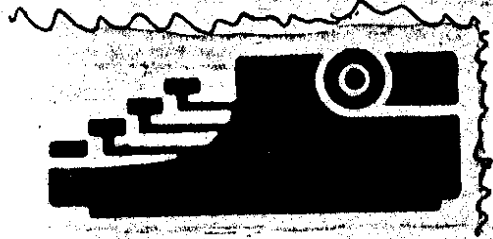


NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Member-contributed items to be included in the October issues of the Thistle-Down should be received no later than September 28th. All ideas, info, cartoons and criticisms are welcomed.

Thank you!

Toi Rochovitz  
387-1231



YES, I would like to receive the next issues of Thistle-Down (October 1981 to May 1982.)

Enclosed is \$2.50.

Mail to:  
Joe Kubicek, SMPS Treasurer  
PO Box #1,  
Lake Crystal, Minnesota 56005

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

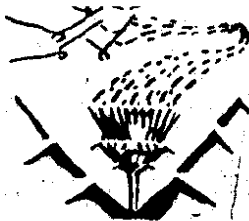
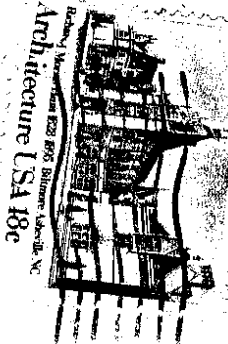
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline: September 28, 1981

Toi Rochovitz, SMPS editor  
End of Lincolnton  
Mankato, Minn. 56001

Patricia & Bill Johnson  
732 Garfield Avenue  
North Mankato, Minn.  
56001



# Thistle-Down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Vol. 2 Issue 1 September 1981

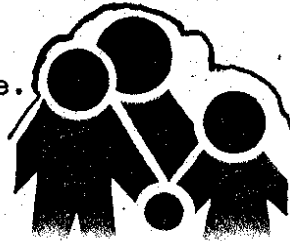
YOU ARE INVITED ---

September 12 11:30 a.m.  
Mr. Rene's Sunset Room (2nd floor)  
119 South Front  
Mankato, Minnesota

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society will hold their first fall meeting at Mr. Rene's, since D'Annie's Restaurant closed down during the summer. The location change should not alter the warm and friendly welcome you will receive as we share summer achievements, get reacquainted and reorganized for another busy year. Cecelia Weaver will also speak on prize poems from Kansas City Star contests with poetry sharing informally following.

The Mr. Rene's location has been secured for every second Saturday throughout the year. We can still order from the menu as before and adequate parking is nearby. The parking ramp can be entered via Walnut Street from the east (Broad St.)

Guests are also welcome.



Continued on inside

# LOMP

The fall 1981 meeting of the League of Minnesota Poets will meet in Duluth on September 26th. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Location and other details will be available at the Sept. 12th SMPS meeting or from the forthcoming Moccasin supplement.

Rex Hudson of Duluth will lead the critiquing session and will choose the award winning poems.

The deadline for poetry submissions to Mr. Hudson is September 21st.

Send a one-page, unidentified poem to:

Rex Hudson, LOMP critiquer  
Apt. B-5 - Mesaba Villas  
101 Mesaba Avenue  
Duluth, Minnesota 55806

Be sure to enclose the title of the poem and your name and address on a separate slip of paper and a SASE.

## SMPS

--at Mr. Rene's Sunset Room - 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 10 -- Elvira Johnson, Duluth  
"Shaping Up for Publication"

Nov. 14 -- Norman Boe, St. Paul  
(title to be released later)

Dec. 12 -- Panel Discussion  
"What Makes a Poem"

Details of the above programs and items concerning member critiquing and poetry sharing for each meeting will be printed in future issues of Thistle Down.

Poets..



PREPARE for the Sept. 12th SMPS meeting!

- 1) BRING a one-page poem (unidentified except on separate slip) for Elvira Johnson to critique at the October SMPS meeting. Patricia & Bill Johnson will give them to her in Duluth. on September 26th.
- 2) BRING a poem to share about an item that is not man-made. Bring the item also to emphasize visual aid effectiveness. (No trees, please!)
- 3) BRING your poems that have won awards since our April meeting.
- 4) BRING ideas for Spring LOMP meeting which will be held in Mankato in May 1982. One theme suggested: WOOD
- 5) BRING an interested (and interesting) guest!
- 6) BRING a smiling face and happy heart.



WELCOME TO NEW WRITING MEMBERS: !

Carol M. Eilenfeldt  
523 South Broad Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
388-1560

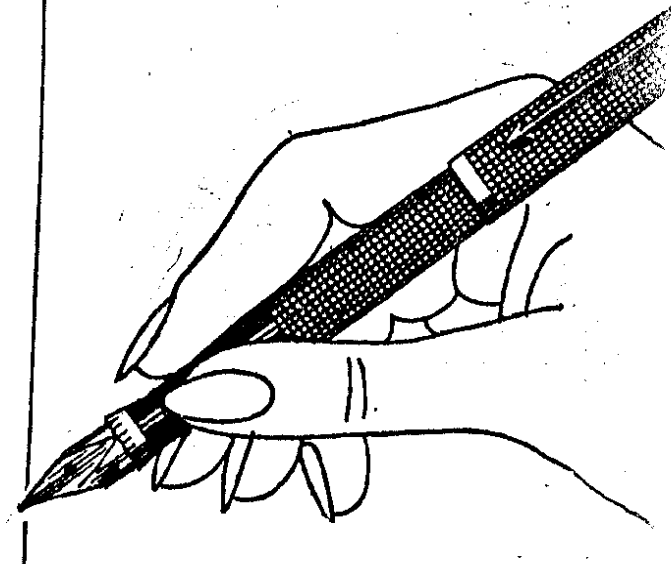
Elinor Schmidt  
1122 Marsh Street  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
345-5807

Barbara Gilmore Nelson  
706 Cornelia  
North Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
388-3759

SMPS members extend deep sympathy to the family and many friends of Dr. Robert Wright, an associate SMPS member, who passed away in the early morning of August 28th. Bob Wright was a genuine, gentle and friendly man, always bringing out the best in others - marks of a truly excellent teacher. He will be missed by all of us and our hearts and prayers go out to his wife, Lorraine, and to their children, Ron and Robin.

News has also been received of the passing of SMPS writing member, Veda Bernhardson, on August 30th in Alaska. Her memorial service date has not yet been announced. Her husband, Victor is also seriously ill and needs our prayers.

# WRITE ON!

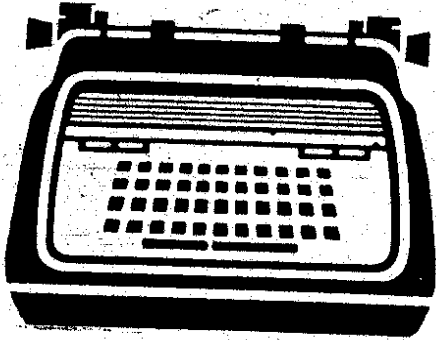


NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Member-contributed items for the next issue of Thistle Down must be received by the editor no later than Oct. 26th. THANKS!

The SMPS Board voted to extend the subscription deadline. If you wish to receive further issues of the newsletter, please fill out and send in the subscription form below.

Toi Rochovitz  
387-1231



YES, I would like to continue receiving the next issues of Thistle Down. (November 1981 to May 1982)

Enclosed is \$2.50

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

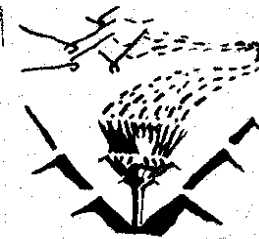
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE: October 26, 1981

Toi Rochovitz, SMPS editor  
End of Timberlane  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001



# Thistle Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Vol. 2 Issue 2 October 1981

YOU ARE INVITED - - -

October 10 11:30 a.m.

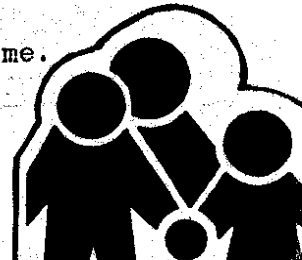
Mr. Rene's Sunset Room  
119 South Front  
Mankato, Minnesota

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society is proud to announce Elvira T. Johnson of Duluth as the main speaker for our next meeting. Her program, "Shaping Up for Publication," will be followed by her personal critique of each poem from SMPS members she has received by October 5th. (Hopefully, most of these poems have been sent to her at 4425 W. 7th St., Duluth, Mn. 55807.)

Elvira is now serving her fourth year as League of Minnesota Poets president and is advisor and seminar critic for the Arrowhead Poetry Society. Her book of poetry, Into the Daybreak, was published in 1968 and she has received various literary awards through the years. In 1974, she received the first Arrowhead Poet of Distinction award and she continues "meritorious service to poets and poetry" with enthusiasm and dedication.

Guests are always welcome.  
Bring a friend.

continued on inside



# SMPS Information

## Past --

The September meeting at Mr. Rene's was attended by twenty-two members and six guests. Summer productive creativity was evidenced by the long and exciting Achievement Report - 4 pages full!! Good work, poets!

THANKS goes to Cecelia Weaver who presented a fine report of the Kansas City Star Contests and passed out copies of sample winning poems. These should be of great help and motivation to enter more contests!

## Future --

The main speaker for the November 14th SMPS meeting will be Norman Boe, fellow SMPS member from St. Paul and "one-half" of our Advisory Council. He will also critique SMPS member poems after his program. Be sure to bring a poem (in an envelope only you can identify) to the October meeting and give it to him directly or send a poem to him:

Norman Boe, SMPS critiquer  
131 - 19th Ave., No.  
South St. Paul, Minn. 55075

He should receive the poems no later than November 6th and each entry should be on standard size paper, one side only, and double-spaced.

# Announcement

President Patricia Johnson announced the re-appointment of Joe Kubicek as general chairman of the May 1982 LOMP meeting which will be held in Mankato. Since Joe efficiently guided SMPS through a first successful May 1980 League meeting, this one should be extra special. Members are sure to support him 100%.



Let's get the Contest and Poetic Interest Table active again!!!

Please bring any poetry contest information or other educational literature you think other members would find interesting and/or helpful. Put them on the special table at the beginning of each meeting. Be sure to bring pen and paper to write information helpful to you.



WELCOME TO NEW WRITING MEMBERS: !

Helen Earle Simcox  
225 Oak Knoll Blvd.  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
387-7413

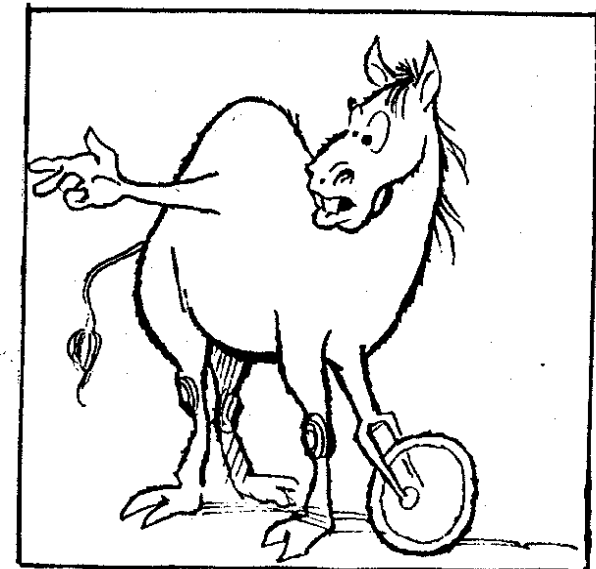
Marsha Paske  
123 South 5th St., #3  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
Work: 625-6169

# Personal Mention

The Haack household had its share of personal calamities since our last meeting. Jim was hospitalized with an infection of his heart lining and, while he was there, Monica fell and broke her arm and had to spend one night in the hospital, also. Hopefully, by publication time, they are both returning to good health. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

Heartfelt sympathies also go to the Boe's who lost both a brother and a sister-in-law this past summer. Our hearts sorrow with you, Norman and Martha, even though words, even poetic ones, are inadequate.

# Creativity



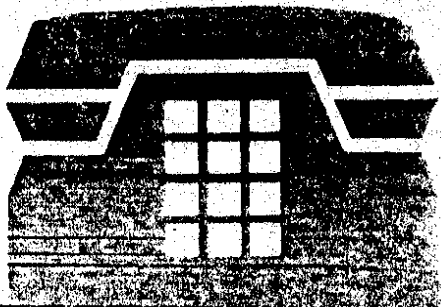


TE FROM THE EDITOR:

icipation of a busy Holiday season  
ll engender editorial PANIC unless  
mber contributions of newsletter in-  
ormation, ideas or instructions are  
ceived no later than November 20th  
d December 28th!!

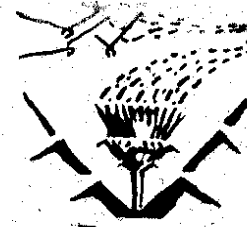
ANKXX!!

Toi Rochovitz  
387-1231



Call anytime, day or night, 7 days a week! ?!

Mrs. L. J. Rochovitz  
End of Timberlane  
Mankato, MN 56001



# Thistle- Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Vol. 2      Issue 3      November 1981

YOU ARE INVITED --

November 14, 1981 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Rene's Sunset Room  
119 South Front  
Mankato, Minnesota

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society is pleased to present Norman R. Boe of South St. Paul as the November program speaker. He will give an instructive program on limericks before the personal critique of member poems he has received by November 6th.

Members will remember Norman's fine review of French form poetry last year at this time. LOMP members also recognize him for his sixteen years as League President, the recognition award he received in 1980 at the Norwegian/Cultural Institute in Surnadalen, Norway, and as the first American to have an English language poem printed in a Norwegian newspaper. I wonder how many of us know that his poem in memory of John F. Kennedy was read at the Memorial Service in Dallas, Texas in 1963?

We are proud to have Norman share his talents and insights with us - as a program speaker and as a fellow member and friend.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

Twenty members and six guests were present on October 10th, to hear the excellent and informative program by Evira T. Johnson of Duluth concerning the preparation of poetry and manuscripts for publishing markets. The personal critiques she gave of member poems were exceptionally instructive, kind, and executed with refined and characteristic diction. Thank you, Evira, for the time and effort on our behalf! We also enjoyed the presence of your son, Rodney, and his lovely wife, Kaye. Come again!

POET'S PRAYER - (for Dec. SMPS mtg.)

Lord, we have a few favors to ask along with our Thanksgiving prayers. Specifically, Lord, we ask You to help us so we can be the best poets we can possibly be. Yet, we do thank You, too, for the opportunities You give us to develop our potential; such as the Panel Discussion program on "What Makes a Poem?" planned for SMPS on December 12th.

We also ask you to inspire the panel members, Bill and Cecelia, Aldred, Roy and I to inspire each other and each other in the way we all need; especially around the time of Your Birthday when Minnesota gets so cold! (Oh, I guess You knew that already!)



Thanks for listening. Happy Thanksgiving!

CONTESTS: LOMP and SMPS members

A. ARROWHEAD CONTEST

Subj: Rural life, any aspect, anywhere  
 Form: free or structured  
 Length: 20 lines or less

Send to:

William C. Hermann  
 430 North 16th Ave., East  
 Duluth, Minnesota 55812

B. MANKATO SMPS CONTEST

Subj: Our Heritage: personal or historical  
 Form: free or structured  
 Length: ONE 8½ x 11 page  
 (single or double spaced)

Send to:

Patricia M. Johnson  
 732 Garfield  
 North Mankato, Minn. 56001

INSTRUCTIONS FOR BOTH CONTESTS:

Poem should be typed on standard paper with no identification of poet. On a second page, place poem title, first line of poem, poet's name and address and put INSIDE a SASE. The winner's list will be returned with poem.

DEADLINE: November 15th (received by)

Winners announced: December 15th

Prizes: \$15, \$10, and \$5

\* \* \* \* \*

November 14th Poetry Sharing Idea:

-- a poem about a dream or nightmare

- 1) to Dr. Margaret Preska and Mrs. Lorraine Wright for inviting SMPS members to attend a symposium on "The Humanities in American Life" on October 11, 1981 at MSU's Performing Arts Center.
- 2) for the Mankato Area Arts Council's successful execution of exhibits, musicales and poetry readings the past months and, especially, for the impressive Open House and Celebration on October 11, 1981.
- 3) for the new poetry chapter, Martin County Humanities Guild, in Fairmont. Judie Bernstein requested our newsletter and invites all interested SMPS members to join them any Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. Her address is: 1881 Knollwood Drive, Fairmont, Mn., 56031.
- 4) for the Haack family's improving health. Jim is up and about now and on November 4th, Monica had the pins removed from her broken wrist (and a cast put on.)
- 5) for 28 PAID newsletter subscriptions



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



Kay Flesner, writing member  
 104 S. Manitou Drive  
 Mankato, Minnesota 345-3266

Alane J. Lee, writing member  
 P.O. Box 3482  
 Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Pat Stark, associate member  
 St. Pater, Minnesota 56082



# Thistle-Down

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society

Volume 2

Issue 4

DECEMBER 1981

Toi Rochovitz, ed. ©

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS:

We send warmest recovery wishes on wings of Christmas prayers to one of our founders and past presidents, Cecelia Weaver and to Toi Rochovitz's mother, Mrs. Lillian Lamb. Our editor is with her in Santa Fe, New Mexico. May the gift of renewed GOOD HEALTH be yours!



Wilfred and Patricia Johnson are expecting their third grandchild THIS WEEK so this Yuletide Newsletter is in a race with the stork.

\* \* \* \* \*

## WELCOME TO NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:



Maynard Teigen, R.R. #2, Stewartville, MN 55976  
Mary Burrichter, 1601 - 5th Street N.E., Rochester, MN 55901

\* \* \* \* \*

## COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS:

Thank you, Norman Boe, for the fine instructive program on limericks and the learning experience of your November 14 afternoon seminar.

Thanks also to the Martin County Humanities Guild for your attendance at this meeting; SMPS wishes you continuing success in your poetry endeavors.

\* \* \* \* \*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

December 12 -- Election of officers for 1982 - 83. Panel Discussion: "What Makes a Poem." Panelists: Mildred Offerle on Structured Verse, Dr. Roy Moore on Rhyme and Reason and Wilfred Johnson on Free Verse. Moderator: Patricia Johnson.


January 9 -- SMPS speaker: Dr. Ron Gower, poet and associate professor of English, Mankato State University.

January 19 -- Wilfred and Patricia Johnson conducting a six-week Tuesday evening Poetry Workshop at the Mankato Arts Center. Other SMPS members (to be named later) will be assisting. Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

February 9 --- Frank Anthony, Vermont novelist, poet and producer for Public Radio will be the featured speaker at the Mankato Arts Center Poetry Workshop.

February 11 -- Frank Anthony on the Betty Painter Show, 9:15 a.m.

February 13 -- Frank Anthony conducting SMPS workshop: "Poetry, Poets, and the Media," regular meeting date, 11:30 a.m., Mr. Rene's Sunset Room.

March 13 -- Dr. Carl Lofy of MSU will speak on "Human Relationships" 

Phone 387-3730 for reservations for any of these events.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The events listed on the calendar (unless otherwise designated) are on the regular SMPS meeting dates -- Mr. Rene's, 11:30 a.m., Dutch treat luncheon.



ONE LAST CALL:

Costs are rising! If you would like us to continue to send you THISTLE. DOWN, please send the subscription rate of \$2.50 to Joe Kubicek, SMPS treasurer RFD #1 Lake Crystal, Minnesota

56005



POETS, DON'T FORGET!

Bring notebooks, a poem for member critiquing exchange and your noncompulsory assignment poems. Suggested themes: The Lavelle pattern or any form on a dream or nightmare. There will also be a sharing of poems of your choice.

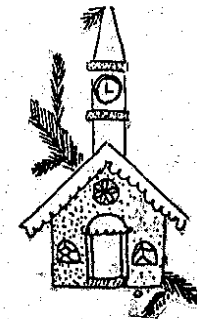
FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

SMPS FRIENDS -- Poets CARY WATERMAN and ANTONY OLDKNOW will present a program of Christmas poetry at the ARTS CENTER, 120 S. Broad Street -- Sunday, December 20 -- 2 p.m.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!  
PMJ



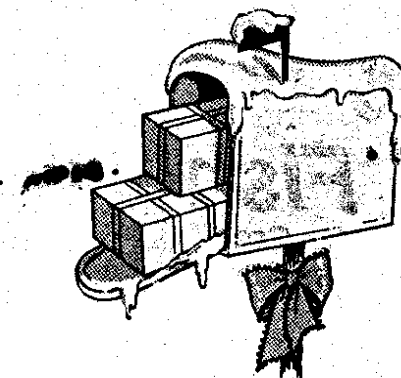
Toi Rochovitz, SMPS editor  
End of Timberlane  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001



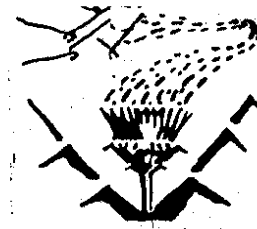
May your moccasins  
make tracks  
in many snows,



and a rainbow  
always touch  
your shoulder







# Thistle. Down

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 2      Issue 8      April 1982

YOU ARE INVITED --

April 10      11:30 a.m.

Mr. Rene's, 119 South Front  
Mankato, Minnesota

TOPIC: "How 'Jung' is Your Poetry?"

Dr. Carl (Chuck) Lofy, professor of Counseling and Student Personnel at Mankato State University, will speak on Jung's philosophy and its relevance to poetic expression. He will read some of his favorite poems that illustrate this philosophy.

Dr. Lofy has been both assistant and acting President of Academic Affairs as well as Vice President of Student Affairs at MSU in addition to his current position. He is currently active in the MSU Friday College program, also.

Following Dr. Lofy's presentation, SMPS member Norman R. Boe, of St. Paul, will present the Bartholomew sonnet and share several examples of this form. His handouts explaining the form will be available for members. The Bartholomew sonnet will be the suggested summer 1982 assignment poem.

Everyone is welcome!  
Invite a guest!



SMPS Thistle·Down  
Toi Rochovitz, editor  
End of Timberlane  
Mankato, Minnesota      56001



"poetry ennobles the heart and the eyes, and unveils the meaning of all things upon which the heart and the eyes dwell."

Done Faith Sitwell