

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'
SOCIETY

Volume 12

Issue 01

This Month

Saturday, January 11, 1992

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.

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

PLEASE: We have been getting very late starts because
members are not arriving promptly at 11:30 a.m. Make your
best effort to be on time.

JANUARY PROGRAM

One of our own members
will present a program on one of their favorite well-known
poets.

This mystery speaker will surprise and delight you, so be
sure to attend!

DECEMBER PROGRAM

A special thank you to Betty Cords for leading us in
Christmas carols, and regaling us with delightful stories
from Blue Earth County. And thanks to Roy Moore and Sue
Chambers for their able assistance

SMPS NOTES

SMPS DUES are due NOW! They are \$10.00 for Writing and Associate members, \$3.00 for student members. Mail or give your dues to

Treasurer Elinor Schmidt
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. June 18 through the 22nd, 1992. The NFSPS annual convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration is still only \$40. Rooms are going at a special rate of \$60.00 a day. Each room has two double beds, price is for one to four to a room. Meals are approximately 25.00 a day (the one banquet is higher). Start saving your pennies, the program looks great!

2. Pre-NFSPS Convention Contest (one prize \$100.00) postmarked May 1, 1992. Winner must present at convention to win. See Strophes for details.

3. THE LOFT & WALKER ART CENTER present Quincy Troupe & Hamiet Bluiett in Poetry and music in dialogue on January 4, 1992. There is a workshop at the Loft from 1-3 p.m., and at The Walker Art Center, an 8 p.m. performance with poet Troupe and saxophonist Bluiett exploring ways in which poetry and music combine.

LOMP NEWS

LOMP Dues of \$12.00 are due in January, and should be mailed to:

Eleanor Burns,
34 15 Lake Avenue South,
Duluth, Minn. 55802.

Membership in LOMP entitles you to membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, the Strophes newsletter, a copy of the Moccasin, a reduced rates when entering state and NFSPS poetry contests, and you may serve as delegates to the NFSPS convention.

It is not too soon to start thinking about Birmingham, Alabama, site of the 1992 NFSPS convention. (See Mark Your Calendar Section). LOMP is entitled to five delegates--if you are not a LOMP member, you should think about becoming one now, so you can join us.

JANUARY ASSIGNMENT

A sestina form is our never mandatory, but always stimulating assignment for January.

THE STUDY & WRITING OF POETRY defines the sestina as follows:

a poetry form having six six-line stanzas ending with a tercet; the end words of the first stanza are repeated with progressively changed order in the other five stanzas, and are included, medially and finally, in the tercet; it is a fixed form and a skilled writer of form can make the reader unaware of the strict rules of the form.

1st stanza	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2nd stanza	6, 1, 5, 2, 4, 3
3rd stanza	3, 6, 4, 1, 2, 5
4th stanza	5, 3, 2, 6, 1, 4
5th stanza	4, 5, 1, 3, 6, 2
6th stanza	2, 4, 6, 5, 3, 1

Anne Marx suggests:

Our concern is with the required order of end words. So-put down your own first stanza of six lines with your own chosen end words expressing your essential thought. This first stanza, its end words represented by the numbers 1--6 is followed by the second stanza, its end words represented by the numbers 6, 1, 5, 2, 4, 3. And this is the only sequence you need to understand and remember! The simple pattern evolves by reversing the order of the last three end words and inserting them on top and in the first two spaces between the original numbers. They will now occupy the former positions 1, 3 and 5. The original first three end words are automatically moved into new places and will now occupy original positions 2, 4 and 6. I think of this counter-movement as a kind of dance between two groups approaching each other, suggestive of the sestina's Provençal origin in the 13th century.

From THE STUDY...pages 167 and 168.

The sestina originated in France, it is an ancient unrhymend verse form. The original rules still apply in part, other rules have been modified in modern usage. One rule which stands is the characteristic six-stanza form, each of six lines of the same length, with a concluding three-line stanza.

An example by Anne Marx, from FACE LIFTS FOR ALL SEASONS,
Golden Quill Press, 1980

SESTINA FOR TOMMY AT FORTY

Today you are the son I tried to raise,
a man moored firmly in his family,
tender yet strong; thoughtful yet undeterred--
you now at forty all I once foresaw
when I was forty in your spring-time years,
our rhythms uneven, needs too far apart.

At forty, I had not yet learned to part
with my own past, relied on words to raise
a teen-age son straight into adult years;
in retrospect, close-ups of family
relationships you had, the love you saw,
sustained you later, instincts undeterred.

Forty years old, I was still undeterred
from training you for life, a leading part
that featured all the dormant gifts I saw
in you. Was this my sole mistake to raise
your goals too high? You blamed the family
pride, stiff-necked, and shunned our world for years.

At last, you freed your view. Past fog-filled years
you found your path, followed it undeterred
fulfilling every promise. Our family
surrounding you with pride became a part
of you, no longer needed now to raise
your self-esteem, man that my vision saw.

Hard to convince, I never clearly saw
the truth, a wisdom unacknowledged years
ago that mothers are not fit to raise
their teen-age sons. Boys should grow undeterred
by women into manhood. As they depart,
they find their way back to the family.

At forty, you have spread the family
tree by three new branches. Changes we saw
begin in ourselves were due in part
to the diminished gap between our years.
As I observe you functioning undeterred,
what ghosts from my own forties should I raise?

you now raise girls, a strong-willed family.
Their view are undeterred by what you saw
and learned from years, a male, my counterpart.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 12

Issue 02

This Month

Saturday, February 8, 1992
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

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PLEASE: We get late starts if members do not arrive promptly at 11:30 a.m. Make your best effort to be on time.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Ever dreamed of seeing your own poems in print? Our guest speaker, Chris Miller, will introduce us to the world of printing and self-publishing. Chris is an Assistant Manger at Kinko's Printing in Mankato, and will discuss what is needed to get you ready to see your poems in print.

January Program Appreciated

A special thank you to Dr. Roy B. Moore for sharing his appreciation of the poetry of Robert Service. Roy did an admirable job of bringing this favorite poet to life through his works. Thanks Roy!

SMPS NOTES

SMPS DUES are overdue NOW! They are \$10.00 for Writing and Associate members, \$3.00 for student members. Mail or give your dues to

Treasurer Elinor Schmidt
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Remember, your dues help to keep our society viable. They are used to provide this Thistledown, guest speakers, and when the chapter hosts state meetings. Your voice counts, and we really do want you to renew your membership.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. June 18 through the 22nd, 1992. The NFSPS annual convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration is still only \$40.
2. NFSPS National contest--DEADLINE MARCH 15th. Fifty separate categories, many of which we have done as an assignment, so your prize winner may just be waiting for you to enter it. It is always fun to see how many Minnesotans enter.
3. Pre-NFSPS Convention Contest (one prize \$100.00) postmarked May 1, 1992. Winner must present at convention to win. See Strophes for details.
4. Galway Kinnell will be the speaker at the Loft on February 28th and 29th. . On Friday evening he will give a reading at Hamline University (price \$6., \$4.00 for LOFT members) at 8:00 p.m. On Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. he will give a lecture at the U of M East Bank, Coffman Union on "The Music of Poetry" \$3.00, free to Loft members. If anyone is interested, let Sue Chambers know, we might be able to car-pool up for some events. Galway Kinnell has been the featured speaker at past NFSPS conventions. His 1982 SELECTED POEMS won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize.
5. LOMP State Manningham STUDENT contest. DEADLINE March 15, 1992. Do you know a student, Grades 6-9 (Jr. division) or Grades 10-12 (Sr. Division) who writes poetry? The top ten Minnesota winners are forwarded to the NATIONAL Manningham Competition. Get rules by sending S.A.S.E. to Bill Johnson or your editor, Sue Chambers.

GET WELL SOON

To President Berneal Schindle who has been suffering, along with her husband, from walking pneumonia. We hope she is up and about by our next meeting!

LOMP NEWS

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Eleanor Burns,
34 15 Lake Avenue South,
Duluth, Minn. 55802.

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FEBRUARY ASSIGNMENT

Put on your thinking cap and decide what you would like to write about the POWER OF WOMAN. Subject is POWER OF WOMAN, any form, 40 line limit. (This is a NFSPS contest category)

Maybe if you felt stumped by the Sestina assignment last month, you could combine the two. (But that is not required)

NEXT MONTH our assignment will be Compromise, accommodation, dialog, etc. Does that peak your interest? Be sure to come to the meeting or watch the next Thistledown for details.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

MEREDITH COOK has received an honorable mention in the K-Wray Publications' DEAR MAGNOLIA 1991 POETRY AWARDS contest for "Lights Verse: A Sestina". She won a 2nd Honorable Mention in the No-Name Newsletter parody contest for "The Pillage Blackguard".

SHIRLEY ENSRUD won a 2nd place in the Animal World category and one honorable mention in another category of the Florida State Poets Association.. She also had two poems published in the premier issue of SIDEWALKS, a publication put out by Tom Heie, Champlin, Minnesota.

MONICA HAACK poem "On Wings of a Poem" published by Full Circle 12. In December her poem "Eternal Daisy" was published in the Mankato Free Press in memory of a loved Grandmother.

WILFRED JOHNSON was recently a "Poet in the Schools" for District 77, and also had the opportunity to view his teaching techniques on a video that captured part of his day.

Do YOU have a poetry-related achievement? Let us know the details and we will be happy to spread the good news! Send any achievements to your editor at RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota. You can also write them down and submit them to your editor at the monthly meetings.

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POET'S SOCIETY

PROGRAM 1992

1991

- Nov. 9 PROGRAM - Suzanne Bunkers
ASSIGNMENT - 2 or 3 different forms on one subject
- Dec. 14 PROGRAM - Christmas. Bring Family. Betty Cords
ASSIGNMENT - Winter or Christmas Poem - Any Form or length

1992

- Jan. 11 PROGRAM - Talk on Well-Known Poet - Speaker's Choice
ASSIGNMENT - Sestina - Any Subject
(Sample will be in Thistledown)
- Feb. 8 PROGRAM - Printing and Publishing
ASSIGNMENT - Power of Woman (Any subject, any form)
40 line limit.
- Mar. 14 PROGRAM - Regional Authors
ASSIGNMENT - Compromise, accommodation, dialog, etc.
Free verse interspersed with rhyming stanzas and/or
couplets. 50 line limit.

BRING ONE OF YOUR POEMS FOR CRITIQUING BY ONE OF OUR
MEMBERS.
- April 11 PROGRAM - Critiquing by one of our members (This can be
a very learning experience)
ASSIGNMENT - Parental theme (50 lines or less)
(Bring a poem to be read by someone else)
- May 9 PROGRAM -
Reading other's poems. Any of your poems that you
would like to hear someone else read (Readers will be
some of our members who are very good readers)
ASSIGNMENT - Poetry of Laughter (50 characters per line)
1 page)
- MAY CONVENTION - Minneapolis (Dates to be announced later)
- JUNE NFSPS CONVENTION Birmingham, Alabama
- JULY Picnic - Date to be announced later
- August WOODTICK POETS Dates to be set later
- SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS - Patriotism - 45 lines or less any form
Environment - 45 lines or less (Conservation)
Poem about a lively person, male or female
(30 lines or less, any form)

These assignments are never mandatory but are fun to do. They are based on the NFSPS and LOMP contests so this gives you a chance to write a poem that can be entered in any of the contests.

DUE DATES - LOMP July 31, 1992 (Postmark)
NFSPS - March 15, 1992

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS'
SOCIETY

Volume 12

Issue 04

This Month

Saturday, APRIL 11, 1992

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.

PLEASE: We get late starts if members do not arrive
promptly at 11:30 a.m. Make your best effort to be on time.

APRIL PROGRAM

The April program will be a "hands on" poetry experience,
with our own President moderating. The particulars will be
a surprise, but do bring pen and paper!

ALSO:

DON'T FORGET TO BRING A POEM (32 line limit)
in a plain envelope for critiquing by another member.
These poems will be critiqued in May. If you cannot be at
the meeting, please make arrangements before to deliver a
poem and pick up one for critiquing.

THANK YOU MARCH PROGRAM

We especially appreciated OUR MOTHER'S GARDENS BOOK STORE
co-owner, Kim Luedke's presentation. She charmed all of us
by bringing books, books and more books to examine and sigh
over. Try to get down to the store, located at 417 Byron
Street in Mankato (across from the Lincoln Community
Center), it is worthy of our support. Thanks so much, Kim!

SMPS NOTES

SMPS DUES were due in January! They are \$10.00 for Writing and Associate members, \$3.00 for student members. Mail or give your dues to

Treasurer Elinor Schmidt
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

SMPS will try and ride share to the LOMP meeting on April 25th. If there is enough interest, we will rent a bus or van. If you will not be at the meeting, please contact Bill Johnson to let him know if you interested in riding with other poetry lovers. We would leave early Saturday (approx. 7:00 a.m.) from Mankato and return sometime before 8:00 p.m. (depends on whether the riders want to stop somewhere for supper).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. The NEW ULM PUBLIC LIBRARY will once again be sponsoring "Living Poets Society" poetry reading, on April 7, 1992 at 7:00 p.m.. SMPS members are invited to participate.
2. NEW! Wednesday, April 15th at 5:30 p.m. SMPS'S "READING THE POETS" section meeting. This is for anyone interested in meeting once a month to read famous poets. (we are often criticized for only being interested in reading our OWN works, not reading the classics). In the future, it is hoped we can meet in living rooms, etc. but for the first meeting, we will meet at Vincent Wongs and have a dinner. After that we will have sign up sheets for time and places. Each participant should bring 10 to 15 minutes worth of material of their famous poet, and maybe a short biography.
2. LOMP SPRING MEETING, April 25th, 1992 in Minneapolis. (See specifics in LOMP NEWS)
3. NFSPS Convention contest. DEADLINE: May 1, 1992. Need to be at convention to be a winner. (any form, subject, 45 line limit, never published).
4. June 18 through the 22nd, 1992. The NFSPS annual convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Registration is still only \$40.
5. July 24th - 26th: THE WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT at Barbara Stevens' cabin near Brainerd, Minnesota.

LOMP NEWS

LOMP Dues of \$12.00 were due in January, and should be mailed to: Eleanor Burns, 3415 Lake Avenue South, Duluth, Minn. 55802.

The League of Minnesota is doing some (paperwork) spring cleaning. At the April 25th meeting we will approve new Articles of Incorporation (that will help us to comply with the new Nonprofit Corporation statute) and by-laws. There are no major changes to our regular practises and old constitution, this is just a reworking to put us in compliance with Minnesota law and IRS law. If you would like a copy of the documents, contact Sue Chambers or Bill Johnson.

LOMP SPRING MEETING will be hosted by the MISSISSIPPI POETS AND WRITERS GROUP on APRIL 25, 1992 at the Regency Plaza Hotel. Mail your reservation to Val Bump, 1109 Como Place (floor one), St. Paul, Mn. 55103 or phone 612-489-1993. Registration fee is \$12.00.

SEMINAR poems (two copies, double spaced, type of poem in upper right of both copies, 24 lines or less) should be mailed BY APRIL 6th (postmark) to Seminar chair: Pj Doyle, 4242 Stevens Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55409. Enclose S.A.S.E. if you are not planning on attending. Shirley Ensrud will critique the submissions.

MICHAEL DENNIS BROWNE will be the keynote speaker at the LOMP Spring meeting.

APRIL ASSIGNMENT

Remember, assignments are never mandatory, but are just a vehicle to help you write.

APRIL's assignment is to write a poem, subject: parental theme, 50 lines or less.

For MAY, we will write Poetry of Laughter (50 characters per line, 1 page limit)

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

SUE CHAMBERS has judged a Utah National contest, and Oklahoma National contest recently.

MEREDITH COOK was the judge of South Dakota State Poetry Societies Chapbook Competition. She recently judged contests for Pennsylvania and Utah national contests.

PATRICIA JOHNSON, although no longer with us, is still being published regularly by editors who had some of her poems on file at the time of her death. She had a poem in the March issue of Pasque Petals, South Dakota State Poetry Society.

WILFRED JOHNSON presented three poetry classes to ninth grade at Mankato West.

MEG KREMER was one of ten finalists in the Poet Laureate Contest in Jessee Poet's POETS AT WORK. She also had two page decorators in the same issue (short verses). Jessee Poet has also awarded her a honorable mentions in the Buck Award and Ribbon contest (Haiku Spring).

VERNA LARSEN, with the help of Kinko's, has published a book of her poetry PROSE, POETRY AND PALAVER.

LORAIN SCHWANKE MUELLER in December presented programs of poetry and her own music and has prepared five Lenten "Quiet Hours" on each Tuesday afternoon of Lent. Her church has requested her poems for the Lenten and Easter bulletins. In January, her poem "To Have and To Hold Forever" was included in an anthology AWAKEN TO A DREAM, published by Watermark Press.

SUSAN CHAMBERS
RPD 3, Box 86
GOOD THUNDER, MN
56037



Do YOU have a poetry-related achievement? Let us know the details and we will be happy to spread the good news! Send any achievements to your editor at RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota. You can also write them down and submit them to your editor at the monthly meetings.

MEREDITH COOK
527 No, Gailbraith
BLUE EARTH, MN. 56013

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 12 Issue 08

This Month

Saturday, October 10, 1992

VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT

820 South Front Street

Mankato, Minnesota

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

Dutch Treat Lunch: Chineses or American food can be ordered from the menu. No reservations needed. Guests are always welcomed, our meetings our open to the public.

Programs start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

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

OCTOBER PROGRAM

A favorite SMPS member Loraine S. Mueller will present a program on writing the ever elusive sonnet. She will discuss the various types of sonnets, and share examples. Bring plenty of paper for notes, our next assignment (in November) is to try our hand at our own sonnets, so you will want to pay attention!

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Bill Johnson and Barbara Stevens for helping with transportation for SMPS members who attended the LOMP fall meeting in Rochester. It is always fun to ride over as a group, and the use of these poets' "wheels" was greatly appreciated.

SMPS NOTES

We will be starting up this year's "Reading the Famous Poets" sub-chapter in October. All are welcome. We will meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Gus Johnson Plaza. Verna Larson is hosting and will provide coffee. Meet in the Coffee Room on second floor. Verna asks all poets to please park in the back, the upper parking lot is for guests.

Everyone should bring ten to fifteen minutes worth of material of one famous poet, and maybe, if available, a short biography of the poet.

This month's session will be held on October 15th, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gus Johnson Plaza.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. October 15, 1992--Reading the Poets, Gus Johnson Plaza, 7:00 p.m. See above for details.
2. March 15, 1993 Deadline--CONVENTION MADNESS CONTEST--win your way to the NFSPS convention (prize--hotel 4 days, meals and registration) Traditional rhymed form or blank verse-25 lines or less. Send 2 copies, as many poems as like, \$5.00 fee per poem. Send to Dr. Oscar Wright, 11 Kathy Lane, Monroe, Louisiana 71203.
3. March 15, 1993 Deadline-- NFSPS 34th annual contest.
4. May 22, 1993--tentative date for LOMP Spring meeting in Duluth.
5. June, 1993--NFSPS Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana. (1994 is set for Indiana)
6. July 16 through the 18, 1993--the Woodtick Poetry Gathering, Horeshoe Lake, Merrifield, Minnesota.
7. LOMP 9th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTEST Many categories, plus two student categories. DEADLINE July 31, 1993. Send S.A.S.E. (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to Contest Chair Pj Doyle, 4242 Stevens, Minneapolis, Mn. 55409 for complete rules. Everyone should enter this contest!

LOMP FALL MEETING

SMPS really pitched in to make this meeting a great one. The setting was superb, the poetry was wonderful, the poets beautiful. SMPS members won many awards in the LOMP national contest. A winners list was distributed and will be made available at the meeting. SMPS wins are as listed below. I hope your editor hasn't missed anyone:

Christina Chambers: Contest #17 HM; 3rd Pl.

Colin Chambers: C#17 HM.

Sue Chambers: C#16 3rd HM; C#10 1 HM; C#9 1 HM; C#8 5 HM; C#5 2nd Pl; C#4 5 HM; C#2 7 HM.

Meredith Cook: C#16 2 HM; C#9 8 HM; C#6 5 HM; C#5 1 HM; C#2 6 H; C#1 2nd Pl.

Shirley Ensrud: C#9 3rd Pl; C#8 4 HM; C#5 4 HM.

Margaret Holst Hasbargen: C#16 1st Pl; C#14 2nd Pl; C#6 8 HM; C#5 8 HM.

Wilfred Johnson: C#15 2 HM; C#14 4 HM; C#12 2nd PL; C#10 2 HM; C#7 3 HM.

Roy B. Moore: C# 14 8 HM; C#12 2 HM; C#9 2 HM; C#7 3rd Pl; C#4 3 HM; C#3 1 HM.

Lorraine S. Mueller: C#15 3rd Pl; C#11 1st Pl; C#6 3rd Pl; C#3 6 HM.

Berneal D. Schindle: C#13 5 HM; C#7 5 HM; C#3 1st Pl.

Charlotte Seward: C#15 1st Pl; C#8 6 HM.

Barbara Stevens: C#13 2nd Pl; C#12 1 HM; C#5 1st Pl; C#4 1 HM; C#3 5 HM; C#1 2 HM.

Cecelia Weaver: C#11 8 HM; C#10 1st Pl; C#8 8 HM.

Note that SMPS member took away honors in every category except #18, which was the high school contest! Congratulations to one and all.

OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT

Write a Halloween or Autumn poem. No limit on line length or form.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Please note all of the SMPS winners in the LOMP 1992 contest on the previous page. Congratulations, one and all.

SUE CHAMBERS has judged a Florida contest and Texas contest.

MEREDITH COOK won first place in Jessee Poet's "Dog and Cat Special" contest and a 1st HM in Jessee Poet's "Aging Special" contest.

SHIRLEY ENSRUD won 5th HM in Jessee Poet's June #1 contest.

BILL JOHNSON had poems published by Enright House in County Kerry, Ireland. He will receive a 700 page anthology free.

MEG KRAMER won 5th HM in Jessee Poet's July #1 contest.

VERNA LARSEN writes a page for the GUS JOHNSON PLAZA HI-NOTES each month.

LORAIN MUELLER was commissioned to write a poem commemorating her home church (Germantown United Methodist) 120th anniversary. She read the poem "Hope, on Two Mountains of Departure" on that occasion.

LUCILE NITZKOWSKI conducted a poetry program for the Study Club (portfolio).

Do YOU have a poetry-related achievement? Let us know the details and we will be happy to spread the good news! Send any achievements to your editor at RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota. You can also write them down and submit them to your editor at the monthly meetings.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 12 Issue 09

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Saturday, November 14, 1992

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820 South Front Street

Mankato, Minnesota

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

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NOVEMBER PROGRAM

MAVIS CHRISTENSEN, SMPS member who is currently working on an advance degree at Mankato State University in writing, will give members the pleasure of a repeat performance from her recent appearance on Suzanne Bunker's "The Weekly Reader" at KMSU radio.

She will discuss her thesis and share some of her writings with us.

THANK YOU

Our October program was well attended, and the efforts of our own Lorraine Schwanke Mueller were applauded. We greatly appreciated the time and effort Lorraine put into the art of writing sonnets--an art at which she excels.

We will copy and distribute her notes for the next meeting. (See *attache*)

Thank you, Lorraine, for a program where everyone learned!

NOVEMBER ASSIGNMENT

"Sonnets have ever spoken deep emotions of the heart with a sort of magic that touches the secret soul" so Guanetta Gordon begins her explanation of the sonnet in **THE STYLE AND WRITING OF POETRY, AMERICAN WOMEN POETS DISCUSS THEIR CRAFT**, edited by Wauneta Hackleman.

The sonnet is a fixed pattern of fourteen lines of iambic pentameter rhythm (unaccented (short) followed by an accented syllables--10 syllables to a line). The end word of each of the fourteen lines is a rhyme word.

The various types of sonnets have different rhyme patterns. For example, the Petrarchan rhyme scheme is abba, abba, cde, cde. The sestet (last six lines) may differ as : cd cd cd. The Shakespearean rhyme scheme typically consists of three quatrains and a couplet: abab, cdcd, efef, gg. The Beymorlin is Shakespearean or Petrarchan in end rhyme, and must also rhyme within the first two syllables of the beginning of the lines, with the same rhyme scheme (but not necessarily the same sound) as end lines.

Slight variations of the form in meter or rhyme are allowed, but to be a first rate sonnet, attention must be paid to the craft and above all, the poem must communicate! No rhymes for the sake of rhyme, avoid inversions (such as " a Christmas merry", done just to get the rhyme) avoid cliches.

GET WELL WISHES

Our very best to Edna Busekist, who is now recuperating at home after surgery. We hope she will be up and running circles around us --poetically speaking--by our next meeting. Get well, soon, Edna.

THANK YOU

A special thanks to Verna Larson who has volunteered to host the monthly readings at her home at Gus Johnson Plaza. Thank you for making the extra effort, Verna, on behalf of each of our members.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

NORMAN BOE took 3rd place, Grand Prize in the 1992 LOMP contest for his poem "watching Catalpa Grow".

In addition he took a 3rd in contest number 3, a 5HM in Contest 12, and a 5 HM in contest 16. (sorry, Norman, for missing you last month!)

SUE CHAMBERS placed 16th (out of over 3,000 entries) in the Writer's Digest Contest for her poem "Dear Editor".

She also received 1st place, Grand Prize in the South Dakota State Poetry Society contest for her poem "Petrified Wood", and 3rd place in Contest 7 (Midwest) for her poem "The Family Tree, Cottonwood".

MAVIS CHRISTENSEN interviewed with Suzanne Bunkers on her radio show "The Weekly Reader", which broadcasts on Thursdays on KMSU.

MONICA HAACK read Poetry at Holy Parish Festival Program on Sept. 20th.

Her poem "Treasure Trove" was published in Living Waters Prayer Group Newsletter, and her Acrostic poem was used for the School Sisters of Notre Dame's 100th Anniversary at the Good Counsel Motherhouse.

Her poem "My Baskets (or My How I Have Changed)" was published in the 1992 Midwest Chaparral Poets Anthology.

BERNEAL SCHINDLE gave a conservation talk at Zeltic Woman's Club and used environmental poems in the lecture.

Do YOU have a poetry-related achievement? Let us know the details and we will be happy to spread the good news! Send any achievements to your editor at RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota. You can also write them down and submit them to your editor at the monthly meetings.

SMPS NOTES

We attempted to start up this year's "Reading the Famous Poets" subchapter in October. Some members could not make it to the October meeting, but we will try once again to see if there is enough interest.

All are welcome. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!** We will meet the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Gus Johnson Plaza. Verna Larson is hosting and will provide coffee. Meet in the Coffee Room on second floor. Verna asks all poets to please park in the back, the upper parking lot is for guests.

Everyone should bring ten to fifteen minutes worth of material of one famous poet, and, if available, a short biography of the poet.

This month's session will be held on November 19th, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gus Johnson Plaza.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. November 19, 1992--Reading the Poets, Gus Johnson Plaza, 7:00 p.m. See above for details.
2. March 15, 1993 Deadline--CONVENTION MADNESS CONTEST--win your way to the NFSPS convention (prize--hotel 4 days, meals and registration) Traditional rhymed form or blank verse-25 lines or less. Send 2 copies, as many poems as like, \$5.00 fee per poem. Send to Dr. Oscar Wright, 11 Kathy Lane, Monroe, Louisiana 71203.
3. March 15, 1993 Deadline-- NFSPS 34th annual contest.
4. May 22, 1993--tentative date for LOMP Spring meeting in Duluth.
5. June, 1993--NFSPS Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana. (1994 is set for Indiana)
6. July 16 through the 18, 1993--the Woodtick Poetry Gathering, Horeshoe Lake, Merrifield, Minnesota.
7. LOMP 9th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTEST Many categories, plus two student categories. DEADLINE July 31, 1993. Send S.A.S.E. (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to Contest Chair Pj Doyle, 4242 Stevens, Minneapolis, Mn. 55409 for complete rules. Everyone should enter this contest!

THE SONNET as a poetic form

The encyclopedia says a sonnet is a short poem, song, or ballad. Specifically, it is a short poem of prescribed form restricted to 14 lines arranged according to a fixed disposition.

The word came from the Italian "sonetto", probably derived from the Old French and Provencal "sonet" a diminutive of "son" which, in turn, was obtained from the Latin "sonus", a sound or musical air.

That the sonnet originated in Italy seems definitely settled, but the manner of its origin remains an object of discussion.

That is enough background. The encyclopedia goes on and on about how the form was finally set into two major patterns. It began to be used in the 13th century

Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch) firmly established the Petrarchan form with its "abba abba cde cde or cd cd, etc." It was then introduced to Spain, then to Portugal, France, Germany, and by the 16th century it had reached England.

In England, a modification of the form was used by Shakespeare. The Petrarchan was called the compound stanza, and the modification called the simple stanza. Rhyme scheme: ab ab ab ab ab ab cc.

I have not been able to find out when the rhyme scheme changed to the pattern we use today: abab cdcd efef gg

A sonnet may be written several ways. It may be written in one continuous poem. It may be separated so the first 8 lines, called the octave, are in one continuous poem, then the sestet, or last six line section is one continuous second part of the sonnet. Or a sonnet may be written as four quatrains ending with a couplet. In all cases the stanza is written in iambic pentameter and must be fourteen lines long.

The octave in the Petrarchan carries the burden of the theme, or the premise of the theme, and the sestet turns the theme around in some way to bring it to a conclusion, to resolve the issue, or at least present another point of view. The last line, or even the couplet may be a surprise ending. The Petrarchan form is quite rigid.

The most used form in English today is the Shakespearean.

Just a brief word about rhyme itself. True rhymes are when the words sound identical: hour, sour snow, chateau.

Notice, it is not the spelling but the sound that matters. Rhymes with one or more unaccented syllables after the last accent are called "feminine". Those which end on the accent are "masculine".

feminine: crisis, sleeping, morning
masculine: laws, applause, wings, night.

Near rhymes are acceptable also: heart, heat courage, engage etc.
Twentieth century poets use them more than former poets.

Resources used: The Encyclopedia Americana
The Poet and the Poem by Judson Jerome
The Complete Rhyming Dictionary by Clement Wood
The Study and Writing of Poetry :
American Women Poets Discuss Their Craft
edited by Wauneta Hackleman

Loraine Muller

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 12 Issue 10

This Month

Saturday, December 12, 1992

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 needed. Guests are always welcomed, our meetings are open to the public.

Programs start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

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

DECEMBER PROGRAM

December is a time to celebrate--Hanukkah and Christmas; the coming of winter; the end of one year, the start of a new year. What better was to celebrate than with poems and music? DAR HEFFRON and JOAN ZVORAK are scheduled to join us and lead us in Christmas carols and hopefully, some of their own creations. Dar sings beautifully, and Joan accompanies her on guitar. If you had a chance to hear them at the summer picnic, you know this will be a great treat. Bring a friend, bring your family--help us celebrate.

THANK YOU

Our thanks to MAVIS CHRISTENSEN, for her repeat performance of her recent appearance on Suzanne Bunker's "The Weekly Reader" at KMSU radio, at our November meeting. We all enjoyed hearing the comments, and it was fun to hear SMPS, LOMP and the Woodtick poets get a plug. Thank you, Mavis!

SMPS NOTES

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES! Our year runs from January through December. Dues are \$10.00, \$3.00 for student members. Mail your dues TODAY to TREASURER ELINOR SCHMIDT, 1122 Marsh Street, Mankato, Minn. 56001. MEMBERSHIP IN SMPS IS THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!

"Reading the Famous Poets" subchapter will not have a December meeting because of the holidays. We will start up again in January. Mark the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Verna spoiled those of us who attended Novembers meeting with coffee and lots of goodies. Thank you, Verna for sharing Gus Johnson plaza with us.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. January 21, 1993--Reading the Poets, Gus Johnson Plaza, 7:00 p.m.
2. March 15, 1993 LOMP STUDENT MANNINGHAM CONTEST. Two divisions, Grades 6th -9; Grades 10 -12. See attached rules. PLEASE HELP US GET THE WORD OUT TO ALL SCHOOLS IN THE AREA--TAKE COPIES TO THOSE SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA!
3. March 15, 1993 Deadline--CONVENTION MADNESS CONTEST--win your way to the NFSPS convention (prize--hotel 4 days, meals and registration) Traditional rhymed form or blank verse-25 lines or less. Send 2 copies, as many poems as like, \$5.00 fee per poem. Send to Dr. Oscar Wright, 11 Kathy Lane, Monroe, Louisiana 71203.
4. March 15, 1993 Deadline-- NFSPS 34th annual contest.. Fifty categories. Top prize \$1,500.00 Rules available on our Contest table.
5. May 22, 1993--LOMP Spring meeting in Duluth.
6. June, 1993--NFSPS Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana. (1994 is set for Indiana)
7. July 16 through the 18, 1993--the Woodtick Poetry Gathering, Horseshoe Lake, Merrifield, Minnesota.
8. July 10, 1993 MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less.
9. LOMP NATIONAL CONTEST: DEADLINE July 31, 1993. Send S.A.S.E. to Contest Chair Pj Doyle, 4242 Stevens, Minneapolis, Mn. 55409 for complete rules. Everyone should enter this contest!

DECEMBER ASSIGNMENT

Winter or Holiday is our theme for this month's assignment. As always, strive for the fresh, original way of saying something--never cliches, hymn book text or greeting card jargon. Show your poetic ability!

There is no line limit on this poem, and it can be any form. One more hint: These assignments, although never mandatory, are to help get you past that old writer's block. Don't dust off an old poem that fits the theme--get out there and write a new one!

In JANUARY, remember to bring a poem to be critiqued for our February meeting. Our Assignment will be NFSPS Contest number 17, which can be entered anytime before March 15th. The theme is an assessment of the 20th century. 50 line limit.

PERSONAL NOTES ON SMPS MEMBERS

We were sorry to hear that Elinor Schmidt is hospitalized with lung difficulties at Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato. We hope she will be returning home soon.
Speedy recovery Elinor!

Our very best to Edna Busekist,
who continues recuperating at home after surgery.

Our sympathy and love goes out to Monica Haack on the untimely death of her nephew.

SEASON GREETINGS AND FOND WISHES to ALL OUR SMPS MEMBER who are unable to attend our meetings. We think of you when you are not with us, and miss you. We hope you can come and enjoy poetry with us in the near future. Keep writing and enjoy the holiday spirit.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

MEREDITH COOK receive a 1st place for her poem "Sea Change" in the Indiana State Fed. of Poetry Clubs (traditional sonnet) category. She won a 2nd place for "Still Life" in the Sonnet award, and a 2nd HM in the teacher award of the poets Roundtable of Arkansas National Poetry Day competition.

SHIRLEY ENSRUD received a runner up, number 1, for her poem "A Watercolor Day in the Southwest Journal Contest. She received two 2nd Places in Ohio Poetry Day contests for her poems "Rag Tag Bag Lady" and "A Child In Church". She received a 2nd place in the Florida State Contest for her poem "Questioning Destiny". She received a 9 HM for "Small Change in the New Hampshire Poetry Society Contest, and two 1st HM's in the Mid-South Poetry Festival, Tennessee for her poems "Class reunion" and "Grade A, Pasteurized, Homogenized, Vitamin D Milk". She has also read poems to her study club on October 26th and the United Methodist Women at Blue Earth on November 5th.

BILL JOHNSON had his poem "City Blocks and Boxes" published by RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Mankato). He is also pleased to announce that the Guild Press has decided to published a book of PATRICIA JOHNSON'S poetry. The book will appear in 1992, and will be entitled "NORTHWOODS COUNTRY GIRL". You can order the book at a pre-publisher's price of \$6.00 until January 10, 1993. After that date the book will cost \$8.00. Send your check of \$6.00 per book ordered to:

T.A. Publications
P.O. Box 22583
Minneapolis, Minn. 55422

MEG KRAMER had her poem "Aging" published in the Mankato State Reporter. She recently gave a poetry reading at the Truman Retirement Home.

ROY B. MOORE read poems on aging to Professor Dave Janovy's MSU class on geriatrics on November 19th.

LUCILLE NITZKOWSKI sent poems to Surfside, South Carolina, after receiving a special request.

ELINOR SCHMIDT had her poem published in RSVP in November. It was entitled "Amateur's Lament".

Do YOU have a poetry-related achievement? Let us know the details and we will be happy to spread the good news! Send any achievements to your editor at RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota. You can also write them down and submit them to your editor at the monthly meetings.



League of Minnesota Poets

The Moccasin
Official Publication

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Good Thunder, MN 56037

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Blue Earth, MN 56013

ATTENTION STUDENTS

POETRY COMPETITIONS

STATE AND NATIONAL AWARDS!

(No entry fee)

Two separate contests: Grades 6-9 (Jr. division) Grades 10-12 (Sr. division)
Sponsored by **The League of Minnesota Poets**, Deadline: **March 15, 1993 Postmark**

Minnesota students have honored our state by winning **seven** top national awards in four years: 1987, 1st place award; 1988, 5th & 8th place; 1989, 1st & 7th place; 1990, 1st & 5th place. Help us keep Minnesota in the winning circle by your participation.

The top ten League of Minnesota Poets' winners are forwarded to the NATIONAL MANNINGHAM STUDENT TRUST COMPETITION for judging and awards. The State League will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place award certificates plus seven honorable mentions. The National Manningham prizes are: 1st place, \$50; 2nd place, \$30; 3rd place, \$20 plus five honorable mentions receiving certificates in each division.

ENTRY RULES FOR STUDENTS

(Both Junior & Senior divisions)

All students attending school in Minnesota are eligible: public, parochial & private. Submit **ONE** poem typed on standard typewriter paper and one photocopy. Place poem and title only on original - **ON COPY ONLY**, type: (1) Name and complete home address (2) student's grade (3) school and its mailing address (4) type and sign this statement: "This is my original work." Poems may have been published and/or won previous awards. Nationally recognized poets are selected for judges at both state and national levels.

Mail all entries to: The League of Minnesota Poets' Student Contest Chairman Wilfred M. Johnson, 732 Garfield Avenue, North Mankato, MN 56001. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for winners' list.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD WRITING!