



League of Utah Writers

60th Year, No. 4, Nov. 1996

PRESIDENT'S KORNER

Greetings Fellow Writers, October 11, 1996

I feel comfortable addressing all of you as writers after hearing Orson Scott Card label anyone who writes ANYTHING as a writer, published or not. I hope those of you who heard Scott at our Golden Jubilee Round-Up felt as drawn into his distinguished company as I did when he explained that the definition of a successful writer is one who receives a positive response from what he has written. According to Scott, if the only thing you've ever written is a love letter which resulted in a marriage and a family, you are a successful writer. My writing hasn't reaped that kind of response, but I am making a stab at soliciting something positive from you with this letter.

Even with Scott's broad definition of a writer, I feel inadequate as your new President. I'm grateful to our outgoing President, Marcia Anstead; she performed her role extremely well, which should make my job much easier. Through her efforts, revised League Bylaws, Constitution, and Guidelines have been prepared, discussed, and approved, which are more reflective of the organization we have become. Still, I know the responsibilities before me are great, and I will be leaning heavily on our executive Committee, our Board and YOU. Please know I am open to your ideas and suggestions and will welcome any input you care to share. The League belongs to each of us.

I appreciated meeting and rubbing shoulders with all of you at our 60th Anniversary Round-Up. By all calculations, our celebration was highly successful. Our **President-Elect, Bettyanne Gillette** is

already working on next year's Round-Up. Our new Board members, presented and approved at our Annual Board Meeting during Round-Up, are all anxious to serve you. You'll find their names and numbers, as well as yours, listed in the 1996-1997 Directory. If you have not received the **Directory**, or if there are any changes or corrections to it, please notify **Membership Chairman Kristen Black**.

During the Birthday Luncheon at the Round-Up, each chapter shared their "gift" to the state which was/ is to be given during the year. These gifts have greatly added to the stature of our organization in the eyes of our community and our members. Thank you for all you do to support the purpose of the League. A small gift to you in this Lariat is your own copy of our brief history written and presented at the Round-Up by Dora Flack.

In honor of the League's 60th Anniversary I would like to pose a challenge for each League member. Let's add 60 new writers to our membership rolls this year! Bring a friend to your chapter meetings. Let them feel our excitement Everyone is a writer, remember? If we could increase our membership by just 60 members, we would be approaching our old membership high. I promise the chapter with the greatest percentage of increase in membership will be very glad they did!

Our greatest goal this year is to get everyone writing; everything the League will do will be with that focus. We know the year will inevitably pass even if we sit on our hands. Put a pencil in that hand and by this time next year, our successes may impress even Orson Scott Card.

KNEWS YOU CAN USE

("knews" is plural of knew)

Round-Up - Thanks to everyone who helped make our Diamond Jubilee such an outstanding success. A total of 160 people participated in all or part of the Round-Up, including 12 new members (369 total members and associates statewide; 54 new members since June). This year we added three (3) new chapters—**Cache Valley** (Logan), **Sandy/Craft House** (Holladay), **Timpanogos** (American Fork)—making 15 total. The "Cedar City Nightwriters" chapter changed their name to **Color Country Nightwriters** for a more accurate representation of their members in Iron, Beaver, Garfield and Paiute Counties.

There were 432 entries in 22 contest categories. Unfortunately, four (4) categories had less than the 10 entries required for a viable contest: Songwriting, Speculative Fiction, Children's Book and Full-Length Book. Hopefully there will be more interest next year.

All manuscripts, certificates and prizes have been mailed to those who included a SASE. If you have not received yours, please contact Marcia Ford, 298-7453.

At a Board of Directors Meeting, attended by all State Officers and Chapter Presidents, League of Utah Writers (LUW) President **Marcia Anstead** ('95-96) passed the gavel to **Marcia Ford** ('96-97). **Bettyanne Gillette** became the new President-Elect. Marcia Anstead gave a financial report showing total LUW income of \$15,715 and expenses of \$15,876. Major income sources were: Round-Up \$8,321; Membership \$3,600; Utah Arts Council \$2,000 and Contest \$1,851. Major expenses: Round-Up \$9,750; Contest \$3,300; Spring Workshop \$755; Directory \$635. Other reports were: Historian, Fundraising, Membership, Speakers Bureau, Contest, Spring Workshop, Publicity, Lariat, Round-Up, Scholarship.

Speakers' Bureau - TO ALL CHAPTERS - Need some spice for your meetings and workshops—a new twist? Chapters are allowed up to two speakers a year, to be paid by the League (your membership money). Check the list in the back of your new directory. These are qualified speakers who have agreed to share their expertise with us for a \$25 fee plus mileage. Let's use them.

The chapter pays speakers, then requests reimbursement of \$25 from the League Treasurer. Chapter pays for mileage. Contact **Vera Bakker**, 188 E. Gordon, Layton, UT; Ph: 544-8869.

Kalendar

Nov. 16, 10:00am, State Board Meeting - All Chapter Presidents and State Officers (see Directory for names), Salt Lake City Library, 209 E. 500 S., 2nd floor meeting room.

Nov. 16, 11:00am-2:00pm, Wasatch Writers - Free "Creating Colorful Characters" hands-on workshop, Saturday, **Layton Library**, 155 N. Wasatch Drive (across from Layton High School track & field area), featuring Julie Merrill L.D.S. Church Human Resources Dept.

Jan. 1997, Membership Renewal - The League's new policy is to renew memberships on the anniversary date of when you first joined. However, for most Old-Timers (who have been members for over a year), the renewal date will be in January; still only \$20/year (youth \$5). Your *Lariat* mailing label shows your renewal date in the upper-right corner. Send dues to **Trisa Martin**, 2130 S. 750 E., Bountiful, UT 84010; Ph: 292-8771.

Key Kcontacts

Marcia Ford, State President, 1286 E. Northridge Drive, Bountiful, UT 84010; Ph: 298-7453; (15 Chapter Presidents listed in Directory).

Kristen Black, Membership, P.O. Box 2303, Provo, Utah 84603; Ph: 374-0105.

Steve Stumph, Lariat Editor, 75 N. Orchard Drive, North Salt Lake, UT 84054; Ph: 299-0992.

Speakers' Bureau (addition): **Kathy Kelly**, 2273 N. 700 W. Clinton, Utah 84015; Ph: 776-6554. Journalist who writes articles, features, personal profile, how to's and organization; personal & family histories.

LUW Web Site:

<http://www.itsnet.com/~kblack/writers.html>

Brief Historical Account of League of Utah Writers
by Dora D. Flack

For this brief historical sketch I thank the following who have supplied information: Olive W. Burt, Alice Morrey Bailey, June Krumbule, Wanda Blaisdell, Helen Mar Cook, Clarence Socwell, Linda Muhlstein and Lael Hill.

Back in the early 1930s several well-known published Utah writers belonged to the League of Western Writers. These prolific Utah writers won most of the contest prizes. They felt a local organization would give them more recognition, and they could also obtain closer instruction.

So even though they were still part of the League of Western Writers, these Utah writers staged their own first Round-Up in 1936. Harrison R. Merrill, a professor at BYU and also in charge of the L.D.S. Church magazines, was the driving force behind this event, held at Aspen Grove, near Provo. Today we are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the Round-Ups.

In 1937 the second Round-Up was held, also in Provo. According to Alice Bailey, this was the year the Utah people pulled away from the big organization and set up the League of Utah Writers. Olive Burt was the first president, with Harrison Merrill still being the main push.

Alice has given me much interesting detail. The visiting poet to the 1937 Round-Up was Ethel Romig Fuller, who wore her hair like a man's and dressed in slacks. *In those days?* One of her poems read: "If radio's slim finger can pluck music from the air, in such a way I think God answers prayer."

(Unfortunately space limits use of Alice's graphic accounts. They will be recorded in a more extensive history.) Frank Robertson was a Utah member. He wrote over 60 western novels. His *RAM IN THE THICKET* was autobiographical. Some of those attending early Round-Ups were: Lew and RosaLee Lloyd, Mabel and Earl Harmer, Cleone Montgomery, Mary Hale Woolsey, LeRoy Meagher, Carlton Culmsee, Eva Wangsgaard, Beatrice Parsons, Cameron Johns, Edward R. Tuttle, Anna Prince Redd, Peggy Tangren, Claire Noall, Lela Morrer Bassford, Vesta P. Crawford, Lael Woolsey, and, of course, Alice Bailey.

They met regularly at the Art Barn in Salt Lake City. Each year the League, the Utah State Poetry Society, and the Junior League held an exclusive costumed Beaux Arts Ball. Using a specific theme, each group presented skits. The League always won the coveted prize, and they always did the cleanup work.

Olive Burt said: "The League encouraged book stores to have autograph parties with the posted statement: 'Give a Utah book for Christmas.' Each year, for several years, 'Utah Authors Day' promoted Utah authors and their books."

Round-Ups were held in Provo, Ogden, Price, Salt Lake City and Logan. Alice remembers Carlton Culmsee saying, "The pen is mightier than the truth."

Many famous people were brought in for Round-Ups. One was Theodore Dreiser who wrote *AMERICAN TRAGEDY*. At the Round-Up, Dreiser said: "When I come to Utah I always get the newspapers. Nowhere else do they have obituaries like here. Every one is a novel." (At the present high cost of obituaries, that's usually no longer the case.)

Irving Stone came three times. He said, "Nobody buys my books like the people in Utah." At one Round-Up he said, "We must finally abandon our manuscripts to the editor." His first novel, *LUST FOR LIFE*, was rejected by 16 publishers before being accepted.

Louis L'Amour came twice. This weekend marks the third visit for Scott Card. I remember when I was president, we had Betty Evenson scheduled from Wyoming. Then she called to tell me she was too ill to come. Frantic, I called Glen Leonard for suggestions. He said, "Call Scott Card. He works for the church magazines and has had his first novel published. He's a good speaker." He was the hit of the Round-Up. When Scott spoke in 1977, I was convinced he would be a really great writer and look at him today.

All of our speakers have not been wonderful. Clair Huffaker came in 1971. He was poured in and poured out, and was so drunk the night of the banquet that he could hardly deliver his talk. Alice Bailey says Dick Wetjen was also a drunk and degraded everybody else. Other outstanding

speakers have been Earle Stanley Gardner, Will Durrant, Ethel Jacobson, Dorothy Andrews, LaVon Carroll, to name only a few.

The cost of our Round-Ups has certainly escalated sharply through these 60 years. Mabel Harmer said the registration fee one year was \$7.50, which included two meals and five speakers.

In addition to great Round-Ups, our Spring Workshops are excellent sources of instruction. In 1970, when Betty Spencer was president, she worried because dues were always late coming in. So she organized the first Spring Workshop. Anyone who had already paid dues could come for nothing. It was \$5 for others. These workshops have been held at several different places in Salt Lake, Provo, Ogden, Logan, Tooele and St. George.

Our chapters have spread from one in 1937, meeting at the Art Barn, to many localities throughout the state. Some have started, but dwindled. In the 1995 Directory 15 chapters are listed. Speaking of Directories, Betty Spencer, during her very productive administration, also started publishing the Directory.

In addition to listing all members and chapters, the Directory lists members of the Speakers Bureau for chapter meetings.

In the Directory, Honorary Lifetime members are recorded: Olive W. Burt, Mabel Harmer, Samuel W. Taylor, RosaLee Lloyd, Margaret Beecher, Alice Bailey, Delila Abbott, Betty Spencer and Clarence P. Socwell.

Also included are names of recipients of the Writer of the Year award, given for their own accomplishments, plus service to writers and the League: Vesta P. Crawford 1981; Dora D. Flack 1982; Wanda Blaisdell 1983; Alice Morrey Bailey 1984; Mabel Harmer 1985; Kathryn Kay 1986; Bethany Chaffin 1987; Brewster Ghiselin 1988; G. Barnes 1989; Gordon T. Allred 1990.

Alice Bailey is our only living Charter Member.

Annual poetry, prose and song writing contests with cash awards have been League-sponsored since its beginnings. Probably no songwriter has had published work as popular as Mary Hale Woolsey, who

wrote, "When It's Springtime In the Rockies." Mary Hale was the mother of Lael Woolsey Hill.

Gold quills are awarded to winners in the published category. When a person wins repeatedly in the published category, diamonds are added to quills. Before she died, Mabel Harmer was "Diamond Queen," with 15 diamonds in 5 quills. Alice Bailey is the current "Diamond Queen," with 26 diamonds in 4 quills.

The Lariat has been the League's publication almost since its beginning, informing members of Round-Ups and workshops and recording members' accomplishments.

"Meet Utah Authors Day" was an annual event for many years. This led to Wanda Blaisdell's many years in collecting Utah authors' books which is called S.U.B.S.—Save Utah Books Sensibly.

The League has been subsidized since 1976 by the Utah Arts Council. Officers have always served without compensation.

The whole purpose of the League is to encourage and teach writing skills and promote recognition of Utah Writers.

Writer's Round-Up—A Rousting Revelry

20-Sep-96 Salt Lake City - The 1996 Round-Up at the Airport Hilton began with a Poet's Feast on Friday evening. With 74 women and 8 men attending, the left-brain/right-brain difference between the sexes was once again reaffirmed when 37 women and only three (3) men won poetry awards. (C'mon guys! Get with it!) Winning entries were read aloud by Helen Beaman, Max Golightly and Martha Hendstrom. The contest winners are listed below.

Marcia Ford, (1996-97 President, Bountiful), welcomed the writers and Sandy Hirche (Utah Valley) introduced the speakers. Poets LaVon Carrol (Blue Quill) and Marilyn Bushman-Carlton shared their insights and poems. In Robert Frost's words, "Poets write poems—not poetry." While Marcia Anstead (1995-96 President, Delta) played the guitar, the group joined her in singing "Spring-

time in the Rockies." Dora Flack (Bountiful) shared how Utah songwriter Mary Hale (Maryhale) Woolsey composed the longtime favorite. When the song became a best-seller and millions of sheet music copies were printed over a 30-year period, the song was translated into many other languages and became admired around the world. Dora related a favorite story of the song. A WW-II GI in Italy was expecting to find a native Utahn when he heard the tune being whistled from behind a hedge. Instead, he discovered a shriveled old gardener from India.

21-Sep-96 - The following morning welcomed Orson Scott Card, a nationally recognized author from N. Carolina, and Carol Mauro-Noon, Managing Editor of *Working Women* and *Woman's World* in NYC. Scott praised everyone who writes, and Carol explained the workday of magazine editors. Carol's petite 4'10" height was disguised by a step-stool behind the podium. Three simultaneous workshops had Dave Trottier tell how to sell screenplays, Chris Heimerdinger discuss the LDS market and LaVon B. Carroll explain the "Importance of Poetry in all Kinds of Writing."

Karla Erikson (Bountiful) chaired the luncheon. Each chapter president presented a gift for the League's 60th anniversary, and Dora Flack (Bountiful) shared memories of the League's historical highlights (see text on page 3).

The afternoon session heard inspirational anecdotes from Jack Weyland, a physics professor who writes LDS books, and solid advice from George Nicholson, a NY agent who was the Managing Editor of *Doubleday*. Six more workshops gave writers a chance for individual interaction with all of the guest speakers.

An evening banquet was chaired by Claudene Gordon (Sandy/Craft House). To honor the year our league was founded, Art Hovley sang "Summertime" from the 1936 play *Porgy and Bess*, with piano accompaniment by Margot Hovley. Prose contest winners were announced (see page 6), and first place entries were read by Max Golightly, Helen Beaman and Martha Hendstrom. Marcia passed the torch to Marcia (not herself) and closed the corral gates for the 1996 Round-Up. (The writers were lit up, but the fire damage was minimal.)

Poets & "Pros"

The General Contest Chair for the Round-Up was Valerie Holladay (Utah Valley), and other Category Chairs (not listed below) were: Sauna Baumgartner, Betty Briggs, Candie Olsen, Fay Starr, Denise Windley.

1996 Poetry Winners

The "*Newcomers Poetry*" category, chaired by Gwen Parkinson, winners were: 1st "Colorado Respite," Juanita Watts, 2nd "Historical Deadwood Celebrates Jazz: Hysterical Deadwood Celebrates Cash*," Marilyn Richardson, 3rd "The Wrestler," Ilene Hurst. Honorable Mentions: "The Lost Coin," Patricia Abbot, "Eolian Art," Patricia Abbot, "When I Am," Richard Jee.

"*Songwriting*," had an insufficient number of entries to carry the category (10 minimum).

"*Utah Centennial Poem*," chaired by Melinda Hill, winners were: 1st "Golden Leatherneck," Alice Morrey Bailey, 2nd "Ode to Lucina," Alice Morrey Bailey, 3rd "Okaeri: The Returning," Geraldine Felt. Honorable Mentions: "Flood of '83," Joyce Marder, "Small Smudged Face in Starlight," Lavon B. Carroll, "Water in the West," LaVon B. Carroll.

"*Serious Poetry*," chaired by Valerie Holladay, winners were: 1st "Holocaust," Carol B. Quist, 2nd "Drive-By Shooting," Maxine Jennings, 3rd "The Heavy Hills of Greece," LeVon B. Carroll. Honorable Mentions: "Timeclock: A Cinquain," Mary Ann Slade, "Sometimes Other Voices," Kolette Montague.

"*Light Verse*," chaired by Shirley Hatfield, winners were: 1st "Eulogy," Maxine Mortensen Crapo, 2nd "Over-byte," Maxine Mortensen Crapo, 3rd "Hazardous Joys," Max Golightly. Honorable Mentions: "Wages of Waiting," Maxine Shreve, "Where Hope Was," Geraldine R. Pratt, "The Hole Story," Sheila Huntington.

"*Holiday Verse*," chaired by Linda Muhlstein, winners were: 1st "The Mouse Santa Claus," Sheila Huntington, 2nd "The ABCs of Christmas," Jeannine Brown, 3rd "New New Year's News," Carol B. Quist. Honorable Mentions: "Canyon

Beauties," Betty Briggs, 3rd "The Last Day of My Childhood," Vicki Wheeler. Honorable Mentions: "The Impossible Dream," Carma Evans, "Harbinger of Spring," Ilene Hurst, "The Damn Hoover Dam," Alice Morrey Bailey.

The "*Member Article*" category, chaired by Sherri Curtis, winners were: 1st "Washing Machines I Have Known and Loved," LaVon B. Carroll, 2nd "My Daughter Shaved Her Head," Claudene Gordon, 3rd "Laughter—The Cheapest Medicine," Judy Johns. Honorable Mentions: "My Eagle Flight," Dora Flack, "Cliff Diving by a Nonswimmer," Linda Orris, "Edna Mendt, Farmhouse Poet," Max Golightly.

The "*Publication Award*" category, chaired by Amy Weir, winners were: **Quill Winners:** Theda Bassett - Poetry Collection, Thella Brock - Uncle Hy and Aunt Hat, Stephanni Hicken - "Persimmon Hill." **Diamond Winners:** Alice Morrey Bailey - Rain Shadows, Maxine Jennings - "Autumn Song," Kolette Montague - "That Pig Poet" & Other Poems, Anita Stansfield - First Love & Forever. **Honorable Mentions:** Shirley Hatfield - "Mouth of the Canyon," Trisha Martin - Article Collection, Lisa Peck - "Across the World," Geraldine R. Pratt - "Treasures," Carol B. Quist - Collection.

60th Anniversary Gifts

Bear River Valley Writers (E. Garland) -

Blue Quill Chapter (Ogden) - Free Writers' Workshop on Oct. 12.

Bountiful Chapter - Hundreds of hours for 1996 Round-Up.

Cache Valley Chapter (Logan) - New chapter with 18 members.

Color Country Nightwriters (Cedar City) - Major growth and progress (see Chapter Chatter).

Delta Chapter - (1) Two members wrote "In Our Lovely Deseret!" a Utah Centennial play. (2) Sponsored writing contest at Millard County Fair. (3) Home of the Lariat Editor and Utah President for last year.

Heritage Writers Guild (Ivins) - "Silver Anniversary" book in Nov. 1998; goals for quality & wide representation.

Oquirrh Writers (West Valley City) - "Holiday Hoopla" book of humor for national audience,

where each member will write about specific holidays.

Price Chapter - Published "Legends of Carbon and Emery County" and more (see Chapter Chatter).

Salt Lake Chapter -

Sandy/Craft House Chapter (Holladay) -

Sevier Valley Chapter (Richfield) - "Memories," a 60 page Sevier Sampler booklet written by all members and five new members.

Timpanogos Chapter (American Fork) - Get personal histories from rest homes and read to them.

Utah Valley Chapter (Provo/Orem) -

Wasatch Writers (Layton) - Free November Writers' Workshop; share writing talents.

Top 10 Gifts from the State - (10) Hard working members - representing a full board. (9) By-laws, Constitution and Guidelines updated. (8) History gathered and updated. (7) Tremendous Spring Workshop and Logan workshop. (8) Inspiring Round-Up. (5) Newly designed LUW pamphlets. (4) Three new chapters formed. (3) Membership increased to over 360. (2) A balanced checkbook and \$2,000 Utah Arts Council grant restored. (1) A brand new Board of Directors.

CHAPTER CHATTER

Blue Quill, Ogden - **Esther Phelps Parks** has two poems in the Centennial Edition of *Utah Sings*. Her adolescent owl photo won 1st in a state contest and is now competing at the international level.

Linda Smith had her first article (a 1st place winner in the 1995 LUW contest) published, in *Catalyst*.

Judy Johns is a finalist in this year's Romance Writers of America contest. She will now be meeting with an editor from *Silhouette Books*.

Wanda Blaisdell, **LaVon Carroll** and **Helen Cook** received honorable mentions this month in *Byline* poetry contests.

Lynn Miller's short story "Piano Man" (an excerpt from her 1995 LUW prize-winning novel) will be published in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. Her essay "Moss Rose China" will be published by *Pittsburgh Gazette* and *Victoria*.

Bountiful Chapter - The monthly meeting is changed to the third WEDNESDAY (not Tuesday) at the Bountiful City Hall, Council Committee Room.

In the Round-Up contests, **Dora Flack** won 3rd Place in the Articles Category, and First Honorable Mention in the Members Article Category. The June 1996 *Ensign* printed "Brightening Our Vision." This article was bought and paid for at least 12 years ago, but was never published until now. (Never give up hope.) At the request of the Mayor, Dora prepared the papers for Bountiful, which were included in the Davis County time capsule for the Centennial year. The sealing followed a dedicatory service at the Davis County Courthouse on October 4. In September, Dora sold a story, "Lightning Strikes," to *The Friend*.

Based on her poem, "A Topsy Mrs. Santa," **Sheila Huntington** wrote a video script that was produced by **Brian Gubler**. The video received an award for "Ten Best of the West," (from over 200 entries); they won first place for the most humorous entry in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Sheila also won three awards for her poems and children's story in the Round-Up contest.

Carol O. Cole will be writing a monthly column on genealogy for the *Beehive Newspaper* in Las Vegas, NV. She also contributes articles covering LDS events originating in the Salt Lake City area.

On October 15, **Judy Fraser** described her experience in publishing, "*Did You Know . . . Hidden Treasures from Church History*." Her book, written in the format of Paul Harvey's, "The Rest of the Story," has 30 stories about early LDS Church leaders. It's available at Deseret Book, Temple Book and Carr Stationery.

Just in the nick of time, **Steve Stumph** became the not-to-serious editor of the *Lariat*. **Marcia Ford**, the new State LUW President has promised to give him enough rope to hang himself. He already tried it once—but the rope broke. He's rather *LARGE*.

Cache Valley, Logan - We continue to grow. We now have 18 members, and some months we are pressed for space when everybody shows up. We are currently in search of a larger meeting place. If this happens, we will move our meeting from Monday night to accommodate some of our members. Since we are so new, our officers will remain the same for the next year: **Charlene Hirschi**, President; **Brook Bigelow**, President-elect; and **Lori Lee-Howell**, Secretary/Treasurer.

We were well represented at Round-Up this year, with six members in attendance. We were especially thrilled when **Winona Perry** and **Charlene Hirschi** received recognition for their writing. That same weekend, Charlene received a first, second, and third place award at the Idaho Writer's League conference in Boise.

We have had two members publish their work recently. **Pat Bodrero** had an article published in the local newspaper in September. She was in Jackson Hole, Wyoming at the same time as President Clinton, and she wrote a clever article about just missing him at several spots she visited. **Richard Michaud** had an article published in the Church News section of the Deseret News in May.

We have had several excellent speakers over the summer. **Cheri Crane**, author of *Kate's Turn* and several other LDS novels, shared her first publishing experience with us in June. In July we were joined by the Bear River Valley Writers for a nature writing experience. We met up Logan Canyon where Tom Lyon, of Utah State University, spoke to us on the importance of using nature images to keep our writing fresh and exciting. **Martin Naparsteck**, author and lecturer, talked to us about mystery writing and some of his publishing and writing experiences at our September meeting.

Color Country Nightwriters (formerly Cedar City Nightwriters), Cedar City - An addiction to writing and a need to band together into a writer's support group were the original incentives for **Corrie Lynne Player** to form the "Nightwriters" in southern Utah. She sparked interest in starting a group by distributing flyers around Cedar City and the Southern Utah University campus which asked the questions, "Are you a writer?" and "Do you want to be published?"

On October 11, 1990, 37 people gathered in a rented room in the Centrum facility on the southern Utah University campus. Three representatives from the League of Utah Writers were there to help the group become official. One of the goals for the group was to seek out a free, public, meeting location. The Cedar City Job Service building was an interim meeting site until the group moved to the Cedar City Library. Meetings are still held in that location.

A strong bond formed with the core members of the group, which consisted of: **Linda**

Blanchard, Blanche Clegg, Elaine Imus, Al Klein, Paul Klein, Corrie Lynne Player and Janet Seegmiller. Periodically, the group drew in new members through sponsoring an annual writing contest, open to members and the general public. A consistent mailing list of 30 has been maintained, with attendance at monthly meetings varying according to the program or workshop offered.

Past presidents of the group have included **Corrie Lynne Player, Elaine Imus and Blanche Clegg.** The current president is **Paul Klein**, who is nearing the end of his two-year tenure. Since the group's inception, the positions of secretary/treasurer and newsletter editor have been faithfully held by **Janet Seegmiller and Linda Blanchard.**

The Nightwriters were greatly saddened by the death of **Elaine Imus** on April 23, 1996 after a two-year battle with cancer. She bore her afflictions with optimism and touched the lives of all who knew her. She was a great inspiration to the group and is dearly missed.

Membership for the Nightwriters continues to expand as southern Utah grows. The current number of active members is 25, with 12 of those individuals also being members of the League of Utah Writers. Group members have been published in local newspapers and national magazines, won or placed in various writing competitions, and have had several of their books published.

The group maintains a close personal bond of support and encouragement through friendship. A pot luck social is held each Christmas which affords members the opportunity to share thoughts about Christmas. An ice cream social is held late in the summer. At the "End of Summer" social held August 27, 1996, it was unanimously decided to change the name of the *Cedar City Nightwriters* to the *Color Country Nightwriters*. The new name better reflects the geographical representation of the members who attend the meetings from Iron, Beaver, Garfield and Paiute Counties.

Heritage Writers Guild, St. George - Boasts three excellent workshops this fall. In September **Cassandra Hafen**, from Ivins, shared how to bring story characters alive through detail.

In October, **Anita Holmes**, of New Harmony, gave a workshop on "How to be a Better Writer Through Goal Setting." She and Johnda Smith wrote *Of Tithes and Testimonies*, for an LDS audience, and Horizon Press has just released a

second printing. *Of Temple Work and Testimonies*, is near completion. Both books are at Deseret Books and Mountain West, or can be ordered through any local bookstore.

Thella Brock, last year's president, will share ideas on journaling at the November 19th meeting. She attended some excellent sessions at BYU Education week and has much to share.

The guild was proud to have five of their members receive seven awards at the Salt Lake Round-Up. Thanks to Thella Brock for encouraging everyone to enter. Congratulations to **Thella Brock, Jeannine Brown, Lorraine Johnson, Irene Pollock and Marilyn Richardson.**

The Guild announces its annual writing contest, with no theme restrictions, for members and non-members (upon payment of a reading fee). Writers are encouraged to be creative in fiction or non-fiction (less than 3,000 words) and poetry (40 lines or less). Entries will be judged by readers from outside the group. Mail manuscripts by November 2, 1996 to Jeannine Brown, Contest Chairman, 226 W. 300 S., St. George, UT 84770. For an official entry form and specifics on entry fees call 628-6813.

Price Chapter - With 46 guest writers, the Price Chapter wrote and published *Legends of Carbon and Emery County* within three months. **Nadine Marx and Arva Smith** were major contributors. Each voice was saying how it was. "I was there." They gave an insight to the past in time to celebrate the Centennial—with autographed books in the park at the Price Peace Gardens. They awakened moods of the past with their poetry read aloud—leaving the thought, "Only You Can Unlock the Past."

Emma Lou Stevenson is writing a music book for small children, and a personal, family history with character sketches in poetry form. She's compiling a poetry book and wrote music for "Wandering Home."

Margaret Christensen made bookmarks with an added *haiku* (a Japanese poem or verse form, consisting of 17 syllables divided into 3 lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables, often about nature or a season). Her poetry was published in *Utah Sings '96* and the *Cycles Magazine*. She wrote "The Golden" for her 50th wedding anniversary, with an added tribute to her husband, Dale. At another fun

celebration, she recited, "A Sonnet for Lori and Paul" for their summer wedding.

Cecelia Bryner wrote the history of the Price 3rd Ward and several tributes for the funerals.

In 1990, **John Jensen** wrote a short poem, poking fun of his wife's tattoo of a spider. This sparked his enthusiasm for writing, and he has been writing to this day. In 1995-96 he received the Editor's Choice Awards from the *Library of Poetry* and is featured in the *Best Poets of '95-'96*.

Sevier Valley, Richfield - Four members of the Sevier Chapter received honorable mention for entries at the Writer's Round-Up (see Poets & Pros). **Revo Young** and **Lou Ella Lee** received honorable mentions for Utah Centennial articles; while honorable mentions went to **Esther Williams** for her essay and **Mary Alice Slade** for her serious poetry entry.

Wasatch Writers, Layton - **Vera Bakker** won first place in the Children's Literature division of the National League of American Pen Women contest; Honorable Mention and Citation from the Jessee Poet contest; fourth place for poem from Iliad; Honorable Mention in Kentucky Poetry Society; sold three poems to Waterford Institute for picture books; taught a Children's Poetry class for Eccles Art Center, fall quarter.

Arlene Hamblin received an Award of Merit from the Ensign Hymns contest for writing the text to the hymn "Share The Gospel." **Peggy Moffit** composed the music. The song was also performed at Arlene's mission farewell in October. She and her husband are now serving an L.D.S. service Mission in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Juanita Watts sold a children's story to Waterford Institute for publication in an upcoming book.

Geraldine Felt had a poem chosen for the Poetry On The Bus program; a poem published in *Where It Is: Crossroads Anthology*; three poems in *Utah Sings*; a judge for the NFSPS contest; a Director for the Utah Poet Society's Junior Creative Writing Olympics in which every Jr. & Senior High student in the state will be invited to enter their writings. In connection with her Layton Arts Council position, she is putting together a sesquicentennial writing contest for 1997.

Knewest Members (They knew what to do.)

Let's extend a warm welcome to 54 new members who have joined our ranks since June:

Bear River Valley - Kerry Parkinson.

Bountiful - Helen H. Garrett, Norma Hawkes, Suzanne Izatt, Joyce S. Marder, Deborah Claire Reed, Karen Walch.

Cache Valley - Joyce Anderson, Pat Bodrero, Frances Burtenshaw, Mike Duvall, April Anderson Gohier, Samantha Mace, Richard E. Michaud, Frankie Morris, Winona Perry, Jeremy Pitts, Margene Thorpe.

Color Country Nightwriters - Johnny Harrah, Oleta Oveson.

Craft House - Jim Clark, Claudene B. Gordon, Barbara Jacksha, Pamela Moody.

Delta - Winston Nielson.

Oquirrh Writers - Brenda Burton, Dixie Peterson, Carolyn Steele.

Price - Cindy Chipman, Betty Jo Hartley.

Salt Lake - Phyllis Hensley, Sallie Wilkie.

Timpanogos - Karlene B. Barker, Charmayne Buckner, Leila Chadwick, Cinda Clement, Lynne Jolley, Kelli J. Nielson.

Utah Valley - Muriel Bywater, Collette Casper, Elaine Cochran, Gary Daniels, Sabrina Haycock, Amy Smith, Maija Thorstrom.

Wasatch Writers - Virginia Bourgeois, Athena Rowher, Laura Stratton, Dawn Tolson.

Our newest writers are not listed in the 1996-97 directory. Please add:

Bountiful - Julie Peters, 728 West 1300 South, Woods Cross, UT 84087; 292-6415.

Craft House - Betty Farnsworth, 10315 South 1540 West, South Jordan, UT 84095; 294-3572.

Salt Lake - Kelly Almond, 11842 South Oak Ridge Road, Sandy, UT 84094; 553-1118.

Utah Valley - Angella Lofthouse, 635 W. 980 N., Provo, UT 84604; 374-0789.

Wasatch Writers - Nataya Smith, 1543 Marilyn Dr., Layton, UT 84041; 776-2731

THE WRITE STUFF

Verbage and Rejection

Verbage can effect rejection. Accuracy can't be over-emphasized. When writing "The man who I interviewed with the wooden leg named "Bryan Stevenson", correct spelling of the 2 names are impertinent. You must live and breath proper grammar. Many writer's principle object is publishing and money. I'm sure it is for you and I. The various spellcheck's usefulness is limited by the writers' use of the write word initially. Who you send the manuscript to is also important. Proofread; proofread; and proofread again before submission.

The preceding paragraph has more than 20 errors that could cause rejection by an editor. Some are blatant examples of incorrect usage; others are preferences. Please identify and correct as many as possible.

Contributed by Nancy McDonald, Blue Quill Chapt.

That's Not Exactly What I Meant

All too often, our words can be misinterpreted due to poor sentence structure and/or inadequate proof-reading. Please change the following church bulletin quotations into statements that will be interpreted correctly.

1. Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.
2. Thursday night - Potluck supper - Prayer and medication follow.
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
4. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
5. The rosebud on this alter is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the sin of Rev. & Mrs. Julius Belzer.
6. Tuesday at 4:00 PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

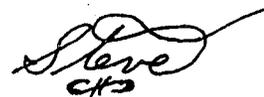
7. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.
8. Wednesday, the Ladies Aid Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing "Put Me in My Little Bed," accompanied by the pastor.
9. Thursday at 5:00 PM there will be a meeting of the Little Mother's Club. All wishing to become little mothers, please see the minister in his study.
10. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the alter.
11. Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.
12. The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they can be seen in the church basement Friday.
13. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to the choir practice.

Are You Sexist?

The car skidded off the road, and the two occupants, a man and his son, were badly injured. In the ambulance, on the way to the hospital, the father died. The son was taken straight into the operating theatre. The surgeon took one look at the patient and gasped, "Oh no . . . it's my son." (Reprint from *Brain Sex*, by Anne Moir and David Jessel)

Who is the surgeon? If the Answer is obvious, you're a "True Believer" in equality of the sexes. If not, then maybe you'll want to take another look—at the story *and* your attitudes.

Have a great life!



Steve Stumph, Lariat Editor 18-Oct-96



P. O. Box 303
Delta, Utah 84624

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