

RIVER LIFE

Driftwood along the Ohio bank
traces its most recent high water mark.
It suggests the crusted ring of cream
formed in a forgotten cup of coffee.
Limbs and twigs and logs are piled,
building lumber and firewood
and fine lamp bases for someone
willing to craft them.

Higher up, nested in bushes,
an abandoned drifter camp. A fire pit
with ash and charred driftwood ends.
Milk crates for seats, styrofoam cups,
newspaper, a shirt hanging on a limb.
A tarpaulin roof has collapsed.
In the night of the first winter flood
the wood will move on a southward flow
toward a muddy shore near Paducah,
little the worse for wear

Henry M. Spottswood
Member at Large

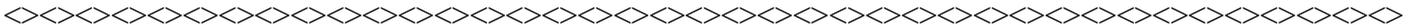
Cold Feet

I come in from the cold,
Craving a cup of something hot and sweet
I stand by the fire
Wishing I had little pipes to take that
heat down to my feet

Elverda Oelling
Member Howell County Bards

Christmas Preparation

Today we took down the Christmas tree
Ornaments collected for almost 50 years
Individually, lovingly, wrapped, boxed, and stored
for another season.
One day our children will open these mementos
of Christmas' past
They will recall their youth
when they helped make the ornaments of plaster
or thread spool or flash cube.
They will remember seasons we shared
and smile
through the tears
Maybe they will share their memories
with their kids and grandkids.
We are preparing for many future Christmas seasons.
Today we took down the Christmas tree.
Don DePriest.



DUES & NAMES & NAMES & DUES

If you have not done so it is time to send in your dues for 2011. State dues are \$7 per year, and \$13 for members at large. This includes the national dues.

When the chapter treasurer or representative sends in the chapter dues, be sure to include the member information that the check covers: name, address, phone, e-mail. If you send your check without the list we have no idea who your chapter members are! Members at large should include the same information with your check.

Mail your check and list to our state treasurer: Bill Lower, 21010 S. Hwy 245, Fair Play, MO 65649.

CHAPTER REPORTS:

Chapter report for the:

HOWELL COUNTY BARDS

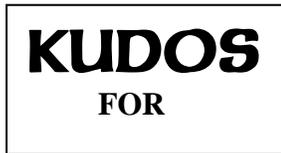
Our chapter the "HOWELL COUNTY BARDS," formally the Mountain View Poetry Society, of Mountain View, MO is now meeting in our new space at the West Plains Library, in West Plains, MO. It's a private meeting room set aside for

us, on the second Saturday of each month at 2:00 P.M. The Library has a great conference room as well, it's fairly large with a private entrance. We will be hosting the state convention next year and we are trying to make arrangements for use of the conference room for the convention.

A couple of our members attended the convention in September... Michelle Foster and myself. We would like to think the CRAWFORD COUNTY BOMBADILS, especially Dawn Harmon for her work, and we hope to do as well with the convention as she and the BOMBADILS.

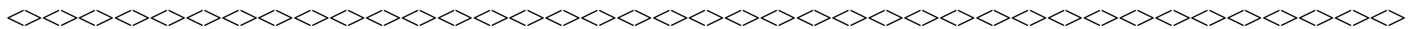
Our chapter's goal in the coming year is to increase membership, and to promote the appreciation of poetry in the area. I think hosting the convention will go along way in establishing our chapter, as well as the society as a whole in the area and help in a achieving those goals.

Dale Ernst
President and State Representative
Of the, HOWELL COUNTY BARDS



LEE ANN RUSSELL

1. Missouri Writers' Guild [August](#) Newsletter - 1,000 word article about and entitled, "Poetry."
2. Siloam Springs Writers - 1st for Shakespearean Sonnet, "Crossroads"
2nd for Japanese Tanka, "Persuasion"
3rd for Villanelle, "Regret"
3. Ozark Creative Writers - 1st place, Bob and Faye Williams Jones Poetry Award for "Swinging in a Shed," and 1st HM, Non-Fiction Essay for "First and Lasting Impressions"
4. Poets Roundtable of Arkansas - 3rd place for "Old Books," 1st HM for "Good Neighbor," 1st HM for "Rosy Rose O'Neill," 2nd HM for "Fertility Rites," 2nd HM for "Stuffed Stuffing Stuff," 3rd HM for "Crossroads"
5. Florida State Poets Association - 1st HM for "Mentor"
6. A short story, "Not Quite Soon Enough" in a Fiction Anthology, *A Shaker of Mrgaritas, Hot Flash Mommas* by Mozark Press.
7. A statement and photo of Birdle Mannon's wood cook stove on the back cover of the winter 2010 edition of the White River Valley Historical Society Quarterly based in Forsyth. Birdle lived from 1909 to 1999 near Brown Branch/Bradleyville, MO in a cabin with no electricity or running water. Her cabin has been reconstructed in Silver Dollar City. I was privileged to meet and photograph Birdle in 1998.
8. Poets & Friends - 1st place, Humorous for "Fertility Rites," 1st HM, Formal, Structured Poems for "Horizon" and 2nd HM P&F Members Only for "Staff of Life."



MSPS WINTER 2011 CONTEST: Here are the guidelines for the MSPS Winter 2011 Contest:

Deadline: Postmarked [February 15, 2011](#)

Format: Submit two copies of each entry, category number and name in upper left-hand corner of both copies, poet's name and address in upper right-hand corner of one copy. If you are a member, put "Missouri State Poetry Society" below your address. Put "Non-Member" if you are not.

Limits: Poems [may](#) be 40 or fewer lines. They [may](#) be unpublished or previously published if the poet retains the rights to the poem. Poets [may](#) enter each category as many times as they wish. No poems will be returned.

