

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13 Issue 01

This Month
Saturday, January 8, 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 SUE
CHAMBERS (278-4200) OR BERNEAL SCHINDLE (625-7208) TO
VERIFY THAT THE MEETING HAS NOT BEEN CANCELLED.

JANUARY PROGRAM

DISCUSSION GROUP

We will look to the insights and talents of our own members
by holding a discussion group, moderated by our new
President Loraine Mueller.

We will use this time to discuss the intriguing topic:
"POETS AS HISTORIANS".

DECEMBER THANK YOU

A special thank you to all our guests, new and old members,
and family friends who gathered with us to share the holiday
spirit through poetry. It was especially fun to see some of
those poets who have not been able to attend meetings as
frequently.

While we missed Dar Hefron and Joan Zvorak, who were laid
low by the flu, it was a warm and friendly meeting full of
music and good poems. We also had time to say goodbye to
those snow birds who now head south until we thaw out a
little more.

SMPS NOTES

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS, newly elected for a two year term:

President.....Lorraine Schwanke Mueller
Vice President.....Paul Walsh
Secretary.....Verna Larson
Treasurer.....Elinor Schmidt

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!

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

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: to write! write! write! These assignments are designed to do just that. Make a resolution for the New Year NOT to say "I can't" or "I just don't work well under pressure" or "mine never turn out" and instead, concentrate on learning a new form, finding a unique way of expressing yourself in the assigned topic, and writing a new poem. If you are then also fortunate enough to have a new poem that fits a certain publication or contest, send that poem out, so others can enjoy your talent as well!

JANUARY is a time for new beginnings. This assignment is POETS CHOICE: any form, any subject. Just make sure it is a new poem, recently written.

FEBRUARY is the time for love, and love is what we all want to try our literary hand at. Write a Love poem, concerning loftier aspects (no trite sentimentality) 40 line limit, any form. This follows the NFSPS #15 Alabama State Poetry Society Contest in the NFSPS contest, deadline March 15th.

In the alternative, if your mind is just not thinking about love, write a poem for Children (NOT ABOUT CHILDREN).

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

BONNIE ANN WOLLE's poem "Love Lights a Tree", a poem written by request for the Cancer Society, was published in the Truman Tribune in Dec. of 1993, it was published in the Fairmont Sentinel in Dec. of 1992.

Bonnie also wrote two environmental poems, by request, which were published in the Martin County Solid Waste pamphlet.

PAUL WALSH wrote the clues for the Easton Christmas Medallion hunt. The kids found it a half an hour after the clues (which were mostly in verse!) were handed out.

BERNEAL DODGE SCHINDLE read two of her poems "Santa Claus—Forget It" and "Amos Alonzo Dodge" at the Zetetic Club on Dec. 6th, 1993.

BILL JOHNSON will be teaching poetry in the schools for ten weeks this year—six weeks in Albert Lea (a return trip) and two weeks in Wells, and two weeks at Bricelyn.

MONICA HAACK was published in the Mankato Free Press Accent Column. Here "mud Lake Swim With Memories" was reprinted in the Mankato 30-40- Club Newsletter.

Her teacher tribute poem "Design For Living" was published in her hometown newspaper, the Fulda Free Press, in the November Education Issue.

Monica's poem "A Patchwork Quilt For Baby Jesus" and additional designed on paper quilt for coloring was used as a First Grade Class project.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. February 15, 1994 NFSPS College Scholarship deadline. Senior and Junior college students may submit 10 original poems. Publication of a chapbook, and a \$500.00 scholarship. Send S.A.S.E. to Sue Chambers, RR3, Box 86, Good Thunder, Minn. 56037 for application form.
2. March 15, 1994 LOMP STUDENT MANNINGHAM CONTEST. Two divisions, Grades 6th -9; Grades 10 -12. See Bill Johnson for complete 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, 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.
4. March 15, 1994 Deadline--NFSPS 35th Annual Contest. Fifty categories. Top prize \$1,500.00 Rules available on our Contest table or by sending S.A.S.E. to Kay Hight Kinnaman, Strophes Editor, RR3, Box 348, Alexandria, Indiana 46001. DISCOUNT TO ENTER THIS IF YOU ARE LOMP MEMBER.
5. May, 1994 LOMP Spring meeting in Minneapolis.
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.
7. July 15th through the 17th, 1994 The Woodtick Poetry Gathering, (South Dakota and LOMP members) retreat to the cabin home of Barbara Stevens on Horseshoe Lake, near Merrifield, Minnesota. 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 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. Everyone should enter this contest! 20 categories, 2 student categories.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13 Issue 02

This Month

Saturday, FEBRUARY 13, 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 SUE CHAMBERS (278-4200) OR BERNEAL SCHINDLE (625-7208).

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Members will critique poems. When critiquing, make your criticisms general--do not rewrite the poem, but rather point out to the writer what is observable from the reader's point of view. (Not--"You should use the word beautiful instead of striking" but rather "Did you really use to mean the work Striking? Isn't there some other word that might better give the reader a image?") Questions rather than one absolute suggestion are usually more helpful to the poet.

It is sometimes also helpful to begin your critique by summarizing what you think the poem means. This will help the writer know if they were clear enough in their subject. Some of the areas to review include: looking for a strong title; eliminating padding words; looking for metaphor, similie, and personification; looking for beauty in rhythm, sound and form.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RICHARD ROBBINS, OUR JANUARY PROGRAM

RICHARD ROBBINS, MSU English Professor conducted a lively writing workshop that produced some great results. Thank you, Richard, for helping the creative juices, and for stimulating us with some of your own works.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

MEG KRAMER was honored by POETS IN WORK in their January-February issue as Distinguished Poet. This features one particular poet with a page of their work. Jesse Poet editor who is in charge of selection of this poet, also places a postcard in each member's copy of Poets In Work, so they can write to the poet they most enjoyed, and Meg has been receiving cards!

WILFRED JOHNSON has been teaching ALBERT LEA students for the past two weeks as their "POET IN THE SCHOOLS" and it now looks as though they want to extend his contract, perhaps to as much as six weeks! Good work, Bill. He has also been participating in the Poetry in the Jail program in Mankato.

MAVIS CHRISTENSEN has been a mainstay participant in the Poetry in the Jail Program in Mankato. She reports that the sessions have been lively and very fulfilling.

SUE CHAMBERS will read her poetry and talk about poetry for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato on March at 10:30 a.m. The talk is entitled "Vital Words".

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.

PERSONAL NOTES ON SMPS MEMBERS

MEG KRAMER was recently at the Mayo Clinic having "plumbing" worked on, and is now enjoying a little sunshine in Texas to help recuperate.

Continued best wishes for BERNEAL SCHINDLE and her husband, BOB, who is undergoing treatment at Mayo for cancer.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. February 11, 1993--Cary Waterman will be the next Good Thunder Reading Series presenter at MSU. Talk on Craft at 3:00 p.m. at Conference Auditorium, Centennial Student Union, Reading at 7:30 p.m., Rm 253 CSU.
 2. February 18, 1993--SMPS Reading the Poets, Gus Johnson Plaza, 7:00 p.m. Use the back door.
 3. March 15, 1993 LOMP STUDENT MANNINGHAM CONTEST. Two divisions, Grades 6th -9; Grades 10 -12. Rules available by contacting Wilfred Johnson.
 4. 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.
 5. March 15, 1993 Deadline-- NFSPS 34th annual contest. Fifty categories. Top prize \$1,500.00. Rules available on our Contest table.
 6. May 22, 1993--LOMP Spring meeting in Duluth.
 7. June 17th - 21st, 1993--NFSPS Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana. (1994 is set for Indiana)
 8. July 10, 1993 MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less.
 9. July 16 through the 18, 1993--the Woodtick Poetry Gathering, Horeshoe Lake, Merrifield, Minnesota.
 10. 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!
11. October 15th and 16th, 1993--LOMP Fall Meeting, Good Counsel Center, Mankato, Minnesota.

FEBRUARY ASSIGNMENT

In February we try the Triolet, a French form. This is an eight line, iambic pentameter with a rhyme scheme ABaAabAB, two rhymes only. Lines 1, 4, 7 are identical but words may vary slightly; lines 2 and 8 are identical (B); lines 3 and 5 rhyme with 1, 4, and 7; line 6 rhymes with 2 and 8.

Iambic meter is a soft -HARD beat such as in the word explode.

AMY ZOOK in her handouts from her visit to us last year had an example of a triolet:

LINGERING PERFORMANCE

Lingering glow in autumn days
stretches hearts to higher trill,
red in slanted sunset rays'
lingering glow. In autumn days
scarletly the sumac plays
soft applause upon the hill.
Lingering glow in autumn days
stretches hearths to higher trill.

In the STUDY AND WRITING OF POETRY: AMERICAN WOMEN POETS DISCUSS THEIR CRAFT, edited by Wauneta Hackleman (The Whitson Publishing Company, Troy New York, 1983) Marcel Brown comments--

"the simple pattern does not suggest or explain how the Triolet can be a delightful and lyrical outpouring of enthusiasm or praise for a sudden sight or sound or taste or feeling that overwhelms the poet until it must be expressed--then explained--then expressed again. A Triolet is frequently a paen of praise.

A Triolet can be written in three-foot lines, or four-foot lines. What is being said determines the length. Line length is not the primary edging of the Triolet form. Its exclamation-point outpouring is its chief charm." Her sample:

TRIOLET FOR SPRING

When bluets have captured the blue of the sky
And carpet my field with a velvet sheen
My mind awakes and hope leaps high.
When bluets have captured the blue of the sky
My heart responds with the ageless cry:
"Spring is here!" Its Promise is seen
For bluets have captured the blue of sky
and carpet my field with a velvet sheen.

SMPS NOTES

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES! \$10.00, \$3.00 for student members. Mail your dues TODAY to:

TREASURER ELINOR SCHMIDT
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

It is also time to pay LOMP Dues. LOMP dues include membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, are \$12.00, \$7.00 for students. Mail these dues directly to

Eleanor Burns
LOMP Treasurer
3415 Lake Avenue South
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

SMPS subchapter "Reading the Famous Poets" will meet February 18th at the Gus Johnson plaza. Sorry for the mix-up in dates last month, your editor must have been looking at a 1992 calendar! Mark the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.. Bring fifteen minutes of one famous poet's work to read. Also a little about the poet, if you can.

LOMP FALL MEETING

SMPS will host the fall meeting, and reservations have been made at Good Counsel. The facility is very pleasant, and offers an atmosphere similar to the Assissi Center. The fall meeting will be held on October 15th and 16th, so we will also do something to celebrate Poetry Day. Be sure and let Berneal Schindle know what special talents you have that SMPS can make use of to help out for this event. Berneal has sign up sheets for all committees. Is your name on one of them?

SMPS GOES TO JAIL!

SMPS members who wish to teach poetry in the jail can now participate in a program through the Blue Earth County Program Coordinator, Jack Consodine. So far, Bill Johnson and Mavis Christensen have shared their talents and encouraged the creativity of residents of the Blue Earth County Law Enforcement Center. Classes take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Jack Consodine sits in on the class, and Mavis and Bill report that enthusiasm is high and the class is very stimulating. Members who wish to participate must fill out a application form, which can be obtained from Paul Horrisberger, Blue Earth County Volunteer Coordinator at 389-8319

This month:

Saturday, March 13, 1993
VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT
820 SOUTH FRONT STREET
MANKATO, MINNESOTA
11:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

DUTCH
TREAT

MARCH MEETING

Assignment:

*PARENTAL THEME POETRY IN ANY FORM,
50 LINES OR LESS

*A RECITATION OF POEMS

BY CHARLES SERIE

*PROGRAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 1 P.M.

Cancelled

*Bring your
Favorite
Short Poem*

APRIL MEETING

Assignment:

*POETRY WITH A HUMOROUS THEME
IN ANY FORM,
50 LINE MAXIMUM

*PLEASE NOTE:

THE APRIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED
ONE WEEK EARLY. IT WILL BE ON APRIL 3
RATHER THAN THE DAY BEFORE EASTER.

An Editorial Note:

This will be a short-short version of our usual newsletter.

The reason is that our usual capable editor, Sue Chambers,
has fled away to the mountains for a skiing holiday.

The person sitting in for her has not yet become proficient on
a newly purchased word processor so the Achievement
Report will not appear this month.

Some Dates to Remember:

1. March 15, 1993 --LOMP STUDENT MANNINGHAM CONTEST. TWO DIVISIONS: GRADES 6-9; GRADES 10-12.
RULES AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING WILFRED JOHNSON.
2. MARCH 15, 1993 DEADLINE --CONVENTION MADNESS CONTEST --WIN YOUR WAY TO THE NFSPS CONVENTION
(PRIZE IS 4 HOTEL DAYS, MEALS AND REGISTRATION). TRADITIONAL RHYMED FORM OR BLANK VERSE - 25 LINES OR
LESS SEND TWO COPIES, AS MANY POEMS AS YOU LIKE; FEE IS \$5 PER POEM. MAIL TO DR. OSCAR WRIGHT, 11
KATHY LANE, MONROE, LA 71203.
3. MARCH 15, 1993 DEADLINE-- NFSPS 34TH ANNUAL CONTEST. FIFTY CATEGORIES. TOP PRIZE IS \$1500. SEE
RULES ON OUR CONTEST TABLE.
4. MAY 22, 1993 --LOMP SPRING MEETING IN DULUTH
5. JUNE 17-21, 1993--NFSPS ANNUAL CONVENTION, NEW ORLEANS, LA.+++++++1994 CONVENTION-INDIANA
6. JULY 10, 1993 MOCCASIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE. SEND AT LEAST 6 POEMS, 24 LINES OR LESS.
7. JULY 16-18, 1993 ---WOODTICK POETRY GATHERING--HORSEHOE LAKE, MERRIFIELD, MN
8. JULY 31, 1993--LOMP NATIONAL CONTEST DEADLINE. FOR COMPLETE RULES, SEND SASE TO: CONTEST CHAIR
P.J. DOYLE, 4242 STEVENS, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55409.
9. OCT. 15-16, 1993 -- LOMP FALL MEETING, GOOD COUNSEL CENTER, MANKATO, MN.

(MORE DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC WHEN WE MEET MARCH 13)

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13

Issue 04

This Month

NOTE TO ALL SMPS MEMBERS--THIS IS NOT THE NORMAL MEETING DAY
BECAUSE OF EASTER. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS SO YOU DO NOT
MISS OUR APRIL MEETING!!!!!!

Saturday, April 3, 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 SUE
CHAMBERS (278-4200) OR BERNEAL SCHINDLE (625-7208).

APRIL PROGRAM

Gary Fey, a Good Thunder artist who works on silk, will
speak on illustrating for poetry. He is an artist in the
schools, and if you have ever been in Good Thunder, you can
see a large canvas of his encased in rock in the little
park

on their main street. This work depicts Good Thunder's
history and the people, and is especially beautiful when the
sun is shining on it. He has also had a number of shows in
the area, and sells his work nationwide.

His creations are vibrant and exciting, and he is sure to
have some challenging ideas for all poets.

THANK YOU

Our March Program is a fine example of cooperation and the
wonderful talents of our own members. Each was asked to
bring a reading, and the program was lively and varied.
Thank you, members for being so good about sharing your many
talents. You make the Club look good.

AND THANKS, AGAIN

Your editor is especially grateful to Mavis Christensen who filled in as guest editor last month, while the editor scrambled to "catch up". Thank you, Mavis, your help came just in the nick of time.

SMPS NOTES

All DUES ARE OVERDUE! \$10.00, \$3.00 for student members. Mail your dues TODAY to:

TREASURER ELINOR SCHMIDT
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

It is also past time to pay LOMP Dues. LOMP dues include membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, are \$12.00, \$7.00 for students. Mail these dues directly to

Eleanor Burns
LOMP Treasurer
3415 Lake Avenue South
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

LOMP FALL MEETING

SMPS will be hosting the LOMP fall meeting, and has already reserved the Good Counsel facilities. The rooms are spacious, the food delicious, the scenery from the top of bluff overlooking the Minnesota River Valley is spectacular. Best of all, the prices are so reasonable that many of our SMPS local members will stay overnight to join our out-of-town guests and share poetry. Have you made your plans to join us?

Lucille Morgan Wilson, of Iowa is scheduled to be our keynote speaker for our fall meeting. She is a diverse and stimulating poet who is active in NFSPS. She is also a member of LOMP, and often wins in our competition (as well as many other national competitions). She is equally skilled in free and traditional verse.

President Berneal has made committee assignments. Be sure and ask her how you can help, and if your name is not on a committee assignment sheet, sign up!

SMPS GOES TO JAIL!

SMPS members who wish to teach poetry in the jail can now participate in a program through the Blue Earth County Program Coordinator, Jack Consodine. Classes take place on the first and third Wednesday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Members who wish to participate must fill out an application form, which can be obtained from Paul Horrisberger, Blue Earth County Volunteer Coordinator at 389-8319.

SMPS AND LOMP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Now is time to think about traveling to DULUTH for the spring meeting as a group. If there is enough interest we could rent a bus, or car pool. Reservations should be made soon if there is a desire to stay overnight on either Friday or Saturday night. If you are interested in sharing the rides, or offering a ride, please contact Sue Chambers, RR 3, Box 86, Good Thunder, Minn. 56037 (507)278-4200.

THE LOMPLIGHTER NEWSLETTER will be coming out shortly with all the details and registration blanks. Look in your mail, and if you are not a LOMP member, wouldn't this be a great time to join so you can participate in the fun?

NFSPS CONVENTION

LOMP is entitled to 5 delegates to the upcoming NFSPS convention. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact Sue Chambers soon so delegates can be certified.

Also, registration information is in the current STROPHES which will be distributed with the LOMPLIGHTER. Hotel information indicates that up to four people can share a room. If someone is planning on driving down rather than flying, please let us know so we can perhaps check for extra riders. If you are interested, please contact Sue Chambers and we can coordinate between all who are attending. The more the merrier!

Our mascot, Marquette the Loon, will hopefully ride in the arms of the last LOMP winner, to be proudly passed on to whoever takes honors at this convention. Hope LOMP members submitted lots of entries to the contests so we have plenty to cheer about.

APRIL ASSIGNMENT

It seems like every contest is looking for humorous poetry. Ask NFSPS members Maureen Cannon or Irene Warsaw what poems they sell to national magazines like McCall's, Good Housekeeping, Reader's Digest--it is the humor poem, of course! Now it is your turn. Tickle you funny bone, and shake loose that humorous poem, any form, 16 lines or less.

In MAY, we will try our hands at poetry for children.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. May 22, 1993--LOMP Spring meeting in Duluth. Look for registration blanks in the next LOMPLIGHTER newsletter. See above for car pooling information.

2. June 17th - 21st, 1993--NFSPS Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana. LOMP is entitled to five delegates. You could be one!

3. July 10, 1993--MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send Editor Meredith Cook, 527 Galbraith, Blue Earth, Minn. 56013, at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less for your file. You must be a member of LOMP to submit.

4. July 16 through the 18, 1993--the Woodtick Poetry Gathering, Horeshoe Lake, Merrifield, Minnesota. This is open to any poet who is willing to bring some good food, and a half an hour program of their choice. (They should also be prepared to write poetry, take boat rides, swim, take long walks, and have one heck of a good time!)

5. July 31, 1993--LOMP NATIONAL CONTEST DEADLINE. Send S.A.S.E. to:

Contest Chair Pj Doyle
4242 Stevens
Minneapolis, Mn. 55409

for complete rules. Discount fees are available for LOMP members. Student categories as well as adult, traditional, humorous and free verse. Everyone should enter this contest!

6. October 15th and 16th, 1993--LOMP Fall Meeting, Good Counsel Center, Mankato, Minnesota. Friday night, Banquet, and LOMP Contest results read and announced. Saturday, meeting, keynote speaker Lucille Morgan Wilson and afternoon critique seminar. OCTOBER 15th is also National Poetry Day and we will be celebrating.

THISTLE-DOWN

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Issue 05

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MAY PROGRAM--ATTENTION ALL STUDENT MEMBERS!

This is a program you really must catch. LaVon Smasal, coordinator of the High Potential Program for District 77 (Mankato School District) and a creative writing teacher for students within that program will be talking to us regarding working with children and encouraging them to write.

Each year teachers bring to her attention students who show promise in the creative arts and those students are invited to participate in a after-school enrichment program for all sorts of writing: short stories, essays, and, of course, poetry. She hopes to bring samples of the student's work from this year, and maybe even one or two students who participated and are willing to share their poetry.

THANK YOU--APRIL PROGRAM

A special thanks to Gary Fey, a Good Thunder artist who works on silk, and sent our imaginations soaring with his storytelling and wonderful artwork. Everyone was impressed with the scope of his talents, and asked to have him back again sometime in the future.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

A special hello to Claire Gau, Jean and Veronica Braam, and Paul Walsh! We celebrate your love of poetry and hope you find hours of enjoyment in SMPS.

SMPS NOTES

GET WELL WISHES go out to our own Elinor Schmidt who broke her leg after taking a tumble off of her perch. (was it a ladder or a chair, Elinor?)

After a hospital stay, she is recuperating at the Mankato House Rest Home until able to get around on her own. Speedy recovery, Elinor!

You can still take out membership in SMPS for a friend: \$10.00, \$3.00 for student members. Mail dues TODAY to:

TREASURER ELINOR SCHMIDT
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

LOMP FALL MEETING

October 15th, National Poetry Day and the 16th are the dates slated for our fall LOMP meeting, which SMPS will host at the beautiful Good Counsel facilities in Mankato.

We will have an awards banquet on Friday, October 15th, to announce the winners of the 9th annual LOMP contest. Any winning poet who is present will have an opportunity to read their winning poem. The next day Lucille Morgan Wilson will be our keynote speaker and we will have a seminar in the afternoon, so poets can have the opportunity to have a new poem critiqued. We may also have participation by student members, with their own meeting going on next door. Don't you want to get in on the fun of planning this event? Let President Berneal how you can help.

LOMP ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY 22 is the date for LOMP spring Meeting in DULUTH. Bill Johnson and Sue Chambers have indicated they can take riders. Registration should be mailed to: Verna Hoappa 6236 Lakewood Road, Duluth, Minn. 55804

Seminar entries are due May 1, 1993. Poems must be no more than 24 lines long, double spaced, one copy with name and address in upper left side, other copy no identification, both copies should have form of poem in upper right. Mail your submission to Seminar chair:

Patricia Cornell Johnson
214 N 61 Ave. W.
Duluth, Minn. 55807

NFSPS CONVENTION SPECIAL GRANT

Once again, LOMP has received an anonymous grant to assist a deserving LOMP member to travel to the NFSPS Convention. See attached flyer and application form for details. Time is short, so apply soon if you are interested.

LOMP is entitled to 5 delegates to the upcoming NFSPS convention. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact Sue Chambers soon so delegates can be certified.

Also, registration information is in the current STROPHES which will be distributed with the LOMPLIGHTER. Hotel information indicates that up to four people can share a room. New airline rates have made air flights as low as \$250.00 round trip. Also, Bill Johnson is planning on driving down rather than flying and would welcome riders. If you are interested, please contact him. The more the merrier!

Our mascot, Marquette the Loon, will hopefully ride in the arms of the last LOMP winner, to be proudly passed on to whoever takes honors at this convention. Wouldn't you like to be there to help cheer on your fellow LOMP poets?

<h3>MAY ASSIGNMENT</h3>

In keeping with our May program which salutes the younger creators around us, we will also write our poetry for children.

This should be a poem FOR children, rather than about children. So fantasize to your heart's content, get silly, have fun! Go ahead, try any subject (as long as it is for children), any form, but please try to limit your lines to 32 lines or less.

President Berneal will be making summer assignments in the next Thistledown. Give her your ideas for fun forms to try before then.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. May 22, 1993--LOMP Spring meeting in Duluth. Look for registration information above, or in the LOMPLIGHTER. See above for car pooling information.
2. June 12, 1993--SMPS Annual Picnic at Mavis Christensen's bed and breakfast piece of heaven--Cedar Knoll Farm. Map and directions will be printed in the next Thistledown. All are invited, potluck.
3. June 17th - 21st, 1993--NFSPS Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana. LOMP is entitled to five delegates. You could be one!
4. July 10, 1993--MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send Editor Meredith Cook, 527 Galbraith, Blue Earth, Minn. 56013, at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less for your file. You must be a member of LOMP to submit.
5. July 16 through the 18, 1993--the Woodtick Poetry Gathering, Horeshoe Lake, Merrifield, Minnesota. This is open to any poet who is willing to bring some good food, and a half an hour program of their choice. Contact Sue Chambers at RR3 Box 86, Good Thunder, Minn. 56037 for a map and a head count so we can coordinate food.
6. July 31, 1993--LOMP NATIONAL CONTEST DEADLINE. Send S.A.S.E. to:
Contest Chair Pj Doyle
4242 Stevens
Minneapolis, Mn. 55409
for complete rules. Discount fees are available for LOMP members. Student categories as well as adult, traditional, humorous and free verse. Everyone should enter this contest! Contest brochures are also on our contest table at every meeting.
7. October 15th and 16th, 1993--LOMP Fall Meeting, Good Counsel Center, Mankato, Minnesota. Friday night, Banquet, and LOMP Contest results read and announced. Saturday, meeting, keynote speaker Lucille Morgan Wilson and afternoon critique seminar. OCTOBER 15th is also National Poetry Day and we will be celebrating.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

NOTE: Apologizes for the "late" reports of member's achievements. One sheet floated between your editor and guest editor Mavis Christensen for a time, but we are now back on track!

CECELIA WEAVER was selected member to be featured in the newsletter of the Mankato Bird Club, for their April/June 1993 issue. A number of her "bird" poems were included in the issue.

GERTRUDE OLSON gave a poetry program at the February General Federation of Women's club in Winthrop

LORAIN MUELLER'S tribute poetry for her sister and brother were used at their funerals on Nov. 21st and Dec. 29th. Her "Words of Thanks" for hospital care were put into the Tracy newspaper several weeks along with her portrait as a part of a Tracy Municipal Hospital ad.

ROY MOORE was invited to read his poetry to Circle K, Kiwanis college chapter at MSU on March 31st. He also participated in the KMSU radio poetry reading program that celebrated the first anniversary of the Coffee Hag, a Mankato Coffee house that actually invites poets to read their works!

LUCILLE NITZKOWSKI read her poetry on the radio for KMSU.

MEG KRAMER was selected as Distinguished Poet and featured in Jessee Poet's Poets at Work publication.

CLAIRE GAU'S poem "Risk Takers" was read at a Mankato State University Woman's Autobiography by an instructor on Feb 5, 1993.

SHIRLEY ENSRUD delivered the morning message for United Methodist Women Sunday on January 31, using some of her poems as illustration. Her poem "Maybe Grandma Knows" won an honorable mention in the Poetry Society of Michigan Annual Contest.

Two members wrote out their achievements at the last meeting, but forgot to tell me who they were. Rather than guessing, their achievements will be mentioned in the next Thistledown.

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
Sue Chambers
Route 3, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037
(507) 278-4200

Dear Chapter Regional Vice Presidents:

I am pleased to announce for a second year the receipt of a \$250.00 anonymous donation for a grant for League members who wish to attend the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. This donor is aware of the importance of National conventions and wants to make sure that LOMP members who might not otherwise be able to attend will have the opportunity to bring back their experiences for the good of the group.

I enclose an application form. Please announce this to any in your group who might be worth of such a grant and ask them to return it on or before May 25, 1993. Announcement of recipient(s) will be made the first week in June. The decision will be made by members of the Executive Board.

The NFSPS convention will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 17 - 21, 1993. Those leaving from Minneapolis have reported that their round trip airline tickets are running about \$250 - \$300.

Please publicize this opportunity as soon as possible, as time is running short. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. We are extremely appreciative of our donor for making this possible.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

ROY MOORE'S poem "Again, Again, Again" was published by Therutic Quarterly out of Florida. He was invited to read his poetry to Circle K, Kiwanis college chapter at MSU.

WILFRED JOHNSON continues to teach ALBERT LEA students for an extended contract. He reports over 1800 entries in the Manningham State Student contest which he chairs.

EMILY GREEN, our new student member, Had her poem "The Owl" published in her school newsletter.

SHIRLEY ENSRUD read poetry as the devotion time on March 5 for Church Women United of Blue Earth. Her poem "Griddlecakes" was published in Sandcutters, the Arizona State Poetry Society Silver Anniversary National Contest Publication.

MAVIS CHRISTENSEN has participated in 2 more sessions of the Poetry in the Jail Program in Mankato. She reports that the sessions have been lively and very fulfilling.

SUE CHAMBERS read her poetry at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato on March 14th. She is serving as one of the judges of the college scholarship awards for NFSPS, which will be announced prior to the June meeting.

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.

NFSPS GRANT APPLICATION FORM -- FOR LOMP MEMBERS TO
ATTEND THE 1993 CONVENTION

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: Daytime _____ Evening _____

LOMP MEMBER? Yes _____ No _____ CHAPTER _____

WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THIS LOMP GRANT?

HOW WILL LOMP MEMBERS BENEFIT BY YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE NFSPS
CONVENTION? _____

COMMENTS: _____

DATED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Mail to: Sue Chambers, President LOMP
Route 3, Box 86
Good Thunder, MN 56037
(507) 278-4200

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 11

Issue 6

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!

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. 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, at 4242 Stevens, Minneapolis, Minn. 55409. She will also forward you a copy of the rules and categories, if you will send her a S.A.S.E. (Self Addressed Stamped Envelope). Please, no little envelopes, just legal sized.
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

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 13 Issue 07

This Month

THE ANNUAL SUMMER SMPS PICNIC

Saturday

June 12, 1993

CEDAR KNOLL FARM

A Country Bed & Breakfast

Mavis Christensen, Proprietor

GOOD THUNDER, Mn.

11:30 a.m.

meal will be served around 12:30 p.m.

POTLUCK--Bring casserole, salad, dessert or other dish to pass, Mavis will provide beverage and sandwiches. PLEASE: Do not bring your own dishes or silverware, Mavis still has some left over from previous year's gatherings.

Call Mavis at 524-3813 if you have any questions. Friends and family members are welcome!

DIRECTIONS

Cedar Knoll Farm is one and one-half miles west of Highway 22 at Beauford (turn right) on County Road 10. The driveway is 1.5 miles. 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. When coming from the west, Cedar Knoll is 4.1 miles east of Good Thunder on County Road 10.

POETRY

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 hear someone else read our works. Don't forget the famous poets if you don't have anything of your own to share.

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

<u>SMPS NOTES</u>

GET WELL WISHES

to Roy Moore who has been hospitalized in very serious condition for the past few weeks with a viral infection. All our love and best wishes go out to Roy. He can tolerate very short visits at Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato, Room 321. Send him a card, or better yet, a poem. He said to send all his love to fellow poets, and to thank those who have already sent messages.

We are pleased to report that Elinor Schmidt is back home.
We hope to see you soon.

DUES

You can still take out membership in SMPS for a friend: \$10.00, \$3.00 for student members. Mail dues TODAY to:
TREASURER ELINOR SCHMIDT
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS--OR NO REST FOR THE WICKED (OR POETS)

President Berneal knows that summer time is a time to grow those poems, and reap a harvest of new lines to share with SMPS members when we meet again in September.

Over the summer please write three poems, one humorous, and the other two poems any form, any length. Everyone can handle this assignment!

LOMP ANNOUNCEMENTS

LOMP FALL MEETING

October 15th, National Poetry Day and the 16th are the dates slated for our fall LOMP meeting, which SMPS will host at Good Counsel in Mankato.

There will be an awards banquet on Friday, October 15th, to announce the winners of the 9th annual LOMP contest. Any winning poet who is present will have an opportunity to read their winning poem. The next day our keynote speaker is Lucille Morgan Wilson.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. June 12, 1993--SMPS Annual Picnic at Mavis Christensen's bed and breakfast piece of heaven--Cedar Knoll Farm.

2. June 17th - 21st, 1993--NFSPS Annual Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana. LOMP is entitled to five delegates.

Those LOMP members attending so far include: Claire van Breeman Downes (St. Cloud), Maxine Russell (Brainerd), Bill Johnson (North Mankato), Sue Chambers (Good Thunder), Meredith Cook (Blue Earth). You could be a delegate, since Sue Chambers is already on the Board and votes. Why not join us!

3. July 10, 1993--MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send Editor Meredith Cook, 527 Galbraith, Blue Earth, Minn. 56013, at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less for your file. You must be a member of LOMP to submit.

4. July 16 through the 18, 1993--the Woodtick Poetry Gathering, Horseshoe Lake, Merrifield, Minnesota. See insert.

5. July 31, 1993--LOMP NATIONAL CONTEST DEADLINE. Send S.A.S.E. to:

Contest Chair Pj Doyle
4242 Stevens
Minneapolis, Mn. 55409

for complete rules. Discount fees are available for LOMP members.

Student categories as well as adult, traditional, humorous and free verse. Everyone should enter this contest! Contest brochures are also on our contest table at every meeting.

6. October 15th and 16th, 1993--LOMP Fall Meeting, Good Counsel Center, Mankato, Minnesota. Friday night, Banquet, and LOMP Contest results announced. Saturday, meeting, keynote speaker Lucille Morgan Wilson and afternoon critique seminar.

OCTOBER 15th is also National Poetry Day and we will be celebrating.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

MEREDITH COOK is the recipient of the 2nd annual NFSPS grant which assists a LOMP member to attend the NFSPS convention. This grant is awarded to a member who can bring a special contribution back to members who cannot attend NFSPS conventions. Anyone who has heard Meredith's reports from past years know how deserving she is of this grant.

MONICA HAACK was a part of an arts and crafts show at Fiesta Village in Mission, Texas. Her poem saluting Marcel Frederick was read at a farewell breakfast given to him after his retirement as a state representative.

A poem written as a memorial for her friend Dorothy Strand was put in the United Methodist Church bulletin.

BILL JOHNSON took top honors in the LOMP seminar in Duluth. He has just finished teaching an adult poetry class through the Rochester Community Education Department for 17 students.

MEG KRAMER'S poem "Spring" was published in Mankato State University's alumni publication "MSU Today". Her poem "Silver Signal" received 1st Place and \$25.00 in Jessee Poet's Special Contest #5.

LUCILLE NITZKOWSKI had a poem used by Dr. and Mrs. Kearney as a part of a design for get well cards they sent.

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.

WOOD TICK POETRY WEEKEND

Retreat to M.B. and Barbara Stevens "cabin"
RFD Merrifield, Minnesota
Phone number: 218-765-3364

Friday July 16 through Sunday the 18th, 1993

Each poet should bring food and a thirty minute program. This can be a workshop, a talk on writing forms, a reading from a famous poet. Let your imagination run wild!

Casual dress, remember you may be asked to deliver your program in the woods or on the beach. Swim suit and a sweater to fight off mosquitos in the evening.

Please let us know arrival plans and what you are thinking of bringing as food, so we can coordinate between participants.

DIRECTIONS

From Brainerd, Minnesota. If you have come in from Little Falls on Highway 371, go through town (North) until you see an old fashioned water tower on your right. This is the intersection of Hwy 210. Turn right (East) for approximately a mile, until you meet intersection Hwy 25. (There will be a mall on your on your left side) Turn left (north) on Hwy 25 and follow this road approximately 8 miles, to the town of Merrifield.

In Merrifield, the Hwy changes to Co.Rd. 3. Just outside of Merrifield, there is a "Y" intersection. Stay on Co. Rd. 3, which intersects right. (Clow Stamping is on your left). Follow Co. Rd. 3 for 7.3 miles (Through Ossipee Corners). Right after "Jim's Campers" on the right side of the highway, turn right onto the gravel road. If you pass the Mobil station you missed the turn.

Follow the gravel road to the first "T" intersection (about 2/10th's of a mile), turn left. Turn right at the first right turn (at an angle, again about 2/10th's of a mile) Howard's cabin is directly in front of you, Stevens' cabin is the first left turn after. The STEVENS sign is out front.

PLEASE COME!

Call or write to Sue Chambers (507)278-4200, RR 3, Box 86, Good Thudner, Minnesota 56037 or Barbara Stevens (605)338-9156, 909 East 34th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105 if any questions.

**THISTLE-DOWN NEWSLETTER
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY**

Volume 13 Issue 09

This Month

Saturday, October 9, 1993

**VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT
820 SOUTH FRONT STREET
MANKATO, MINNESOTA
11:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.**

Dutch treat lunch, American and Chinese selections available.

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED. No reservations necessary.
Please arrive promptly at 11:30 a.m. so programs can start on time.**

OCTOBER PROGRAM

A writing workshop. Members should bring pen and paper, and their imaginations. We will try some writing exercises to trigger some new poems. Members will lead the group with some writing exercises.

Also, final plans will be made regarding the fall LOMP convention, "WORDS WITH WINGS" which SMPS is hosting. See SMPS notes for more details.

Get Well Wishes

Volunteer Opportunities

SMPS NOTES

Our very best goes out to Gertrude Olson, who broke her hip and is recuperating. We miss you, and hope you are up and around very soon!

Helpers are still needed for the Fall LOMP meeting, to help at the children's writing workshop on Saturday morning. This workshop will be headed by Gary Fey and Shelley Schultz, but children will be broken down into groups of ten. Volunteers are needed to work with these smaller groups, to help them write their poems.

Also, help is needed at registration, the book table, and simply greeting our guests and making them feel welcomed. Let President Berneal know what you can do to help.

Our continued wishes and thoughts are with Berneal during the long illness of her husband.

Nominating Committee There will be a short meeting of the nominating committee immediately following the Saturday SMPS meeting. Elections will be held in December. Any members interested in serving SMPS should let members of the nominating committee know they wish to serve. Wilfred Johnson, Sue Chambers and Shirley Ensrud are on the committee.

Thistledown Editor Once again, your editor apologizes for the lateness of this newsletter. It is becoming extremely difficult to meet deadlines, and your editor could use a little relief. Any helpers out there?

IN MEMORIAL
DR. ROY B. MOORE
(May 16, 1908 - September 13, 1993)

SMPS members were saddened by the death of our own Life Member, Roy Moore. His vitality and wit kept our meetings lively and full of fun. He will be missed. Roy was a long time poet and member of SMPS, LOMP and the NFSPS. He died on Sept. 13th at the Mankato House Health Care Center. Many SMPS members were able to attend his funeral on Sept. 18th. Two of Roy's poems were read. There will be a memorial for Roy at the Fall LOMP meeting.

HOMELESS HOME

He lives at Oak Grove Home,
a home for homeless men,
four miles from town.
Almost every day I see him
and others from that home
walking up and down those miles
alone,
as if condoning loneliness,
flaunting it as though they want it.

They walk the legal left of curving road,
observing law, but nothing else--
not whoosh of passing wheels,
nor yips at heels by feisty dog,
nor fencerow roses
where meadowlark pours out its liquid notes.
They walk the way by rote.

Especially this old man.
His faded grey hair, bobbing up the curving hill,
becomes a common evening scene.
He wears no hat nor coat to ward October's chill.
Devoted to his inner self,
he walks with measured tread
with head inclined toward graveled roadside track.
His shoulders slope from burdens past.
His hands are clasped behind his back,
finding solace in each other.
With every shuffling, scuffed-shoe stride
an echo seems to beat inside--
alone--

alone--

alone--

alone--

alone--

alone--

A metronome going home.

he disappears around the bend,
counting strides to journey's end,
to Oak Grove Home for homeless men.

Roy Benjamin Moore (from THE TURNING WHEEL, 1982)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS

Friday, October 15, 1993 NATIONAL POETRY DAY

LOMP Fall Meeting--Banquet and Award winning poems read, honored guests: Students who won last Spring's Manningham contest in the Minnesota competition.

Saturday, October 16, 1993 LOMP Fall Meeting--Students and adults come together. The students will have their own writing workshop, the adults will be in their writing seminar, all will come together for lunch. In the afternoon the adults will hear keynote speaker Lucille Morgan Wilson, a LOMP and NFSPS Poet from Des Moines, Iowa while the students work on an art project to show off the poem they wrote in the morning. At 3:30 all will come together and share poetry. Registration information available by contacting Sue Chambers, P.O. Box 327, Mankato, Minn. 56002.

Saturday, December 11, 1993 SMPS elections and annual Christmas gathering. Get on your thinking caps for program ideas.

March 15, 1994 Tenth Annual LOMP/Manningham Competition deadline.

POETRY ASSIGNMENT

Remember, our assignments are never mandatory, rather they are designed to help you try your hand at creating new works, in new forms you might not otherwise try. It is fun, try it, those who try their hand love to see everyone participate with us.

OCTOBER'S assignment is a 30 line poem, any form, subject--farewells. This can be your interpretation, any poem that deals with goodbyes or farewells.

In November, we will do a poem depicting Human Nature, any form, 50 lines or less.

The rules for Minnesota's 1994 Manningham Competition (junior--grades 6 through 8 and senior--grades 9 through 12) are out. Contact Wilfred Johnson, 732 Garfield Ave North, Mankato, Minnesota for details.

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 NEWSLETTER
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY**

Volume 13 Issue ¹⁰~~09~~

This Month

Saturday, November 13, 1993

**VINCENT WANG RESTAURANT
820 SOUTH FRONT STREET
MANKATO, MINNESOTA
11:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.**

Dutch treat lunch, American and Chinese selections available.

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED. No reservations necessary.
Please arrive promptly at 11:30 a.m. so programs can start on time.**

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The writings and life of May Sarton, an American poet recently deceased, will be explored by our own member, Mavis Christensen. Mavis recently obtained her Master's Degree at MSU, and studied May as a part of that process.

OCTOBER PROGRAM RECAP

The October writing time generated a poem from almost every one present. It was fun to see what members could do. Those who didn't write there at the meeting may surprise us with a new poem at this meeting. Members were asked to incorporate the five senses (smell, taste, touch, sight, sound) into a contrast poem. ("I wish that ..., but really...")

Get Well Wishes

SMPS NOTES

Get Well Soon, Gertrude Olson, the fall meeting did not seem the same without you and Luella. Gertrude, after a short hospitalization for a broken hip, has moved to the Gaylord Lakeshore Nursing Home. We miss you both, and hope Gertrude is up and around very soon and Luella can soon join us!

Cecelia Weaver was recently hospitalized and is now residing at Hillcrest Health Care Center, Highway 169, Mankato, Minnesota 56001. Our best wishes are with you, Cecelia.

Our thoughts are also with those long time members who have not been able to join us, like the Olson sisters, Lucille Nitzkowski, Edna Busekist and Meg Kremer in Truman and all others who have found it difficult to attend meetings recently. We miss you and hope that poetry is still a mainstay in your day.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

TO ALL SMPS MEMBERS WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY AT THE LOMP FALL MEETING HELD AT GOOD COUNSEL.

A special thank you to Mavis Christensen, Berneal Schindle, Meredith Cook and Shirley Ensrud for their hard work setting up and assisting at the registration and book table.

Nominating Committee The nominating committee will be making recommendations at the November meeting for the new slate of officers for SMPS. Elections will be held in December. Wilfred Johnson, Sue Chambers and Shirley Ensrud are on the committee.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS

Thursday, November 4, 1993 Good Thunder Reading Series presents Agent Dennis Cass. 7:30 p.m.—North Ballroom, Mankato State University, Centennial Student Union.

Saturday, December 11, 1993 SMPS elections and annual Christmas gathering. Get on your thinking caps for program ideas.

January 1, 1994 SMPS dues of \$10.00, for writing and associate members, \$3.00 for student members. GIVE A GIFT THAT WILL LAST, GIVE A POETRY FRIEND MEMBERSHIP IN SMPS! See Wilfred Johnson, membership chair for details. MAIL YOUR DUES NOW to

Treasurer Elinor Schmidt
1122 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

LOMP dues of \$15.00 for writing or associate members, \$7.00 for student members are also due. Remember, this includes membership in the NFSPS, just in time to receive their discounts on contests. MAIL YOUR DUES NOW to

Treasurer Eleanor Burns
3415 Lake Avenue South
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

March 15, 1994 Tenth Annual LOMP/Manningham Competition deadline. Rules available on book table.

March 15, 1993 National Federation State Poetry Society 35th Annual contest. Over fifty contests, including one student(grades 9 through 12) category. Rules can be obtained at our meetings on our book table or by sending a Self Addressed, Stamped Envelope (S.A.S.E.) to Kay Hight Kinnaman, Strophes Editor, RR 3, Box 348, Alexandria, Indiana 46001

July 11, 1994 Moccasin Deadline.

July 15 -17, 1994 League of Minnesota Poet's and South Dakota State Poetry Societies' Annual WOODTICK WEEKEND. At the cabin of Barbara Stevens on Horseshoe Lake, near Merrifield, Minn. Rules—bring food, and a half an hour program on poetry.

July 31, 1994 LOMP 10th Annual Contest, 20 categories, 2 student categories. Rules available on book table/or by sending S.A.S.E to Barbara Sherrard Morgan, 3738 NW Barbeau Road, Brainerd, Mn. 56041

POETRY ASSIGNMENT

Assignments are designed to get you writing. Sometimes they are based on contests that are out and about, because entering contests can help you to scrutinize your poem and polish it to a final form.

In November, we will work with a contest theme from our own annual LOMP contest, a poem depicting Human Nature, any form, 50 lines or less.

December's assignment is any form, about a tree, 30 lines or less
OR a Christmas or winter poem, form 40 lines or less.

The rules for Minnesota's 1994 Manningham Competition (junior—grades 6 through 8 and senior—grades 9 through 12) are out. Contact Wilfred Johnson, 732 Garfield Ave North, Mankato, Minnesota for details.

SMPS SEMINAR WINNERS FROM LOMP FALL SEMINAR (Barbara Stevens)

1st Place "The Twig is Bent" Meredith Cook

3rd Place "Reflections on Arab/Israeli Conflict" Susan Chambers

3rd Hon.M. "The Cobbler's Who Was Our Father" Shirley Ensrud

9th Hon.M. "The Dirty Truth" Wilfred Johnson

Congratulations to all SMPS members who won in the LOMP 1993 contest. The Winner's list is ~~attached~~ available at the book table.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

PAUL WALSH recently did a memorial for a brother-in-law and reports he was kind. He Also wrote a tribute for a niece who was recently married.

BERNEAL SCHINDLE'S poem "Golden Years, Phooey!" was read at an army reunion gathering.

LORAIN MUELLER'S poem "Centennial Sonnet", which was commissioned and used by the Germantown United Methodist church is going to be used for the Sanborn U.M. church centennial in 1994. Loraine feels a connection to Sanborn, as it is her hometown and where she graduated.

LAVON MOSLEY donated a poem for a radio ad for a homeless benefit, and received a letter of appreciation from Minnesota Governor Carlson.

He was a guest speaker on Suzanne Bunker's KMSU Weekly Reader radio show, and shared his writings with the radio audience. SMPS members hope for a repeat performance in the near future, as the show was taped.

WILFRED JOHNSON reports that he has nine students at his six week poetry class offered through District 77 Community Education Center.

MONICA HAACK read her Eternal Daisy poem at her aunt's funeral in Fulda, Minnesota and gave a short personal tribute.

MAVIS CHRISTENSEN is still at the jail, working with prisoners on poetry.

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.