

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](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)  
S.A.S.E. for returns

--WANTED--  
20 lines,  
double spaced or less  
Poetry  
Fiction or Non  
Each entry with brief  
biography notes. All  
must be family orient-  
ed; no smut, slander or  
liable material.

### Literary Calendar

December 26, 1913: Ambrose Bierce was traveling with the army of Pancho Villa, when he wrote a letter, disappeared, and was never heard from afterward.

December 27, 1904: At the Duke of York's Theatre in London, "Peter Pan," by James M. Barrie, opened production.

December 30, 1865: In Bombay, India, Rudyard Kipling was born.

December 31, 1900: Edward Everett Hale at age 78, presided over a ceremony in Boston to bring in the new century.



Merry Christmas from the Tallys!

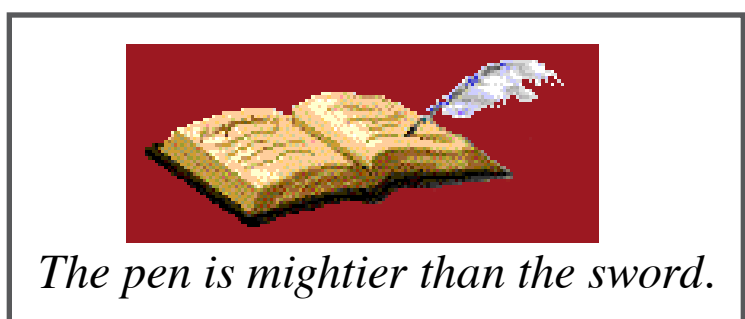
GREETINGS TO EASTLAND COUNTY- The Tracey Tally family send Christmas greetings. Mrs. Talley is the former Julie Reid, daughter of Durel and the late Jean Reid, long-time county residents. Shown are Emily, 14; Elizabeth, 12; Tracey, Erica, 11; Julie, and Ellen, 6. Julie is a 1983 E.H.S. graduate.



White mules pull a float in the Moran Christmas parade held Sunday, Dec. 21

### Wanted: Writers & Poets

Any and all ages



The pen is mightier than the sword.

### American Life In Poetry

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

Here is a poem, much like a prayer, in which the Michigan poet Conrad Hilberry asks for no more than a little flare of light, an affirmation, at the end of a long, cold Christmas day.

#### Christmas Night

Let midnight gather up  
the wind  
and the cry of tires on  
bitter snow.  
Let midnight call the  
cold dogs home,  
sleet in their fur--last  
one can blow  
the streetlights out. If  
children sleep  
after the day's  
unfoldings, the wheel  
of gifts and griefs, may  
their breathing  
ease the strange  
hollowness we feel.  
Let midnight draw  
whoever's left  
to the grate where a  
burnt-out log unrolls  
low mutterings of smoke

until  
a small fire wakes in its  
crib of coals.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 2008 by Conrad Hilberry, whose most recent book of poetry is

"After-Music," Wayne State University Press, 2008.

Poem reprinted from "The Hudson Review," Vol. 60, no. 4, Winter 2008, by permission of Conrad Hilberry.

Introduction copyright (c) 2008 by The Poetry Foundation.

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.



To all a  
Safe & Merry  
Christmas



#### Contacts of interest for writers:

NFSPS Poetry  
Contests for 2008  
Madelyn Eastlund  
310 South Adams Street  
Beverly Hills, Florida 34465

Poetry Society of Texas  
Membership Committee  
Lee Carroll  
3909 Gable Lane, #611  
Fort Worth, Texas 76155  
[leecarroll.fwps@gmail.com](mailto:leecarroll.fwps@gmail.com)

WANTED: Poetry and/or short stories for this page each week. Mail to: Star P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448 or e-mail to [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)

### Words You Can Use

- Ghoom: When you do this, you are hunting game at night.
- Diectasis: Here is where you lengthen a line of verse by adding on an extra syllable. It is not clear if the extra syllable is to have meaning, but it probably should.
- Eidetic: This describes a person who has mental pictures of a vivid nature. Very often this is attributed to writers and lunatics.
- Febrifuge: Word to describe something that alleviates fever, like a drug.

### New Poetry Contest Open

A \$1,000 Grand Prize is being offered in a new poetry contest sponsored by Friendly Poets Guild. There are 50 prizes in all, totaling \$4,500.

To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 10499 Mills Tower Dr., Suite 35, Rancho Cordova, California 95670. Or enter online @[www.friendlypoets.com](http://www.friendlypoets.com). The deadline is Jan. 21, 2009. If you wish a winner's list please enclose a stamped return envelope.

"This is our first big contest of the new year," says Contest Director Joseph Mellon, "We expect to discover exciting new poets!"

For more information contact: Joseph Mellon, Contest Director call toll free 1-888-228-3820.

### 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.

- We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
- 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.
- Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
- 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.
- Please address all submissions to:

Literary Editor  
Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers  
P. O. Box 29  
Eastland, TX 76448  
email: [thebairdstar@yahoo.com](mailto:thebairdstar@yahoo.com)  
Fax: 254-629-2092