

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

Ah, yes, the mid-life crisis. And there's a lot of mid-life in which it can happen. Jerry Lee Lewis sang of it so well in "He's thirty-nine and holding, holding everything he can." And here's a fine poem by Matthew Vetter, portraying just such a man.

Wild Flowers

At fifty-six, having left my mother,
my father buys a motorcycle.
I imagine him because
it is the son's sorrowful assignment
to imagine his father: there,
hunched on his mount,
with black boots, with bad teeth,
between shifts at the mill,
ripping furrows in the backroads,
past barn and field and silo,
past creek and rock,
past the brown mare,
sleek in her impertinence,
never slowing until he sees
the bull. He stops, pulls
his bike to the side of the road,
where golden rod and clover grow,
walks up to the fence, admires
its horns, its wet snout snorting and blowing
its breath, its girth, its trampling
of small wild flowers.

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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.



"Whoa"-- Photo by Patrick Ready

You and Me

Two round dots were talking one day, saying Hey just look at us

We look alike is what I say, so what's making all of this fuss

One is plastic and one is wood, but both of us are blue you see

We can agree that all is good, if all are as happy as we.

Many years pass and then we find, some blues are beginning to fade

They must be from another kind, for some are now turning to gray

More years pass when others detect, dots of glass, metal and paper

Our failure can lead to neglect, to act now instead of later.

Religion's not suited for dots, philosophy or weird thinking

Clear thinking gets tied up in knots, as down the drain it goes sinking

Let's meet together o'er dinner, while seeking a mutual plan

Dot ideas begin to simmer, one's mentioned again and again.

As alike as we are you see, striking out is so destructive

Let us build things you and me, and lead lives being constructive

Dots giving instead of taking, so simple is the solution

No deeds will be so heartbreaking, no dots falling to pollution.

Weldon L. Smith
Eastland, Texas

Words You Can Use:

Kit-cat: This is a noun or an adjective that refers to something that is less than half a length. It's not known how this word got that meaning.

Lampyrid: You know what a fire fly is. Now you know another name for it. They will be out in June and you can call them for what they are.

Masseter: Medical professionals know this is a word for a muscle that controls the bottom jaw. Sometimes it may be used by reporters covering persons in congress.

Niblick: This is a golf club with a sharp angled facing, usually headed with iron. It is used to free the ball from bunkers.

Chanting With Words

by Patrick Ready

Perhaps the earliest form of song, and by derivation, poetry, might have been the early human's use of chant. It might have been first used to express emotion or feeling, as when early humans were injured. "Ouch! Ouch! Later this seems to have moved to other emotions, as in religious practice. Modern music, the lyrics being a sort of poetic expression, also use chant quite often. A chorus line can be considered to be an extended form of

chant. The general writer can often use chant to generate thematic ideas. What if you have a character for a short story, and you produce some chant coming from that person? Let's say it is an elderly person who is emotionally neglected by the world. "Why don't they care about me! Why don't they talk to me! What is there for me to do?" This line of chants is a theme that you could work with for a short story or novel. Get to the writing!



Any and all ages welcome

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

Wanted: Writers & Poets



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 Rhyme With:

Cancellation
Abnegation
Station
Nation
Allocation
Frustration
Inflation



The pen is mightier than the sword