

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 may be a little sappy, but I think that almost everyone is doing the best he or she can, despite all sorts of obstacles. This poem by Jonathan Holden introduces us to a young car salesman, who is trying hard, perhaps too hard.

Holden is the past poet laureate of Kansas and poet in residence at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

Car Showroom

Day after day, along with his placid automobiles, that well-groomed

sallow young man had been waiting for me, as in the cheerful, unchanging

weather of a billboard--pacing

the tiles, patting his tie, knotting, un-knotting the facade of his smile

while staring out the window.

He was so bad at the job

he reminded me of myself

the summer I failed

at selling Time and Life in New Jersey.

Even though I was a boy

I could feel someone else's voice

crawl out of my mouth,

spoilng every word, like this cowed, polite kid

in his tie

and badge that said Greg,

saying Ma'am to my wife, calling

me Sir, retailing the air with such piety

I had to find anything out the window.

Maybe the rain. It was gray and as honestly wet

as ever. Something

we could both believe.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (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) 1985 by Jonathan Holden, whose most recent book of poetry is "Knowing: New & Selected Poems,"

University of Arkansas Press, 2000. Reprinted from "The Names of the Rapids," The University of Massachusetts Press, 1985, by permission of the author.

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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

July 25, 1897: Aboard the steamer, "Umatilla," Jack London travelled to the Klondike to find gold.

July 28, 1814: Mary Wollstoncraft eloped to France with the poet, Percy Bysshe Shelly, before she writes the story, "Frankenstein." It is not clear what the influence was.

July 29, 1805: Writer and statesman Alexis de Tocqueville was born in Paris. He was later to publish "Democracy in America," after living in the United States for two years.

July 29, 1830: Alexandre Dumas ran with the mob to loot the Tuileries, was flattered to find a copy of his "Christine" in the royal apartments, and steals it.

July 30, 1918: The author of "Trees," Joyce Kilmer is killed in a battle near Seringes, on the Western Front, near the end of World War I.

Summers Splendor

Magnolias are Blooming
Their lemon scented blossoms
Creating memories of long ago
The quiet street where moss
Draped trees stand silent
Their leaves droop in the sun
The perfume of jasmine
Hangs heavy in the warm air
Birds in the Cypress Trees
Sing in muted voices
Lest they disturb the quiet time
Verandas on the silent streets
Their rocking Chairs all in rows
Are now occupied by
Memories of yesterday
The song of jthe Locust in the
Garden
Reminds the Summer hours
This is the time for Tea
A charmed hour where Traditions
Linger in Summers Splendor.

- Johnnie Elma Anderson
Midland, Texas





The pen is mightier than the sword.

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 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
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Words You Can Use:

Vastation: It is a noun that denotes the opposite of "devastation." It is a renewal, perhaps a cleansing of evil.

Agelast: Some use this as a word for a person who never laughs. It not known to be used with hyenas, the dogs of Africa.

Agon: Made up of competitions and games, this is a word for a public celebration, somewhat like the Olympics.

Cecity: Here is a word for blindness that is rarely used in New Mexico, but may be better known in Oklahoma.



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:
Literary Editor
Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers
P. O. Box 29
Eastland, TX 76448
email: thebairdspotlight@att.net
Fax: 254-629-2092

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