

PATHOS · HUMOR · HISTORY · CREATIVE NON-FICTION



# CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR SPOTLIGHT WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

## American Life In Poetry

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

I hope it's not just a guy  
thing, a delight in the  
trappings of work. I  
love this poem by John  
Maloney, of  
Massachusetts, which  
gives us a close look  
behind the  
windshields of all those  
pickup trucks we see  
heading home  
from work.

### After Work

They're heading home  
with their lights on, dust  
and wood glue,  
yellow dome lights on  
their metallic long beds:  
250s, 2500s--  
as much overtime as  
you want, deadline, dotted  
line, dazed  
through the last few  
hours, dried primer on  
their knuckles,  
sawdust calf-high on  
their jeans, scraped boots,  
the rough  
plumbing and electric  
in, way ahead of the game  
except for  
the check, such a clutter  
of cans and iced-tea  
bottles, napkins,  
coffee cups, paper  
plates on the front seat  
floor with  
cords  
and saws, tired above  
the eyes, back of the  
beyond, thirsty.  
There's a parade of  
them through the two-lane  
highways,

proudest on their way  
home, the first turn out of  
the jobsite,

the first song with the  
belt off, pure breath of  
being alone  
for now, for now the  
insight of a full and  
answerable man.

No one can take away  
the contentment of the  
first few miles

and they know they  
can't describe it, the black  
and purple sky.

\*\*\*\*

American Life in  
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org), publisher of  
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Department of English  
at the University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem  
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Maloney, whose most  
recent book of poetry is  
"Proposal," Zoland Books,  
1999. Poem reprinted from  
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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.

## Garden Of Prayer

There is a garden  
where Jesus wait-  
ing  
Where flow-  
ers bloom every-  
where.  
You can bring  
Him your troubles  
and cares  
It's the beautiful  
garden of prayer.  
When the trou-  
ble of this world  
overtakes you  
And your friends  
no longer care.  
There is some-  
one closer than a  
brother  
Who hears your

every prayer.  
Oh beautiful gar-  
den of prayer  
Where Jesus  
awaits.  
Only you can  
open the gate  
To the beautiful  
garden of prayer.  
And when this  
life is over  
And your victory  
has been won.  
Its like saying  
good bye to an old  
friend  
Fair well sweet  
hour of prayer.  
*By Bob Harbin*

## Literary Calendar

**October 3, 1849: Dying days later, Edgar Allen Poe was kept drunk by politicians who designed him to vote several times at the polls during Baltimore elections.**

**October 4, 1535: In Zurich, the first complete translation in English of the Bible was printed.**

**October 4, 1910: For \$52.50, Sinclair Lewis sold nine plot outlines to Jack London.**

**October 7, 1571: In the Battle of Lepanto, Miguel de Cervantes was wounded in the chest two times and in the left hand.**

**October 8, 1924: Virginia Woolfe finished writing "Mrs. Dalloway." "The Waves" was published seven years later on the same date.**

### Sonnet

O never say that I was false of heart,  
Though absence seem'd my flame to qualify!  
As easy might I from myself depart,  
As from my soul, which in thy breast doth lie:  
That is my home of love; if I have ranged,  
Like him that travels I return again,  
Just to the time, not with the time exchanged,  
So that myself bring water for my stain.  
Never believe, though in my nature reign'd  
All frailties that besiege all kinds of blood,  
That it could so prepost'rously be stain'd,  
To leave for nothing all they some of good:  
For nothing this wide Universe I call,  
Save thou, my Rose; in it thou art my all.

- William Shakespeare  
1564-1616

### Rhymes You Can Use:

- Sympathetic
- Energetic
- Alphabetic
- Cosmetic
- Poetic
- Athletic
- Unapologetic

**E-mail address:  
thebairdspotlight@att.net**

*The pen is mightier than the sword.*

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  
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

**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**

### Words to use:

**Pollskepped:** A word referring to something as a bucket head, or basket-headed.

**Quisquous:** An adjective for something that is hard to deal with or resolve.

**Randonny:** A person who travels or rambles a large amount.

**Saccade:** A motion that is a jerk, or a human that makes that motion.

**Terrenity:** An adjective to describe something that is related to the earth.

### 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: thebairdspotlight@att.net  
Fax: 254-629-2092

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