

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 oriented; no smut, slander or liable material.**

**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)**

net

## Words You Can Use

**Lustration:** An act of brightening something up, a cleansing purification.

**Malar:** Here is an adjective for things having to do with the cheek.

**Nutational:** An adjective to be used for something that nods, like the head, for instance. It hasn't been used often in Texas recently.

**Paggle:** This is a verb meaning to swell, or to bulge. Some lawmakers try to paggle the spending budget, hence a new word "bulget" is getting some usage.

## I Sing

I sing because I'm happy  
I sing because I'm free  
He sees the sparrow fall  
I know the Lord must love me.

I sing because He loves me  
Within His arms I can abide  
His voice soothes the raging water  
Peaceful shore is on the other side.

I sing because the Lord knows me  
My name I know is written there  
Through this world of sorrow and trouble  
He's no farther away than a prayer.

I sing that others may hear me  
That His light in me might shine  
In His arms He will shield and keep you  
You can find happiness and peace of mind.  
By Bob Harbin



## Happy Fall

**Callahan County Star  
Subscription Rates:  
\$18.00 In County  
\$19.00 Out of County  
\$23.00 Out of State of Texas  
888-227-1708 or mail to  
P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX  
76448**

## Literary Calendar

November 21, 1820: At age thirteen, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "The Battle of Lovell's Pond," was published by the Portland Gazette in Maine. It was his first poem.

November 21, 1855: Leo Tolstoy died of pneumonia traveling to the Caucasus. His brother buried him close to the family estate at Yasnaya Polyana, Russia.

November 22, 1621: The poet John Donne was selected Dean of St. Paul's in London.

November 25, 1921: Author Nathanael West was dismissed for grades from Tufts University.

November 27, 1970: Alexandr Solzhenitsyn wrote that he could not travel to Stockholm to receive the Nobel Prize, thinking he would not be allowed to return home.

## Free Verse

Free Verse is difficult to do well. It is poetry that does not have a fixed rhyme, pattern of meter or other poetics traditions. Some say it is not poetry at all, but even Shakespeare used it from time to time. It looks like common language, but there is something special about it that rises above. You might try your hand at it. Use a literary device like the metaphor, to carry a thought over the length of a paragraph, and you will find that you can do this. Use something mundane, like a rock you pick up at the side of a road, and describe everything you can imagine, about that rock. Look at it's shape, color, position and then describe it's meaning and purpose, perhaps as it pertains to the cow close by. Describe its environment. Define what makes it up. Make some of it up, and free verse can free you to "verse." - Patrick Ready

## Rhymes To Use

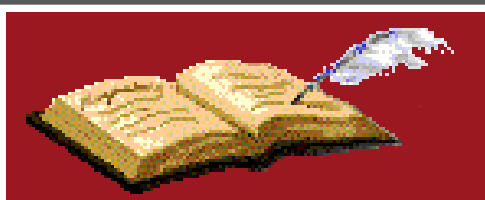
- Courts
- Sports
- Shorts
- Quartz
- Snubber
- Lubber
- Blubber

## Wanted: Writers & Poets

Any and all ages



**E-mail address:  
[thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)**



*The pen is mightier than the sword.*

## American Life In Poetry

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

Occupational hazards, well, you have to find yourself in the occupation to know about those. Here Minnie Bruce Pratt of Alabama gives us an inside look at a kind of work we all have benefited from but may never have thought much about.

### Cutting Hair

She pays attention to the hair, not her fingers, and cuts herself

once or twice a day. Doesn't notice anymore, just if the blood

starts flowing. Says, Excuse me, to the customer and walks away

for a band-aid. Same spot on the middle finger over and over,

raised like a callus. Also the nicks where she snips between

her fingers, the torn webbing. Also spider veins on her

legs now, so ugly, though she sits in a chair for half of each cut,

rolls around from side to side. At night in the winter she sleeps in

white cotton gloves, Neosporin on the cuts, vitamin E, then heavy

lotion. All night, for weeks, her white hands lie clothed like

those of a young girl going to her first party. Sleeping alone,

she opens and closes her long scissors and the hair falls under her hands. It's a good living, kind of like an undertaker,

the people keep coming, and the hair, shoulder length,

French twist, braids. Someone has to cut it. At the end she whisks

and talcums my neck. Only then can I bend and see my hair,

how it covers the floor, curls and clippings of brown and silver,

how it shines like a field of scythed hay beneath my feet.

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) 2003 by Minnie Bruce Pratt. Reprinted from "The Dirt She Ate: Selected and New Poems," University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003, by permission of the publisher.

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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.

## 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](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)**

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