

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 14      Issue 01

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HAPPY NEW YEAR HAPPY NEW YEAR

This Month—Saturday, January 14, 1995

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.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Guild Press Editors LEON and GINNY KNIGHT will be our speakers  
for this meeting. Ginny Knight has just written a new book of  
poetry SONG OF A FATHERLESS CHILD, and will read from her  
works.

Ginny is a award winning book designer as well as a poet and  
editor. Leon, her co-editor also wrote the "Afterword". The  
book includes "intensely personal but very powerful poems,"  
wrote a professor (retired) of American literature. This  
book, as well as other books edited and/or designed by the  
Knights, will be available for sale and autographing.

It is always a pleasure when Guild Press can join us for a  
meeting. They have featured many of our poets in their  
anthologies, and produced the late Patricia Johnson's last  
book. Don't miss this opportunity to share poetry with some  
great poets!

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Lori and Kevin Torbenson who shared  
their musical talents with us for our Christmas program. We  
are especially thankful they were available at the last  
minute, as Ron Arsenault had an illness in the family. Those  
attending said they were extremely talented, and there is no  
doubt that we will have them back again. Thank you for  
sharing the poetry in your music!

CALLING ALL POETS—Feb 10, 1995 at Friday 8:00 p.m. The Coffee Hag has invited SMPS poets to come and join them for a reading. They will feature us as a group, all should come and read, and afterwards there will be an open mike.

The Coffee Hag is located at 329 North Riverfront in Mankato's Old Town. Parking is available on the streets and behind the building. The Coffee Hag is wheelchair accessible (front entry) and requests no smoking on the premises. SMPS will be the MAIN EVENT, so turn out to show them what we are doing for poetry!

### ASSIGNMENTS

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, Heritage Award Category.

In March, try the short form, any form, any subject, 12 lines or less.

### CONVENTION MADNESS IS UPON US AGAIN!

Arkansas has announced their convention madness contest—with a chance to win all your convention expenses (excluding travel) Hotel (4 nights), Scheduled meals, Bus Tour and Registration Fee.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO WIN YOUR WAY TO A NFSPS Convention! Deadline: March 20, 1995, Any Subject, style, 30 lines or less. Entry fee \$5. for one, \$10. for three (limit 3). Submit 2 copies, ID on one, Winner will be announced by April 30, do not send SASE. Winner will read poem at 1995 Convention. Mail Your entries today to: CONVENTION MADNESS CONTEST, Doris Ferguson, PO Box 58, Mountainburg, Arkansas 72946

SMPS NOTES
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**SPECIAL MEETING FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
(Officers, editor and any interested members)

Right after the January 14th meeting there will be a short executive meeting. We need your input to finish planning programs for the year, to work on plans LOMP and talk about future goals for the society.

**GIFTS OF MEMBERSHIP**

This is a great time to give someone the gift of membership, JANUARY, 1995 marks the time to pay your DUES! Take a membership out for yourself, for your family members, for your best friends. This opportunity is available for the extremely reasonable 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!

VERNA LARSEN has announced that she is unable to finish the second year of her two year term as Secretary. Therefore, according to our by-laws, President Loraine must appoint a new secretary to finish out the year. If you are interested in that appointment, please talk to Loraine. She will also be appointing a new vice-president, to finish out the term of Paul Walsh, who moved to Rochester. (The Root River Poets gained, we lost!)

**SPECIAL NOTE TO MEMBERS**—our attendance at monthly meetings has been alarmingly low, due to health problems, bad weather and host of other difficulties. Please make a particular effort to attend, and take time to invite those people we know are interested in poetry to attend. Also, if you met a poet who came once or twice but hasn't been lately, pick up the phone and make them feel welcome to come back to another meeting.

**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. February 10, 1995 FRIDAY EVENING at 8:00 p.m. The Coffee Hag features Southern Minn. Poets Society, all members come and share poetry. Open mike following our reading.
3. 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.
4. March 20, 1995 Convention Madness Contest deadline. expenses to NFSPS Convention. Any subject, any form, 30 lines or less. \$5 for one poem, \$10 for three. Limit Three. Mail two copies, with ID on one to Chair Doris Ferguson, P.O. Box 58, Mountainburg, Arkansas 72946. No SASE, winner announced by April 30.
5. May 6, 1995 SMPS hosts spring LOMP meeting. Details to be planned at Executive Board meeting January 14th.
6. June 22nd through the 26th, 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.
7. 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.
8. 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!
9. 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.

## ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### Calling All Poets:

We are at the changing place when old calendars come down and new ones go up. The "To-Do" list of last year is either discarded or extended as priority for 1995.

It is time to shake off the holiday numbness and write poems fresh as the future. It is time to look at old things, traditions, or past events with the eyes of one who has never seen them, and write from that perspective. It is also time to mark the lessons of careless mistakes and forge ahead, being confident you can rise to the top!

January is the month to sharpen the skills that equip us to put our perceptions into prize-winning poetry. We begin now to prepare to enter the NFSPS contest. One way to do that is by entering other contests. We want to have interesting Achievement reports again! Make it a goal for 1995! Do the first drafts soon, then re-read and revise them until they are contest-ready. One by one, pop them into the mail to fetch awards.

Be sure to come to our monthly meetings at Mankato. I will be looking for you. There is great pleasure in getting together to celebrate the power of words. It is the best motivational exercises to rouse the poetic Muse ever known! Let us resolve to let our VOICES be heard as we approach the 21st century.

With love and enthusiasm,

President Loraine Mueller

### IN SYMPATHY

Our hearts go out to past President Berneal Schindle on the loss of her mother.

## ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

BARBARA STEVENS, our South Dakota member, was published in the most recent issue of Duluth's POETRY HARBOR Magazine. She has just finished judging Florida's student competition, grades 9 through 12.

BERNEAL SCHINDLE'S poem "ERA AT AN END" was read at her mother's funereal, and the Oak Lawn Health Care Center memorial services.

WILFRED JOHNSON will be teaching a poetry session in Truman within the next few months, and starts his Poetry in the School sessions as a teacher in residence in conjunction with the States Arts Board. He had three poems "Another Dam Poem", "Holding Pattern", and "Planet X" published in the latest Guild Press Anthology, Full Circle Fifteen, edited by Ginny Knight.

SUE CHAMBERS was asked to share her poem "Mrs. Newcomb's Turkey Carving Instructions" at the Sioux Falls Unitarian Fellowship during their tribute service to Mrs. Julia Newcomb, a long-time friend who died during 1994. She has just finished judging Florida's student competition, grades 2 and 3 (she was ably assisted by Christina and Colin).

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).

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FEBRUARY PROGRAM

"HISTORY, FAMILIES AND POETRY"

A panel discussion featuring SMPS members Lucille Nitzkowski,  
Shirley Ensrud, Elinor Schmidt and Berneal Schindle.

They will discuss ways to incorporate family histories into  
our poetry, and share some of their own examples. They invite  
all members to bring a short poem (25 lines or less, any form)  
subject: family, to share after their presentation. There  
will also be a discussion following the panel's comments.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to Leon and Ginny Knight for their  
excellent presentation. Ginny shared her newest book of poems  
from Guild Press and Leon talked about the creation of some of  
those poems. It was an excellent presentation. If you are  
interested in submitting poetry to the next Guild Press  
Anthology, send your poems to GUILD PRESS, P.O. Box 22583,  
Robbinsdale, Minn. 55422

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## SMPS NOTES

### MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE OVERDUE

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1122 Marsh Street

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### WELCOME NEW OFFICERS

President Lorainne announced the appointment of two new officers: Mavis Christenson as Vice President and Nancy Dauer as Secretary. Berneal Schindle will serve as temporary Corresponding Secretary while Monica Haack is "Down South".

### HOSTING LOMP SPRING MEETING

May 6, 1995 marks our LOMP Spring Meeting, which will be held at Bethany College, in their new theater building. Our theme will be "Simple Promises". Pj Doyle will conduct our afternoon seminar, with Berneal Schindle serving as Seminar chair. Our keynote speaker is new LOMP member Rose McGee of the Twin Cities, the creator of a delightful company called "Seriously Incorporated", for the "soul" purpose of making positive changes in our diverse society through the form of workshops, writing, poetry, music and storytelling. She is the author of two books of poetry and a Artist in Residence in the schools. She will be announcing her topic soon. The registration fee will be \$12.00, and includes coffee, rolls and lunch. Talk to President Lorainne and volunteer your time to help make our hosting a big success.

### POETRY IN THE JAIL

Bill Johnson is still in jail, and invites members to volunteer their time for this worthwhile poetry event. He teaches poetry each 2nd and last Friday of the month, at 9:30 a.m., at the B. E. County Law Enforcement Center. Please call Bill at 387-3730 if you are interested, as this must be coordinated through Blue Earth County Volunteer program.



## ASSIGNMENTS

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In April, our assignment is another subject: a serious poem about making poetry (which follows both the LOMP contest and the national magazine, Byline).

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CONVENTION MADNESS CONTEST, Doris Ferguson,  
P.O. Box 58,  
Mountainburg, Arkansas 72946

## TIME TO SHARPEN UP YOUR EDITING SKILLS AND GET READY FOR NFSPS ANNUAL CONVENTION

50 contests to enter (#50 is a student category—have you made a copy of that and distributed to all your 9th through 12th grade teacher friends?) The deadline is March 15th, so now is the time to get ready!

If anyone is interested in a "get your poems ready for the contest" day, Sue Chambers is willing to spend some time after hours at her office (evening or some Saturday before March 15th), to take advantage of the use of a copier and some computers and printers. Please let her know. Let's enter this contest with more Minnesotans than ever before! It always makes going to convention twice as exciting if you are entered in the competition.

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#### ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

LORAIN SCHWANKE MULLER celebrated the birth of her newest grandchild with an extra poem in her 44th Original Christmas greeting card, "Waiting for Justin". Justin Wolfgang Woods (yes, named in honor of Mozart's 200th anniversary) was born Dec. 6, 1994, and Loraine was privileged to be there. Her Christmas card also had a Christmas poem "The Gift That Remains".

WILFRED JOHNSON gave a presentation at Senior Citizen Center, and noted a correspondence with members and student "Pen Pals" from the 5th grade.

IKE SARMA participated in a tribute by fellow Latvian poets for a member who died of cancer Nov. 18, 1994. His Poem "Poetry and You" was published in the global Latvian newspaper Laiks.

ALL SMPS MEMBERS have been specially invited to be the main program at the Coffee Hag on Friday, February 10, 1995 at 8:00 p.m.

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).

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MARCH PROGRAM

Due to cancellation of the February program, we have moved an  
excellent program to this month so you still won't miss it!

"HISTORY, FAMILIES AND POETRY"

A panel discussion featuring SMPS members Lucille Nitzkowski,  
Shirley Ensrud, Elinor Schmidt and Berneal Schindle.

They will discuss ways to incorporate family histories into  
our poetry, and share some of their own examples. They invite  
all members to bring a short poem (25 lines or less, any form)  
subject: family, to share after their presentation. There  
will also be a discussion following the panel's comments.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mankato has been the victim of scare tactics and  
misinformation because of the recent outbreak of meningitis.  
There is absolutely NO REASON to avoid Mankato, you have more  
chance of being hurt in a automobile accident than exposure to  
this. Meningitis is contracted when a person has long (more  
than 2 days), direct contact with the diseased person (saliva,  
runny nose, sneezing, drinking from the same glass). You will  
note that there have not been inoculations for older adults  
over the age of 29, for they are considered not to be at risk.

An apology is owed to the citizens of Mankato (and fellow  
poets) if anyone gave the impression that last month's meeting  
was cancelled because of this unfortunate outbreak, as there  
was no basis or medical reasons to do so.

## SMPS NOTES

### MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE OVERDUE

JANUARY, 1995 marked the time to pay your DUES! Take a membership out for yourself, for your family members, for your best friends. \$10.00 for adults, \$3.00 for students. Mail your dues to our Treasurer

Elinor Schmidt  
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THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST THISTLEDOWN IF YOU DO NOT GET YOUR DUES IN! DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK AND HEAR ABOUT POETRY EVENTS= GET YOUR DUES IN TODAY.

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!

### HOSTING LOMP SPRING MEETING

SIMPLE PROMISES—May 6, 1995

Our Spring meeting is shaping up nicely, but we need your help in developing our theme, arranging door prizes or awards for seminar poems, helping out with registration table or book table.

President Loraine will be asking you what you would like to do to help at this meeting. Make her job easier, have a little note all ready, explaining how you would like to assist.

A registration form is attached, this will be in the LOMPLIGHTER which will be out shortly. Let her know what you will do to make this an event to remember.

### POETRY IN THE JAIL

Bill Johnson is still in jail, and invites members to volunteer their time for this worthwhile poetry event. He teaches poetry each 2nd and last Friday of the month, at 9:30 a.m., at the B. E. County Law Enforcement Center. Please call Bill at 387-3730 if you are interested, as this must be coordinated through Blue Earth County Volunteer program.

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In April, our assignment is another subject: a serious poem about making poetry (which follows both the LOMP contest #2 "Writ In Water Award" 40 lines or less) and a ongoing request for such poems in the national magazine, Byline).

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2. March 1, 1995 The third in a five-part series at the Minnesota Valley Regional Library to help discover the works of contemporary American Poets. Features Rita Dove. A series of audiocassettes of the poets are available before discussions. Wednesday evenings, each session begins at 6:30 p.m, last about an hour and a half, refreshments following. Discussions led by MSU English Professor and author, Richard Robbins.
3. March 8, 1995 Minn. Valley Regional Library Poets in Person continues. Featured Poet: Sharon Olds.
4. March 15, 1995 Minn. Valley Regional Library Poets in Person continues. Featured Poet: W.S. Merwin.
5. 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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11. 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.
12. October 15, 1995 NFSPS Manuscript Competition. 35-60 pages, cover sheet with identifying info. Complete rules available from Sue Chambers, or on the contest table.

REMEMBERING SMPS MEMBERS WHO MIGHT NOT  
OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS.

Do you know someone who would be delighted if you offered to drive them to our meeting? Do you know a neighbor who has always enjoyed poetry? A child who is eager to learn? Bring them to our next meeting! Our club can only thrive and grow if we attend meetings, and encourage others to do so.

Special wishes go out to those who cannot be with us, we think of you and miss your input.

Get Well wishes go out to Berneal Schindle, who is recovering from pneumonia.

We look forward to the return of all our "snowbirds", who should start flocking north in the next month or so, and hopefully will entertain us with "southern" poems crafted during the winter hiatus.

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

BERNEAL SCHINDLE'S Poem "This Great Genesis" was read at the eastern Star Meeting on Wed. Feb. 22, 1995.

WILFRED JOHNSON, SUE CHAMBERS, IKE SARMA were at the Coffee Hag on Friday, February 10, 1995 at 8:00 p.m. and shared their poetry. They also met a number of new poet enthusiasts, all of whom were welcomed to join us at future meetings. Be sure and greet them if they come to a meeting and let them know what SMPS means to you.

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).



# "Simple Promises"

SMPS welcomes members to the LOMP SPRING MEETING

Saturday, May 6, 1995

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Registration fee \$12.00, includes lunch

Bethany College

734 Marsh

Mankato, Minnesota 56001

in their new theater building, Yvslaker Hall.

Our keynote speaker is new LOMP member *Rose McGee* of the Twin Cities, the creator of a delightful company called "Seriously Incorporated", for the "soul" purpose of making positive changes in our diverse society through the form of workshops, writing, poetry, music and storytelling. She is the author of two books of poetry and a Artist in Residence in the schools. She will be announcing her topic soon.

*Pj Doyle* will conduct our afternoon seminar, with *Berneal Schindle* serving as Seminar chair. Rules for submitting poems to the Seminar critique session: 24 lines or less, double spaced, on one copy only place your name and address in upper left corner, on both copies, place the form of the poem (Sonnet, free verse, etc) in upper right corner. Mail to seminar chair, *Berneal Schindle* RR8 Box 61, Mankato, Minn. 56001.  
Deadline: Postmarked, April 8th, 1995

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## REGISTRATION FORM FOR May 6, 1995 LOMP Spring Meeting

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your form and \$12.00 to :

Sue Chambers

RR3 Box 86

Good Thunder, Minn. 56037

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 14 Issue 04

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This Month—Saturday, April 8, 1995

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.

APRIL PROGRAM

"ART OF SOUL" Our Speaker will be Kathy Horner of New Ulm.  
She will share her talents of photography and poetry. She  
uses these mediums to express her passion for nature.

Encouraged by family and friends who enjoy her personal  
poetry, she ventured into marketing her "Art of Soul". She  
has expressed that if she can make just one person see and  
feel nature in a deeper sense, her efforts are worth it.

THANK YOU

We had a lively panel of SMPS poets Shirley Ensrud, Elinor  
Schmidt, Berneal Schindle and Lucille Nitzkowski, who shared  
their own poetry, and discussed using family histories in our  
poetry. Their comments were appreciated and helpful.

Thank you for donating your time and talents, Shirley, Elinor,  
Berneal and Lucille!

MAY 6 Simple Promises May 6 Simple Promises May 6 Simple

Are you signed up to help host our LOMP Spring meeting? We  
need your help. Remember members should bring to this meeting  
books to be donated as seminar prizes. We ask that you wait  
and bring your 3 door prizes (at least) to the MAY LOMP  
meeting. Please bring them unwrapped.

### SMPS NOTES

Attached is a membership application form. Get this form out to your friends, neighbors, writing students, anyone who would benefit from becoming a member of our fine organization. Make copies and drop it off at your school and church. Help us spread the news about SMPS!

MEMBERSHIPS run from January to January. \$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!

### HOSTING LOMP SPRING MEETING

SIMPLE PROMISES—May 6, 1995

A registration form is attached. The LOMPLIGHTER publication has been delayed, because of some difficulties editor Carol Perkins was having, so that some deadlines may have to be extended. Help spread the word by posting copies of this up in your local libraries, sending a press release to your local paper.

### ASSIGNMENTS

In April, our assignment is another subject: a serious poem about making poetry (which follows both the LOMP contest #2 "Writ In Water Award" 40 lines or less) and a ongoing request for such poems in the national magazine, Byline).

Your editor is not sure if a May assignment has been made. She apologizes if there is one, and she doesn't have it. We will be assigning three poems over the summer month.

**"Simple Promises"**

**SMPS welcomes members to the LOMP SPRING MEETING**

**Saturday, May 6, 1995**

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Registration fee \$12.00, includes lunch**

**Bethany College**

**734 Marsh**

**Mankato, Minnesota 56001**

**in their new theater building, Yvslaker Hall.**

Our keynote speaker is new LOMP member Rose McGee of the Twin Cities, the creator of a delightful company called "Seriously Incorporated", for the "soul" purpose of making positive changes in our diverse society through the form of workshops, writing, poetry, music and storytelling. She is the author of two books of poetry and a Artist in Residence in the schools. She will be announcing her topic soon.

Pi Doyle will conduct our afternoon seminar, with Berneal Schindle serving as Seminar chair. Rules for submitting poems to the Seminar critique session: 24 lines or less, double spaced, on one copy only place your name and address in upper left corner, on both copies, place the form of the poem (Sonnet, free verse, etc) in upper right corner. Mail to seminar chair, Berneal Schindle RR8 Box 61, Mankato, Minn. 56001.  
Deadline: Postmarked, April 8th, 1995

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**REGISTRATION FORM FOR May 6, 1995  
LOMP Spring Meeting**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail your form and \$12.00 to :**

**Sue Chambers**

**RR3 Box 86**

**Good Thunder, Minn. 56037**

BARBARA STEVENS AND SUSAN STEVENS

We wish to thank all SMPS members for their cards, sympathy and love over the death of our brother/son Scott Stevens.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. April 22, 1995 8:30 p.m. COFFEE HAG Poetry Reading Bring your own poems to read, or someone else's. 329 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato, Minn.
2. May 6, 1995 SMPS hosts spring LOMP meeting. Registration fee \$12.00. Keynote Speaker, Rose McGee. Seminar Leader, Pj Doyle. Seminar Chair, Berneal Schindle.
3. June 22nd through the 26th, 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 8, 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.
7. October 15, 1995 NFSPS Manuscript Competition. 35-60 pages, cover sheet with identifying info. Complete rules available from Sue Chambers, or on the contest table.

## SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POET'S SOCIETY

### Membership application

The Southern Minnesota Poet's Society (SMPS) is the regional chapter of The League of Minnesota Poets, (LOMP) the official state wide organization founded in 1934. LOMP is a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) founded 1959. NFSPS holds annual conventions and LOMP is entitled to send delegates to each convention.

SMPS meets the second Saturday of the month, nine times per year, September thru May. There are informal gatherings in summer months. Our monthly meetings consist of: a dutch treat luncheon, speakers, workshops and time for poetry sharing. We give suggested poetry assignments (not mandatory) intended to inspire and assist. SMPS membership includes a monthly newsletter THISTLEDOWN and participation in all chapter activities.

SMPS participates in the LOMP Spring and Autumn LOMP poetry festivals. Approximately every two years this celebration is held in Mankato. SMPS is also an active participant in the annual LOMP national poetry contests, sponsoring categories and contributing manpower.

SMPS has three levels of membership: Active, Associate and Student. Active membership is for writers of poetry, Associate members are patrons and lovers of poetry. Student memberships are from grade school through grade twelve. (\$3.00). There are special annual student poetry contests.

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Yes, I would like to join THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POET'S SOCIETY.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STREET CITY STATE ZIP  
TELEPHONE (Home) - - Business - - (Include Area)

Active Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

Associate Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

Student Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$3.00  
(select one)

Send to membership chairman: Wilfred M. Johnson  
732 Garfield Avenue  
North Mankato, MN 56003



# League of Minnesota Poets

*The Moccasin*  
Official Publication

President  
Susan S. Chambers  
Route 3, Box #86  
Good Thunder, MN 56001

Editor  
Meredith R. Cook  
427 Gorham Street  
Blue Earth, MN 56013

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**DUES:** Adults \$15.00, Students (K-12) \$10.00. Dues are payable in January of each calendar year. The League's fiscal year is from January 1st to December 31st. To facilitate bookkeeping, please pay promptly. All League officers donate their time including *The Moccasin* editor. Your full cooperation will be appreciated.

**BENEFITS:** includes Membership in the **National Federation of State Poetry Societys** and four copies of **STROPHIES**, their quarterly news letter of state and national poetry events and contests. Members may also attend their annual, national convention. The League holds a spring and autumn poetry celebration hosted by local chapters by rotation in their respective areas. Members may enter state and national poetry contests at greatly reduced rates. Last but not least, Members may have their poetry published in *The Moccasin*, our league's annual, nationally distributed publication. The League promotes poetry on local, state and national levels. We also sponsor annual student contests and participate in the annual national **Manningham student poetry awards**.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: League of Minnesota Poets.

Mail to membership chairman: Wilfred M. Johnson  
732 Garfield Avenue  
North Mankato, MN 56003

## ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

BONNIE ANN WOLLE was a guest in the third grade classroom at Truman Public School, sharing her poetry and stimulating creativity, both in writing groups and individual poems.

BARBARA STEVENS poems "Mother's Education", "Just a Wallet", and "Sons Never Too Old" and SUE CHAMBERS poem "Things I Wanted To Tell My Brother" were read at Scott Stevens Memorial Service in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on March 25, 1995. A poem by Scott was on the service program, and another poem of Scott's was shared during the service.

LORAIN SCHWANKE MUELLER will give a poetry reading on April 8 for the Presbyterian Women of Tracy, as a part of their Easter/spring celebration.

She was also commissioned to write Lenten Meditations for Tracy United Methodist church.

MEG KRAMER had her poem "Changed Viewpoint" printed on the outside of the bulletin "New Horizons", part of her health care agency. She writes to tell that they use one of her poems each time a bulletin is issued.

MARGY HENGY wrote and read a poem at a luncheon for the YMCA Aerobics Group.

MEREDITH COOK judged a local student poetry contest and an essay contest for the Blue Earth branch of the Catholic Daughters of America.

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 14 Issue 06

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This Month--Saturday, June 10, 1995

SMPS ANNUAL PICNIC

Mavis Christensen

2115 Cottonwood Lake Drive

Windom, Minn 56101

PHONE (507) 831-2638

POTLUCK PICNIC

Bring a dish to pass (casserole, salad, vegetable or dessert).

Mavis will supply beverage (Coffee and Lemonade), rolls, cheeses and cold meat. PLEASE: Do not bring your own dishes or silverware, they get left behind. Mavis will supply paper plates and utensils.

BRING YOUR ENTHUSIASM, LAUGHTER, POETRY AND ANYTHING ELSE OF INTEREST TO SHARE WITH YOUR POETS IN A RELAXED, INFORMAL SETTING BY COTTONWOOD LAKE.

It takes about 1 1/4 hours to make the trip to Windom from Mankato.

DIRECTIONS: From Mankato, take Highway 60 south through Lake Crystal, Madelia, St. James, Butterfield, Mt. Lake and Bingham Lake.

As you come into Windom from the East, the highway becomes four-lane. You will pass Caldwell Packing on the right, and then, after approximately 3/4 of a mile, you will pass the Junction with Highway #71.

You will see Toro Manufacturing on the right and will come to the intersection with 16th Street. On the corners of this intersection are Toro, Vet's Gas, Windom Laundromat (a white building on the left) and a pizza shop. Turn to the left (east) on 16th Street and go approximately one mile to a "T" intersection with Cottonwood Lake Drive. Turn left (north). The road curves to the right and brings you past the public beach with bathhouse and picnic park. Just after the bathhouse, start counting houses on the lake side of the road. Mavis's house #2115 is the fifth house, a white 1950's rambler with green trim.

FOR THOSE STARTING FROM MANKATO, CALL SUE CHAMBERS OR BILL JOHNSON TO SEE ABOUT CAR POOLING.

SMPS NOTES

HOW OVERDUE ARE YOU?

MEMBERSHIPS run from January to January. \$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!

MAY 6 Simple Promises May 6 Simple Promises May 6 Simple

The LOMP Spring meeting was a great success, with many  
compliments for the keynote speaker, the seminar leaders, the  
wonderful facility and food and most of all, the SMPS hosts.  
The door prizes and seminar awards were especially well  
received. Thanks to all who made the day possible!

GET WELL SOON WISHES—BARBARA STEVENS

All our love and affection go out to South Dakota SMPS and  
LOMP member Barbara Stevens who is at home after a 10 day stay  
in the hospital and heart surgery.

We hope she has a speedy recovery.

GET WELL SOON

There will be a short Executive Board meeting just before our  
Sept. 9th meeting, to finalize programs and assignments for  
next year. If you have an idea for a program or an  
assignment, just send it to any officer before Sept. 9, 1995  
so we can act upon it. We need everyone's help to come up  
with great programs and ideas, so put on your thinking caps  
and give us a hand.

## SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

Ah, the pleasant days of summer. What better time to lure the muse to your doorstep? Try your hand at these three suggested poetry assignments.

Do them all at once, do them one per month, or do them all just before the September meeting (not recommended).

These assignments are created to help you write, so try to create a new poem, rather than dusting off past achievements.

Please try:

1. "A Quoted Beginning" (this follows contest #8 of the LOMP National contest, deadline July 31). Any form, a poem derived from a Quote. 40 lines or less.
2. A rhyming, humor poem. This follows categories in both LOMP and NFSPS contests, as well as many other. Most contests call for short poems in the humor category, so, no more than 16 lines, please.
3. POET'S CHOICE Wow us with your newest creation. Any form, any subject, any length. Just get out there and write!

We will share these poems at our first meeting in the Fall.

## COME TO CONVENTION IN ARKANSAS

There are 16 LOMP members attending the NFSPS convention in Little Rock, Arkansas. They will be taking Marquadt the Loon--our good luck charm for contest wins, and noisemakers galore to cheer on our LOMP members. Get in on the fun!

A number of members are renting a van and traveling down together. They will leave on Tuesday, and spend the night on the road (in a motel, of course). Call Bill Johnson (507)387-3730 for details if you would like to join them. There is still time to get your reservations in and you will have the poetry-time of your life!

## WOODTICK WEEKEND

You have always said you would like to come, this the time to make an effort and do it. Poets who have attended in the past say they get more done in this one weekend. They also eat a lot, and have a lot of fun. Directions and requirements are on the separate page.

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

1. June 10, 1995 SMPS summer picnic, at Mavis Christensen's home in Windom, Minnesota. Details in June Thistledown.
2. June 22nd through the 26th, 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.
3. 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. SEE ATTACHED FLIER
4. July 8, 1995 MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less to Editor Meredith Cook, 427 N 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!
5. July 31st, 1995 LOMP 11th NATIONAL CONTEST. Rules are at our book table.
6. October 13 and 14, 1995 LOMP Fall Meeting and Contest Banquet. Assisi Community Center, Rochester, Minn. Registration, overnight room, Friday evening meal, Sat breakfast and noon meals total cost \$41.00, single bed, \$59.00 for two with double bed. OCT. 15th is NATIONAL POETRY DAY. This will be our celebration, but don't forget to plan your local poetry events now!
7. October 15, 1995 NFSPS Manuscript Competition. 35-60 pages, cover sheet with identifying info. Complete rules available from Sue Chambers, or on the contest table.

**ACHIEVEMENT REPORT**

Since SMPS did not meet separately in May, we will have our next achievement report in the Fall Thistledown. We should have a lot to report on!

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).

WOOD TICK POETRY WEEKEND

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

Friday July 14 through Sunday the 16th, 1995

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 blacktop road named "Horseshoe Drive"(?—I think). 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 onto the gravel. This lane is called "Oak Lane". Turn right at the first right turn (at an angle, again about 2/10th's of a mile), at the stop sign. Howard's cabin is directly in front of you. Turn a sharp right, Stevens' cabin is the first left turn after. The STEVENS sign is out front.

PLEASE COME!

Call or write to Sue Chambers  
RR 3, Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037  
(507) 278-4200 (h) or (507) 625-3000(w) or  
Barbara Stevens 909 East 34th St., Sioux Falls, S. Dakota 57105  
(605) 338-9156, if any questions.

# SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

## Volume 14 Issue 07

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This Month--Saturday, September 9, 1995

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.

### SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Return to poetry--tell us about your summer, your poetical experiences, your inspirations for writing, your goals for the upcoming year. We will take time to go around the room and share stories and poems. Did you remember our summer assignments? They were as follows:

1. "A Quoted Beginning" (this follows contest #8 of the 1995 LOMP national contest). Any form, a poem derived from a quote. 40 lines or less.
2. A rhyming, humor poem. This follows categories in both LOMP and NFSPS contests, as well as many others. Most contests call for short poems in humor categories, so no more than 16 lines, please.
3. POET'S CHOICE. Wow us with your newest creation. Any form, any subject, any length.

AND, while we are on the subject of assignments  
FOR OUR OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT  
try a Harvest or Halloween Poem, no line limit

THANK YOU

Thank you, Mavis Christensen, for opening up your lovely new home on the shore of Cottonwood Lake in Windom, Minnesota for Our June potluck picnic. The food was great, the poetry even better.

### SMPS NOTES

MEMBERSHIPS run from January to January. \$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, and at this time of the season, you get the opportunity to carry over into the next year, so if you have been thinking of joining but haven't taken the plunge, now is the time!

### GET WELL SOON

Long time member Norman Boe recently had heart surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Margaret Holst Hasbargen also is recovering from heart surgery. All our good wishes are with you!

### IN SYMPATHY

SMPS lost a true supporter when member Meg Kramer's husband Bill died in July of 1995. Bill was a familiar face at many meetings, and always joined us for the special events, like our Christmas meeting. He will be missed greatly. Our sympathy and love go out to Meg.

We were also sadden to learn of the death of Lucille Fitzsimmons of Good Thunder, another long time member and booster of SMPS who has not been able to attend meetings in recent years. Wilfred Johnson attended the services on behalf of SMPS. Our sympathy to the Fitzsimmons family.

## IN MEMORY

CECELIA WEAVER

A founding member of SMPS died on June 25, 1995, at age 95. Young at heart, Cecelia was still writing poetry from her bed in Hillcrest Nursing home, and won a Honorable Mention for her new poem "Outside My Window".

She was honored by SMPS with Life membership for her countless contributions to the organization. All of us benefited from her succinct observations and education background. She was also active in LOMP, and many other organizations including a bird club, a hiking club, a button club, and activities associated with the Catholic Church. She was musically talented as well as a gifted writer.

Cecelia's service was held in Easton, Minnesota and Edna Busekist and Sue Chambers attended on behalf of SMPS. She is survived by nieces and nephews. SMPS has lost a very special member.

### A TIMELY TRIBUTE

by Cecelia Weaver

Why did this box of photos come to me--  
pictures of relatives before my time  
of living had begun? What word or rhyme  
can tell me how to use them sensibly?  
This one, my Uncle John's facsimile,  
shows him to be a man in early prime.  
Would this please Grace, his widow, overtime  
these twenty years? Mail carries speedily.

Her answer came: " Thank you. He was a dear,  
in every way--as in a watch, pure gold  
and open-faced, full of good works, steady."  
The letter dropped, for it had brought him near  
in time. To me this young man's photo told  
one has to work to earn a eulogy.

published in the 1984 LOMP Golden Anniversary  
Anthology Heartsong and Northstar Gold



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW FOR SOME FUTURE EVENTS!

1. SEPTEMBER 23, 1995 LOMP Seminar Contest Rule Deadline. 2 copies of one poem (any subject, any form). DOUBLE SPACED. On one copy only, place your name and address at upper left. On BOTH copies, give form of poem (Sonnet, Villanelle, Free Verse, etc.) in upper right corner. Awarded prizes will be divided into free verse and fixed form.. Mail your submission to Seminar Chair: Joann Smith, 632 Fireside Lane SE, Rochester, Minn. 55902. (Phone 507-252-0850).

2. OCTOBER 13 and 14TH 1995 LOMP FALL MEETING, ASSISSI CENTER, ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA.. Friday winners of the LOMP Annual contest announced, those present may read their prize winning poem. Saturday, Michael Dennis Browne will be the guest speaker, and the afternoon seminar will be conducted by David Harris and Laurel Winter. (SEE ABOVE) Registration form was published in the LOMPLIGHTER. If you are not a LOMP member, you may obtain one by writing to chair Jeanette Hinds, 1511 Wilshire Dr. NE, Rochester, Minn. 55906.

3. October 15, 1995 NFSPS Manuscript Competition. 35-60 pages, cover sheet with identifying info. Complete rules available from Sue Chambers, or on the contest table.

4. June 21st through the 25th, 1996 NFSPS ANNUAL CONVENTION, Dallas, Texas. 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.

5. July 1996 MOCCASIN submission deadline. Send at least 6 poems, 24 lines or less to Editor Meredith Cook, 427 North 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, 1996 LOMP 12th NATIONAL CONTEST. Rules are at our book table.

7. BARNES AND NOBLES BOOKSTORE in Mankato are now holding open mike readings about once a month. The date for September has not yet been set. Look for their flyers. The COFFEE HAG in Mankato also periodically holds open readings, but none are scheduled for September.

BARNES AND NOBLES BOOKSTORE in Mankato are now holding open mike readings about once a month. The date for September has not yet been set. Look for their flyers. The COFFEE HAG in Mankato also periodically holds open readings, but none are scheduled for September.

## 8. MSU GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

Sept. 28 Tim O'Brien-- Fiction

October 26 John Hassler--Fiction

November 2 WRITERS HARVEST: THE NATIONAL READING. A selection of area poets and prose writers. All proceeds from the reading will be returned to the Mankato community through grants from Share Our Strength.

November 16 Lorna Dee Cervantes--Poetry (editor of Red Dirt, a new magazine of multicultural literature, she teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the U. of Colorado in Boulder)

January 18, 1996 Robert Wrigley--Poetry (Four books, NEA fellowship recipient, teaches at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho)

February 8, 1996 J. Otis Powell!--Poetry and Performance (published poet, performer at the LOFT, and many other places.)

February 29, 1996 Lynn Emanuel--Poetry (two books, NEA fellowship recipient, teaches at U. of Pittsburgh, participant at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference)

April 9-12, 1996 Phyllis Barber -- Fiction and nonfiction, Visiting Writer.

May 2, 1996 PattiAnn Rogers--Poetry (six books, Pushcart Foundation winner, NEA fellowship recipient, teaches at U. of Arkansas)

May 23, 1996 Ron Hansen--Fiction

The series is usually held on Thursday, and has a writing critique in the afternoon and a reading, open to the general public, in the evening. Contact Richard Robbins, MSU Professor and director of the series for more information: MSU 53/P.O. Box 8400, Mankato, Minn. 56002 (507) 389-2117. Fax (507) 389-5887

### ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

New Member SHELLY GAZY (use to be Voelkner) of New Ulm reports that she was asked to do a piece of art for the Life-Work Planning Center in New Ulm. One of her poems was drawn in around the border.

MARGY HENGY entered the 1st Talent Contest of Nutrition For Life International with an original Oratory "Dream" and achieved the 1st Place Award.

WILFRED JOHNSON was appointed Manningham Contest Chair for NFSPS by President Ralph Hammond. Help him publicize this worthwhile project in YOUR schools.

Copies of the rules are available through Bill.

JOSEPHINE LIEBHABER had a poem "Forever Free" accepted in an anthology compiled by the National Library of Poetry.

LOMP Spring seminar winners from SMPS included:

TRADITIONAL

1st Meredith Cook "Harvest Time"  
2nd Loraine S. Mueller "Insight"

FREE VERSE

1st Nancy Dauer "Pasta and Poetry"  
2nd Bill Johnson "The Ecologist"  
HM Cecelia Weaver "Outside My Window"

NFSPS Winners were published in the LOMPLIGHTER and STROPHES Newsletters.  
Meredith Cook will be reporting on our trip to Little Rock, Arkansas on Friday evening at Rochester.

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).

Susan Chambers, Editor  
Rt. 3, Box 86  
Good Thunder, MN 56037



Carol Daklin  
5648 Perry Ave  
Mpls. MN 55429

Oct. 1995

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 14 Issue 08

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This Month—

There will be no program this month, as LOMP Fall meeting will take place at Assissi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota. Our regular meetings will resume Saturday, November 11, 1995.

NOTE, HOWEVER, that there are many events going on in Mankato that are listed in the MARK YOUR CALENDAR section.

The Schedule of SMPS meetings tentatively planned for the next poetry year, along with assignments, is attached. Remember, this is subject to change depending on the availability of speakers.

CAR POOLING TO ROCHESTER

Contact Bill Johnson at 387-3730 or Sue Chambers at 625-3000 if you would like to coordinate rides over to Rochester on Friday for the two day meeting. Jeannette Hinds tells this editor that even though the time for registering has expired, they can accommodate a few more last minute registrants. Her number is listed in the MARK YOUR CALENDAR section.

THANK YOU—SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Thanks to all our members who share their good poetic times at our September meeting. The writing over the summer was inspired! How are you doing on new assignments?

FOR OUR OCTOBER ASSIGNMENT

try a ALL FALL POEM—Thanksgiving, Harvest or Halloween Poem, no line limit

## SMPS NOTES

MEMBERSHIPS run from January to January. \$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!

### IN SYMPATHY

Our hearts go out to long-time associate member MARTHA BOE upon the lost Past LOMP President, Past Poet Laureate, and longtime member of NORMAN BOE (see memorial).

### NORMAN BOE

On October 5, 1995, Norman Boe passed away. Funeral services will be held in South St. Paul on Sunday, October 8th at 3:00 p.m. A number of SMPS members will attend, although your editor realizes this newsletter will reach some members too late to attend.

Norman Boe was an active member for many years of SMPS, commuting down from St. Paul to encourage our chapter when it was still newly formed. He was LOMP president for well over a decade, and served as one of our first Poet Laureates. He had an ear for rhyme, and a delightful sense of humor (who can forget his Ten Cents For Pound?). There will be a LOMP memorial to Norman at our fall meeting in Rochester, presented by our own President, and his poetry will be read. His contributions to SMPS were significant. Norman Boe will not soon be forgotten.

### WE MISS YOU

A number of our long time members have found it hard, because of health, to attend our meetings as often. We think of you when you cannot be present, and wish you all the very best. If you would ever like to share a poem, just mail it or send it along with one of our attending members, and we will be glad to have you in spirit with us by sharing your newest works. Also, let us know how you are doing.

We wish you were with us.

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

1. October 13 and 14, 1995. LOMP FALL MEETING, ASSISI CENTER, Rochester, Minn. Friday—Meredith Cook's always delightful LOMP Convention report and LOMP Annual Contest Winners announced. Saturday, Keynote speaker, MICHAEL DENNIS BROWN. Afternoon seminar conducted by David Harris and Laurel Winter. Call Jeannette Hinds at (507)282-2447 for last minute registration.

2. October 14, 1995 Monthly open-mike reading at BARNES AND NOBLES BOOK STORE in Mankato. (I know this conflicts with our fall meeting, but if you can't attend, this is another way to celebrate National Poetry Day.

3. October 7, 1995 8:30 p.m. COFFEE HAG Woman's Poetry Reading. Women are especially invited to bring your own poems to read. 329 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato, Minn.

4. October 15, 1995 NFSPS Manuscript Competition. 35-60 pages, cover sheet with identifying info. Complete rules available from Sue Chambers, or on the contest table.

5. October 15, 1995 NATIONAL POETRY DAY

**\*\*\*\*\*MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE—A SPECIAL INVITATION\*\*\*\*\***

6. November 2, 1995 SMPS has been specially invited to read at BARNES AND NOBLES BOOK STORE in Mankato for their WRITERS HARVEST NATIONAL READING Celebration. They want each poet to read their own writings, and they need readers throughout the entire day. If you are willing to come down for part of the day, please contact ERICKA LECK at (507) 386-0110 so she can reserve a time for you and your friends.

7. June 21st through the 25th, 1996 NFSPS ANNUAL CONVENTION, Dallas, Texas. 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.

8. July 1996 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!

9. July 31st, 1996 LOMP 12th NATIONAL CONTEST. Rules are at our book table.

10. MANKATO STATE UNIVERSITY  
GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

October 26 John Hassler—Fiction

November 2 WRITERS HARVEST: THE NATIONAL READING. A selection of area poets and prose writers. All proceeds from the reading will be returned to the Mankato Community through grants from Share Our Strength.

November 16 Lorna Dee Cervantes—Poetry (editor of Red Dirt, anew magazine of multiculture literature, she teaches Creative Writing at the U. of Colorado in Boulder).

January 18 Robert Wrigley—Poetry (Four books, NEA fellowship recipient, teaches at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho).

February 8 J. Otis Powell!—Poetry and Performance (published poet, performer at LOFT and other places).

February 29 Lynn Emanuel—Poetry (two books, NEA fellowship recipient, teaches at U. of Pittsburgh, participant at Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.)

April 9-12 Phyllis Barber—Ficition and Nonfiction—  
VISITING WRITER

May 2 PattiAnn Rogers—Poetry (six books, Pushcart Foundation winner, NEA fellowship recipient, teaches at U. of Arkansas.

May 23 Ron Hansen—Fiction

Call Richard Robbins, Director, for more information  
MSU 53, P.O. Box 8400, Mankato, Minn. 56002 (507)389-2117  
Fax (507)389-5887

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

BILL JOHNSON name is now listed on the "Artists in Education" roster by the Minnesota State Arts Board.

SUE CHAMBERS has just finished judging two contests, one for Alabama, and one for 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).

Sue Chambers to confirm

Assignment: Subject --A sonnet expressing the spiritual impact of great music. This is #30 in the 1996 NFSPS contest.

SMPS 1995-1996 Calendar, page two

April 13, 1996

Program: The MSU Good Thunder Reading Series Guests by Director Richard Robbins  
\_\_\_\_\_ to confirm

Assignment: Subject: Changes Minnesota has experienced. Any form  
limit one page

ALSO: REMEMBER TO BRING 3 COPIES OF ONE OF YOUR POEMS FOR OUR  
CRITIQUE SESSION AT THE MAY PROGRAM.

Sue Chambers responsible for making transparencies, bringing her overhead projector to May meeting.

May 11, 1996

Program: Critique the poem--kindly helping each other with our poems (exchanged anonymously at the last meeting).

Moderator of the Session \_\_\_\_\_

LOMP SPRING Meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

JUNE PICNIC \_\_\_\_\_

NFSPS CONVENTION--Dallas, Texas June 21st through the 25th, 1996



## SMPS CALENDAR

September 9, 1995

Program: Get reacquainted, NFSPS report  
Summer Assignments

NO MEETING--FALL LOMP Meeting in Rochester Oct. 13 & 14, 1995

November 11, 1995

Program: Mavis Christensen "WORD WIZARDRY"

Assignment: ALL FALL--Halloween, Thanksgiving or Harvest Poem, any form, 55 line limit

December 9, 1995

Program: Christmas Poetic Gathering (Music by the Torbensons)

Bill Johnson to confirm

Assignment: Christmas or winter poems, any form, no line limit

January 13, 1996

Program: Writing Workshop, led by Bill Johnson

Assignment: Subject "Janus-faced" (An argument looking in both directions at the same time; duplicitous, two-faced. From a Roman god that is identified with doors, gates, and all beginnings and that is represented artistically with two opposite faces)  
any form, 40 line limit

February 10, 1996

Program: Nancy Dauer, Study of a Poet--Speaker's Choice

Assignment: Subject The Road Taken--Journeys, real, imagined or symbolic. Free Verse, 40 line limit. This is #18 in the 1996 NFSPS contest.

March 09, 1996

Program: Ron Arsenault, Musician "Writing Lyrics"

# THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 14

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anticipating the meeting of November 11, 1995

\*\*\*\*\*

October-November writing assignment/suggestion:  
try All's Fall as a starting point  
Thanksgiving, Harvest, Halloween . . .  
no line limit - any form

O hushed October morning mild  
Begin the hours of this day slow  
Retard the sun with gentle mist;  
Enchant the land with amethyst  
Slow, Slow!

from October  
By Robert Frost

Meeting: Saturday, November 11  
**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. Reservations not needed.  
Guests always welcomed. Programs planned  
to start promptly at 1 p.m



## MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

**MEMBERSHIPS** run from January to January. Fees are \$10 for adults; \$3 for students.  
Dues may be mailed to our Treasurer:  
Elinor Schmidt  
1122 Marsh Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

Dues for the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) may be mailed to Shirley Ensrud, Treasurer,  
208 S. Main St., Blue Earth, MN 56013. Dues for LOMP (which carry with them a year's membership in the  
national federation of poets (NFSPS) are \$15 or \$8 for students. Membership is open to all. If you haven't  
joined before now, maybe it is time to put on your Poor Poet's bathing suit and take the plunge.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

\* SMPS Poets garnered many awards at the Fall Meeting. There were so many, that as the editor of this edition of T-D, I am going to save the time & cost of phoning and include the Achievement Report - as gathered at the Nov. meeting - in December's issue. I plan to help Susan with issues for Nov., Dec., & Jan. Then, I go to visit new grandchildren.

\*\*I am also making plans for the November program since our president, Lorraine Mueller, will be absent. I am not sure of the content yet, even though it has been titled Word Wizardry.

\*\*\*Whatever we do, the meetings and the programs are always more interesting when many members are present. Also, bring a guest!

Mavis Christensen, 2115 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom Mn 56101

Look **INSIDE** for news about all  
of us  
and for **ITEMS OF INTEREST**  
to everyone:

A calendar of coming events  
Personal achievements  
Questions posed  
Maybe even some answers

**It's that time of the year:** Mark your calendar as a reminder.

**MSU GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES:**

**November 16 - Lorna Dee Cervantes - Poetry**

Editor of Red Dirt, a new magazine of multicultural literature, Cervantes teaches in the creative writing program at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

**January 18, 1996 - Robert Wrigley - Poetry**

With four books to his credit, this NEA fellowship recipient teaches at Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, Idaho.

**February 8, 1996 - J. Otis Powell - Poetry & Performance**

Powell is a published poet who has performed at the Loft in Minneapolis.

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**May 23, 1996 - Ron Hansen - Fiction**

This series is usually held on Thursday with a writing critique in the afternoon and a reading, open to the public, in the evening. Richard Robbins, MSU English Dept, is director of the series: MSU 53/P.O. Box 8400, Mankato, MN 56002 (507) 389-2117 Fax (507) 389-5887.

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The Wanda Gag Author  
series held  
at the New Ulm Library  
is finished for the year.  
Information on the next  
series will be provided  
when available.

1-507-354-2632

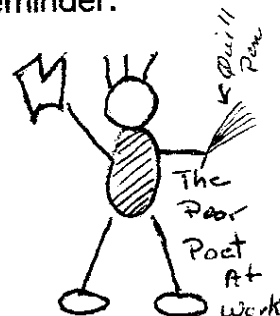
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June 21-25, 1996  
NFSPS Annual Convention  
Dallas, Texas  
A bus is planned if enough poets  
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Chambers or Bill Johnson

July 1996 is the deadline for submissions to the Moccasin. Send at least six-6-six poems of 24 lines or less to Editor Meridith Cook, 427 Gorman St., Blue Earth, MN., 56013. If you are not a League of Minnesota Poets member, pay your dues first since you must be a LOMP member to be included

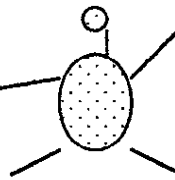
AND

July 31, 1996 is the deadline for the LOMP 12th national contest. Rules and regulations are at our book table each meeting.



**Calendar continued-**

For an evening of Poetic Excitement, try this event at



**The Coffee Hag, 329 N. Riverfront Drive, Mankato (507-387-5533).**

Saturday, Nov. 4, a three-part poetry event begins at 8 p.m. with an Open Mike session until 8:30. Anyone and everyone is invited to read poetry. At 8:30 p.m., Ben Hiltner will be the featured reader. His appearance is jointly sponsored by the Mankato Creative Writers' Cooperative and the Minnesota River Review, a literary magazine published at MSU. At 9 p.m., a Poetry Slam competition begins. I asked Lisa Coons of the Coffee Hag about the rules of the Slam. She said, "Well, I have never been to one before, but I understand they are a lot of fun."

\*\*\*\*\*

## OR THESE

at **Barnes and Nobles Bookstore, Mankato (507-386-0110)**

**Thursday, Nov 2** - the Writers Harvest National Reading, co-sponsored with Share Our Strength for hunger relief. Over 1,000 writers/readers will participate in the national event. Locally, Ericka Leck of the Mankato store has filled most of the 15-minute slots from 5 to 8 p.m. Sue Chambers and Catherine Knightsen of SMPS are included in the roster. Other readers include MSU grad students and faculty members from both MSU and Gustavus Adolphus College. According to Leck, there will be "all ages and stages from children to Pulitzer Prize winners." Some times are still available she says.

Also at Barnes and Nobles on **Saturday, Nov. 4** beginning at 8 p.m. an Open Stage is scheduled. This is a 10-minute period available to anyone in any of the performing arts including writing, speech, drama, music.

A third event at the bookstore this month is a **Poetry Night on Saturday, Nov. 18**. It is a "Poetry Slam in a nice way," said Leck. "Poets bring everything they have written and then we call out a general theme. They search through and find what they have written on this theme to read. Then through a process of elimination, we end the evening with one poet still onstage."

\*\*\*\*\*

## IN MEMORY:

Alva Maki, Duluth, noted Minnesota Arrowhead poet, died recently. She was a League of Minnesota Poets member and had served as a regional vice-president.

Also saddening to Minnesota poets was news of the death of Susan Chambers' father, M.B. Stevens of Sioux Falls, So. Dakota who died in mid-October. While Stevens did not write verse himself, he could be given poetic license as a supportive laureate since he also was the husband of Barbara Stevens who is a longtime member of South Dakota poets and who has been active for many years as a writer, judge and speaker on local, state and national levels of poetic endeavor. The Stevens annually hosted the Woodtick Poets at their cabin on Horseshoe Lake near Merrifield, Minnesota, and this past summer, Stevens himself was "in residence" at that time. We join the Stevens families in this sorrow. Cards may be sent in care of Susan at Box 86, R.D. # 3, Good Thunder, MN 56037 or to Barbara at 909 E. 34th St., Sioux Falls, S.D., 57105.

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P.S. Will Fall Meeting winners bring the poetry receiving awards? We may have time to hear them as well.

## Remember: (For our upcoming meeting)

*Bring a supply of your favorite original poems - both old and new - because we might stage an Old Grab-Bag Reading. Our meeting is planned to include a Fall Meeting report, and if there is not enough time for a full-fledged program, we may save it for a later time & put effort into reading each other's works for practise and exposure. For we are - each one of us - Wizards with Words! See you on the 11th.*

MGC

# THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 14

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anticipating the meeting of December 9, 1995

\*\*\*\*\*

December writing assignment/suggestion:  
Topic: Winter and/or Christmas/holidays  
no line limit - any form  
Bill Johnson has charge of the day's holiday program.

I've taken care of everything  
that Santa brought to me,  
Except the toys that run about  
when wound up with a key.  
But next year you can bet  
I won't make any such mistake;  
I'm going to ask for toys an' things  
that my pa cannot break

Pa Did It  
By: Edgar Guest

Meeting: Saturday, December 9  
**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. Reservations not needed.  
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paid up before now, the Poor Poet says "Put on your skates or skis and join us for our Winter Games!"

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

\*The 1995 edition of The Moccasin was received by members recently.  
Many compliments were expressed at the November meeting about the  
edition, particularly about the aptness and variety of the illustrations.  
We thank Meredith Cook, our editor, for this work of love over the past  
year. Many of us need to send selections of our work to her at 427 N.  
Gorman, Blue Earth, MN 56013 for inclusion in the 1996 edition.  
\*\*It was fun to see Bonnie Wollé and Ike Sarvas again at the November  
meeting. Also new members Faye Mattison and Katherine Knighten and  
our first-time guest Cheryl Heide. Everybody come with bells on in  
December.

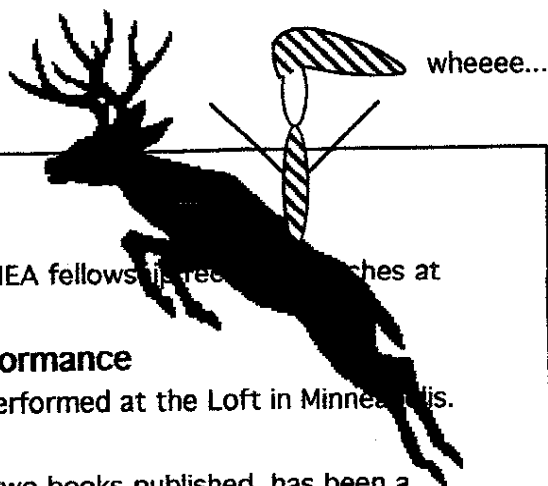
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Barnes & Nobles Bookstore, Mankato (507-386-0110)

There will be no poetry events during the month of December because of holiday activities. We are assured that January events will be scheduled to start 1996 off with a degree of poetic elan! Keep in touch for the fun of bringing poetry into the focus.

### Southern Minn. Poetry Society -

Holiday music and a sing-along with Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Torbenson at the regular meeting Dec. 11:30 a.m. at Vincent Wang Restuarant, 820 S. Front St., Mankato. Bill Johnson is the program master. Bring your best voice along with your poetic endeavors.

Janus, an ancient Roman deity, the *numen* of gates and doors, hence all beginnings, is the subject for January poetry. Sacred to him were the first hour of the day, the *calends* of each month and the first month after the winter solstice. He is traditionally depicted with two opposing faces, probably the faces of a door. His feast day was the Agronium of Jan 9, and his doubledooored shrine located in the Forum was closed only in time of absolute peace. Poetically speaking, his two-faced ways seem as if they might be a gold mine.

## Achievements Reported

*Members of the Southern Minnesota Poetry Society did themselves and the group proud at the Fall Meeting in Rochester. Listed below are the members who achieved honors in the various categories:*

Sue Chambers - 2HM - Patricia Johnson Grand Prize; 1st - Root River Poets; 1st - A Quoted Beginning; 2HM - Eleanor Burns Award; 1 HM - Roy B. Moore Narrative; 3 HM - Edith Hall Memorial; 2nd - Belle Rosenberg Hoskins Memorial; 7 HM Flor & Fauna; 3rd - Joy of John Muir; 1st - Minnesota Poet Laureate Award; HM - LOMP Seminar.

Wilfred Johnson - 8 HM - Writ in Water; 8 HM - Eleanor Burns Award; 6 HM Minn. Poet Laureate

Paul Walsh - 4 HM - Root River Poets; 2nd - A Quoted Beginning; 3rd Free Verse - LOMP Seminar

Margaret Holst Hasbargen - 7 HM - Root River Poets; 2 HM - Heritage

Meredith Cook - 8 HM Root River; 2HM - Sonnet Scenes; 2nd - Minn. Poet Laureate;

Shirley Ensrud - 3 HM - Heritage Award; 2nd - Critters Award; 3 HM - Flora & Fauna; 2 HM - Arrowhead; 6 HM - Eleanor Burns Award; 6 HM - Conservation; 6 HM - Joy of John Muir; 1 HM - Minn. Poet Laureate;

Loraine Schwanke Mueller - 5 HM - Heritage Award; 6 HM - A Quoted Beginning; 2nd - Traditional - LOMP Seminar;

Bonnie Ann Wolle - 8 HM - Critters Award; 1 HM Joy of John Muir;

Barbara Stevens - 5 HM - Flora & Fauna; 2 HM - Joy of John Muir; 2 HM Conservation; 2 HM - Minn. Poet Laureate;

Nancy Jo Dauer - 3 HM - Belle Rosenberg Hoskins Memorial;

Monica Haack - 3rd Traditional - LOMP Seminar

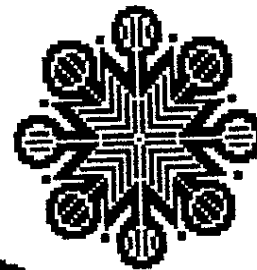
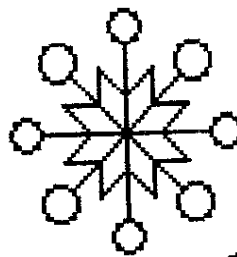
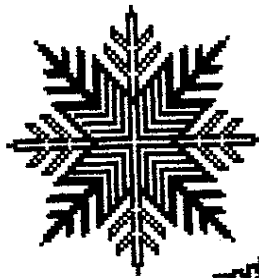
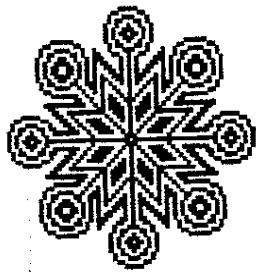
AND OUR STUDENTS - Christina Chambers and Anna Beth Wolle swept all of the Students Award categories. Between them, Anna with two and Christina with the remainder, there wasn't another thing to give away! Congratulations to them both as well as to the adult winners!

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In other achievements, Bill Johnson received acknowledgment in the Mankato State University Reporter for his efforts in bringing poetry to prisoners in the Blue Earth County Jail. Bill's picture was featured as was a poem by one of his inmate students.

Kay Knighten was one of the participants of the poetry reading at Barnes and Nobles Bookstore Nov. 2.

Cheers for President Loraine Schwanke Mueller who has returned from her 75th birthday trip to Sacramento where she celebrated with children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She will be back with us for the December meeting.

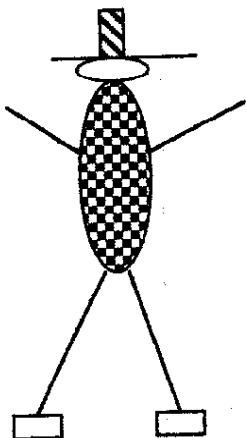


O Come all ye faithful  
poets are ye aaaaalllllll...  
O come ye, O come ye  
to meee-eet again.....

(and when the deeps of winter  
catch you in the glooms, you will  
be reminded to think of the Spring Meeting  
in Duluth per the invitation of the  
Arrowhead Poets for May 25, 1966 at the  
Radisson Hotel in the hilly city on Lake  
Superior)

For now, it's always more fun to sing and be merry when the more of us is there  
to be merrier!

MAVIS CHRISTENSEN  
THISTLE-DOWN SMPS  
2115 COTTONWOOD LAKE DR.  
WINDOM, MN 56101



The  
Poor  
Poet  
writes  
to  
keep  
warm.  
In  
Minnesota  
he/she  
writes  
furiously.

CAROL DAHLIN

5648 PERRY AVE.  
MPLS. MN. 55429

