixe
(but, please, no Illiads), and (pretty, pretty please) may the Thistle
Down never, ever again have to repeat the plea by SMPS President fo
fresh ideas - no greeting card, church hymnal, or other worn sentiment

Furthermore, you are always welcome to bring other poems to share.

DUES \$ DUES \$ DUES

It is time for 1990 SMPS and LOMP dues. Both are \$6.00 .

SMPS dues support all our operations. The Thistle*Down, mailed, costs,
on the average, \$45 per issue; we do mail a number of complimentary an
promotional copies, and the mailing list has 88 addresses on it..

Bear in mind that LOMP dues bring you the MOCCASIN, membership in the
NFSPS, and the STROPHEs. Send dues to:

SMPS

John Kolbe
532 Page Ave.
North Mankato, MN 56001

LOMP

Eleanor Burns
3415 Lake Ave. S.
Duluth, MN 55802

NEXT MONTH

PROGRAM

The plan was to have an outside speaker, but at press time there was no certainty we could have one. Should that turn out to be the case, we will consider winding up the critiquing, as needed and feasible, from last month's program, and then watch a video tape of excerpts from the "The Power of the Word", a 6-hour program on poetry broadcast recently by Channel 2 (KTCA), with Bill Moyers as the presenter.

ASSIGNMENT

Write a TUANORTSA - originated in 1966 by the Penn Laurel poets, a poem that can be read upward (beginning with the last line), as well as downward, with a title at the bottom, as well as at the top; may be rhymed, or unrhymed, and is to be 24 lines long, or less.

LAST MONTH

It was a rather curious meeting, attendance being a bit below regular. We missed all of you who could not make it, e.g., the Johnsons, Sue (away for her brother's wedding), and others.

Instead of going to the program on critiquing, we started out with the assigned poems - written as an expansion on a published haiku. This turned out to be a very good subject, with a great deal of discussion and sharing of thoughts, attitudes, feelings and ideas.

The program was somewhat hampered by the absence of many whose poems were to be critiqued.

Nevertheless, after everything was said and done, those present appeared to be unanimously satisfied with the experiences of the day.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

This is my last chance to address you as President of the SMPS. I will admit there is some sadness at ending a job which has been a part of my life for the past four years, but there is also a great deal of excitement as well. Excitement for SMPS, for I am certain the organization is strong and will continue to thrive. I know that change is important for any organization, and I know we will be behind the new President 100% .

I look forward to new roles to fulfill as a SMPS member. But before I move on, (continued on next page)

(continued)

I would like to thank the numerous people who have made my job easy. Bonnie Wolle, reliable Vice President and trusted friend; John Kolbe, excellent as Treasurer; Berneal Schindle, as able Secretary. All of these officers have pitched in and worked hard over the past years, and I thank them for their efforts.

Also, a big thank you to: Cecelia Weaver, as Nominations Chair; Monica Haack, as Corresponding Secretary; Patricia Johnson, as Historian; Bill Johnson, as Membership Chair; Roy Moore, as Program Chair; Elinor Schmidt, for her help with media notification and mailings; Meredith Cook, for her work on the contest table; Sirley Ensrud, as NFSPS Attendance Chair; Ike Sarma, as Thistle*Down Editor; and to all who faithfully attended meetings.

As you can see, it is the whole group of poetry lovers who make this organization viable. We are coming up on a new year, when there will be new requests for help. I know our members will respond with enthusiasm. It will be a joy to work with you in whatever role the President requests of us.

Poetry writing is an isolated event--done when one is alone, and in the quiet. But the sharing of poetry is as important as the creative process, and our organization has contributed greatly to the creation of many beautiful poems. The hours we have shared have triggered my own writing. I thank each of the members for that very special gift.

Muriel Rukeyser said, in "The Education of a Poet",:

I think the exchange of energy is what happens in art. There are so many ways in which one is conducted to learning, so many ways in which one seeks, and ways in which one loves the people from which one can learn. The passion with which one reaches out to such people goes on forever and ever...

I look forward to learning much more, in new roles, from the people I love.

Thank you so much for your past support.

NFSPS SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline is February 1990. Two available at \$500 each plus invite to the Convention and publication of chapbook. Eligible are college juniors and seniors, regardless of age (non-traditional students are included). Contact Sue Chambers for details and applications.



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 10
ISSUE
JANUARY
199

Saturday, January 13, 1990
Bethany Lutheran College
734 Marsh, Mankato
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dutch Treat Lunch

To make reservations, please call Berneal Schindle at 507/625-7208 by Thursday evening, January 12th.

PROGRAM We will wind up, as needed and feasible, the critiquing effort started in November, then watch video tape excerpts from the "The Power of the Word", a program on poetry (Channel 2, KTCA). Bill Moyers, narrator.

ASSIGNMENT The TUANORTSA (spell it backward - get astronaut), a form originated in 1966 by the Penn Laurel poets, is readable both upward and downward, with the title at top and bottom (as the last line), the two may, but need not be, exactly alike, and are read as part of the poem ... rhymed, or unrhymed, 24 lines or less.

You still have time to take a swing at one. Start with a three-liner that fits the rules, then expand it, perhaps only one line at a time.

For enjambment, or run-on lines, this form poses a real challenge, for elegant inversion, a real delight, for strict punctuation, a nightmare. However, it seems that, here is a form one could polish forever.

SOMEONE SOMEWHERE

can you feel my longing, my need to touch
the treasured things of life which man calls freedom,
just walking the streets with my own people, to hold
my beloved in my arms at night, while I consider
tomorrow's mundane routine with heart-weary numbness,
the advance through the jungle, and death always bartering
this giving of my all, though valued so little
by all the world. Can you grasp the despair,
hungering for home and feeling forgotten
with other captives of war, through endless days,
existing behind a barbed wire prison camp,
praying through blackest night...remember me,
Someone, Somewhere

Guanetta Gordon, *The Sandcutters*, Poet International
Shadow Within the Flame, Golden Quill Press

To The Members of SMPS:

I would like to thank you for the confidence you showed me by my election as President of SMPS. I will try to merit that confidence. One person alone cannot make an organization a success. It will take the cooperation of all members to help make SMPS grow, prosper and be the kind of an organization of which we all can be proud.

My goal for the organization is to make it not only a place to read our poetry, but an opportunity to learn for us amateur poets where no one will feel intimidated by those more successful, but where we can enjoy each other's success and a social companionship and fellowship with other poets.

I would like to see everyone punctual for the meetings so that we will have more time for poetry sharing, programs and the business meeting. Let's show a consideration for the staff at Bethany in preparing and serving meals. It's difficult serving when we plan on eating at 11:45 while members straggie in from 12:00 to 12:30 and expect to be served. Of course, there are always legitimate excuses, but let's not stretch it.

I am looking forward to hearing great poetry at our meetings. I will be handing out a questionnaire at the first meeting which will give you all a chance for input into planning the programs and charting a course for SMPS in the future.

I will do my best to fulfill the obligations of President and ask for your assistance and patience.

Berneal Schindle

DUES \$ DUES \$ DUES

It is time for 1990 SMPS (\$ 6.00) and LOMP (\$ 12.00) dues. Editor's apology for stating last month that both are \$ 6.00 . Most of you have probably taken care of this matter already, but should any one of you have not yet managed, please

SMPS dues support all our operations. The Thistle*Down, mailed, costs, on the average, \$45 per issue; we do mail a number of complimentary and promotional copies (5), and the mailing list has 72 addresses on it....

Bear in mind that LOMP dues bring you the MOCCASIN, membership in the NFSPS, and the STROPHERS. Send dues to:

SMPS

John Kolbe
532 Page Ave.
North Mankato, MN 56001

LOMP

Eleanor Burns
3415 Lake Ave. S.
Duluth, MN 55802

Send SASE with LOMP dues to receive membership card.

NEXT MONTH

PROGRAM Invite a student to read one (or two, or three) of her/his poem(s), possibly, if they so choose, to have them critiqued, and to tell us something (if they so choose) about themselves and their writing. We must consider sharing among all members the cost of their meals.

ASSIGNMENT Mountains, anywhere, anytime, are to be the subject. Any form, 40 line limit.

BEYOND
NEXT MONTH

This is a new wrinkle to give members additional time for working on assignments.

FOR MARCH The MINUTE


A 60 syllable, 12 line poem, the syllables-per-line scheme of 8-4-4-4 being repeated three times; in strict (? Ed.) iambic meter, rhymed couplet-wise (a,a,b,b,c,c,e,e,f,f); capitalized and punctuated like prose (do poems, if thus treated, have some hereto unknown to this Editor capitalization and punctuation?!); and, above all, the poem is to capture a minute in time.

LAST MONTH

We were splendidly entertained by a group of MSU Chamber Singers. In the Holiday rush, forgot to get the names of the participants...thus unable to mention and thank each one individually. But you know who you are, so, THANK YOU, VERY MUCH INDEED.

There were many, many nice Winter and Christmas poems shared, and some members even had theirs to pass out as Christmas' cards.

We elected a new slate of officers, but the T*D is too full for listing and has to postpone it for February.



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 10
ISSUE 7

MARCH
1990

I N M E M O R I A M

To announce the death, last month, of Kathie Lutes is a heart-breaking task. I spoke to Kathie a mere week or so before that. It was a chance meeting at a grocery store. Being aware of the prognosis, I greeted her warmly, as at other times, while my brain was racing to stop me from saying something inappropriate. Kathie made it easy by stating she did not expect to live much longer and seemed to be resolved, with-out any bitterness, to spend the time in normal (!) pursuits.

Last month, I suffered a mental block, or, to be very candid, what now seems to be a deliberate refusal to accept the fact - as if it were a bad dream to be dispelled by waking up.

Of all the poets within our circle, I thought Kathie to be the closest to having a "voice". Now death has shattered that promise. We extend our heart-felt sympathy to her family and friends.

" Sit tibi terra levis , Kathie!"

THIS MONTH

MEETING

Saturday, March 10, 1990
Bethany Lutheran College
734 Marsh, Mankato
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dutch Treat Lunch

To make reservations, please call Wilfred Johnson at 507/387-3730 by Thursday evening, March 8th.

PROGRAM

We will read, discuss and analyze samples of poetry by established authors. Each attendee is expected to bring two excerpts, each consisting of (about) the four best lines (in her, or his judgement) from favorite or well-known poems. (The editor hopes that Program Chair will not shoot him outright for saying that, in a pinch, a single short - very short - poem should be acceptable.)

ASSIGNMENT

The MINUTE - a 60 syllable, 12 line poem, and:

- * the per line syllable counts are 8-4-4-4-8-4-4-4-8-4-4-4;
- * the meter is strict iambic (Whatever that means? Ed.);
- * the rhyming is couplet-wise, i.e., a,a-b,b-c,c-e,e-f,f-g,g;
- * capitalized and punctuated like prose (No special effects! Ed.);
- * and, above all, the poem is to capture a minute in time.

SMPS NOTES

On behalf of all members, T*D extends sympathy to Shirley Ensrud and family for the loss of her mother. Also - speedy recovery to Barbara Stevens who suffered hip and wrist fractures on vacation in Greece.

Attendance of meetings is not mandatory, but essential business can not be carried out unless 1/3 of the membership is present. Right now (if our bylaws stand up under current Minnesota statutes regulating non-profit organizations) this means 11 members need to be present, as our paid and life memberships amount to 32. There are 15 more paid up in '89 (for a total of 47), and an additional 11 (of which 6 are recent recruits) that are about to be dropped. The T*D mailing list has 9 complimentary recipients (some contribute to cost) for a total of 67.

Unless contacted about dues, consider yourself member in good standing.

NEXT MONTH

Meeting changed from April 14th (@ Easter) to 21st.

PROGRAM

We will have a panel discussion on: "Writing Poetry".

ASSIGNMENT

A poem about writing poetry. President Berneal pointed out a page (in the February 1990 BYLINE) filled with such poems varying in style and tone - from traditional to modern and serious to humorous. There was a notion to include copies in this T*D, but, while this may bear small likelihood of copyright infringement, there is the chance of undue influence on what you'd write without.

BEYOND NEXT MONTH

~~LOMP Spring Meeting - May 19, Normandy Hotel, Minneapolis.~~ W. Scott Olsen, Professor Concordia College, featured speaker. Seminar: same rules for submissions as for previous LOMP meets. Detail in April. And '89 MOCCASIN to be mailed w/April STROPHES - '90 issue in Fall.

SMPS May assignment: "Prairie Woman", any form, 45 lines or less. #8 in LOMP contest, due July 31.

LAST MONTH

We had a nice, intimate meeting, considering only nine members present and planned program not materializing. Just plenty of poetry sharing.

LOMP IS CONVENTION BOUND--NFSPS MADISON, WISCONSIN

At the convention held in Mankato in 1987 there were many Wisconsin supporters. Let this be an opportunity for a return visit, at a very reasonable price!

SMPS has a number of poets interested in attending the convention, since it is such a reasonable price for room and board this year. They have been checking into the price of a first class, airconditioned bus, which would leave from Mankato, but could make stops at points directly East. (Owatona, Rochester, LaCrosse)

The total cost would depend on number of riders. If we had 20 riders, it would be \$40.00 per person, round trip, but if we could get the maximum (47), it would only run around 18.00!

Reservations for a bus need to be made soon! Each of you should check your Strophes for details of the convention, it looks like a very exciting time. Plan on joining us!

Estimated departure would be Wednesday, June 20th at approximately 10 A.m. with arrival in Madison at 6 or 7 p.m.. Return to Minnesota would be approximately 1 p.m. on Monday, June 25th.

Please return the form by March 30th
to:

Sue Chambers
RR2 Box 86
Good Thunder, Mn. 56037

_____ Yes! I want to join the fun and go to Convention by bus.
(I understand I must pay for the bus trip by May 1, 1990)

_____ I am interested in being a LOMP Delegate

_____ I have already registered for Convention

Name _____
Address _____

Phone(s) _____



Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 8

APRIL 1990

THIS MONTH

MEETING

Saturday, April 21, 1990
Bethany Lutheran College
734 Marsh. Mankato
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dutch Treat Lunch

To make reservations, please call Wilfred Johnson at 507/387-3730 by Thursday evening, April 19th.

PROGRAM We will have a panel discussion on: "Writing Poetry".
Sue Chambers, Meredith Cook, Bill Johnson and Ike Sarma
will be the panel members and Mavis Christensen, the moderator.

The idea is that all you stout and staunch SMPS members will come to the meeting with notions and questions about the ins and the outs of writing poetry. Thereupon, the unquestionably expert panelists will air their separate and indubitably different responses. These, after given amount of give and take, will be reduced (under the skilled guidance of the moderator) to a simple recipe that will turn all present into super poets, provided the cook/poet is willing to furnish the ingredients.

ASSIGNMENT A poem about writing poetry.

Note: The '89 MOCCASIN will arrive in the mail together with the April STROPHES. The 1990 issue will arrive in the Fall.

LAST MONTH

We read and discussed favorite samples of poetry brought by members. Most were by well known/established authors. Some were oldies familiar to all, but same could not be said about (remembering) the authors! Our assignment, the MINUTE, turned out to be a fine basis for creating poems differing widely in mood, subject and style with each author. It was another warm experience in poetry sharing.

NEXT MONTH

Looks like a record breaker for poetry opportunities. Read next page carefully!

- May 1 Deadline for submitting poems to the LOMP Spring Meeting seminar. Send your poem(s) - any subject, any form, 24 line limit - to:
Patricia Johnson
732 Garfield Ave.
North Mankato, MN 56001
Barbara Stevens and Sue Chambers are the seminar leaders.
- May 5 Robert Wright Writers' Conference, Bill Holm, Keynote Speaker
He was a member of the *Poetry Outloud* group.
The conference is an all-day affair. For details, contact Judy Mans at 507/389-1515.
- May 10 Deadline for registrations to the LOMP Spring Meeting. Call Sue Chambers at 507/278-4200. The cost, payable at the door, for the entire session, including the banquet, is a mere \$12.
- May 12 Regular meeting will be held for those who can squeeze in and wish to have one.
- PROGRAM To have your writing, poetry or prose, analyzed for readability, bring a sample. Prose sample should be at least 100 sentences long. For poetry, such a sample might be hard to find, therefore, bring a poem at least 14 lines long. It must be punctuated, but not typed.
- ASSIGNMENT A poem with Prairie Woman for the subject. Any form. Not to exceed 45 lines.
- May 19 LOMP Spring Meeting - Normandy Hotel, Minneapolis. W. Scott Olsen, Professor Concordia College, featured speaker.
To make arrangements for a seat on the van for the paltry sum of \$15 - with rebate if riders exceed ten (10): call Bill Johnson at 507/387-3730. The sooner the better.

BEYOND NEXT MONTH

Summer assignment(s) will be given in the May issue of the T*D. We will decide whether to hold a picnic - probably in August - or not.

Entries to the LOMP contest are due July 31.

SMPS NOTES

Roy Moore took Minnesota (Southern) poetry West for a reading, on February 6th, for a History of Music class at Biola University in La Mirada, CA. More recently, he appeared on The Weekly Reader. The tape of his poetry reading was aired at 10:05 on April 5th by KMSU FM.



Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 9

MAY 1990

MEETING

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR OUR LAST MEETING OF THE SPRING

Saturday, June 2, 1990
Bethany Lutheran College
734 Marsh, Mankato
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dutch Treat Lunch

To make reservations, please call Wilfred Johnson at 507/387-3730 by Thursday evening, May 31st.

It was decided at the April meeting that, inasmuch as Mother's Day falls on the 13th of May and our meeting was scheduled for the 12th, we would change the date to June 2nd. We will not meet then until some time in August for our annual picnic at Mavis Christensen's home. More later, with instructions.

PROGRAM

We are working on getting together a lesson on ORAL PRESENTATION, or how to improve on the way we read poetry.

ASSIGNMENT

For the June meeting we will keep the same assignment chosen for May, a poem on the subject PIONEER WOMAN, any form, 45 lines or less. This is a wonderful subject. There should be an endless number of ideas about the brave, courageous women who helped to settle our country: crossing the continent, fighting beside their husbands and suffering many hardships.

Reading your poems will be a perfect time to try to apply the lesson on ORAL PRESENTATION.

SMPS NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS to Sue Chambers who was chosen as one of the three women to receive the Leaderwinner Award from the YWCA on April 24.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Presently, our picnic is planned for some time in August. There, we expect to continue our work on ORAL PRESENTATION, hopefully with a guest reader. Plan on bringing one of your poems - about 20 lines or so - one with a bit of drama to emphasize good reading.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Let's start the fall season off (on a real fun note) with a humorous poem, 32-lines or less, any form.

Both: the humorous poem and that on the subject of PIONEER WOMAN, are categories in the 1990 LOMP contest, and should give you a chance to enter the contest and do your assignments at the same time.

Remember, none of these assignments are mandatory, but (doing them) is a good way to grow in your poetry writing (skill), and all of us enjoy hearing poetry others have written...

LAST MONTH

Since the T*D Editor was part of the panel on "Writing Poetry", any reference to having had an enjoyable meeting could be construed as an opinion. However, the T*D has the duty to report, and the report is that many of you, the audience, expressed such an opinion.

As for the panel? Here were four of our own entrusted with sharing what they feel and know. And, in summary? There is no right way to write poetry. There are many guidelines to writing poetry. There is no exact, infallible formula for doing so, for poetry deals with intangibles as much as, or more than facts.

T H A N K S P A N E L!

And...

...to all of you who have uttered kind praise (regardless of the truth) for the management of the T*D. This Editor's pleas to be relieved have been answered. He will be off to writing poetry, a pleasure not inconsiderably hampered by time spent seeing, to the best of his capabilities, that the T*D is representative of good writing and furthers the goals of the SMPS. He admits of some sadness, but it is mitigated by knowing the 'baby' will be in the most capable hands of Sue Chambers.
Good writing, Sue!

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'
SOCIETY

Volume 10

Issue 11

This Month

Saturday, SEPTEMBER 8, 1990

VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT

820 South Front Street

Mankato, Minnesota

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

Dutch Treat Lunch: Chinese or American food can be ordered
from the menu

No reservations are needed. Bring a friend! Bring two!

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 169: Take the RiverFront Drive
exit, and turn North up Riverfront Road. Where the road
intersects at the lights by the Hardee's, follow Front
Street. Vincent Wang's is about three blocks north, on the
west (left) side of the road. There is plenty of parking,
no stairs.

If coming from the Main Street Bridge: Go South on
Riverfront Drive until you come to Liberty Street (by the
Law Enforcement Center), turn EAST (left) one block, turn
SOUTH (right) on Front Street. V. Wang's is less than one
block, on the WEST (right) side of the road.

PROGRAM

September is a month to catch up on all the poetry news,
meet new poetry friends, and share summer assignment poems.
We will also share our humorous poems which was the
September assignment; 32 lines or less, any form.

SMPS NOTES

September is not too soon to begin thinking about dues.
Make a Christmas gift of an associate membership or a
student membership in SMPS.

Arrangements are in the works for sharing rides up to the
LOMP fall meeting in Duluth. We are also doubling up on
rooms, to make it less costly for those who want to attend.
If you are interested in joining us, please call President
Berneal Schindle.

OCTOBER PROGRAM:

We will critique each other's poems in October. Therefore, in **SEPTEMBER** bring one copy of a poem, 24 lines or less, no identification on it. Bring it in a blank envelope.

RULES FOR CRITIQUING: We are looking for constructive comments, positive feedback. **DON'T** rewrite the poem. Do let the poet know if a line is not clear to you (let the poet rewrite it). **DO** tell the poet what works in the poem for you. **DO** ask the poet questions (for ex: did you intend to make the reader angry?) **DON'T** tell the poet "there is nothing about this poem I would change". Of course there is always room for improvement! Check all spelling, tell the poet if the title really made you want more, watch the grammar, look for articles, check the poem by reading it outloud a few times and seeing if it reads smoothly, and then write down your observations. We can help each other improve our poetry, and in the process, learn some important lessons ourselves.

LAST MONTH

Picnic

We had a wonderful time out at Mavis Christensen's Cedar Knoll Farm. Everyone brought delicious food, and good poetry to share. Thank you, Mavis, for hosting what has become a looked-forward-to annual event.

Stevens' Cabin

The Woodtick poets were doing great things up near Brainerd. Lots of good workshops and some new poems came out of the weekend, even if the sun was not very cooperative (we made our own sunshine). Mark your calendars now--especially our out-of-state members--so you can join us next year on the weekend of August 9, 10, and 11th, 1991. If there is enough interest, we might even expand into the weekend of the 3rd. More great news--we met with three poets from the Brainerd area who are in the process of forming another LOMP chapter. We look forward to seeing them again next year!

LOMP NEWS

This was a good year for the LOMP Contest. Results will be announced at the Fall meeting in Duluth. Top three places in each category will be read, if the winner is present.

SPONSORS for next year's contest are still needed. Contact Sue Chambers, Contest Chair, as soon as possible, for information on how to help out. If you have never sponsored a contest before, now is the time to consider doing so. A number of loyal members have long sponsored categories, even at some sacrifice to themselves. This year, they are asking that others help out as well. We are finding that repeating categories that were available last year means more poets have poems to enter in that category. Also, the bigger the prize, the more participants! But no matter what, consider sponsoring. This can be done for as little as thirty dollars, and that can be shared with more than one person.

DULUTH MEETING

The Arrowhead Poets of Duluth are hosting the Fall LOMP meeting, and celebrating their Golden Anniversary. The meeting will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Viking Room, Duluth on September 22, 1990. Registration is \$10.00 and includes luncheon.

Elsie S. Hall is conducting the poetry critiquing seminar. Send your seminar submissions to Patricia Cornel Johnson, 214 . 61st Ave. West, Duluth, Minnesota 55807. Poems must be RECEIVED by September 10th. Submission rules: 24 lines or less, doubled spaced, two copies--one with name, address, type of poem in upper right (no other identification). Include S.A.S.E. if not attending.

OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT

A ghostly or mystic poem, any form, any line limit.

Get ready for Halloween. Remember, these assignments are to help the creative juices flow. They also stretch the brain muscles. They are never mandatory, but it is a lot of fun to try them, and you will be surprised how many extra poems you will write by doing them.

Remember that Septembers assignment was for a humorous poem.

For those of you who like to work ahead, November's assignment will be a Spoon River poem. Details will be printed in the October Thistledown.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'
SOCIETY

Volume 10

Issue 12

This Month

Saturday, OCTOBER 13, 1990

VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT

820 South Front Street

Mankato, Minnesota

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

Dutch Treat Lunch: Chinese or American food can be ordered
from the menu

No reservations are needed. Bring a friend! Bring two!

DIRECTIONS: From Highway 169: Take the Riverfront Drive
exit, and turn North up Riverfront Road. Where the road
intersects at the lights by the Hardee's, follow Front
Street. Vincent Wang's is about three blocks north, on the
west (left) side of the road. There is plenty of parking,
no stairs.

If coming from the Main Street Bridge: Go South on
Riverfront Drive until you come to Liberty Street (by the
Law Enforcement Center), turn EAST (left) one block, turn
SOUTH (right) on Front Street. V. Wang's is less than one
block, on the WEST (right) side of the road.

(This is the last time we will print these directions, so
make sure you keep a copy of them!)

PROGRAM

Wilfred and Patricia Johnson will discuss filing systems
and punctuation in poetry. Bring pen and paper and be
prepared to take notes, as they have work with a number of
systems, and have great experiences to share!

SMPS NOTES

Members are very important to us. If you have missed some meetings recently, think about coming and sharing your love for poetry. If you have friends who like poetry, make a Christmas gift of an associate membership or a student membership in SMPS.

SMPS members who went to Duluth all agree the weekend was stimulating, and energized the poetic juices. SMPS President Schindle extended a warm invitation to all LOMP members to attend the LOMP Spring meeting in Mankato. It is not too soon to start making plans.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

We will critique each other's poems in November. Not enough poets remembered to bring their poems to the September meeting, so we extended the deadline. Therefore, in OCTOBER bring one copy of a poem, 24 lines or less, no identification on it. Bring it in a blank envelope.

RULES FOR CRITIQUING: We are looking for constructive comments, positive feedback. DON'T rewrite the poem. Do let the poet know if a line is not clear to you (let the poet rewrite it). DO tell the poet what works in the poem for you. DO ask the poet questions (for ex: did you intend to make the reader angry?) DON'T tell the poet "there is nothing about this poem I would change". Of course there is always room for improvement! Check all spelling, tell the poet if the title really made you want more, watch the grammar, look for articles, check the poem by reading it out loud a few times and seeing if it reads smoothly, and then write down your observations. We can help each other improve our poetry, and in the process, learn some important lessons ourselves.

LAST MONTH

Our first meeting of the Fall was great fun, all were appreciative of the space and good food at our new meeting place. The humorous poems were very good, and summer poems very strong. It was good to renew friendships after the summer break.

LOMP NEWS

LOMP Contest results were announced at the Fall meeting in Duluth. SMPS winners should bring any prize winning poems to this meeting so they can be read.

OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT

A ghostly or mystic poem, any form, any line limit.

Get in the mood for Halloween. Assignments are never mandatory, but can help you get started writing, and often give you a prize winning poem.

NOVEMBER'S assignment will be a Spoon River poem. Edgar Lee Masters wrote A SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY, published in 1915, as a description of the small town he lived in in Illinois. He used a poetic technique of portraying a dead town, rather than a live one. Masters wrote true epitaphs, rather than conventional ones, and created drama and realism. Each poem takes one character's viewpoint, and has him speak from the grave. For example:

AMANDA BARKER

Henry got me with child,
Knowing that I could not bring forth life
Without losing my own.
In my youth therefore I entered the portals of dust.
Traveler, it is believed in the village where I lived
That Henry loved me with a husband's love,
But I proclaim from the dust
That he slew me to gratify his hatred.

FRANK DRUMMER

Out of a cell into this darkened space--
The end at twenty-five!
My tongue could not speak what stirred within me,
and the village thought me a fool.
Yet at the start there was a clear vision,
A high and urgent purpose in my soul
Which drove me on trying to memorize
The Encyclopedia Britannica!

THISTLE-DOWN
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'
SOCIETY

Volume 10 Issue 13

This Month

Saturday, NOVEMBER 10, 1990
VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT
820 South Front Street
Mankato, Minnesota
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dutch Treat Lunch: Chinese or American food can be ordered from the menu

No reservations are needed. Bring a friend! Bring two!

Kindly arrive promptly at 11:30 as it is taking much longer to serve our members since we all order off of the menu.

Programs will start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Please be courteous to those who DO arrive promptly, it is very disruptive to have people arriving late and still wanting to order and be served in the middle of the program.

PROGRAM

At the last meeting, members picked up a poem of a fellow writer for critiquing. We will share our comments and please, take a little time to really look at the poem and tell the author something about the poem which can help it be a better poem. Maybe there is a word that somehow seems wrong, maybe you don't quite see the message of the poem. Comments can be done so that you are not telling a person what word you would put in its place. Help the poet think about how they can better convey the message to their readers.

And Poets, remember, just because your poem has received some comments, that doesn't mean the critic did not like your poem! They are just following the assignment.

SMPS NOTES

Remember dues are coming due the first of the year. Do you know someone who enjoys poetry but has never managed to get to our meetings? Give them an Associate Membership for Christmas.

DECEMBER PROGRAM:

Christmas is always a special time for SMPS. As usual, we will share Christmas poems and songs and maybe have some surprise visitors! This is an especially nice meeting to invite your spouses, family members and friends who may not do much with poetry themselves, but are proud of you.

How about all members helping out on the Contest Table? If you have a contest you have learned about, bring the information to the meeting, so that we can copy it and share it with other members. The pickings have been getting slim lately, and it is not because there are not contests out there! Meredith Cook is also our Moccasin Editor, so it is really asking a lot to have her sending out S.A.S.E.'s to get us copies, so everyone try and help.

LAST MONTH

A special thank you to Bill and Patricia Johnson for sharing their "secrets" on filing systems and punctuation. As usual, their handouts are invaluable and their hints should help all members work up their own systems in the future.

LOMP NEWS

The Moccasin always makes a special gift, and this is the perfect time of year to pick up copies, in plenty of time for Christmas. We always have extras available at the book table.

Please help distribute copies of the 1991 LOMP Contest, especially to school age children for the student's contest. Do you know a student in grades 6th through 12? Send them ten copies to distribute to their teacher. Send them 20 copies! You can get as many copies as you want by asking Sue Chambers.

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

NOVEMBER'S assignment is a Spoon River poem. Edgar Lee Masters wrote A SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY, published in 1915, as a description of his small hometown in Illinois. Each poem portrays one person's perspective of their life, using the hindsight they gained after they died. Some are humorous, some very dramatic and touching on life and death matters.

In DECEMBER, our ASSIGNMENT is to write a winter or Christmas poem. It goes without saying that our members never mimic Christmas card verse or old Christmas carols, but always come up with fresh images and thoughts to make us see the Christmas or Winter season through the eyes of real poets.

STUDENT'S CORNER

In future issues, we will feature guest student editors here, to talk to other students about poetry.

Do you know a student who likes poetry? Give them a SMPS Student membership, only \$3.00

Just clip the form below, and send it with the fee to Elinor Schmidt, SMPS Treasurer.

*

YES! Please give the following student a STUDENT MEMBERSHIP.

Name of Sponsor _____

Name of Student _____

Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____

Phone _____

THISTLE-DOWN
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'
SOCIETY

Volume 10 Issue 14

This Month

Saturday, DECEMBER 8, 1990
VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT
820 South Front Street
Mankato, Minnesota
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dutch Treat Lunch: Chinese or American food can be ordered
from the menu

No reservations are needed. Bring a friend! Bring two!
Our programs start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Poetry and Christmas go hand in hand. The traditions of Christmas are rich with our favorite verses, old and new. SMPS also has Christmas traditions: inviting family members to share good food, Christmas songs, and Christmas poetry. This is a time that everyone can enjoy, poets and nonpoets as well, so ask those who believe in the spirit of Christmas to come celebrate with us.

BOOK AND CONTEST TABLE

Please remember the Contest Table. If you have a contest information, please bring it to the meeting, so that we can share it with other members. Your donation will be greatly appreciated!

Do you have a book for the book table? Talk to Meredith Cook about including it on the book table.

LAST MONTH

Everyone agreed that the critiquing efforts of members were helpful, and provided thoughtful insights into each poem. Thank you to each poet who contributed a poem to the process, and to each critic for spending the time getting to understand the poet's efforts.

1991 MB is \$10⁰⁰

SMPS NOTES

Remember dues should be paid to the SMPS Treasurer. Dues are ~~\$6.00~~ for Associate and writing members, \$3.00 for student members. They are due Jan 1, 1990 and make a nice present. Membership includes a subscription to Thistledown. Mail your dues to:

Elinor Schmidt
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

LOMP NEWS

Exciting news! LOMP will hold a POETRY READING on Friday, December 14, 1990 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the STATE CAPITOL ROTUNDA to join the STATE OF MINNESOTA in honoring many prize-winning poets and promoters of poetry.

All who have won prizes in the NFSPS contests since 1984, as well as those who have won prizes in national contests sponsored by LOMP since 1987, as well as those who have made strong contributions to the promotion of poetry, such as founding local chapters, editors of Moccasin, will be reading their poetry. If you fall into this category and have not received a mailing, please contact the event coordinator, Ed Brandt, 13 - 27th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55414 (612) 338-2001. Everyone is invited to attend. We anticipate that an official from the State of Minnesota will also be present.

The Moccasin always makes a special gift, and this is the perfect time of year to pick up copies, in plenty of time for Christmas. We always have extras available at the book table. ALSO, check with Meredith Cook, Moccasin Editor to make sure your file contains enough poems so that you can be included in the next issue in 1991.

Please help distribute copies of the 1991 LOMP Contest, especially to school age children for the student's contest. Do you know a student in grades 6th through 12? You can send them as many copies as you want by asking Sue Chambers, RR2, Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY ASSIGNMENTS

In DECEMBER, our ASSIGNMENT is to write a winter or Christmas poem. Assignments are never mandatory, but are offered as challenge to our poets to try their hand at saying something in a new and unique way. This is especially challenging around the Christmas season.

In JANUARY, the assignment is to write a music poem, in Traditional form--metered or rhymed. 32 line limit. This is a category in the NFSPS contest, deadline March 15, so it is timely assignment.

GET WELL SOON

Our best wishes go out to Dr. Roy Moore, who was hospitalized over the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope he is fully recovered, and will be up and writing Christmas poems soon.

STUDENT'S CORNER

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have enough student members so that they could meet in the adjoining room to our meeting room, and have their own program under our guidance? Is there any interest out there in helping to try and set up such a meeting, or helping out as a part-time advisor? If there is, please let us know at the next meeting.

If you know someone who should have a student membership, please think about giving them a gift membership. It is easy! Just clip the form below, and send it with the fee to Elinor Schmidt, SMPS Treasurer. (See address above)

*

YES! Please give the following student a STUDENT MEMBERSHIP.

Name of Sponsor _____

Name of Student _____

Age _____ Grade _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$3.00 membership fee enclosed _____