

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

Don Welch lives in Nebraska and is one of those many talented American poets who have never received as much attention as they deserve. His poems are distinguished by the meticulous care he puts into writing them, and by their deep intelligence. Here is Welch's picture of a 14-year-old, captured at that awkward and painfully vulnerable step on the way to adulthood.

At 14

To be shy,
to lower your eyes
after making a greeting,
to know
wherever you go
you'll be called on,
to fear
whoever you're near
will ask you,
to wear
the softer sides of the air
in rooms filled with angers,
your ship
always docked
in transparent slips
whose wharves
are sheerer than membranes.

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)2008 by Don Welch. Reprinted from "When Memory Gives Dust a Face," by Don Welch, published by Lewis-Clark Press, 2008, by permission of Don Welch and 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

Words To Use:

Ptarmic: This word can be a noun or an adjective that denotes something that is precipitating a sneeze. Find another word that mean the same as sneeze and you will have it.

Oleic: This fancy word describes something that is like oil. It has a good sound to it, but can be a slick word to pronounce.

Myristicaceous: If you can say it, you can use it to describe something having to do with the nutmeg tree. It has not recently been seen on the ingredients of packaged egg nog.

Limnetic: Some fishermen at Lake Leon, Texas are dealing with things that inhabit fresh water, but they rarely use this adjective to describe their fish or bait. Poets may use the word.

Inhume: Here is a verb that means to bury something, like a dog does with a bone.



A tree in winter fog...photo by Patrick Ready

Famous Poet Quotes

"Even when poetry has a meaning, as it usually has, it may be inadvisable to draw it out.... Perfect understanding will sometimes almost extinguish pleasure." ~ A.E. Housman

"The purpose of a writer is to keep civilization from destroying itself." ~ Albert Camus

"True Ease in Writing comes from Art, not Chance, As those move easiest who have learn'd to dance." ~ Alexander Pope, "An Essay on Criticism"

"Each memorable verse of a true poet has two or three times the written content." ~ Alfred de Musset, *Le Poète déchu*, 1839

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



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.

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

Rhymes To Use

Rigor mortis

Abyss

Paralysis

Artifice

Edifice

Cowardice

Braveheart the Crawfish

George Armstrong Custer was a pompous idiot

Braveheart the Crawfish is not.
Fighting the red mud water, he treads against
The mass motion of molecules
Raging across this country road.
He is assigned by nature both inside and out
To defend his puddle
Sent roaring across county road 127
By this August deluge.

So as my two thousand pound Pontiac approaches,

In spite of water surging over him,
He rears on his hind legs
To his full four inches.
The current whips around his knees.
Upraised forelegs, clinched fists and snapping antenna
Give him fifty percent more presence.

Though a comrade lies two feet away
A puddle of crawfish puree---
Never once does he question
Whether his territory
Is worth defending.

I drove around him
Because it is his territory---
Just as Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse
Drowned Custer in his own blood
For violating the same rule.

- Jim Wilson

Wanted: Writers & Poets

Any and all ages

