

PATHOS · HUMOR · HISTORY · CREATIVE NON-FICTION



# CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR SPOTLIGHT

## WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

### Long Ago Summers

One of the things that summer brings  
Is lost way back in the back of my mind  
With twine all fixed to crawdad sticks  
We fished that tank with some old  
bacon rind.

To start the fun the bait would run  
Then the crawdad was pulled upon the  
bank

We would fill it...Mama's skillet  
With the crawdad tails we fished from  
that tank.

Cornmeal the tails and salt the tails  
And treat yourself to taste never tasted  
Without regret you'll not forget  
Our long ago summers never wasted.

- Welden L. Smith  
Eastland, Texas

### Ode to a Deer

A rifle shot shredded the silence and  
rappelled along the western peaks.

Gathering  
into a shattering blast a thousand hearts  
leaped. The menace was among us. I  
glanced at a nearby brush where my little  
son huddled. Two limped eyes, dark with  
terror burned into mine. I bounded away  
and heard others fleeing. Then I felt the  
sword of fire in my side. My vision blurred  
and I heard a cascade of voices and felt the  
searing pain as my skin was peeled away. It  
was finished.

It was the midnight hour, the time for  
reunion. Suddenly the night sounds ceased.  
Then the shadows moved noiselessly. So  
many, we were together again, drawing  
sustenance from each other in the total  
silence.

The night was dark, dimly lit by a pale moon  
squatting on the eastern ridge.  
Anemic, old and tired now, after so many  
centuries, so many trysts, time stood still.

An eerie light touched the eastern sky.  
The night sounds resumed. Echoing and  
vibrating through the forest. Gradually  
intensifying, another farewell until next  
time.

- Rose Clark  
Cisco, Texas



Spring flowers

Photo by Patrick Ready

Submissions sought to:

**Star**  
P.O. Box 29  
Eastland, TX 76448

email: [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto: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 libel material.**

### Words You Can Use:

**Thalposis:** This is a word that describes what you feel when you get close to a campfire. It is warmth's sensation.

**Zeugma:** A device used by literary people when they use a word to describe two other words, but only one is correct. This is so you won't get confused.

**Baccate:** This means the same as "baccaceous." They signify something that is similar to a berry, or something bears berries. We needed two words for that to stop more confusion.

**Carcajou:** If you've never seen a wolverine, then you've never seen a carcajou. From the dark at night they look at you.

**Decrepitate:** This might be like when you roast a weenie too long on the campfire. It means to roast till you make the thing crackle.

### Rhymes You Can Use

Bespeckle  
Deckle  
Shekel  
Keckle  
Freckle  
Heckle

### What is a Mother?

A Mother has so many things to do,  
From washing, ironing,  
cleaning to tying a shoe.  
She scrubs, she mends,  
she cooks and sews,  
She bathes the children

and washes their clothes.  
When they forget to wash their faces clean,  
And their clothes are the muddiest you've ever seen,  
Who repairs the clothes and scrubs them like new?  
Of course, that is what a Mother will do.  
Who becomes the doctor or the nurse when they are ill,  
Applying a bandage or giving them a pill?  
Who becomes a teacher when a child has homework?  
She must never her duty shirk.  
Who becomes a detective to find a toy or a book?  
For missing things she must look and look?  
Who becomes a listner to every heartache,  
To every accomplishment that a child makes?  
Who scolds their children when they are naughty,  
Or remind them of God when they are to haughty?  
Who tends her family with love and patience, too?  
Of course that is what a Mother will do.

- Unknown

### American Life In Poetry

Column 215

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

To commemorate Mother's Day, here's a lovely poem by David Wojahn of Virginia, remembering his mother after forty years.

#### Walking to School, 1964

Blurring the window, the snowflakes' numb white lanterns.

She's brewed her coffee, in the bathroom sprays cologne

And sets her lipstick upright on the sink.  
The door ajar, I glimpse the yellow slip,

The rose-colored birthmark on her shoulder.  
Then she's dressed--the pillbox hat and ersatz fur,  
And I'm dressed too, mummified in stocking cap  
And scarves, and I walk her to the bus stop

Where she'll leave me for my own walk to school,

Where she'll board the bus that zigzags to St. Paul

As I watch her at the window, the paperback

Romance already open on her lap,  
The bus laboring off into snow, her good-bye kiss

Still startling my cheek with lipstick trace.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://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)1990 by David Wojahn, whose most recent book of poems is "Interrogation Palace: New and Selected Poems 1982-2004," University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006. "Walking to School, 1964" is from the longer poem "White Lanterns," printed in "Poetry," Vol. 157, 1990, by permission of David Wojahn and the publisher. Introduction copyright (c)2009 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.



*Happy  
Mother's  
Day  
Sunday,  
May 10th*

### 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](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)**  
**Fax: 254-629-2092**