

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13 Issue 03

This Month
Saturday, March 12, 1993

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 BERNEAL SCHINDLE (625-7208) TO VERIFY THAT THE MEETING HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED. (note Sue Chambers not available this month)

MARCH PROGRAM

STEVE REAGAL

Professor of English at Bethany Lutheran College

will talk to us on the topic of
the importance of paradox and presence in poetry.

Steve has been a professor for 11 years at Bethany where, among other courses, he teaches Creative Writing.

Prior to that he led a interesting and varied life. Steve has been a commercial pilot, and a Lutheran pastor. He spent five years in the military, which included some time served as a aircraft Mission Commander in Vietnam.

Professor Reagal applied for and received a number of National Endowment of the Arts' grants developing the topic for this month's program. He is married, has six children, enjoys playing guitar, and admits to a little poetry writing, but finds he spends more time on speeches, where the art of poetry is extremely helpful.

COME TO CONVENTION

There is still time to let Sue Chambers know if you are coming to convention. See Calendar of Events for some financial information. We would like to get a bus together, but need to know soon if that is possible. Please fill out the form below if you think you might like to attend.

____ Yes! I want to join my fellow LOMP poets and cheer all our winners and pass the mascot Marquette the Loon, and I am interested in riding a bus to Indiana. ____ I can round up more members who want to attend. They include:

Name: _____

PHONE: _____

Barb Sherrard Morgan asked that we publish the following page, regarding the LOMP contest. Please support our contest.

LOMP WELCOMES NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR—CAROL PERKINS 4204 Park Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., and wishes LINDA SHACHER all the best, and says thank you a million times, for a job well done!

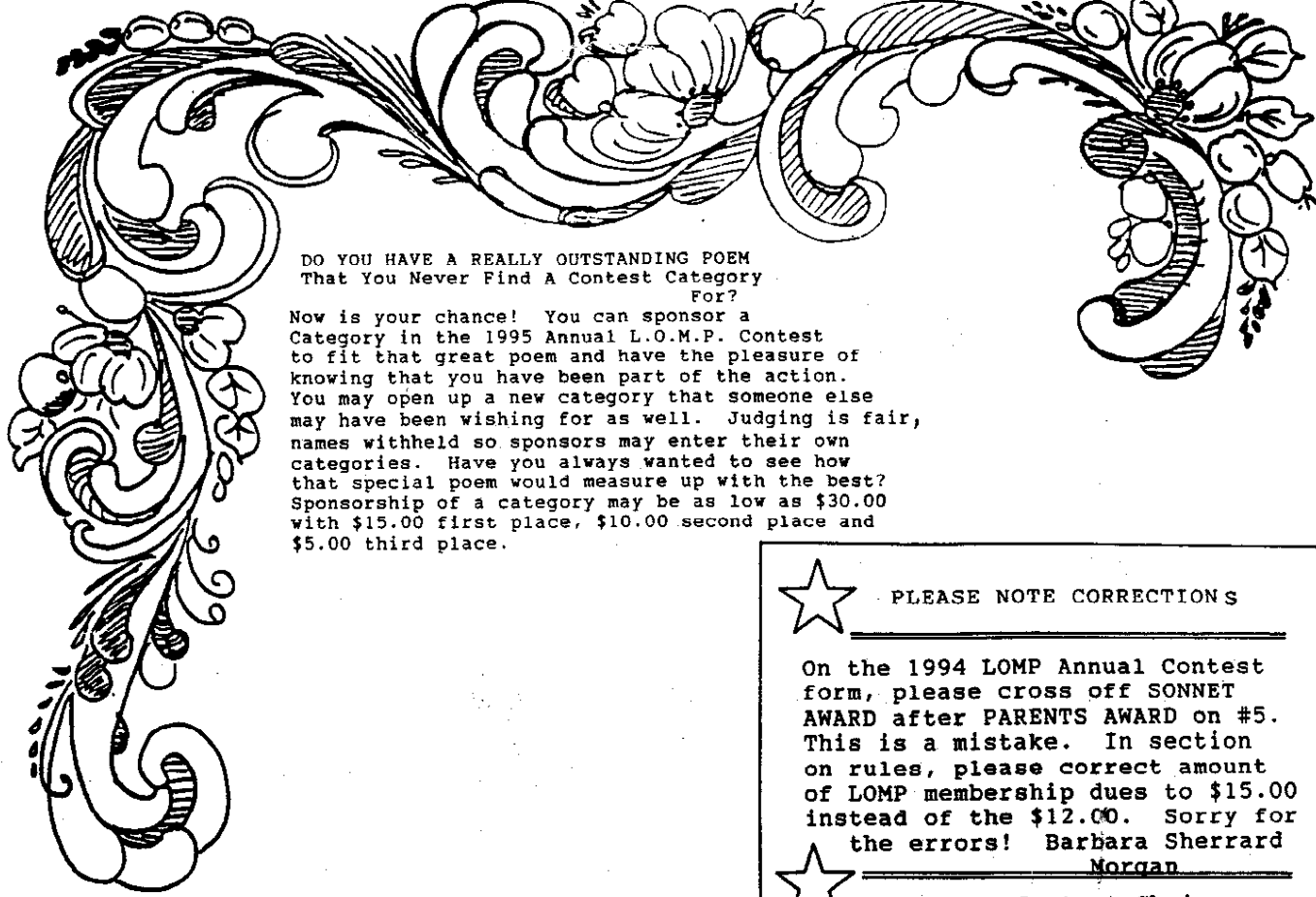
ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

OPPS—Your Editor Goofed—and not for the first time, either.

The February Achievement list was circulated at the last meeting, but your editor never got it back. Some waiter is probably wondering what to do with it. We will circulate a report at the next meeting, and cover both months in April.

SORRY!

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 (Who will try and remember to pick them up).



DO YOU HAVE A REALLY OUTSTANDING POEM
That You Never Find A Contest Category
For?

Now is your chance! You can sponsor a
Category in the 1995 Annual L.O.M.P. Contest
to fit that great poem and have the pleasure of
knowing that you have been part of the action.
You may open up a new category that someone else
may have been wishing for as well. Judging is fair,
names withheld so sponsors may enter their own
categories. Have you always wanted to see how
that special poem would measure up with the best?
Sponsorship of a category may be as low as \$30.00
with \$15.00 first place, \$10.00 second place and
\$5.00 third place.



PLEASE NOTE CORRECTIONS

On the 1994 LOMP Annual Contest
form, please cross off SONNET
AWARD after PARENTS AWARD on #5.
This is a mistake. In section
on rules, please correct amount
of LOMP membership dues to \$15.00
instead of the \$12.00. Sorry for
the errors! Barbara Sherrard

Morgan



Contest Chair

Why not say YES, I will sponsor a category
in the 1995 Poetry Contest!

Please title my category as follows: _____

(Please enclose a separate sheet with prize amounts and
suggested rules.)

_____ I would like to sponsor the same category that
I sponsored last year.

\$ _____ enclosed.

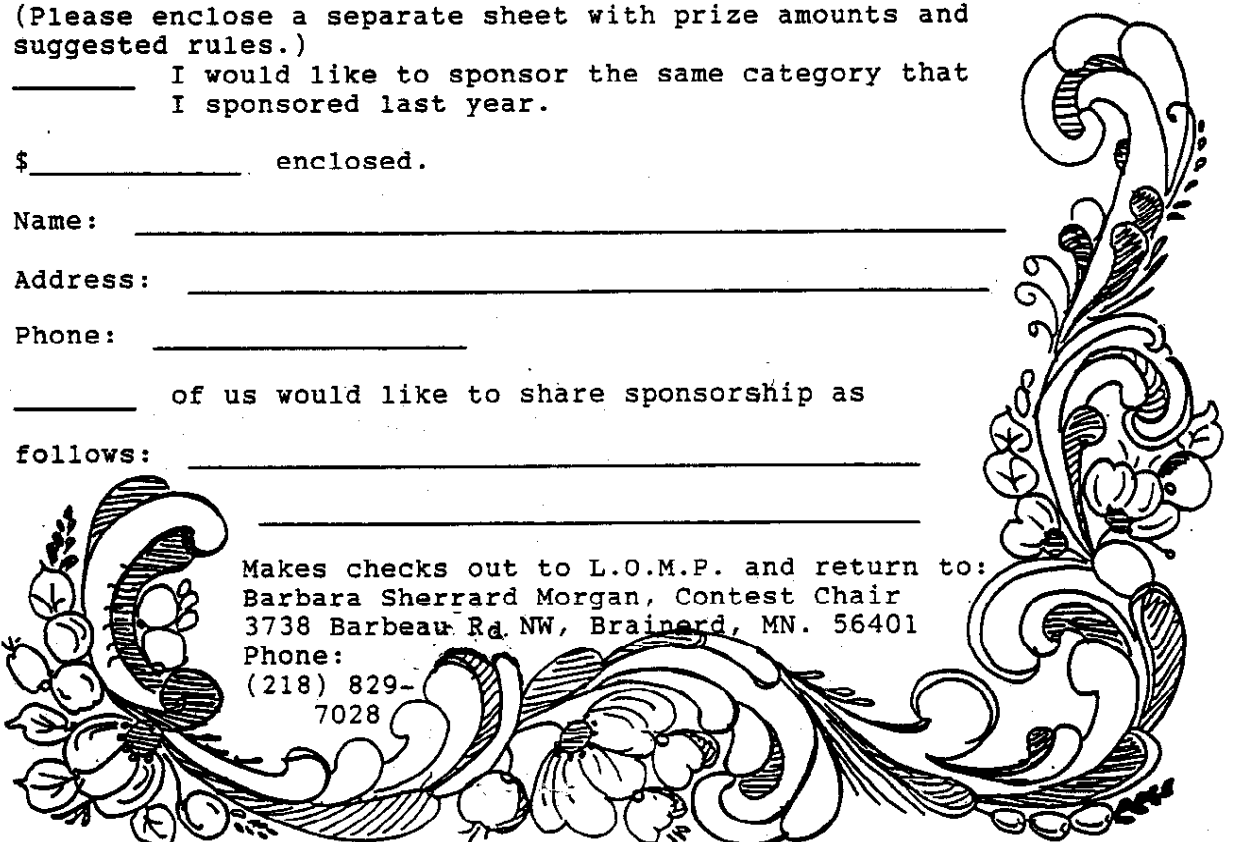
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

_____ of us would like to share sponsorship as
follows: _____

Makes checks out to L.O.M.P. and return to:
Barbara Sherrard Morgan, Contest Chair
3738 Barbeau Rd. NW, Brainerd, MN. 56401
Phone:
(218) 829-
7028



FEBRUARY THANK YOU

For February, each member brought favorite famous poets and read their love poems, in celebration of Valentines Day.

The readings were delightful, and ran from the witty and modern Dorothy Parker to Emily Dickson, with Emerson, Sandburg, and many others thrown in for good measure.

Thank you to all who participated, it was fun to have such a variety of poets to enjoy.

SMPS NOTES

DUES

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 GIFT!

Speaking of members, welcome to our new members. We hope you will enjoy being a part of the SMPS poetry family. If you live in the area, please attend our meetings. If you are a long distance friend, please be sure and share your poetry achievements with us so we can help celebrate.

LOMP membership fees are also due. Mail your dues : \$15.00 for writing or associates, \$7.00 for student members, today to
TREASURER Eleanor Burns, 3415 Lake Avenue South, Duluth,
Minnesota 55802

ASSIGNMENTS

FOR MARCH we will explore short forms: try a 12 line, serious poem or a short, funny poem. There are categories for both types of short forms in the NFSPS March 15th deadline, and our own LOMP contest, deadline July 31st.

In April we will turn to Fantasy poems, any form, no line limit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. March 15, 1994 LOMP STUDENT MANNINGHAM CONTEST. Two divisions, Grades 6th -9; Grades 10 -12. Call Bill Johnson for complete rules.
2. March 15, 1994 Deadline--CONVENTION MADNESS CONTEST--any form, no line limit. One prize \$100.00. Send 2 copies, one with your name, address and phone to Convention Contest Director Peggy Martin, RR2, Box 36, Camden, Indiana 46917. There is no mention of a fee for entering this contest.
3. March 15, 1994 Deadline--NFSPS 35th Annual Contest. Fifty categories, top prize \$1,500.00. DISCOUNT TO ENTER THIS IF YOU ARE LOMP MEMBER.
4. April 30, 1994 8:00 p.m. THE COFFEE HAG
329 N. Riverfront Drive, Mankato. Open-mike poetry reading.
5. May 21, 1994 LOMP Spring meeting at the REGENCY PLAZA HOTEL, 41 North 10th Street, in Minneapolis, 55403. Keynote Speaker Leon Knight of Writer's Guild. Seminar leader will be Robert Temple. More details in the next issue of the LOMPLIGHTER. SMPS car pool up to this event, contact Bill Johnson if you are interested.
6. June 16th through the 20th, 1994 NFSPS Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana--Theme "Crossroads of America" Keynote speaker: Lee Pennington; a panel on humorous poetry and much more. We want to rent a bus to go, need 30 to 40 riders from throughout the state if we do so. Cost would run between 50-70 dollars, and this would be great fun. Contact Sue Chambers if you are thinking of attending.
7. July 15th through the 17th, 1994 The Woodtick Poetry Gathering, (S. Dak.. and LOMP members) retreat to the cabin of Barbara Stevens on Horseshoe Lake, near Merrifield, Mn. Rules--bring food, and a half-an-hour program on poetry. ALL are welcome.
8. July 11, 1994 MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less to Editor Meredith Cook 427 Gorman Street, Blue Earth Mn. 56013. You MUST be a LOMP member to participate.
9. LOMP 10th NATIONAL CONTEST DEADLINE July 31, 1994. Rules are on our contest table or send a S.A.S.E. to Contest Chair Barbara S. Morgan, 3738 NW Barbeau Road, Brainerd, Minn. 56041 for complete rules. 20 categories, 2 student.
10. Oct. 14 and 15th LOMP FALL MEETING, Breezy Point Resort, near Brainerd.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13 Issue 05

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Saturday, May 14, 1993

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MAY PROGRAM

SUE CHAMBERS will share HUMOR IN SERIOUS POETRY. Many authors are known as serious poets, and although they may not actually write classic humorous poetry, they have a undercurrent of humor in their poetry. Susan will read some of these poems, and discuss the poets.

APRIL PROGRAM
THANK YOU

A special thank you to our speaker, BARBARA STEVENS, our own long distance LOMP and SMPS member who really knows how to put new growth into our poetry. She helped many of us "PLANT A POEM" with her many suggestions, hints and presentation recommendations, so THANK YOU!

DUES

WE DEPEND UPON OUR MEMBERS PAYING THEIR DUES! Check your records. Have you paid? Our year runs from January through December. Dues are \$10.00, \$3.00 for student members. Mail to: TREASURER ELINOR SCHMIDT, 1122 Marsh Street, Mankato, Minn. 56001. MEMBERSHIP IN SMPS IS THE PERFECT GIFT!

SMPS NOTES

The SMPS Executive Board, consisting of all officers, the editor and committee chairs, will meet immediately before the Saturday, May 14th meeting.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Sue Chambers' Office (so that we can use the computers and photocopy equipment). The Chesley, Kroon, Chambers and Ingman Law Office is located at 310 Belle Avenue, Mankato, Minnesota (on the top of the hill, right behind the Hardee's on Madison Avenue).

We will plan next year's programs and assignments, so bring your ideas. Anyone who is not on the board is welcome to attend if they have ideas they want us to consider.

ASSIGNMENTS

For May, we will try heroic blank verse.

Chaucer and many of England's great poets of the Renaissance enjoyed writing in what were called HEROIC COUPLETS, accentual verse—usually iambic meter, that were rhymed. The same form, but unrhymed, was the basis for BLANK VERSE, the form which Shakespeare, Milton and others wrote. The pattern for blank verse is a 10-syllable, 5 beat unrhymed line. Robert Frost uses the pattern in "Mending Wall" "The Death of the Hired Man".

What is IAMBIC meter? it is the unstress/STRESS syllables of the sentence (da-DUM-da-DUM-da-DUM), such as in the words toDAY, beFORE, desPAIR. Blank verse should contain ENJAMBMENT—where one line flows into the next. Judson Jerome suggests that Blank verse is a medium especially for longer narrative, didactic or dramatic poems and verse drama. "It provided a way of maintaining poetic texture while the poet dealt with necessary but relatively prosaic material—exposition, argument, dialogue, realistic representation, eloquent or rhetorical passages. It is rarely used for short, intense, subjective lyrics." Poetry by Judson Jerome, June, 1980.

~~WE ALSO HAD SOME QUESTIONS REGARDING HAIKU AT THE LAST MEETING. SEE THE ATTACHED HANDOUT FOR SOME BASIC GUIDELINES ON HAIKU.~~

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. May 21, 1994 LOMP Spring meeting at the REGENCY PLAZA HOTEL, 41 North 10th Street, in Minneapolis, 55403. Keynote Speaker Leon Knight of Writer's Guild. Seminar leader will be Robert Temple. Sign up sheet to car pool will be circulated at meeting, if you cannot attend the meeting but are interested in riding up with other SMPS poets, contact Bill Johnson.
2. June 11, 1994 SMPS ANNUAL PICNIC at the Cedar Knoll Farm Bed and Breakfast. Poets bring good food, good poems, good friends and have a good time!
3. June 15th through the 20th, 1994 NFSPS Annual Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana—Theme "Crossroads of America" Keynote speaker: Lee Pennington; a panel on humorous poetry and much more. Actually, the conference starts on Thursday, June 16th, but the bus or van will leave on the 15th. Delegates will be appointed at the May LOMP meeting.
4. July 15th through the 17th, 1994 The Woodtick Poetry Gathering, (S. Dak.. and LOMP members) retreat to the cabin of Barbara Stevens on Horseshoe Lake, near Merrifield, Mn. Rules—bring food, and a half-an-hour program on poetry. ALL are welcome.
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7. Oct. 14 and 15th LOMP FALL MEETING, Breezy Point Resort, near Brainerd.

NEW
GUIDELINES

DO YOUR HAIKU SUBMISSIONS CONTAIN ANY OF THESE ISN'TS? BETTER CHECK!

GENERALLY SPEAKING:

1. Haiku ISN'T a prose sentence divided into 3 lines. HAIKU is an art requiring study and discipline. Anything worth doing is worth doing well.
2. Haiku ISN'T always divided into 5-7-5 syllables. We prefer a short/long/short form. 5-7-5 Japanese jion (symbol sounds) are not the same as 5-7-5 English syllables.
3. Haiku ISN'T poetics, or poetical language. It IS pure poetry. Unembellished.
4. Haiku ISN'T simile, or metaphor. Simile and metaphor turn haiku into English language poetics. Avoid them, at least until you can use them properly.
5. Haiku ISN'T summed up with an intellectual statement that is actually a title line.
6. Haiku ISN'T an interpreted response. It IS an intuitional response, showing ONENESS.
7. Haiku ISN'T just any three-line poem. Or, one, two, or four line poem.
8. Haiku ISN'T a telegram. Haiku should flow from line to line. Read haiku aloud!
9. Haiku ISN'T rhymed, unless the rhyme happens naturally. Avoid run-on lines. Line endings should be as complete a thought as possible, with the total haiku as the total expression. Haiku requires a knowledge of good writing.
10. Haiku ISN'T a poem as much as it is a 'playful phrase'. Use strong, but simple words and images. Don't try to impress, or be 'cute', or shocking.
11. Haiku ISN'T of human values, morals, judgments, etc. But it can be of human living. We are all following the Way of Nature. No exposition in haiku.
12. Haiku ISN'T anthropomorphic, as in English language poetry. Don't humanize nature! No personification! Rather NATURALIZE MAN! Learn the difference!
13. Haiku ISN'T a generalization about something. Haiku is a specific thing/time/place/season/event. It IS Nature-Poetry in that it points out the NATURE OF THE
14. Haiku ISN'T a little 'story' about something. It is a sketch, an indication of deeper thoughts and emotions, which are not stated. They are implied!
15. Haiku ISN'T vague images. Be specific. Tree? What kind? Bird? What kind? etc.
16. Haiku ISN'T obscure. You may know what you are talking about. Have you given the reader enough 'clues'? What season? (Ki). What season words? (Kigo) We prefer haiku strong in seasonal implications and images.
17. Haiku ISN'T just anything that comes to mind, as in poetry. Haiku comes from direct experience. Don't tell the reader HOW, or WHAT to think! Don't interpret it.
18. Haiku ISN'T padded with adjectives and modifiers to make the 5-7-5 syllable count. Nor, are 'a' and 'the' ignored as we use them in everyday speech.
19. Haiku ISN'T overstated with 'this' 'that' and 'now' to stress the event. In haiku it is always 'now' and it is always 'this' which is before the poet's view.
20. Haiku ISN'T a formula poem. Haiku is a way of life. The poet LIVES the haiku. Haiku ISN'T about the 'pretty' nor is it about events better described by graffiti.
21. Haiku ISN'T one dimensional. It is an interplay between two or more objects. The interplay is not resolved for the reader. Enlightenment is what triggers haiku.
22. Haiku ISN'T imaginary images. It IS enlightened experience. A special moment in time.
23. Haiku ISN'T dreamed-up. Haiku IS what's happening at this place, at this time, at the time the poet experiences it, as it is written and AS IT IS READ.
24. Haiku ISN'T easy to write, but when you get "hooked" you will be glad you tried it. The discipline and study will sharpen your perceptions and improve all other fields of writing - haiku requires the right word! Haiku IS what IS.
25. If you have one or more of these ISN'TS in your haiku -- STUDY THEM AGAIN. It will save my time and your postage. HAPPY HAIKU-ING. LEH (TOMBO)

WESTERN WORLD HAIKU SOCIETY INVITES YOUR MEMBERSHIP. \$3.00. 2 NEWSLETTERS PER YEAR. WESTERN WORLD HAIKU SOCIETY sponsors an ANNUAL HAIKU CONTEST. 1976/77 ANTHOLOGY OF AWARD WINNERS is available at \$3.25 from DRAGONFLY. It contains valuable comment on prize winning haiku.

Lorraine Ellis Harr, Editor of DRAGONFLY: A JOURNAL OF HAIKU.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Shirley Ensrud read poetry at the Crescent Apartments (senior housing) monthly meeting on March 22, 1994, at Blue Earth. She also read her poetry at the annual meeting of the Southern Minn. Senior Federation held in Blue Earth on March 23, 1994.

Monica Haack had her poem Eternal Daisy published in the Christian Anthology (Poems of Praise), her poem Winter Tex-Sun published in her winter park's newsletter "The Fiesta Flash", her poem Another Donkey's Destiny published in the Our Lady of Guadalupe's of Mission, Texas Palm Sunday bulletin. This poem was also read by a poetry friend, Naomi Church, at her public reading, and she gave Monica credit in the forward of her new book "One Last Souvenir" for Monica's support and encouragement.

Mavis Christensen continues to work with inmates in the local jail on poetry. If anyone is interested in doing the same, they should talk to Mavis. Mavis also just gave her oral presentation on her master's thesis at MSU.

Lorraine Mueller read poetry on the subject of Mothers on May 2, 1994 at the Tracy United Methodist Church for United Methodist Women. She used Lenten materials when she served at Tracy UMC April 17th, and UMC churches of Hendricks and Ivanoe, April 24, 1994.

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 (Who will try and remember to pick them up).

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13 Issue 07

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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.
No reservations needed, guests always welcomed!
Programs start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

South Dakota State Poetry Society has long had a friend in poetry in our guest speaker, the Reverend ROBERT VESSEY.

A retired United Methodist minister, Bob has been past President of SDSPS, not just once, but during two separate decades, and is still active with the SDSPS board. He is always a delight to listen to, sprinkling poetry and his vocation into any discussions, always with excellent humor.

His talk is entitled "BEYOND GENESIS"

THANK YOU

Once again, the "poor poets" met on a perfect day in the pleasant month of June at Mavis Christensen's Cedar Knoll Bed and Breakfast to share food, fun and poetry.

A great time was had by all, and it was there that Mavis announced the selling of the Bed & Breakfast, and her move to Windom, which has now taken place.

Next year, she wants us to picnic with her in her new location. Our thanks to her for wonderful companionship, location and great food.

THANK YOU MAVIS!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. Oct. 14 and 15th LOMP FALL MEETING, Breezy Point Resort, near Brainerd. "A FALL FOR POETRY" with Awards night for annual LOMP national contest on Friday night.

The Literary hour will feature speaker Edith Rylander, a McNight/Loft award recipient. Barbara Stevens and Sue Chambers will critique poems—using their good cop/bad cop/Mutt and Jeff routine in the afternoon.

Bill Johnson and Sue Chambers will be arranging car pooling, contact them as soon as possible. See LOMPLIGHTER for registration sheet, or contact CHAR DONOVAN, Heartland Poet Chair, 1-218-829-5402 4092 Hartley Drive NW, Brainerd, for details.

2. Oct 15, 1994. The first annual LOMP Manuscript competition deadline. Sue Chambers serves as chair for this, and hopes everyone will help support this effort, so we can assure future years for the competition. See insert.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

MEG KRAMER'S poems were read at a Fairmont AAUW meeting this spring. Her poem "Letter From Texas To A Minnesota Friend" was featured on the front page of the Mankato State University Newspaper "Today".

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 (Who will try and remember to pick them up).

**NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.
1994 Poetry Manuscript Competition**

\$1,000 Prize and publication

DEADLINE: October 15th, 1994, postmark

Notification: Winners will be notified in January, 1995.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

Manuscripts should contain a unified theme of 20-50 pages; typewritten, title page with no identified author, pages numbered. Manuscript may consist of 50% of poems that have been previously published. Simultaneous submissions permitted. Manuscript will not be returned.

Include a cover sheet with title of work, name, address, phone number, and, if applicable, membership affiliation. If poems previously published, please list. Include #10 SASE for results.

MAIL SUBMISSION TO:

**AMY ZOOK, CHAIRMAN
NFSPS POETRY MANUSCRIPT CONTEST
3520 St. Rd 56
Mechanicsburg, Ohio 43044**

Judging shall be anonymous and by an independent judge. Winning manuscript will be offered for sale at the NFSPS annual convention in June, 1995 which will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas.

ENTRY FEE:

\$15.00 for nonmembers

\$10.00 for NFSPS members

(Membership information available by sending SASE to Barbara Stevens, NFSPS Membership Chair, 909 East 34th St, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105).

ASSIGNMENTS

Did you do your summer assignments? For summer we were to write:

1. A Traditional, Form poem, author's choice, but stick to the rules of the form you choose.
2. Any form, Subject: The Weather
3. Any form, Subject: Something uniquely North American

For September (again your editor apologizes for not getting out the Sept. newsletter) our assignment is a Harvest Poem, any form, 40 line limit. This topic is still timely, so try your hand!

For OCTOBER, in honor of our guest speaker, the Rev. Robert Vessey, try a Religious Poem, any form, 40 line limit. This was a past category in the NFSPS contest, also might fall into the "Psalms" category of the LOMP contest.

Remember, while our assignments are not mandatory they are designed to help you "stretch" your writing skills. You can never achieve if you don't pick up the pen and try something new.

INDIANAPOLIS- LOMP MEMBERS SHINE—14 LOMP members went to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies convention in Indianapolis June 15th through the 20th. Our mascot (a Loon) and all the noisemakers were extremely busy, as can be noted by the winners list in the Strophes. Meredith Cook will present her wonderful in-depth report at the LOMP Fall meeting so you can feel like you were there. Mark your calendars now for the third week in June, and plan on joining us when we take another van to ARKANSAS for next year's convention!

LOMP FALL MEETING is nearly upon us. Call Sue Chambers or Bill Johnson if you need a roommate or a ride. This convention is always a lot of fun, and the Brainerd group is an exciting, new group who deserves our support. There is still time to register, do it today!

APOLOGIES, SEPTEMBER THISTLEDOWN

Your editor was just not able to get her act together and get out the first Thistledown of the new poetry year. My grateful thanks go out to those who made the calls to members to remind them of our get reacquainted September meeting. My apologies to all members. I am still looking for some relief from the editorship, work and social demands are making it more and more difficult to manage. The ideal candidate will have a computer, and two spare hours each month to get it out. Please call Sue if you are interested, 278-4200 (leave a message if I am not there).

BEST WISHES

Our love and affection go out to those members who have not been able to join us due to health difficulties. We miss you and think of you often: Meg Kramer, Cecelia Weaver, who have announced they will not attend meetings anymore. Others who have found it difficult to make all meetings. We hope you will be able to join us, at least on occasion, and if not, know we remember your special talents in poetry.

<h3>SMPS NOTES</h3>

Friday Workshop

The Friday Workshop continues to meet and work on their poetry on Fridays. Contact Elinor Schmidt 345-5807 or Berneal Schindle 625-7208 for more details.

POETRY IN THE JAIL

Mavis Christensen would appreciate a little help with the Poetry in the Blue Earth County Jails program, someone to assist in reading and teaching the class. Call her at 524-3813 if you would like to try your hand at this worthwhile endeavor.

GIFTS OF MEMBERSHIP

This is a great time to give someone the gift of membership, as they receive the remaining months of 1994 and 1995 for the price of annual dues \$10.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students.

Mail your dues to our Treasurer

Elinor Schmidt

1122 Marsh Street

Mankato, Minn. 56001

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Volume 13 Issue 08

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Programs start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

South Dakota State Poetry Society has again come to our rescue, this time because one of our own members has just returned from presenting a program at their fall meeting as part of a larger panel discussion on forms of poetry.

Our own BILL JOHNSON will discuss the joy of poetry, teaching of poetry and, always a special treat, share some examples by reading from his own works.

Bill is our own LOMP Poet Laureate, a talented writer, teacher and has recently been named to the Mn. State Arts Board, Artist in Residency teaching program.

His talk is entitled
"GETTING PUBLISHED ON GRANDMA'S FRIDGE"

THANK YOU

A special thank you to SDSPS member Robert Vessey, who delighted all of us with his special wit and lively poetry. We enjoyed his ability to weave a creative story, so that you never knew you were getting banged over the head until he finished. We had a lively discussion from the thoughts he presented. Robert stayed and shared poetry with us, as well. Thank you Robert Vessey! We are delighted you took the time and traveled so far to be with us. It was greatly appreciated by all members present.

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Mail your dues to our Treasurer

Elinor Schmidt

1122 Marsh Street

Mankato, Minn. 56001

Don't forget LOMP dues, which can be mailed to Shirley Ensrud, LOMP Treasurer, 208 South Main Street, Blue Earth, Minn. 56013. Dues for LOMP, which also makes you a NFSPS member, are \$15.00, \$8.00 for students. Membership is open to all, so if you have been thinking of joining but haven't taken the plunge, now is the time!

ASSIGNMENTS

Our assignments are not mandatory, but we think they are worth doing, for they are designed to help you "stretch" your writing skills. You can never achieve if you don't pick up the pen and try something new.

For November, try your hand at an assignment that shows up in NFSPS contest 37: Any form, Subject: relating to Indians, 24 line limit.

For December we will do our traditional stint of winter or Christmas poems—but make sure you write a new one, don't just pull the old one out, and make sure it is new and original, not just another Hallmark card.

LOMP FALL MEETING WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

October 15th was POETRY DAY and we in Minnesota helped celebrate it in grand style at our fall LOMP meeting. Breezy Point was the pleasing location for our fall meeting. Our hosts, the Heartland Poets showed us a great time and were very organized!

Contests winners were announced on Friday evening. On Saturday, Edith Rylander, recipient of two Bush Art Fellowships, was an excellent guest speaker in the morning and in the afternoon Sue Chambers and Barbara Stevens put on their "Mutt and Jeff/good cop, bad cop" show to critique submitted poems. And of course, there was plenty of time to network with other poets from all across our state, and make plans for our upcoming trip to the next NFSPS convention.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

1994 Annual LOMP Contest Winners included SMPS members as follows: Christina Chambers #19 3rd place; Shirley Ensrud #18 4 HM, #14 8 HM, #9 3 HM; Meredith Cook #18 3rd place, #5 1 HM, #2 8 HM; Sue Chambers #18 1st Place, #12 5 HM, #10 2 HM, #8 3rd place, #4 8HM, #1 2 HM; Kathleen Pederzani (Out of state member—Penn) #17 4 HM, #11 3rd Place, #6 3rd Place, #4 3 HM, #3 1 HM, #2 1 HM; Berneal Schindle #17 1 HM, #3 7 HM; Wilfred Johnson #15 3rd Place, #5 7 HM, #2 4 HM; Monica Haack #14 7 HM; Barbara Stevens #14 5 HM, #5 6 HM; #4 5 HM, #2 7 HM; Charlotte Seward (Out of state member—Illinois) #10 6 HM; Loraine Mueller #7 3rd Place, #3 3 HM; Cecelia Weaver #6 2 HM

The following SMPS members won in the 1994 S. Dak. State Contest: Sue Chambers #8 1 HM "Radio Automatic Shut Off, #1 3 HM "An Early Christmas Present"; Kathleen Pederzani #8 1st Place "Brooding"; Barbara Stevens #5 1 HM "South Dakota's Winter Tale".

CECELIA WEAVER had two poems printed in the Hillcrest Newsletter, one of which is reproduced elsewhere. Space permitting, we will reprint the other one in an upcoming issue.

CHARLOTTE SEWARD, a founding member of SMPS who now lives in Illinois sends her best wishes to all. Besides her win mentioned above, she won a 2 HM in contest #4 of the West Virginia Society Contest.

LORAIN MUELLER gave a Mother's Day program for United Methodist Meeting in May. She was also asked to read her "Centennial Sonnet" at the celebration service of the Sanborn United Methodist Church.

MONICA HAACK read her "School Daze" poem at a Potluck for Senior Baptists group in Seattle, Wash. Her "Eternal Daisy" poem was read by her sister at a funeral, also Monica read it as a part of the 10th anniversary of the Hospice program, and it was reprinted in the program.

She gave a reading for Belgrade United Methodist Ladies and wrote a article entitled "Golden Gathering" for the 50th anniversary of the graduating class of the Good Counsel Academy. She was busy this summer! She also shared a page of poems at a retreat at Holy Spirit Retreat Center, and is now "snowbirding" her way down to Texas.

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 (Who will try and remember to pick them up).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. December 10, 1994 SMPS CHRISTMAS FAMILY GET TOGETHER. This meeting is always special, full of good Christmas poetry and good music. Plan on inviting family members to join us.
2. March 15, 1995 NFSPS Annual competition deadline. 50 contests, last contest is open to students, top prize \$1,500! Obtain rules at our monthly book table, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to Kay Kinnaman, Strophes editor, RR3, Box 348, Alexandria, Indiana 46001. THERE IS A DISCOUNT IN YOUR ENTRY FEE IF YOU ARE A LOMP MEMBER.
2. May 6, 1995 SMPS hosts spring LOMP meeting. Details to be planned in January.
3. June , 1995 NFSPS ANNUAL CONVENTION, Little Rock Arkansas. We will take a bus if we can get enough riders, so plan on coming with us! Remember LOMP hosts this event in the year 2000, so we all need a few conventions under our belt.
4. July 14 through 16th, 1995 The WOODTICK POETRY GATHERING (South Dakota and LOMP poets) retreat to the cabin of Barbara Stevens on Horseshoe Lake, near Merrifield, Minn.
5. July , 1995 MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less to Editor Meredith Cook, 427 Gorman Street, Blue Earth, Minn. 56013. You **MUST** be a LOMP member to participate, and why wait until the last minute, if you send the poems in now, Meredith can start work right away!
6. July 31st, 1995 LOMP 11th NATIONAL CONTEST. Rules are at our book table, or send SASE to Contest Chair Robert Temple, 1011 Cottage Place, St. Paul, Minn. 55126.

SMPS NOTES

Friday Workshop

The Friday Workshop would like some new members. Consider meeting with them and working on your poetry on Fridays. Contact Elinor Schmidt 345-5807 or Berneal Schindle 625-7208 for more details.

CECELIA WEAVER, our long time and cherished member who has recently become a resident of the Hillcrest Health Care Center, had some of her poems published by the nursing homes newsletter "Dimensions" We miss sharing Cecelia's poems at meetings, so thought it was appropriate to reprint one of those poems here.

"YESTERDAY"

"But that was yesterday."

"But that was yesterday."

"But that was yesterday."

We heard the constant repetitious voice
before we say her gerichair.

From beyond the present came the words:

"But that was yesterday."

From daytime, deep,
unconscious repeat proclaimed
her heartfelt philosophy.

"But that was yesterday."

Hail hammered corn and beans to soil.

"But that was yesterday."

Radium treatments came the following March

"But that was yesterday."

Tony totaled the new, red Chevy truck.

"But that was yesterday."

The pain and tears are past.

"But that was yesterday."

"Sun warms the world.
Spring comes in May.
Joy lies ahead," she said,
"and heaven, too, for
that was yesterday."

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13 Issue 09

SEASON'S GREETINGS SEASON'S GREETINGS

This Month—Saturday, December 10, 1994

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. No reservations needed, guests always welcomed! Programs start promptly at 1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Bring your family members and help us celebrate poetry during the season of festivities! For both Christian and non-Christian this is a time of reverence, whether your celebration is Hanukkah, the winter solstice, or the birth of Jesus Christ.

We embrace the warmth and goodwill all of these holidays bring; the celebrating of friendship and family, the hope for better tomorrows, the joy of giving. Let us share our talents for writing, for we truly have a wonderful gift and should not keep it to ourselves.

Bring your Christmas and winter poems to be read. We will also have holiday music, and for that, we are fortunate to have RON ARSENAULT, a Jefferson 3rd grade elementary school teacher with a great music talent: singing and guitar playing. He has been active in a number of acoustical bands in the area, and delights teachers, students and parents daily in his classroom by incorporating music into his lessons.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Bill Johnson for his talk at our November meeting. We are lucking to have the talents of LOMP'S Poet Laureate in our neighborhood!
Thank you Bill, for all your efforts to get out the good words--poetry words, that is!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. January 1, 1995 DUES FOR LOMP and SMPS due. Pay them promptly so our LOMP treasurer can submit an updated list to NFSPS contest chair to let them know you are entitled to a discount for entering the March competition.
2. March 15, 1995 NFSPS Annual competition deadline. 50 contests, last contest is open to students, top prize \$1,500! Obtain rules at our monthly book table, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to Kay Kinnaman, Strophes editor, RR3, Box 348, Alexandria, Indiana 46001. THERE IS A DISCOUNT IN YOUR ENTRY FEE IF YOU ARE A LOMP MEMBER.
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NOTE

Many local restaurants are now offering open mikes for reading poetry from time to time. Show them we care about poetry by attending. The Coffee Hag on North Riverfront has Friday night readings a couple times each month, there are weekly readings at Maggie's restaurant up by MSU. Watch the newspaper for times, or call the place directly to inquire.

Also, be sure and attend local poetry events. If we don't participate, the events may not happen. Gustavus Adolphus offers a great series, MSU has the Good Thunder Reading Series. Broaden your poetry horizons, and let others know that SMPS is alive and kicking!

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

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 (Who will try and remember to pick them up).

Your editor missed the last meeting, and no-one forwarded on a achievement list from those who were there, so we will have a double report next month.

Instead, we will do another poem of long-time member Cecelia Weaver, who can no longer attend meetings.

PANSIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

Cecelia Weaver, resident of Hillcrest Health Care Center

Grandmother always had a pansy bed
outside her kitchen door.
When picked for a bouquet
they were put in glassware
atop a mirror "plateau"
on the dining room buffet.

One Year when Grandfather was asked
°what plant shall we get for Mom
on Mother's Day?',
he said
"two boxes of pansy plants,
one red, one blue.
During summer days, when pansies bloom,
their pansy faces will say to her
°all of us still love you.'"

SMPS NOTES

GIFTS OF MEMBERSHIP

This is a great time to give someone the gift of membership, DUES ARE DUE IN JANUARY, 1995 for the price \$10.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students. Mail your dues to our Treasurer

Elinor Schmidt
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

Don't forget LOMP dues, which can be mailed to Shirley Ensrud, LOMP Treasurer, 208 South Main Street, Blue Earth, Minn. 56013. Dues for LOMP, which also makes you a NFSPS member, are \$15.00, \$8.00 for students. Membership is open to all, so if you have been thinking of joining but haven't taken the plunge, now is the time!

SMPS will be hosting the Spring LOMP meeting. We need help! Someone who can locate a meeting place, and help coordinate the program. Please let President Loraine know you will be glad to help ASAP!

ASSIGNMENTS

Our assignments are not mandatory, but we think they are worth doing, for they are designed to help you "stretch" your writing skills. You can never achieve if you don't pick up the pen and try something new.

Our assignment for December is our winter or Christmas poems—make sure you write a new one, use images and words that are original, no trite sentimentality.

For January, our assignment follows NFSPS contest #17—a sequence (three or more) of the Crapsey cinquain. A cinquain is a strong, image poem with no unnecessary words. Each line has precise syllable counts as follows:

2
4
6
8
2

For February we will explore the subject of Pioneer Spirit, which follows the LOMP national contest. Full rules will be printed next month.