

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 thought that we'd celebrate Halloween with an appropriate poem, and Iowa poet Dan Lechay's seems just right. The drifting veils of rhyme and meter disclose a ghost, or is it a ghost?

We never saw the ghost, though he was there in sunlit dustmotes drifting anywhere, in light-and-shadow, such as the moon weaves.

We never saw him, though, and didn't care, until at last we saw him everywhere.

We told nobody. Everyone believes

we never saw the ghost (if he was there),

we never saw him and we didn't care.

Ghost Villanelle

We never saw the ghost, though he was there-- we knew from the raindrops tapping on the eaves.

We never saw him, and we didn't care. Each day, new sunshine tumbled through the air; evenings, the moonlight rustled in dark leaves.

We never saw the ghost, though: he was there,

if ever, when the wind tousled our hair

and prickled goosebumps up and down thin sleeves;

we never saw him. And we didn't care

to step outside our room at night, or dare

click off the nightlight: call it fear of thieves.

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 Dan Lechay. Reprinted from "The Quarry," Ohio University Press, 2003, by permission of Dan Lechay.

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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

October 31, 1795: the poet John Keats was born in the livery stable of his father in Finsbury Pavement, England.

November 1, 1871: Stephen Crane was born in Newark, New Jersey. He was later to function as a war correspondent from 1896 to 1898 in Cuba.

November 2, 1950: The playwright George Bernard Shaw died. He had been trying to promote an English alphabet consisting of forty-two characters, and left funds in his will for that purpose.

November 5, 1930: Sinclair Lewis was notified that he had become the first American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.

November 6, 1315: After he ignored the city's decree to force his return from exile, the poet Dante Alighieri was sentenced to death by the city of Florence.

Outline A Beginning

A difficult task of the writer is to move from the impulse that you want to write about, your theme, and then go on to write the first draft. Most times that you think about an outline you will think of the content of the story or poem. These can be useful. There is a secondary outline that can be a benefit to the writer. This entails constructing a flow of presentation. By presentation we mean the "manner" in which the ideas are to be presented. Most writers may do this subconsciously, but you can describe to yourself whether you will use narrative or dialogue to present things. Also in the outline you can present the setting to yourself, before you write the draft. This can give you a nice freedom.

My Cross



A little girl sets in her bedroom
Her eyes fill with silent tears.
Her world seems to fall apart
While mom and dad's fighting fill the air.
Must I bear my cross alone
And let the world go free.
There's a cross for everyone
And there's a cross for me.
The sweetest voice I could hear
Is when mom and dad kneel in prayer.
Asking God from above
That in this home there may be love.
So when the burden of life is too heavy
And when our cross is too hard to bear.
Remember Someone still loves you
Our Jesus presence is always near.

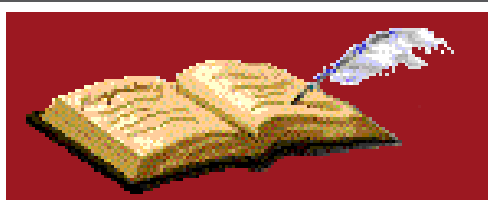
By Bob Harbin

Wanted: Writers & Poets

Any and all ages



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

net

Words You Can Use:

Palustral: An adjective to describe something like a marsh or swamp.

Quidnunc: A person who is engulfed by triviality, or has an obsessive curiosity about such, maybe also to describe those who look for obscure words.

Sinistral: A word to denote something as unlucky, illegitimate, evil or wrong.

Viridescent: An adjective to describe something that is growing green, or becoming green.

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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