



Georgia State Poetry Society

Organized and Chartered, August 30, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia
Affiliate, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Edward Davin Vickers, Charter President Sandra Lee Prillaman, Editor
Post Office Box 8129 Atlanta, Georgia 30306 Volume I, Number 3

THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING -- SPRING 1980

APRIL 25 & 26, 1980 ATHENS, GEORGIA

RENAISSANCE '80 FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Friday, April 25, 1980 Hoyt House, Sheraton History Village, Thomas Street

8:00 p.m. CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION

Honoring Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr., Poet Laureate of Georgia,
and the Georgia State Poetry Society
Announcing the winners, general and youth categories,
of the Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr. Award
Reading of winning poems, plus surprises

Saturday, April 26, 1980 Meeting Room, Ramada Inn, Broad Street

10:00 a.m. POETRY WORKSHOP

"IF You Write a Poem" -- conducted by Marel Brown
A prize-winning (local, state, national, international) poet,
Mrs. Brown's ninth book is entitled, PRESENTING Georgia Poets.

11:00 a.m. GSPS GENERAL MEETING

A buffet lunch (Dutch treat) will be available at the Ramada Inn Restaurant, and the afternoon activities of the Renaissance '80 Festival will follow nearby. Members who are participating in readings, autographings, etc. will receive special instructions from the Festival Committee. Please complete the enclosed form as soon as possible. Fees for GSPS members are waived if you pre-register. Overnight accommodations, at a reduced rate, are shown on this form, also.

Regardless of when you arrive, a detailed list of all activities will be available at the office of the Ramada Inn. Highway 78 becomes Broad Street and you should have no problems locating the Ramada Inn. Just identify yourself and ask for the brochure.

HAROLD AND DORIS RANDOM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

"Like a pebble dropped in a pool, the Randoms' passion for reading and writing may create ever-widening circles of influence on readers and writers not yet born." -- Celestine Sibley, THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION, April 1, 1980

Writers everywhere were saddened by the recent deaths of Harold and Doris Random. Founders and Directors of the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists, Inc., both attended the organizational meeting of the Georgia State Poetry Society, and Doris served as our first contest chairman. It is fitting that we honor the lives, love and service of these "good, kind, gentle" GSPS members... Upon the recommendation of Librarian David Ogletree, the Executive Committee has designated the Georgia State Poetry Society Library the Harold and Doris Random Memorial Library.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GSPS Charter Membership reached one hundred twenty-seven (127) members on March 31, 1980. Welcome! Mary Jane Baer, O.L. Gilstrap, Virginia Yancey Morton and Terry Preston of Columbus; Robert Barton of Douglasville; Mary Ann Boyd of Donalsonville; Pat Broderick of Peachtree City; Linda J. W. Busser, William L. Davenport, Mabel O. Dollar, Grover F. Fuller, Janet A. Habas, John S. Hunsinger, Myldred F. Hutchins, Marjorie G. Ohrtman, Harry Andrew Phrydas, Jacquelyn Spratlin, Dr. Vernon W. Stone, Dub Taft and M. Jessamy Whited, all of Atlanta; Ernest Camp, Jr. of Monroe; Kathleen Carroll, Herbert Walter Denmark and Nellie French McIver of Decatur; J. Belle Connor of Harlem; R. Linton Cox, Jr. of Milledgeville; Virginia H. Daniel of Millen; Nellie D. Duke of Carrollton; Bill Early of Griffin; Beau Farr, Starr Farr, Peggy Farr Lynch and Kathleen Tisdale Tavel of Athens; Zinita Fowler of Carrollton, Texas; Mrs. B. S. Hendrix of Augusta; Ethelene Dyer Jones of Epworth; Peggy Zuleika Lynch of Austin, Texas; Jane McMichen of Thomaston; Peggy Mercer Mills of Douglas; Reuben E. Minter of Cedartown; Janice T. Moore of Young Harris; Micki G. Morris of Brunswick; Jess Perlman of Northport, New York; Patricia Morton Posey of Stone Mountain; Evelyn Sewell Rineer and Nolan Durant Vickers of Cairo; Louyse Hulsey Scott of Carnesville; Max Sheffield of Fitzgerald; Thomas C. Smith of Fayetteville; Denver E. Stull of Forest Park; Alan Dale Thornton of Dawson; Anne Cavin Walters of Hampton; Connie Smith Watson of Albany and Jane Eve Wilheit of Gainesville; Melissa Bayless of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Membership Committee is designing a Certificate of Charter Membership which will be presented to each member shortly after the end of our charter year, August 30, 1980.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING(S)

GSPS Board of Directors met Monday, March 10, 1980, at the home of President Ed Vickers and again the following Monday at the home of Treasurer Jo Ann Adkins. Both meetings were devoted to providing the Society with a workable Constitution and Bylaws and to setting guidelines for the future of the Georgia State Poetry Society.

The fiscal year of the Society will begin July 1 and end June 30. The charter officers will continue to serve through the end of the charter year, August 30, 1980, and until the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1981. Officers elected in the Spring of 1981 will take office July 1, 1981. A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws will be available soon; if you desire a copy, please send a SASE. (Thanks.) The Board welcomes any suggestion.

BOOK OF THE CHARTER YEAR

Plans are shaping up for printing a book of our charter year. Its content will depend on monies available, of course, but we want to include charter membership, winning poems in our contests, contents of our library* etc. We wish to document our charter year in the best way possible, for now and for posterity. If you have suggestions or would like to be a patron, please let us know. Appropriate recognition would be given.

*GSPS Librarian David Ogletree reports continuous growth, including several rare editions, of our library. Volumes by GSPS members will be noted in our yearbook; plus, if you are an author of an out-of-print book which we might not have, please let David know. A list of such books will also appear. Thank you for your contributions.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES CONVENTION

Orlando, Florida. June 27-30, 1980. Dr. Richard Eberhart, Keynote Speaker. Reasonable rates. Excellent workshops. Let's have a delegation they won't forget! Vice-President Chuck Bruehler can answer questions you may have (404-355-7444). Please let Chuck or President Ed Vickers know if you plan to attend.



GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY HOLDS SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING

It may have been freezing outside but the Winter meeting* of the Georgia State Poetry Society was indeed a warming experience for those fortunate enough to be able to attend. It seemed as though one highlight was eagerly treading on the heels of another.

The first event was the poetry workshop--"The Road to Publication" conducted by Bettie M. Sellers. "I'm not trying to discourage you, but to put steel in your soul," said Bettie as she put special emphasis on the tenacity necessary to persist in one's efforts to have poems published. In addition to tenacity, an organized approach to publication helps a lot and she gave us many ideas on setting up workable files to keep track of the status of poems, a history of all dealings with each publication, and a history of the successes and failures of each poem. To illustrate some of her points Bettie shared with us some of her own rejection notices many of which were classics in their own right.

The general meeting then got off to a happy start with two announcements--first that at that moment we had 95 members--second that Bettie Sellers had donated copies of each of her books to our growing library. Next, Bob Lowrance introduced the "Georgian Waltz" and its history as the "State Waltz of Georgia". This was followed by a delightful rendition by Bob with Willa Lowrance playing the accompaniment on the piano.

At last in the minds of the contestants came the moment for the presentation of the awards for the first contest sponsored by GSPS, honoring Mr. Ben W. Fortson, Jr. We were pleased that several of Mr. Fortson's relatives were able to attend and share this moment with us.

The Poet Laureate of Georgia, Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr. who was the contest judge spoke of his long friendship with Mr. Fortson and then discussed the approach he used to judge the contest along with some detail of what made a poem strong and helped it to accomplish its purpose.

President Ed Vickers announced each award and the name of the winning poem. Vice-President Chuck Bruehler then read the poem and finally the poet was named and the award was presented by Ed Vickers.

The winners were: First place for "GEORGIA BOUND--A Confederate Soldier's Soliloquy" by Patricia P. Kirby; second place for "The Butterflies at Chickamauga" by Dorothy Williamson Worth and for "Transplanted" by Marie Wikstrom Ovrevik; third place was another tie, one for "Going Home to Georgia" by Patricia Robinson-King and for "Of Georgia" by Keith Melton; There were three special recognition awards, for "North Georgia Courtship" by Dorothy Williamson Worth, for "The Old Road--Morning Travel on Highway 26" by Charlotte Moore Perkins, and for "R.F.D" by Patricia Robinson-King.

*Saturday, January 12, 1980

MR. BEN W. FORTSON, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD
FIRST PLACE WINNER --- PATRICIA P. KIRBY

GEORGIA BOUND--A Confederate Soldier's Soliloquy

. . .The War's Over! And I, who scarcely dared
count my own life among the spoils of war,
am called by God to live--and love--again!
A few more weary days should see me home.
My name is George and Georgian I was born
as Georgian thought to die, yet I am spared
while all around me braver comrades fall.
Not that I lacked brute courage for the fray--
I rushed into the battle with the rest;
but I have no love for war, killing, death....
Dear God! I know I shall not soon forget
our first duel of death--my "enemy" and I:
God willed I had no brothers of my own;
yet he, bewildered by my Rebel yell--
before my rifle ball profaned his breast--
was more my brother than if Georgia born.
I wished I'd kissed his hand before he died;
I wish I had my brother back again.
(Yank, when we meet again, please be my friend!)
I feel no shame in longing to find peace,
knowing now that war's more wrong than right--
as once I thought it honorable to fight.
Still, there are those sacred things that I
love enough to fight for and to die:
our flag, our Cause, my home in Milledgeville;
in that fair capital my wife awaits--
my Vickie, who will kiss the lies of war
from my lips and share my passion's grief
for those I've killed in this uncivil fight.
But who knows what I'll find as I journey home?
Has Sherman put the torch to Milledgeville
Does Vickie watch--or sleep on Memory Hill?
The War is Lost! And yet my dreams still ride
northward to Virginia with Doles and Lee!
Never have troops had greater guides to war--
who nobly paid their debts to God and man
yet, while they spent just anger on the foe,
taught us to love our enemies as men.
And so, although the South has lost the battle,
please God we've won the war of man for man.
For as we sprang from such courageous forebears,
we must bear seeds of even braver men
who'll teach their sons never again to lay,
like Cain on Abel, brother's hand on hand...
to hear no more the screams of dying men
forever now beyond our recompense,
except the telling that--now--we love them well
for we, too, learned the self-mockery of hate.
These are my thoughts as Georgia bound I plod
homeward, ever homeward--to thee, O God....



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Atlanta, Georgia 30306

RENAISSANCE '80 Festival of the Arts Athens, Georgia April 25, 26 & 27, 1980

Please complete and return as soon as possible (with any publicity material) to:

Becki Baker, Chairman, Renaissance '80 Festival
Office of Cultural Affairs City Hall
Athens, Georgia 30601

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Ramada Inn, Broad Street (Highway 78), Athens,
has reserved a block of rooms for GSPS Members.
(Each room has two double beds.)

Rates per day: Single - \$20; Double - \$24

Check date(s) needed: Friday, April 25 _____
Saturday, April 26 _____

Number of persons _____

GSPS
Member's Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION

Saturday afternoon, April 26

Do you wish to participate in
the autograph party? _____

Do you wish to participate in
the poetry reading? _____

Time preferred _____

(No application fee is required
for GSPS members.)

Note: If you have sent in another application form to the Festival, please indicate
below (to avoid duplication). Thank you.