



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
2222 Peachtree Road, NW #A-8 Atlanta, Georgia 30309 Volume I, Number 4

FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING -- SUMMER 1980 SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1980 ATLANTA, GEORGIA CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATION OF OUR FIRST YEAR!

SCHEDULE: 10:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting
10:30 a.m. *Open poetry readings; Lesley Rogers, Moderator
All GSPS Members are invited to participate.
11:30 a.m. Registration and Champagne Reception
Music by Mr. John Deik, pianist
12:00 noon Lunch
1:00 p.m. Announcement of First Anniversary Awards
Door prizes; surprises; program

COST: Five dollars (\$5.00)

PLACE: Atlanta Woman's Club Building
1150 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

RESERVATIONS: Must be made by Wednesday, August 27, 1980
Call Treasurer Jo Ann Adkins (404) 939-1924
or send to: 2826 Evansdale Circle, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30340

WELCOME: Bring a friend. *Bring poem(s) for reading.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A cordial welcome to new members, Valoree Bechtler of Lithonia; Janet Bernatchez of Lakeland; Richard G. Beyer of Florence, Alabama; Adelaide Carswell of Abbeville; Sarah M. Carver of Tucker; Eugenia F. Harper of Augusta; Beverly V. Head, Cynthia Ransom Lewis and Mary Lou deLoache Sanders, all of Atlanta; Anselma B. Henderson of Lumber City; Mitchell A. Jackson of Savannah; Dr. S. Gordden Link of Riverton, Virginia; Laura Anne Moore of Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Mary Sue Norsworthy of Stockton; Lucile Johnston Smith of Columbus; Paul Spahos of Fort Valley; Helen Toye of New Orleans, Louisiana; Donna A. Trotter of Blue Ridge, and Golda F. Walker of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

1980 NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC. CONVENTION

The Annual Convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. was held June 26 thru 30, 1980, at the International Inn in Orlando, Florida. The Host Society was the Florida State Poets Association, Inc. whose president is Robert E. DeWitt of Green Cove Springs. NFSPS President Alice Briley of New Mexico presided. The five-day session included board meetings, poetry evaluations, welcomes, workshops, receptions, open readings, panels, films, breakfasts, lunches, dinners and banquets.

GSPS was represented by President Ed Vickers and Vice-President Chuck Bruehler and Members Phylis Barr, Wauneta Hackleman, Donna Shriver, Helen Toye and Golda Walker.

One of the highlights of the convention was the announcements of the prize poems in the twenty-first annual contest (which took place at six of the lunches and dinners). Ten thousand, eight hundred seven poems competed for the four thousand, two hundred and eighty-five dollars (10,807 poems... \$4285.00). You are to be congratulated for entering! And GSPS had eighteen poets who entered. Three of our members received a total of seven recognitions. Dorothy Williamson Worth won one 5th H.M. and two 7th H.M.'s; Jeanne Osborne Gibbs won one 2nd H.M. and one 3rd H.M.; and Bettie Sellers won one 3rd place and one 7th H.M. Congratulations!

Ed served as judge for the Bymorlin Sonnet Award and Chuck judged the South Dakota Poetry Society Award.

The 1981 convention will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The prizes in the 1981 contests total \$4620.00. GSPS will co-sponsor with NFSPS First Vice-President Wauneta Hackleman the Youth Award. Make your plans now to attend and win!

DEAR MEMBERS, IT'S UP TO YOU!

The major portion of our expenditures this first year included postage, printing and other costs for correspondence and publicity. We ask you to help with suggestions such as these: place announcements of GSPS meetings in your local library and book stores; provide your local paper with news of our meetings and contests which are open to the public; offer information concerning membership where you think appropriate. Please emphasize that a self addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) always be included with any inquiries; this really helps. When you attend a meeting or participate in any GSPS activity, make sure your name is mentioned in the write-up to the local paper. You will surely be glad and so will the Society. Many thanks!

In fact now is a good time to do the above. Don't forget to stress that August 30, 1980, is the deadline for Charter Membership in the Georgia State Poetry Society. Charter Membership is also an ideal gift for the poet or the patron. Thanks, again.

BOOK OF THE CHARTER YEAR OF THE GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY

GSPS Editor Sandy Prillaman really needs your help! In order to verify your Name and information for the book of our charter year, please send the facts requested below. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT. Send to: GSPS Editor Sandra Prillaman
1113 Monroe Drive, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

- 1) Your name and address as you wish for it to appear in the yearbook.
- 2) Any books published with all relevant information (title, year, cost, in print...).
- 3) Achievements during the charter year.



GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY HOLDS THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING

The Georgia State Poetry Society held its Spring Quarterly Meeting Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26, 1980, in Athens, Georgia, in conjunction with the city's Festival of the Arts by invitation of the Athens-Clark County Cultural Affairs Committee.

The Society was honored with a reception on Friday evening at "The Barn" in the Sheraton Historic Village. Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr., Georgia's Poet Laureate and GSPS Charter Member, was the guest of honor. Champagne flowed from a silver fountain centered upon a beautifully appointed skirted table ample with various cheeses, chilled fruits and vegetables, and other delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Midway in the evening, President Edward Davin Vickers paid tribute to Dr. Lewis by applauding his poetry and the work he does with young poets. He then introduced Dr. Lewis who spoke briefly on behalf of the Society and delighted the audience with his wit and charm and the reading of a few of his own poems. Afterwards Ed presented Vice-President Chuck Bruehler and Youth Chairman Irma Smith Dowis who announced and read the winning entries for the Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr. Awards.

Poets awarded prizes and their poems were: (GENERAL CATEGORY) First Place, Bettie Sellers of Young Harris for "Legacy for Rachel"; Special Recognition, to Betty Abernathy Wallace of Hampton for "House of the Muses", Martha Parker of Atlanta for "Arrangements Pending" and Jeanne G. Avary of Atlanta for "Fanfare for Luciano Pavarotti on His Return to Modena." (YOUTH CATEGORY) First Place, Francie Mizell, Sequoyah High School, Doraville, for "The Barn"; Special Recognition, Chrys Byrom, Senoia High School, Senoia, for "The King of Heart and Soul" and Ann Maijala, Sequoyah High School, Doraville, for "The Vietnam War." Congratulations!

The gala affair was concluded with a special reading by Ralph Stephens.

A poetry workshop was held on Saturday morning at the Ramada Inn. President Ed Vickers introduced GSPS member Marel Brown who directed the workshop which she aptly called, "IF You Write a Poem." Mrs. Brown, whose ninth book is PRESENTING Georgia Poets, taught a "refresher course" (at Ed's request) in which she covered just about every recognized form of poetry. She would say "touched on"; however, she did a wonderful job of pointing out the significance of the various forms, sighting many familiar poems and songs whose structures are taken for granted in most cases. From David's free verse to the Flanders' field rondeau... She shared a quatrain of her own called "War":

Men pile up words, strong words; they try in vain
To show the world that war is gain and glory:
While slowly down the street this blind man's cane
Is bravely tapping out the truthful story.

GSPS members participating in the workshop were: Roxanna and Jerry Zeller, Chuck Bruehler, Evelyn Rineer, Alan Thorton, Irma Smith Dowis, Lucile Johnston Smith, Lucille C. Bennett, Micki Morris, Bob Lowrance, Marjorie Orhtman, Myldred Hitchins, Les Rogers and Ralph Stephens.

Several of the members mentioned above, along with others, took part in the open readings and book fair. Others included, Peggy Mills, Cynthia Lewis, Bettie Sellers, Thelma Hall, Janice Moore, Julia Evatt, Mary Ann Coleman, Kathleen Tavel, Anselma Sharpe, Peggy, Starr and Beau Farr, Valoree Bechtler; Dorothy Worth. (List of members may be incomplete and we apologize for any omission.)

DR. JOHN RANSOM LEWIS, JR, AWARDS

LEGACY FOR RACHEL BY BETTIE SELLERS

(FIRST PRIZE
GENERAL CATEGORY)

I could call you Rachel
though that is not your name.
In the old story, Rachel waited,
watching Leah bear her children,
spun and wove in the corner
of Jacob's tent, hearing babies cry.

Years, you sat at your mother's knee,
wound her wool in balls, stacked quilt
scraps in neat piles, cleaned her house.
And Leah came on Sundays, bristling
with young, ate your meals, patted
your thin shoulder, saying:
"What a good sister you are."

While funeral meats still lined
the kitchen cupboard shelves,
she piled up afghans, quilts
for daughters one, two and three--
drove off toward town, leaving you
cradling balls of wool, picking lint
and scraps nestling under the cushions
of your mother's favorite chair.

THE BARN BY FRANCIE MIZELL

(FIRST PRIZE
YOUTH CATEGORY)

The sun is slowly slipping from the sky,
And the feel of fall is fastened to the night wind.
In the chill of dusk I stand here on this barren hill,
Lonely, empty, crumbling into dust.

No placid cows sleep soundly in my rows of stalls.
No cat pursues a mouse high in my rafters.
The hay that filled my loft has long since blown away.
And the warmth I once contained has turned to cold.

Befriended now by only sky and stars,
Or wind that chases sprites through my warped walls,
A haven once for weary beasts of burden,
Now a broken hovel shared by bats and owls.

Oh, how I long for days of busy bustle,
And the clop of hooves upon my wooden floor;
Of sweet timothy piled high up in my manger,
And the smell of oats and hide and out of doors.

But I am old and worn and have seen better days,
And my boards once firm and strong are now in disrepair.
How silent are these days when I am all alone,
And sorrow fills the crack left in my door.