

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'  
SOCIETY

Volume 11

Issue 1

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This Month

Saturday, JANUARY 12, 1991  
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.

JANUARY PROGRAM

(Note the change from earlier bulletins. Hopefully Suzanne  
Bunkers will join us in February.)

SUSAN STEVENS CHAMBERS will present a talk "GIVING CREDIT  
WHERE CREDIT IS DUE", a discussion on plagiarism and  
copyright concerns. SUSAN is a SMPS member, Attorney and  
champion of Poets' rights.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

A special thank you to Edna Busekist, who arranged for three  
talented musicians from Bethany College to serenade us with  
Christmas selections. And many good wishes to the students  
for a wonderful new year, and our thanks for sharing in our  
December meeting festivities.

### LAST MONTH

SMPS members enjoyed sharing in the trip to the Minnesota State Capitol to read poetry in the Capitol building Rotunda, all as a part of LOMP'S salute to contest winners.

In spite of the snowy road conditions, everyone had a marvelous time and heard some wonderful poetry. A special thank you to the Johnsons and especially to Ed Brandt, for all they did to make arrangements for this special Christmas treat. And hats off to all who were honored, whether you present in person, or had a poem of yours read in absentia.

### SMPS NOTES

JANUARY IS THE MONTH FOR PAYING 1991 DUES!

Remember dues should be paid to the SMPS Treasurer, Elinor Schmidt. Dues are \$6.00 for Associate and writing members, \$3.00 for student members. Do you know someone who enjoys poetry. Write a check out for them, too and make them a member as a gift they will never forget! Membership includes a subscription to Thistledown. Mail your dues to:

Elinor Schmidt  
1122 Marsh Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

### LOMP NEWS

LOMP Dues are also due in January, and should be mailed to Eleanor Burns in Duluth. The last copy of the Moccasin has her current address.

Speaking of the Moccasin, it always makes a special gift. 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.

Hats off to Pj Doyle, who begins as LOMP Contest Chair on January 1. Sue Chambers is retiring after seven years of chairing the contest, so she can enter the contests and win fame and glory, too. It has been fun, and please show Pj all the wonderful support you have given me over the years. Thank you!

JANUARY ASSIGNMENT

For JANUARY, our 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.

SNEAK PREVIEW--February assignment will be a futuristic poem (again following NFSPS category) 32 line limit. Optimistic, sensitive and persuasive concerning 2041 A.D. May be imaginative. Form, traditional meter and rhyme.

STUDENT'S CORNER

Just think, for only \$15.00 you could donate student memberships for five deserving students. What a way to encourage keeping poetry alive and thriving for many years to come. Perhaps they never realized the power of meeting with others who love poetry, and sharing their poems.

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)

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YES! Please give the following student a STUDENT MEMBERSHIP.

Name of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$3.00 membership fee enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'  
SOCIETY

Volume 11                      Issue 2

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This Month

Saturday, FEBRUARY 9, 1991  
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..

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Mavis Christensen, SMPS'S own "Country Gentlewoman" will  
talk about "Columns Without a Home"; a series of essays  
written about her return to the farm, and her search for a  
newspaper to print the articles.

COMING IN MARCH

A panel discussion on the various forms of poetry. Our  
panel discussions are always lively events, and provide much  
fuel for the writing process.

## SMPS NOTES

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Mankato, Minnesota 56001

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. THE SUMMER SMPS PICNIC IS SCHEDULED FOR July 13, 1991 to be held at the Bed & Breakfast "Cedar Knoll" owned by member Mavis Christensen.
2. The WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT, held at the cabin home of Barbara Stevens near Brainerd, Minnesota is scheduled for August 9, 10, and 11th, 1991.

## LOMP NEWS

LOMP Dues of \$12.00 were also due in January, and should be mailed to Eleanor Burns in Duluth. The last copy of the Moccasin has her current address.

Speaking of the Moccasin, it always makes a special gift. Extras are 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.

## COMING EVENT

LOMP member Diane Glancy is the next featured poet at the MSU Good Thunder Reading Series on February 7, 1991. She will present a talk on craft at 3 p.m. in the Ostrander Conference Auditorium of the Centennial Student Union and give a public reading at 7:30 p.m. at the same location. Diane has been a seminar leader at past LOMP meetings and a featured speaker at NFSPS conventions. She has four published poetry works, and is the recipient of numerous awards, including a recent grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Her readings are always delightful.

## FEBRUARY ASSIGNMENT

Our February assignment is to write a futuristic poem. Although never mandatory, assignments often follow upcoming contest categories. The Feb. assignment again follows a NFSPS category (deadline March 15th). 32 line limit. Optimistic, sensitive and persuasive concerning 2041 A.D. May be Imaginative. Form, traditional meter and rhyme.

In MARCH, we will try our hands at a NARRATIVE poem, with a 40 line limit. This is a category in our own LOMP national contest, deadline July 31st.

### A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BERNEAL SCHINDLE

I would like to extend my thanks to Sue Chambers for a most informative and interesting program on "Giving Credit where Credit is Due", a discussion on plagerism at our January meeting. Those who were there, I know, learned a great deal on the legal aspects of publishing poetry and protecting your writing. There were a lot of good questions from the members. Thanks, again, Sue, for taking time from your busy schedule to do this for us.

Don't forget our LOMP convention on May 19. We will need the help and support of all our members to make it a success and a memorable event. We are using as a theme, "Plant a New Poem", thanks to John Domeier. At our February meeting, we will be discussing plans and deciding on ways and means to meet the expenses. Some suggestions are a used book table, a craft table, white elephants. We would like the input and ideas from all our members.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'  
SOCIETY

Volume 11

Issue 3

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This Month

Saturday, MARCH 9, 1991

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..

MARCH PROGRAM

Have you ever wondered what form to use for a certain poem?  
Have you ever been uncertain as to correct rhyme, style, or  
pentameter? Now is your chance to hear SMPS' finest discuss  
the various poetic forms. We will have a panel discussion,  
with lively dialogues and a great deal a valuable  
information. Plan on attending!

COMING IN APRIL

Pj Doyle, LOMP writer and new contest chair, is  
scheduled to talk about the IRISH poets.

## SMPS NOTES

**JANUARY WAS THE MONTH FOR PAYING 1991 DUES!**  
Remember dues should be paid to the SMPS Treasurer, Elinor Schmidt. Dues are \$10.00 for Associate and writing members, \$3.00 for student members. Mail your dues to:

Elinor Schmidt  
1122 Marsh Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

## HOSTING THE LOMP SPRING MEETING

**PLANT A POEM**--Our Spring event is fast approaching. We are waiting results of our application for a Region Nine Grant which would bring AMY and SAM ZOOK of Mechanicsburg, Ohio to our area for the entire week. They would present a program at our meeting on May 11th, and on the following Saturday, May 18th when we host the LOMP spring meeting. During the week they would offer workshops on using a computer in poetry; nature walks to inspire poetry; children's and adult workshops. If you would like to see a special workshop, or have a group you would like them to make a presentation or reading to, please notify Sue Chambers, RR 3, Box 86 Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037. There is still time to coordinate the schedules!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!**

1. **THE SUMMER SMPS PICNIC IS SCHEDULED FOR July 13, 1991** to be held at the Bed & Breakfast "Cedar Knoll" owned by member Mavis Christensen.

2. The **WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT**, held at the cabin home of Barbara Stevens near Brainerd, Minnesota is scheduled for August 9, 10, and 11th, 1991.



### LOMP NEWS

LOMP Dues of \$12.00 were also due in January, and should be mailed to Eleanor Burns in Duluth. Membership in LOMP entitles a member to membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, the Strophes newsletter, and a copy of the Moccasin. Members also receive reduced rates when entering state and NFSPS poetry contests, and may serve as delegates to the NFSPS convention.

Don't forget, the NFSPS thirty-second annual contest has a due date of MARCH 15th! Let's have a lot of entries from Minnesota!

### NFSPS CONVENTION

It is not too soon to start thinking about convention time. This year's convention will be in Jacksonville, Florida, June 20th through the 24th. Hotel costs are \$69.00 for a single, \$79.00 for a double. Meal package is \$69.50. Registration is only \$40.00. Not as high as some of us feared! It maybe possible to catch some of those special flights into Orlando, at very low rates, and rent a car and car pool up to Jacksonville economically. If you are interested, talk to Sue Chambers.

### MARCH ASSIGNMENT

In MARCH, we will try our hands at a NARRATIVE poem, with a 40 line limit. This is a category in our own LOMP national contest, deadline July 31st.

The Narrative poem does just what it sounds like, it tells a story. Do try to use fresh images, and tell your story using unique and refreshing language, rather than borrowing trite cliches.

In APRIL, we will try and put to use some of the wonderful hints we have picked up from our March panelists. Our assignment is to write a sonnet (Beymorlan, Petrarchan, Shakespearian--your choice).

THISTLE-DOWN  
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'  
SOCIETY

Volume 11                      Issue 4

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This Month

Saturday, APRIL 13, 1991  
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..

APRIL PROGRAM

"THE LUCK OF THE IRISH"

Pj Doyle, LOMP writer and new contest chair, is scheduled  
to talk about the IRISH poets.

Pj has won a number of poetry awards, including categories  
in the NFSPS contest. She recently took the plunge and has  
become a full-time writer. She is currently teaching a  
class at the LOFT in Minneapolis on journaling.

SMPS NOTES

JANUARY WAS THE MONTH FOR PAYING 1991 DUES!

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Schmidt. Dues are \$10.00 for Associate and writing members,  
\$3.00 for student members. Mail your dues to:

Elinor Schmidt  
1122 Marsh Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

IN MEMORY--PATRICA M. JOHNSON

It is with great sorrow that we mark the passing of LOMP's current President, Poet Laureate, and one of SMPS's founders. Patricia died on March 13, 1991 after suffering a massive stroke in her home. Services were held on March 18th, conducted by Lorraine Schwanke-Mueller. A number of Patricia's poems were shared with those in attendance.

Patricia devoted thousands of hours each year to our organizations, working as editor, advocate, writer. She has influenced an entire generation of poets, and will be greatly missed.

Wilfred Johnson has requested that memorials be made to help sponsor a contest in her memory.

ANOTHER KIND OF AUTUMN  
Patricia M. Johnson

I stop the world for moments --its charade--  
Thanksgiving, filtered mist upon the air.  
Compelled to walk, I watch a squirrel crusade;  
They scurry past with acorns unaware  
That I have paused beneath this aging pine,  
To lean as it, too, leans against the sky.  
And even as I touch a frost-design --  
a "V" of geese...belated passers-by.

My eyes now see a wagonload of corn,  
As man must gather forage from the land;  
A biting wind chill nips at me to warn  
That winter years move nearer where I stand.  
We plant our seeds; we search and learn and grow  
To seek a harvest only angels know.

Patricia M. Johnson was buried in Staples, Minnesota and she is survived by her daughter, Dianne Bourdot, and her husband, Wilfred. Our deepest sympathy to them.

### HOSTING THE LOMP SPRING MEETING

PLANT A POEM--Our Spring event is fast approaching. We still hope to acquire the talents of Sam and Amy Zook. If you would like to see a special workshop, or have a group you would like them to make a presentation or reading to, please notify Sue Chambers, RR 3, Box 86 Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037. There is still time to coordinate the schedules!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. THE SUMMER SMPS PICNIC -- July 13, 1991.
2. The WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT, held at the cabin home of Barbara Stevens near Brainerd, Minnesota -- August 9, 10, and 11th, 1991.

### LOMP NEWS

LOMP Dues of \$12.00 were also due in January, and should be mailed to Eleanor Burns in Duluth. Membership in LOMP entitles a member to membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, the Strophes newsletter, and a copy of the Moccasin. Members also receive reduced rates when entering state and NFSPS poetry contests, and may serve as delegates to the NFSPS convention.

### NFSPS CONVENTION

Jacksonville, Florida, is the site of the NFSPS convention from June 20th through the 24th. Hotel costs are \$69.00 for a single, \$79.00 for a double. Meal package is \$69.50. Registration is only \$40.00. Anyone who has attended a convention will tell you how wonderful they are, full of great poets, fun, good food and some education. If you are interested, talk to Sue Chambers.

### APRIL ASSIGNMENT

In APRIL, our assignment is to write a sonnet (Beymorlan, Petrarchan, Shakespearian--your choice). Patricia Johnson, in one of her last presentations, gave us some wonderful hints and handouts about the sonnet form, so make her proud!

The MAY assignment will be a Short poem, 12 line limit.

# THISTLE-DOWN

## SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 11 Issue 5

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### This Month

Saturday, MAY 11, 1991  
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..

### MAY PROGRAM

SMPS May meeting marks the start of a week-long poetry celebration, featuring Sam and Amy Zook of Mechanicsburg, Ohio. Sam and Amy, nationally known members of the NFSPS, will conduct workshops, give readings and conduct critiques for poets throughout Minnesota.

A calendar of events and a registration form is included in this newsletter. Feel free to copy this and distribute it wherever it might attract attention. We need good attendance. Please encourage all your friends to come, this should be of interest to young and old, and everyone is invited to participate.

For our SMPS May program, Sam and Amy will give a lively presentation sure to be of help to all of us: POETS AS PERFORMERS. Sam and Amy will work together to talk of ways the poet presents poetry, as well as writes poetry.

## SMPS NOTES

### HOSTING THE LOMP SPRING MEETING

**PLANT A POEM**--Our Spring event is fast approaching. We need the help of each and every member to make the week a success. If you know a teacher or poetry lover, please make a copy of our calendar and registration form and encourage them to attend.

We hope to distribute our own LOMP contest and membership forms, as well as materials on SMPS at each event. To do this, we will need to make sure a SMPS member is attending each event and acting as a host or hostess. Also, we will have a need for someone to check the registration list. If you can help, please contact Sue Chambers or Berneal Schindle. Plan to attend all events, you will have a wonderful time.

We have posters to distribute, if you have a location for one, please contact Ike Sarma.

The Wine and Cheese party to be hosted by Toi Rockovitz is especially for SMPS members. Bring your poems to share, it is always fun to get together on a more informal basis. Call Toi to see what you can bring to help make the work lighter!

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!**

1. **MOCCASIN DEADLINE** --July 15, 1991. Editor Meredith Cook needs your poems in tip-top condition. Not more than twenty lines, previously published allowed. Only LOMP members may submit.
2. **THE SUMMER SMPS PICNIC** -- July 13, 1991, will be a potluck, held at the Bed & Breakfast Home of Mavis Christensen.
3. **LOMP National Poetry Contest**, deadline July 31, 1991 (postmark) Thirteen categories, plus one student category. Student category opened for all students Grades 6 through 12. LOMP members can enter all 12 contests (excluding the grand prize) for the low low rate of only \$3.00. Entries are mailed to Pj Doyle, contest chair.
4. **The WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT**, held at the cabin home of Barbara Stevens near Brainerd, Minnesota -- August 9, 10, and 11th, 1991.

## LOMP NEWS

A memorial basket for Patricia Johnson will be set up at the LOMP meeting on May 18th. Bill has requested that memorials for Patricia be used to establish a national contest in her memory. Pj Doyle, as LOMP Contest chair, is in charge of all details.

Don't forget to bring one or two small door prizes to the May 18th meeting. They do not need to be wrapped. We do want to make certain that everyone receives a memento of the day, so we need 100 percent participation. Thank you for your efforts!

## NFSPS CONVENTION

Jacksonville, Florida, is the site of the NFSPS convention from June 20th through the 24th. Hotel costs are \$69.00 for a single, \$79.00 for a double. Meal package is \$69.50. Registration is only \$40.00. LOMP is entitled to 5 delegates to the convention, they should be designated at our spring meeting, so please let Bill Johnson know right away if you are interested in attending.

It appears that next year's convention will be held in Alabama.

## MAY ASSIGNMENT

The MAY assignment is to write a Short poem, 12 line limit.

This is a chance to try your hand at some serious polishing, the line limit is so short that there is no excuse for not letting each and every word shine. There are a number of contests, including our own LOMP contest, that require shorter poems.

Over the summer Madam President is sure to assign some interesting poetry forms. These will be announced later. If you have a form or subject you would like to try, please give her your suggestions.

**THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS  
1991 SPRING POETRY CELEBRATION**

Hosted by the Southern Minnesota Poetry Society

Holiday Inn Downtown, Mankato, MN  
Saturday May 18th

Come, celebrate the art of poetry and share camaraderie with patrons and lovers of the muse. Be sure and bring a friend. Registration begins at 9:00, the general assembly meeting at 10:00 followed by the literary segment. Dinner will be served at noon and the afternoon seminar begins at 1:30 pm presented by PJ Doyle and Wilfred M. Jenson. Both have won many national poetry awards and are published in numerous anthologies and publications. Mail reservations (\$12 includes dinner and all events) to Susan S. Chambers, Route 3 Box 86, Good Thunder, MN 56037 or phone 507-278-4200 or Wilfred M. Johnson, 507- 387-3730 on or before May 15th.

Rules for entering seminar poetry submissions (League members only). As this announcement had to await news of a grant, the postmark deadline has been extended to **MAY 8TH**, 1991. Mail two copies of your entry (one poem) 24 lines or less double-spaced to Susan S. Chambers (address give above). Use standard sized typing paper (no onion skin). One copy must have your name and address in upper left, on both copies, the form, Sonnet, free verse, etc. on upper right. The unidentified copy will be forwarded to the seminar leaders for evaluation and judging. If not attending, include a self-addressed envelope for return of your poem, critique and possible award. Only out-of-state members who plan to attend may enter. Good luck and good writing.

This meeting will be in honor of **Patricia M. Johnson** - our League president who passed away March 14th of this year.



THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'  
SOCIETY

Volume 11

Issue 6

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This Month

THE ANNUAL SUMMER SMPS PICNIC

Saturday

July 13, 1991

CEDAR KNOLL FARM

Bed & Breakfast Home of Mavis Christensen

POTLUCK--Bring casserole, salad, dessert or other dish to pass, call Mavis at 524-3813 if you have any questions. Family members are welcome!

DIRECTIONS

Cedar Knoll Farm is one and one-half miles west of Highway 22 at Beauford on County Road 10. There is a sign at the entrance, the entrance is on the north side of the highway, and the house is set back quite a distance.

READING AT PICNIC

Do Poets ever miss a chance to read? Of course not. Bring some poems to share. Maybe we should try passing our poems on to another poet at the meeting to practise our reading ability. After all, we just had an excellent presentation from Amy Zook regarding the art of oral performances.

And remember, Editor Meredith Cook indicated she will accept last minute submissions to the Moccasin, so bring your copies for her as well.

## MAY PROGRAM--THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

SMPS'S May week-long poetry celebration, featuring Sam and Amy Zook of Mechanicsburg, Ohio was a great success. Everyone who attended any of the events had a wonderful time, and learned much from the various workshops and readings. A special thank you to all who participated.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

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3. Fall (end of Sept. or early Oct.)--date to be announced soon. LOMP meeting to be hosted by the new Brainerd group, the Heartland Poets. Let us plan on a whole bus load to show our support of this new chapter.

## NFSPS CONVENTION

As you read this, your editor and 5 other LOMP members will be on their way to represent you at the NFSPS Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Three of those representatives are SMPS members: Bill Johnson, Meredith Cook & Sue Chambers.

Meredith has been designated to bring back a full report. As anyone who has heard her past reports can tell you, Meredith can make you feel as if you were right at convention. We look forward to sharing all the thrills of convention with our fellow members in September.

### COMING IN AUGUST

The WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT will be held at the cabin home of Barbara Stevens near Brainerd, Minnesota -- August 9, 10, and 11th, 1991.

FOR WHO: All poets, and their families, room permitting. (The "cabin" sleeps 18 without pulling out cots or sleeping bags)

WHAT TO BRING: Each Poet must bring a PROGRAM, at least half an hour. It can be a reading of your favorite Poet, it can be a workshop, it can be a critiquing session, your own imagination is the only limit. Be prepared to conduct these programs anywhere--on the beach, in the woods, in front of a cozy fire.

PLEASE CONTACT SUE CHAMBERS on or before July 20th so we can get an idea of who to expect. It may be possible to share rides up to the Brainerd area (approximately 4 and 1/2 hours from Mankato). Susan will mail you a map and directions, it would be nice if you enclosed a S.A.S.E.

Sue's phone is (507) 278-4200  
address: RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Mn. 56037

THIS EVENT IS ALWAYS A LOT OF FUN! PLAN TO JOIN US.

### SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Our President knows that summer is the perfect time to write a poem. She suggests two topics: An environmental poem, any form 42 lines or less; or Country Living, any form, 45 lines or less. Both are categories in upcoming contests.

There is plenty of time this summer, why not try both? Can't do it? Of course you can. Just pull your chair out on your deck and close your eyes. The poem will come to you.

Ms Pj Doyle  
4242 Stevens  
Minneapolis MN 55409  
(612) 824-1064/348-3526 (o)

Copyright, 1982 Pj Doyle

37 Lines

Hooray for Hollywood  
(a poem found in the  
Tribune Entertainment  
section by Pj Doyle)

Escape to the Movies...G!  
PG Arthur Missing Cabaret  
On Golden Pond  
Modern Problems See Individual Ads  
for Feature Times  
Reds Hardly Working  
Raiders of the Lost Ark  
Held Over Chariots of Fire  
Evil Under the Sun  
Now ALL NEW  
Absence of Malice  
Starts Friday

R Neighbors Quest for Fire  
at a Neighborhood Theater  
All Seats 99¢  
The French Lieutenant's Woman  
PLUS  
The Amateur  
Shoot the Moon  
(Only When I Laugh)

Senior Citizens \$2 All Times!

Private Lessons All About Gloria Leonard  
Rollover Fame  
2nd Fame  
High School Memories  
Summer School  
Love Secrets  
Never So Deep  
Body Heat  
A Science Fantasy Adventure

X Dallas School Girl  
Seduction  
Live Show  
10 Academy Award Nominations

Goodbye Emmanuelle  
Must End Soon

XXX

Wood Tick Poets  
Saturday, August 10, 1991  
Horseshoe Lake - Merrifield, Minnesota

## WORDS

presented by Pj Doyle

Our tools are words. Words used for themselves, words used for originality, words used to enhance, to translate, words for myriad purposes. As writers, and specifically as poets we need to respect and court words. I suggest that we keep a notebook of words. More than just a place to jot ideas for poems or memory joggers, this should be a vessel to collect tools, gather resources for whatever future use we may find.

### Sounds

Consider words as sounds or words that sound as they should:

giggle  
tickle  
static electricity  
plop of a mop  
hiccup  
whoosh of water  
blimp  
jerk  
wheeze

MAKE A LIST OF WORDS THAT ARE SOUND SPECTACULAR. YOU CAN USE A DICTIONARY, LISTEN TO PEOPLE AND LIFE AROUND YOU, OR JUST PONDER. YOU MAY WISH TO MAKE UP SOME WORDS AND SHOULD PLAN ON CONTINUING THIS EXERCISE FOR SEVERAL DAYS OR A LIFETIME.

MAKE A LIST OF FAVORITE NOUNS. TURN THEM INTO VERBS, ADJECTIVES OR ADVERBS AND GIVE THEM NEW LIFE: A CONVENTION OF HALLWAYS, A HANDFUL OF LIGHT.

Wood Tick Poets  
August 10, 1991

• **Proscribed Feelings**

In this day of advertising and controlling management techniques, words are propaganda:

Purex: Because Clean Never Goes Out of Style  
Buick: New Symbol for Quality in America  
I wish I were an Oscar Meyer Wiener  
Come to Marlboro Country

• **Rhythm**

Similarly, the rhythm of words has long been acknowledged as a mnemonic device. Favorite nursery rhymes, universally recognized poems, and more advertising:

Mary had a little lamb...  
I think that I shall never see  
The Quicker Picker-Upper  
Ummmm-Ummmm Good  
Nothin' Says Lovin'....

FIND POEMS IN THE MEDIA. CHECK NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES,  
LISTEN TO COMMERCIALS. WE NEED TO RECAPTURE LANGUAGE  
FROM MADISON AVENUE. THIS CAN BE A START. FIND THE  
SUBLIMINAL POETRY MEANT TO SWAY YOU AND SWAY BACK.

• **Tone**

The tone of the oral and written words varies their impact. How would a message or story seem if told by a variety of voices:

Parent or Child  
Salesman  
Doctor  
Attorney  
Sweetheart  
Ex-husband or Ex-wife  
Job Applicant

CHOOSE A FAVORITE POEM, YOURS OR SOMEONE ELSE'S, AND  
RE-WRITE IT IN THE VOICE OF ANOTHER NARRATOR. CHANGE  
THE AGE, THE SEX, THE POINT OF VIEW, BUT MOST OF ALL  
THE VOICE.

Wood Tick Poets  
August 10, 1991

• **Source of Language**

Where words originate effect their impact. Translators have puzzled long and hard when trying to move the words and ideas from one language to another. Their is always a challenge when we translate from one point of origin to another spot:

foreign language to native tongue (and vice versa)  
adult to child  
lifestyle to lifestyle

TRANSLATE A NURSERY RHYME INTO AN ADULT POEM (FREE VERSE OR TRADITIONAL)

TRANSLATE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SAILOR INTO THE WORDS OF A FARMER, OR ONE OCCUPATION INTO THE LANGUAGE OF ANOTHER ALIEN CAREER)

TRANSLATE A CLASSICAL MYTH INTO AN AP NEWS RELEASE

• **Ordinary**

Words can be very ordinary.

shoe  
white  
sit  
one  
square  
yes  
oh

USE SIMPLE, ORDINARY WORDS TO DESCRIBE SOMETHING STARTLING OR OUTLANDISH. THE SURPRISE BECOMES THE CHOICE OF EVERYDAY TERMS TO RELATE A MOMENTOUS EVENT OR OBSERVATION.

WHO LOVES YA, BABY? YOU ARE NOT ORDINARY TO YOURSELF. BUT HOW ORDINARY CAN YOU GET? DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN PLAIN-JANE WORDS.

Wood Tick Poets  
August 10, 1991

• Odd

Words can look and sound strange. When you wonder how a word or phrase came to be, that is a clue that the word deserves use in your work.

agog  
mulch  
pungle (look it up!)  
id  
robot

INVESTIGATE THE LANGUAGE AROUND YOU. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU SAY, HOW YOU SAY IT AND DISCOVER WHY. EXPLAIN THIS TO SOMEONE ELSE. (THIS IS AN EXCELLENT SOURCE FOR LIGHT AND HUMOROUS VERSE!!)

USE ODD FRAGMENTS OF WORDS AND CONVERSATIONS. CREATE LOGIC WHERE THERE IS NONE; LET THEM HAVE A STRANGE LOGIC OF THEIR OWN.

**Backwater Wisdom**

Toothless Susan Marguerite  
detassles pink whiskers  
from Arkansas speckled eggs  
while Granddaddy rocks

Three whistlin robins  
barrel through waterfalls,  
scramble and ramble  
while Granddaddy rocks

Wide antique July  
intrigued by bicycles, canoes  
overruns the parade to  
watch Granddaddy rock

Officious thunder  
eddies near his lawn chair  
tickles his cane lamp  
Granddaddy applauds

Pj Doyle



**Wood Tick Poets**

August 10, 1991

**Nonsense**

Words just want to have fun. Ogden Nash is the classic example of a poet who gives free rein to language. He is not alone, nor do you have to be silly to appreciate nonsense:

Autobiography

I begin with a miracle.  
Though an intellectual one.  
I begin with reading books all day  
And reading my own dreams.  
I begin with waking up  
And fashioning new words  
And opening my mind  
To nonsense all day long.  
I begin with listening  
To things my grandmother said  
And wondering why  
Conversations were stupid,  
When life was fine for other girls  
My life was lived in myth  
And all my days exposed  
On the shaggy hills of heart. Bare rock  
Under my hands -- plants singing in the air  
And all as if it was  
Meant for my own ears.

I live unsheltered now  
In the hills of the heart  
And words stick like amoebas  
Right into my skin

Sandra Hochman

GIVE WORDS NEW DIMENSION. PUT THEM IN OUTRAGEOUS SITUATIONS: ELECTRIC EARRINGS, GAPING FUCHSIAS.

PLAY WITH WORDS. MAKE PUNS, RIDDLES, PUZZLES. PLAY WITH THE SHAPE AND PLACEMENT OF WORDS. WORDS ARE MORE THAN SOUNDS, THEY ARE VERY VISUAL. MAKE A POEM LOOK LIKE A FLOWER, AN ELEPHANT, A SOCK.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 11

Issue 7

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This Month

Saturday, September 14, 1991

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. so if you do not plan to eat with the group, please plan to arrive just before the program starts so your entrance is not disruptive. If you must be late and still wish to order from the menu, please do so before entering the meeting room. Your courtesies will be greatly appreciated!

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

As usual, since this is our first meeting since last spring, we will not have a formal speaker. Instead, we will catch up on poetry news (NFSPS, Houbtlick gathering, achievements, etc.) and share poetry--maybe that new great one, written over the summer!

This is also a good time to start thinking about any future programs you might like to see, and getting your suggestions to President Berneal Schindle. SMPS is only as good as its members, and we all have worthwhile ideas to share. Don't be shy, if there is something that interests you, others will also be interested, and a great program will be born.

She will be planning out assignments as well, so if there is a form you are dying to try, write down your ideas and bring them along to give to her.

235-3052  
2437 Albion Ave.  
Farmington, MN 5602

Lachesis 6/15/91

## SMPS NOTES

Is there anyone who was seriously delinquent in paying dues? They were due last January, so get them in without delay! Remember, dues should be paid to the SMPS Treasurer, Elinor Schmidt. Dues are \$10.00 for Associate and writing members, \$3.00 for student members. Mail your dues to:

Elinor Schmidt  
1122 Marsh Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

~~SMPS members~~ are helping the new chapter in Brainerd to get the LOMP Fall meeting together. How about a large turnout for this event to show our support? For the first time, there will be an awards banquet the night before to announce the LOMP contest winners, which promises to be an exciting event.

### WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

to Bonnie Wolle on the birth of TWINS in August.  
Welcome to budding poets:

Katherine--4 lbs 13 oz  
and  
Garrett--5 lbs 3 oz

This should give Bonnie a wealth of material for future poems. Best wishes!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. THE LOMP FALL MEETING, Friday night, Oct. 18th and Saturday, Oct. 19, 1991, in Brainerd.
2. NATIONAL POETRY DAY OCTOBER ,1991

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'  
SOCIETY

Volume 11

Issue 8

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This Month

Saturday, October 12, 1991

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. so if you do not  
plan to eat with the group, please plan to arrive just  
before the program starts so your entrance is not  
disruptive. If you must be late and still wish to order  
from the menu, please do so before entering the meeting  
room. Your courtesy will be greatly appreciated!

OCTOBER PROGRAM

We will call on our own members to contribute their own  
games, tricks, and methods used to nudge the creative  
process. Each member should bring at least one idea for  
writing a poem to the meeting, we will try to get to as many  
as possible, and everyone bring a pen and paper!

Since this editor will be in S.D. sharing poetry with  
S.D.S.P.S. members, here is a contribution as an example:

Create a list of things that you have never done, create a  
list of things you have done, then write a poem using at  
least two things from each list.

COMING NEXT MONTH

Suzanne Bunkers, host of KMSU'S "The Weekly Reader" will  
talk about some of the poets she has met on the show, and  
perhaps share some her favorite poems with us.

### LAST MONTH

It was great fun to see the familiar poet faces once again, and to greet those new poets who were able to join us. Hope to see some of those SMPS members who couldn't make it, you were missed!

### SMPS NOTES

President Schindle requests an Executive Board Meeting, to be held at Sue Chambers office (Suite 470, Nichols Office Center) on October 28 at 4:00 p.m.. All Officers, Chairpersons, Past Presidents, and Editor should attend. Programs and assignments will be planned for the upcoming year.

The SOUTHERN POETRY ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 524, Pass Christian, Mississippi 3957 has sent your editor a copy of their newsletter THE POET'S VOICE and asked me to announce that SPA will provide a free copy of PV to anyone who sends them a \$10 stamped, self addressed envelope. The newsletter looks interesting, providing announcements for any reputable writers groups. They have published information from NFSPS affiliates in the past.

SMPS members are helping the new chapter in Brainerd to get the LOMP Fall meeting together. How about a large turnout for this event to show our support? Please call Sue Chambers if you are interested in a ride on Friday afternoon, we still have room for passengers. Also, I will be happy to help coordinate roommates. For the first time, there will be an awards banquet the night before to announce the LOMP contest winners, which promises to be an exciting event.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

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2. NATIONAL POETRY DAY OCTOBER 12, 1991
3. The LOFT Mentor Series presents Sandra Cisneros, short story writer and poet on Friday, November 15, at 8 p.m., Student Center Ballroom, Hamline University. Admission: \$6 (\$4 Loft members)

### ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Susan Chambers received a honorable mention in the Ohio Poetry Day Creme de la Creme contest for her poem "Poetry and Divorce Lawyers". She will be a "Poet in the Schools" at Sherburne and Windom on October 8th.

Meredith Cook's poem "In the Sudden Sunset: Warm Memories (of Patricia Johnson)" was published in the latest issue of Harp Strings.

Shirley Ensrud received two honorable mentions in contests in the Ohio Poetry Day Contest. She had two poems published in SIDEWALKS. She recently read poetry at Lakeview Methodist Home.

Roy B. Moore has published his sixth book of poetry, entitled "Last Writes For Katoland". He read on KMSU Public Radio on the program "Weekly Reader", both at the studio, and, during the Bend of The River Festival in the Mankato Mall.

Barbara Stevens (SMPS member who resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota) was the featured poet in Jesse Poets monthly newsletter, and received an Honorable Mention in the Ohio Poetry Day Contest.

Send any achievements to your editor, and we will see they get announced in future newsletters.

### LOMP NEWS

LOMP Autumn Festival, sponsored by the HEARTLAND POETS Chapter, of Brainerd, Minnesota.

Theme: Fall Festival of Autumn Colored Poetry

Featured Speaker: Diane Glancy, well known poet and Macalaster college professor.

Seminar Leader: Claire van Breeman Downes

COST: \$15.00 luncheon reservation, includes all Saturday activities, Friday evening registration. Friday PM Barbecue will be dutch treat. CRAGUNS has reserved rooms at a LOMP Convention rate \$63.90 for double rooms. (normally \$80.00 per night, if you have a roommate, this can be very reasonable, in a delightful spot)

#### LEAGUE SEMINAR POEM SUBMISSION RULES:

Two copies of one poem, 24 lines or less. Any subject, any form, place type of form on upper right corner of both copies. Name and address on one copy only, upper left corner. Mail to Contest Chairperson:

Barb Sherard Morgan  
3738 Barbeau Road N.W.  
Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

DUE NOW!

LOMP Dues of \$12.00 were also due in January, and should be mailed to Eleanor Burns in Duluth. Membership in LOMP entitles a member to membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, the Strophes newsletter, and a copy of the Moccasin. Members also receive reduced rates when entering state and NFSPS poetry contests, and may serve as delegates to the NFSPS convention.

#### OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT

Assignments are never mandatory, but are suggested to get the juices flowing. Assignment this month is to write a new poem, any form, any length, any subject. At the meeting, you will be asked to tell why you wrote it, what was your inspiration.

### LAST MONTH

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SMPS members are helping the new chapter in Brainerd to get the LOMP Fall meeting together. How about a large turnout for this event to show our support? Please call Sue Chambers if you are interested in a ride on Friday afternoon, we still have room for passengers. Also, I will be happy to help coordinate roommates. For the first time, there will be an awards banquet the night before to announce the LOMP contest winners, which promises to be an exciting event.

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## ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

MONICA HAACK had an article and poem "Mud Lake Swims With Memories published by the Mankato Free Press, also the Mankato 30-40 Club Newsletter, her poetry and memories were a part of the Fulda Mn. Lutheran School's 100th anniversary.

She also read her Eternal Daisy poem at her 93 year old friend's funeral in Jackson, Minnesota

SHIRLEY ENSRUD read her poetry at the September United Methodist Women's monthly meeting that was held at St. Lukes Home, with residents there in attendance.

She recently judge a national poetry contest for Florida.

SUE CHAMBERS recently judged national poetry contests for the Arizona Poetry Society, The Florida State Poetry Society and Texas Poetry Society.

Do you have a poetry related achievement you want to share with the world? Send your achievement information to Sue Chambers, Editor, RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'  
SOCIETY

Volume 11                      Issue 9

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This Month

Saturday, November 9, 1991

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. Guests are always welcomed, our  
meetings are opened to the public.

Our programs start promptly at 1:00 p.m. so if you do not  
plan to eat with the group, please plan to arrive just  
before the program starts so your entrance is not  
disruptive. If you must be late and still wish to order  
from the menu, please do so before entering the meeting  
room. Your courtesy will be greatly appreciated.

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE CHECK WITH SUE CHAMBERS.  
(278-4200) or BERNEAL SCHINDLE (625-7208) TO VERIFY THAT THE  
MEETING HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

MSU Professor and author SUZANNE BUNKERS will be our speaker  
and talk about the authors she has met while hosting the  
weekly KMSU program "The Weekly Reader". Suzanne did her  
undergraduate work at Iowa State, and received her doctorate  
at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has published  
THE DIARY OF CAROLINE SEABURY in 1991, and anticipates the  
publication of "FAITHFUL FRIENDS": DIARIES OF NINETEENTH-  
CENTURY MIDWESTERN WOMEN and IN SEARCH OF SUSANNA: AN  
AUTO/BIOGRAPHY, a study her life, her daughter's life, and  
her great-great-grandmother Susanna.

COMING NEXT MONTH

As always, SMPS Christmas programs are special. Plan on  
making this a family gathering. We shall share music,  
Christmas poetry and good times with our poetry family.

### LAST MONTH

Thank you to all members who contributed ideas to help get us over writer's block. We hope to see many new poems this year as a result of all the great thoughts.

### SMPS NOTES

The Downtown Mankato Mall has invited SMPS to participate in the HOLIDAY BAZAAR to be held at the mall on Saturday, November 23, 1991 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. The only cost to our organization would be a \$4.00 table rental fee, if we bring our own table and chairs there is no fee (folding card tables are not acceptable).

We can use our booth for any purpose, and at our Executive Board meeting it was decided to use it to sell books, try and raise a little money for the group, and distribute information on our organization and upcoming contests. If you have books to sell please bring them to this meeting so they can be displayed.

A sign-up sheet to "poet" (man) the tables will be passed at the meeting, so that the work can be divided into manageable shifts. If you have any craft items, ideas for raising money or handouts for contests, etc., please bring those as well.

IT IS NOT TOO SOON TO THINK ABOUT SMPS DUES. They are due in January, and are \$10.00 for Writing and Associate members, \$3.00 for student members. This would make a perfect Christmas gift! Mail or give your dues to

Treasurer Elinor Schmidt  
1122 Marsh Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

### GET WELL SOON

Roy B. Moore is having cataract surgery just before our next meeting, but hopes to be up and about by Saturday.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. The LOFT Mentor Series presents Sandra Cisneros, short story writer and poet on Friday, November 15, at 8 p.m., Student Center Ballroom, Hamline University. Admission: \$6 (\$4 Loft members)
2. NOVEMBER 23, 1991 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MANKATO MALL. HOLIDAY BAZAAR - Nonprofit organization opportunity to introduce SMPS to the community (see SMPS Notes)

LOMP NEWS

The LOMP Autumn Festival, sponsored by the HEARTLAND POETS Chapter, of Brainerd, Minnesota was an excellent seminar. All who attended agreed that the Friday night presentation of the contest winners was a great success, and we look forward to continuing the practise. Saturday's speaker, Diane Glancy, was enjoyed immensely, and the seminar leader, Claire van Breeman Downes was skillful, diplomatic, and efficient. The weekend was truly a delight.

LOMP Dues of \$12.00 are due in January, and should be mailed to Eleanor Burns in Duluth. Membership in LOMP entitles a member to membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, the Strophes newsletter, and a copy of the Moccasin. Members also receive reduced rates when entering state and NFSPS poetry contests, and may serve as delegates to the NFSPS convention.

NOVEMBER ASSIGNMENT

Take one subject, and write two or three different poems, in different forms. This is a great idea for those snowed-in days!

Coming in December

Our assignment will be winter or Christmas poems, to be shared with the group. Plan on bringing the family. Betty Cords will be coming to sing, and share Blue Earth County pioneer Christmas stories.