

PATHOS · HUMOR · HISTORY · CREATIVE NON-FICTION



CALLAHAN COUNTY

STAR SPOTLIGHT

WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

Submissions sought to:

Star  
P.O. Box 29

Eastland, TX 76448

email: thebairdspotlight@att.net

S.A.S.E. for returns

--WANTED--

20 lines,

double spaced or less

Poetry

Fiction or Non

American Life In Poetry

BY TED KOOSER,  
U.S. POET LAUREATE,  
2004-2006

I'd guess you've all seen a toddler hold something over the edge of a high-chair and then let it drop, just for the fun of it. Here's a lovely picture of a small child learning the laws of physics. The poet, Joelle Biele, lives in Maryland.

To Katharine: At Fourteen Months

All morning, you've studied the laws of spoons, the rules of books, the dynamics of the occasional plate, observed the principles governing objects in motion and objects at rest. To see if it will fall, and if it does, how far, if it will rage like a lost penny or ring like a Chinese gong--because it doesn't have to--you lean from your chair and hold your cup over the floor. It curves in your hand, it weighs in your palm, it arches like a wave, it

is a dipper full of stars, and you're the wind timing the pull of the moon, you're the water measuring the distance from which we fall.

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The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

Literary Calendar

August 9, 1593: The author of "The Complete Angler," Izaak Walton, was born in Stafford, England.

August 9, 1842: In the Marquesas islands, Herman Melville escaped from cannibals in the Typee Valley, after spending a month in captivity.

August 11, 1937: In Maxwell Perkin's office, Ernest Hemingway is said to have ripped open his shirt and punched Max Eastman on the nose.

August 13, 1660: John Milton's Latin pamphlets "Defense of the English People" was banned by a proclamation of King Charles II.

August 14, 1834: Embarking on the brig "Pilgrim," Richard Henry Dana left Boston Harbor for sea, where he would keep a journal to write "Two Years Before the Mast."

Literary Exercise

Take a room of five characters. Write out the basic character traits. Then have them start talking to each other about their cute grand children. They then talk about the children's parents, and what has happened to them, or what is happening. The group of characters then take a break. They walk outside to view the mountains at Big Bend, where they are attending a watercolor painting workshop. When they go back in the room, what do they say?

Each entry with brief biography notes. All must be family oriented; no smut, slander or liable material.

Contacts of interest for writers:

NFSPS Poetry Contests for 2008  
Madelyn Eastlund  
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34465

Poetry Society of Texas  
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Words To Use  
Nupson : a noun to denote an idiot or a fool  
Ort: a dinner scrap, or a leftover from a meal  
Pawk: a gadget, a trick or a stunt  
Rasorial: an adjective referring to an animal or bird that scratches the ground for food  
Squit: a noun for silly talk or idiotic speech. It is not known if this word was coined in election years.



Friends--Photo by Patrick Ready



August Wildflower--Photo by Patrick Ready

The History of Aprons

I don't think kids know what an apron is. The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears... When Grandma rocked us to sleep, she would cover us with her apron, we felt so snug wrapped in it. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fuzzy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandm walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes. Some would go crazy now trying to figure out how many germs there was in that old apron. I don't think I ever caught anything from an apron. Oh, by the way, Grandma used to set hot baked apple pies on the window sill to cool. Her granddaughters set theirs on the window sill to thaw.

Writers And Poets!

The Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers announce that the Baird Star will be publishing submitted poetry and short stories. We will also be publishing a literary journal in the near future.

1. We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
2. There will be no payment, but you will get your works before the general public. We will be sending sample copies to other organizations, the literary world and libraries for their archives and your notoriety.
3. Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
4. Each submission should be typewritten, single spaced, with author's name and contact information in the top right hand corner. You must include a SASE for the return of the submission.
5. Please address all submissions to:

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