



Dear SMPS Friends, Associates and Members:

This first edition of SMPS Newsletter??? warmly welcomes each of you to our October 11th meeting at D'Annie's -- for lunch and fellowship at 11:30 a.m., for a fine program at 1:00 by Helen Simcox, a local writer who recently edited and published a collection of poetry by prominent black poets, and for a "family-session" of informal poetry sharing and the business meeting following:

Specific details about each meeting will be in forthcoming issues of this newsletter which is being edited by Toi Rochovitz and Kathie Lutes at the appointment of the Executive Committee. A postage fund for the newsletter will be gathered via "the hat" during each meeting or as deemed necessary. Printing will be done at Patterson Lumber Company. (Thanks, Pat and Mary!!) Deadline for information that any member wishes to contribute will be October 28th. Contact Toi (387-1231) or Kathie (625-3429)

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**NAME AND LOGO CONTEST**

There will be a contest for a name and logo for the newsletter. Come to the October meeting for details!!

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

To help you update your directory, inserts with necessary address and membership changes will be available at the October meeting. A master list can also be consulted.

**DUES**

Dues for both associates and members are \$3.50 and payable to the treasurer, Joe Kubicek, by Jan. 1, 1981.

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A program committee - Pat and Bill Johnson, Monica Haack, Joe Kubicek, Mildred Offerle, Roy Moore and Toi Rochovitz - met last week at Cecelia's to outline our programs for the year. Printed below is a TENTATIVE monthly meeting schedule:

**SMPS PROGRAMS - 1980 - 1981**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FORMAL</u>	<u>INFORMAL</u>
Oct. 11	Helen Simcox	Poetry Sharing
Nov. 8	Norman Boe	Seminar: Toi Rochovitz
Dec. 13	Roy Moore on Haiku	Poetry Sharing
Jan. 10	Cary Waterman	Seminar: Joe K. & John Ganey
Feb. 14	Ed Brandt (Mpls.)	
Mar. 14	Marjorie Cox (Northfield)	Seminar: Pat & Bill Johnson
Apr. 11	Elvira Johnson	
May 9	Frank Anthony (from Vermont!!)	

\*\*\*\* We hope to see you all on Saturday, October 11, 11:30 a.m. at D'Annie's!!!

Editor, Toi Rochovitz  
Assistant, Kathie Lutes

# Thistle-down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Volume 1

Issue 2

NOVEMBER 1980

Toi Rochovitz, editor

## A HALLOWEEN RIDDLE:

WHOOOO was president of IOMP for sixteen years? WHOOOO received a recognition award from the Norwegian/American Cultural Institute at the 1980 Heritage Seminar held in Surnadalen, Norway? WHOOOO was the first American to have an English language poem published in a Norwegian newspaper?

ANSWER: Norman R. Boe, whoooo will review French form poetry for the SMPS meeting to be held November 8th at 11:30 a.m. at D'Annie's. Don't miss this fine program.

P.S. Don't TRICK Toi Rochovitz. TREAT her to your poem for the informal seminar which will follow Norman's presentation. Send poem to End of Timberlane, Mankato, BEFORE November 6th.

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A THANKSGIVING THANK YOU to Helen Simcox who gave the excellent October program. Her own poem, "To William," was a very special introduction to her discussion of the challenges encountered while collecting the poetry of prominent black poets for her new book, Dear Dark Faces: Portraits of a People. Helen's illustrations for the book are truly exquisite. Thanks, Helen!!

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WHOOOO has a Halloween birthday? Teresa Olson. Teresa has been hospitalized in Rochester but is now out of the intensive care unit. Continue to get well, Teresa, and join us soon. We miss you!! Here's a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY from all of us to you on October 31st.

\* \* \* \* \*

ATTN: All poets may enter the 1981 Annual International Poetry Contest. Entries in three categories: Serious; Light Verse; Traditional Haiku. One poem entry per category (specify category!) Deadline is Feb. 1, 1981. Send poem on one side of single 8½ x 11 paper with author's name and address at top to Dorothy Fitch, RR #1, Rosedale, Ind., 47874. Poems will not be returned. Cash prizes from \$5.00 to \$20.00. No entry fee.

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A THANKSGIVING WELCOME to new SMPS writing members: Astrid VanDeWege and Karen Shilling. Their names and addresses are included in the membership directory update inserts. These inserts will again be available at the Nov. meeting.

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NAME AND LOGO REPORT: A committee of John Ganey, Joe Kubicek, John Kolbe and Toi Rochovitz selected our new newsletter name, Thistle-down. This name, consisting of contrasting images of nature, represents the soft seeds of poetry that emerge from human pods to scatter and produce poetic creativity in others. John Kolbe has consented to design an appropriate logo that will appear on the next and following issues. Joe says, "Any objections or alterations must be submitted in poetic form." ☺

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PASSING THE HAT via the subscription method:

Please send me the next six (6) issues of THISTLE-DOWN. I enclose \$1.00.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Joe Kubicek, Treasurer, RFD #1, Lake Crystal, Minnesota 56005

# Thistle-down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Volume 1

Issue 3

DECEMBER 1980

Toi Rochovitz, editor

## HAIKU

A sparrow's lone note  
cuts across the snow's cold crust --  
my ear seems warmer.

-- from Sparks from the Embers  
by Roy B. Moore

Come warm your ears, your poetic hearts and your holiday appetites at the SMPS meeting on December 13th at 11:30 a.m. at D'Annies'!! The special program on Haiku will be presented by our distinguished fellow member, Dr. Roy B. Moore, who is the retired dean of physical education at Mankato State University and is the unofficial poet laureate of MSU. He has published three books: Confetti and Succotash, Sparks from the Embers, and his latest, The Bard Bird Songs. He also has the distinction of having played in a football game against the team of President-Elect Ronald Reagan - once upon a time! ☺ John Ganey will also give a brief presentation with hints for submitting manuscripts for publication and informal poetry sharing will follow.

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HOLIDAY MEETING COUNTDOWN -- Let's give Patricia and Bill Johnson a holiday break by YOU calling in your reservations to THEM - at 387-3730. Our growing membership has increased the time necessary for this commitment and I'm sure they would really appreciate this thoughtfulness. Let it be known, though, that they have NEVER complained about calling you! They LOVE the personal contact!!

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A SPECIAL HOLIDAY THANK YOU to Norman Boe for his excellent and informative program in November on poetry in French forms. The hand-outs added a special touch and the whole presentation contributed tremendously to our poetic education. THANKS, Norman!!

\* \* \* \* \*

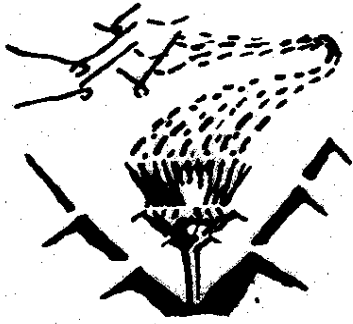
## MISTLE-TOE TIDBITS:

- 1) Patricia Johnson needs each SMPS member to submit their photograph and a brief biographical sketch to her as soon as possible. She will include these in our SMPS history scrapbook she is preparing for us.
- 2) Membership books and directory update inserts will again be available at the December meeting. Also, don't forget Contest Table submissions and perusal.
- 3) Annual SMPS dues are payable to treasurer Joe Kubicek, RFD #1, Lake Crystal, 56005 by January 1st! Inflation hasn't raised them from \$3.50. What a bargain at holiday time! Thistle-down subscriptions of \$1.00 are also payable to Joe.

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IMPORTANT "BUSY-TIME" NOTICE: John Ganey and Joe Kubicek will be leading the member-led seminar at the January 10th meeting following the program by Cary Waterman. So get a head start and bring your one-page, double-spaced poem in an unidentifiable envelope to the December meeting -- or be sure to send your submission to Joe or John by January 3rd.

IF WE DO NOT SEE YOU ON DEC. 13th WE WISH YOU A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



# Thistle-down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Volume 1

BELATED Issue 4

JANUARY 1981

Toi Rochovitz, et

ATTN: All SMPS members who are also LOMP members

Cecelia Weaver reminds all LOMP members that the deadline for poetry entries to the Moccasin is February 15, 1981!!

IMPORTANT SMPS NOTE: Plans have changed. Do not send poems to Dr. Brandt for critiques. He will conduct the workshop at 1:00 only. Bring your poems for informal sharing following the program.

The February 14, 1981 SMPS program, "Sonnets and Sundries," will be presented by Edward R. Brandt from Minneapolis. Dr. Brandt is an accomplished orator on various topics as well as being an avocational poet who has published over 150 poems, some appearing in international publications. He has given speeches as a diplomat, as a Minnesota State legislator for two terms, and as a civic activist.

Dr. Brandt is a member of several state and national poetry societies and is currently President of the Minneapolis Poetry Society and state vice-regent of the Midwest Federation of Chaparral Poets. SMPS members are privileged to learn from this well-qualified and versatile speaker.

NEW LOGO CREDIT is to be given to John Kolbe, SMPS member, artist and sculptor!!

## GIANT JANUARY GRATITUDES:

- 1) to Dr. Roy B. Moore for his excellent program on Haiku poetry presented at the December SMPS meeting. Thanks, Roy, for the fine handout to illustrate your presentation. (I heard that John Ganey, during the business meeting, said, "Roy is the 'old' business!" Because you played football against President-elect Ronald Reagan??!! Tell that pipsqueak that you are a celebrity! ☺)
- 2) to Cary Waterman and Antony Oldknow who shared their own poetry and charming opinions and inspirational insights at our January meeting. (Editor's regrets for not formally introducing them through Thistle-down previously.) Tony Oldknow has seven books of poetry to his credit, plus a book of fiction and one anthology. Our ears were also entertained by his definitely delightful English accent!!

Cary Waterman is a locally known and published poet who was the recipient of a Bush Foundation grant. Her book, The Salamander Migration and Other Poems, published by the Pittsburgh Press in 1980, was the result. She also had a chapbook published in 1975. Her children, she said, were the inspiration for her serious poetic efforts; only having "dabbled in high school and college."

One of Cary Waterman's comments was, "I believe poets are born like that. Some of them just stop." It is possible that the following poem poignantly illustrates the truth of her statement. The "untitled" poem was recently written by the four-year-old daughter of SMPS members, Ron and Caroljean Newell:

Snowflakes! Snowflakes!  
Singing in the sky  
Like angels!

-- Monessa Newell  
age 4



# Thistle-Down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Volume 1

Issue 5

FEBRUARY 1981

Toi Rochovitz, Ed.

SMPS Friends, Associates and Members:

Make plans to attend the special Valentine's Day meeting on February 14th for lunch, fellowship and a fine program by Edward Brandt on "Sonnets and Sundries," at D'Annie's starting at 11:30 a.m.

As reported in Issue 4 of Thistle-Down, Dr. Brandt is the President of the Minneapolis Poetry Society and is a poet with more than 150 published poems as well as being an accomplished orator on various topics. His program will be followed by an informal poetry session so members are encouraged to bring their recently composed, previously revised or even Valentine poetry to share. (Wintry seasonal poems will be accepted provided they will warm the HEART! ♡ - Ed.)

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"Thank you, ♡, John Ganey," for your excellent critiqueing at the January meeting of the poems submitted for the member-led seminar. Also, a belated "Thank you," too, for your message, "How to Submit Poetry," given at the December meeting. Members sincerely appreciated the handouts you prepared, also.

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NOTICE: Wilfred and Patricia Johnson will be leading the next member-led seminar at the March 14th meeting following the program by Marjorie Cox of Northfield. Bring your poem to be critiqued to the February meeting (one page, double-spaced,) in an envelope only you can recognize or send one (with a poem enclosed, of course) ♡ to them at 732 Garfield, North Mankato before March 1st!

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Valentine's Day month (January having fled where most months flee!!) has been suggested as a good time to look back over the history of SMPS with emphasis on an overview of 1980:

In November, 1976, SMPS began with only eight charter members and has increased in four years to a total active writing membership of thirty-three (including one life membership and two honorary memberships) and fifteen associate members as well as many guests who often later have become active members or associates, also. Over these four years, eleven former members or associates are no longer active due to health, relocations, or other Saturday commitments. But, during 1980, SMPS increased in membership with the acceptance of 10 new members and 17 associate members!!!

NEW WRITING MEMBERS ACCEPTED IN 1980: John Domeier, Michael Paul Gallo, Roger German, Richard Jensen, John Kolbe, Ron Newell, Lucille Nitzkowski, Karen Shilling, Dr. Robert Shipman and Astrid VanDeWege.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ACCEPTED IN 1980: Carol Ellenfeldt, Al Fack, Burton Greenwald, Caroljean Newell, John Saunders, Elinor Schmidt, and Dr. Robert Wright.

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SMPS MEMBERS ACCEPTED INTO THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS IN 1980: Claire Beetch, Al Hanzal, John Kolbe, Joe Kubicek, Kathie Lutes, Ron and Caroljean Newell, Lucille Nitzkowski and Karen Shilling. (MOCCASIN submission deadline reminder: Feb. 15th)

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SMPS can also be proud of our 1980 average attendance record per meeting:

Members = 16; Associates = 4; Guests = 5 TOTAL AVERAGE MEETING ATTENDANCE = 25



# Thistle-Down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Volume 1

Issue 6

March 1981

Toi Rochovitz, Editor

Hear Ye Poet Leprechauns and Friends:

Come meet with us this Saturday, March 14, 11:30 a.m. at D'Annie's. Marjorie Cox, noted poet and educator from Northfield, will present an instructive program on "The Ballade." This will be followed with a critique of members' poems by Wilfred and Patricia Johnson. Submissions will be accepted through Thursday.


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### SPECIAL GRATITUDES:

- 1) to Dr. Edward R. Brandt for his excellent program on "Sonnets and Sundries." It was a learning experience, and we appreciated the handouts he prepared.
- 2) to the many members and friends who participated in a "Sharing of the Arts" at the Carnegie Library during the afternoons of February 22 and March 1. These successful programs were SMPS sponsored for the purpose of expressing united support to the preservation of the Carnegie building as a community arts center. Meet with us Saturday or consult THE FREE PRESS to learn the decision of the Mankato City Council.

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### REMINDERS:

- 1) to all SMPS members who are also LOMP members: The annual date for payment of the 1981 League dues--\$5.00--was March 1.
- 2) SMPS members: Your 1981 memberships of \$3.50 were due on January 1. 
- 3) Poets: The contest deadline for the National Federation of State Poetry is March 15.
- 4) THISTLE.DOWN subscriptions of \$1.00 are payable to John Ganey, 1023 N. 6th St., Mankato, MN. John is acting treasurer in Joe Kubicek's absence.
- 5) Patricia Johnson requests that each SMPS member submit their photograph and a brief biographical sketch to her for inclusion in the scrapbook she is preparing.

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We apologize for the tardiness of THISTLE.DOWN. Our editor cut her thumb so the president is pinch-hitting. Now I know why Toi thinks this is so much fun!

"May pleasure walk with you  
and luck smile upon you."

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!  
Patricia M. Johnson





# Thistle-Down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Volume 1

Issue 7

APRIL 1981

Tom Rochovitz, ed.

WELCOME, April "Fools," April Showers, and/or Poets:



Place: D'Annie's

Date: Saturday, April 11, 1981

Time: 11:30 a.m. - Lunch and informal business

1:00 p.m. - \*Program: Student Poets from East High

2:00 p.m. - Informal Poetry Sharing

3:00 p.m. - Business meeting

Informal poetry sharing instructions: Each member should bring a poem to share, an empty envelope, and a mental supply of imaginative, highly descriptive adjectives. Each person will write one adjective describing their first impression of each poem shared. These impromptu "critiques" will be put in an envelope and given to each poet following the session. Sounds like fun, Roy!

\*Program change note: Elvira T. Johnson from Duluth sends her regrets that she is unable to attend the April meeting as our special speaker. Her reason: Her twin grandsons will compete in the State Wrestling Meet to be held in Duluth on that day! Good luck, fellows!

\* \* \* \* \*

## ABUNDANT APRIL ACCOLADES:



- 1) to Marjorie Cox for her fine program on "The Ballade" on March 14th. Marjorie is a recently retired teacher from Northfield and has been a member of the League of Minnesota Poets since 1939. Marjorie read examples from three types of ballads; folk, riddle and literary. Some of the comments heard after the program: "All read in thrilling manner," "A delightful program," and "Beautiful speaking voice."
- 2) To Bill and Patricia Johnson who lead the excellent member poetry seminar in March following Marjorie's program. Bill and Patricia critiqued the eight poems submitted by fellow poets with professional aplomb! Great job!

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**COMING SOON:** Ruth Roston, a Poet-in-the-Schools participant, will be teaching poetry in the English classes at Lincoln Junior High from April 6th to April 10th. Sponsored by Doris Boyce, Ruth will be available to the public during Parent/Teacher conferences on April 9th in the Poetry Corner of the Boys' Gym from 10:30-12:00 a.m. and from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Ruth will be interviewed also on the Betty Painter Show on April 9th at 9:00 a.m.

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**APRIL NEWSFLASH:** The Carnegie Library may yet become a Mankato Area Cultural Arts Center in spite of obstacles and mind-boggling set-backs. During the special meeting held March 31st, the City Council and Arts Council were able to resolve some difficulties hindering further plans. Dr. Joseph Eckert and other Board of Directors members are to be congratulated on their hard work, patience, perseverance and good will on behalf of their Southern Minnesota neighbors.

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Anyone interested in Informal Poetry Sessions at "Patterson's Pad" again this summer? Be prepared to discuss times, dates, procedure and expectations at April and May meetings.