

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've always loved shop talk, with its wonderful language of tools and techniques. This poem by D. Nurkse of Brooklyn, New York, is a perfect example. I especially like the use of the verb, lap, in line seven, because that's exactly the sound a four-inch wall brush makes.

**Bushwick: Latex Flat 2001**

Sadness of just-painted rooms.

We clean our tools meticulously, as if currying horses:

the little nervous sash brush

to be combed and primped,

the fat old four-inchers that lap up space

to be wrapped and groomed,

the ceiling rollers,

the little pencils that cover nailheads

with oak gloss,

to be counted and packed:

camped on our dropsheets

we stare across gleaming floors

at the door and beyond it

the old city full of old rumors

of conspiracies, gunshots, market

crashes:

with a little mallet we tap our lids closed, holding our breath, holding our lives in suspension for a moment:

an extra drop will ruin everything.

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) 2007 by D. Nurkse, whose newest book of poetry "The Border Kingdom," is forthcoming from Alfred A. Knopf, 2008.

Poem reprinted from "Broken Land: Poems of Brooklyn," ed., Julia Spicher Kasdorf & Michael Tyrrell, New York University Press, 2007, by permission of D. Nurkse. 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.

*Literary Calendar*

**September 5, 1970: In paris, Victor Hugo was given a great reception upon his return being banished at Guernsey in the Channel Islands.**

**September 5, 1921: With the stigma arising by Sinclair Lewis' novel "Main Street," the Chamber of Commerce of Richmond, Virginia asked the city to rename Main Street.**

**September 6, 1847: Henry David Thoreau finished living in his hut on Walden Pond, and moved in to live with the Emersons in Concord, Massachusetts.**

**September 7, 1911: Suspected of plotting the theft of the "Mona Lisa," Guillaume Apollinaire is was arrested, to be proved innocent five days afterward.**

**September 8, 1911: Author of "Stalking the Wild Asparagus," Ewell Gibbons was born in Clarksville, Texas.**

**September 11, 1930: "Flowering Judas," by Katherine Anne Porter, was published.**



**Imaginary Storytelling**

One of the pleasures of writing, stories or poetry, is the way you can work in the imaginary world of your own creation. Not only can you create your own characters, but there is the story or plot that is all your own to originate. Some of it can be based on reality, but the world can be hidden, yet shown in all its majesty, through your pen.



*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 You Can Use:**

**Aliquot: A noun that means a harmonic note in music.**

**Antinomian: Noun for a person who doesn't accept moral authority or moral laws.**

**Beebuckle: This is a term for a dead rat. Maybe it was used by cats who wore hats.**

**Consuetude: A common held habit among people, a social custom**

**Eagre: A tidal wave**

**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



**Wanted: Writers & Poets**

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

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