

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

When I was a boy, there were still a few veterans of the Spanish American War, and more of The Great War, or World War I, and now all those have died and those who served in World War II are passing from us, too. Robert Hedin, a Minnesota poet, has written a fine poem about these people.

### The Old Liberators

Of all the people in the mornings at the mall, it's the old liberators I like best,

those veterans of the Bulge, Anzio, or Monte Cassino

I see lost in Automotive or back in Home Repair,

bored among the paints and power tools.

Or the really old ones, the ones who are going fast, who keep dozing off in the little orchards

of shade under the distant skylights.

All around, from one bright rack to another,

their wives stride big as generals,

their handbags bulging like ripe fruit.

They are almost all gone now,

and with them they are taking the flak

and fire storms, the names

of the old bombing runs.

Each day a little more of their memory goes out,

darkens the way a house darkens,

its rooms quietly filling with evening,

until nothing but the wind lifts the lace curtains,

the wind bearing through the empty rooms

the rich far off scent of gardens

where just now, this morning,

light is falling on the wild philodendrons.

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) 1999 by Robert Hedin. Reprinted from "The Old Liberators: New and Selected Poems and Translations." Holy Cow! Press, 1999, by permission of Robert Hedin. 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.

## Larry D. Thomas: New And Selected Poems Just Released By TCU Press

The newest volume in the TCU Texas Poets Laureate Series has just been published, announces press editor Susan R. Petty. The series, which is made possible by a Vision in Action Grant from TCU, has as its goal to introduce the wider reading public to the work of the Texas poets laureate. Larry D. Thomas, a Houston resident, is the 2008 laureate.

Thomas' work spans subjects from societal violence to his mother's Alzheimer's, and his spare structure and precise language owe much to the Japanese Haiku form. Consider these lines from "The Golfer," page 69:

...a solitary man, who, with but his clubs, tees, balls and game

of power, grace and touch so precise

he calculates the breath of crows,

plays the farthest reaches of his soul.

In *New and Selected Poems* Thomas also explores the natural world of Texas—its animal icons like the Hereford or hawk or rattlesnake, the larger-than-life geography, which is the stuff out of which legends are

made—capturing the spirit of place within larger truths that "travel well," as editor Billy Bob Hill explains in his introduction. A mature poet, Larry Thomas has an extraordinary gift which has evolved through decades at his craft.

LARRY D. THOMAS has published six collections of poems; his seventh poetry collection, *The Fraternity of Oblivion*, is just out from Timberline Press. Among the prizes and awards he has received for his poetry are the 2004 Violet Crown Award (Writers' League of Texas), 2003 Western Heritage Award (Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma), and two *Texas Review* Poetry Prizes (2004 and 2001). His work has also received nominations for the 2007 Poet's Prize (Nicholas Roerich Museum) and two Pushcart Prizes.

TCU Press books are available at bookstores or by calling 800-826-8911.

Larry D. Thomas: *New and Selected Poems* ISBN 978-0-87565-360-0 Cloth. \$15.95

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 You Can Use

**Preterist: A person who is too fond of the past**

**Remungient: An adjective describing animals who bellow more than once, on and on and on**

**Silurid: Having to do with catfish, perhaps used more often in English-speaking France**

**Thooid: A relation to hyenas, jackals or wolves**

## 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**

### REJECTED

There is an old, old story  
That's told so long ago.  
How a kind loving God  
Sent His Son to the world below.  
How we rejected Him  
The One that loves us so.  
We placed a crown of thorns on His  
head

And led Him down the road.  
Oh how He must have loved us  
To of suffered, bled and died.  
On the cruel cross of Calvary  
Our sins on every side.  
He's waiting for us today  
With both arms open wide.  
Come unto Me all ye that is weary  
In My arms you can abide.

*By Bob Harbin*

## Identity

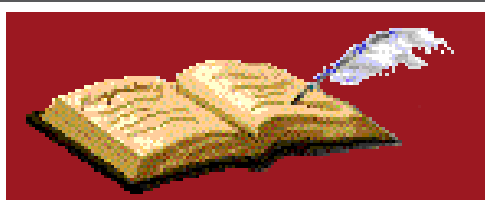
I wonder if the trees can  
hear me  
When I scream aloud,  
Or if the dandelion screams,  
When I pick him out.  
There's no telling where life  
can take us;  
One day I'm a blade of grass,  
But today I am myself-  
Nobody else.  
Life chooses for me to be me.

*author unknown*

## Wanted: Writers & Poets



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



*The pen is mightier than the sword.*

### 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**

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**76448**