



The League Link

Newsletter of Idaho Writers' League
Sandpoint Chapter

Editor, Bette Poss

January/February 2003

There are three kinds
of men.
The one that learns by
reading.
The few who learn by
observation.
The rest of them have
to touch
the electric fence for
themselves.

—Will Rogers

Writing is its own
reward.

—Henry Miller

It is good to have an
end to journey
towards; but it is the
journey that matters
in the end

—Ursula K. LeGuin



SANDPOINT CHAPTER NEWS

We are starting out the year with twenty-one members and \$1,032.90 in our treasury. We have two new members: Mycah Borisova and Stephanie Rainbow Lightning Elk. Officers for 2003 are:

Cassandra Cridland - president
Mona Vanek - secretary
Charlie Glock - vice president
Bette Poss - treasurer
Dianna Winget—historian

Helen will continue as our Bulletin Board. Joanne is editor of the *Leagazette* with several members helping gather the needed information. Bette is again editor of the chapter newsletter.

Several volunteers from our chapter again acted as judges for the VFW essay contest. The first group who had to read 200 essays had a tough job.

Our chapter will again sponsor a writing contest for adults and high school seniors. There will be no theme, and the categories will be prose and poetry. The deadline for entries is March 31. Publicity posters will be given to any members who wish to distribute them.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

The arrival of winter weather dampened attendance at the Christmas luncheon at the Power House Grill on December 10, but those who went were rewarded with good entertainment and good food.

The Sandpoint High Performing Chorus entertained with several Christmas selections. A few IWL members then read selected Christmas stories. President Cassandra Cridland introduced the new officers and gave credit to all who helped make 2002 a successful year. A drawing for door prizes completed the fun.



Petrushka Pavlovich Workshop

On Saturday, February 1, 2003, a workshop by Petrushka Pavlovich will be held at Sandy Smith's home at 253 Meadow Lane, Sagle, from 11 am to 2 pm. Cost is \$25. 00. Lunch is potluck. This workshop is open to the public.

Ms. Pavlovich is giving the workshop on creating characters with personality and depth. This class is for beginners and seasoned writers alike who are interested in becoming published in either the novel, screen writing or the short story. For more information, please call Helen at 263-2332.

Please pay in advance and make checks out to Petrushka Pavlovich. Mail to IWL, P.O. Box 492, Kootenai, ID 83847. Call for directions to Sandy's house.

WRITING COMPETITIONS

It's time to get started on your contest entries for the 2003 IWL Writing Contest. The assigned titles are "Caught in the Act" and "Second Fiddle." Assigned themes are "Shadows" and "Crossroads." In addition, there is an open category where you come up with your own title and theme. The deadline is July 1, 2003. Complete information on this contest will be in the upcoming issue of the *Leagazette*.

You may be interested in the Northwest Perspectives Essay Contest. Ideas should involve the Northwest, be nonfiction, previously unpublished, and have no more than 2,500 words. Deadline is January 31, 2003. Mona through Helen e-mailed everyone the guidelines.

NEAT WEBSITES

Here's a neat site for comparing writers' rejection miseries:

<http://www.rejectioncollection.com/>

If you have some money to invest in your work, Writer's Relief is a submission service. They submit for you.

www.writersrelief.com

<http://webschool.wash.k12.ut.us/> It's like having your own personal grammar tutor sitting at your elbow.

Helen recommends that you print out and save this comprehensive definition of the different literary genres.

<http://www.manuslit.com/old/Definitions.htm>

www.idahowritersleague.com

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Helen Campbell had an article titled "The Two Faces of Fiction" in the January 2003 issue of the newsletter of the Coeur d'Alene Chapter, *News and Views*.

Sandy Smith sold a story to Wingspress.com Just In Time Anthology, stories of love and laughter, mystery and intrigue for the over-forty woman, by ten women called the Grande Dames.

In 2002, **Mona Vanek's** story, "The Contingency Plan," appeared in *Chicken Soup for the Travelers Soul* in conjunction with which she did three book signings. Three of her articles appeared in EMS Magazine and three appeared in Merginet.com. "A Montana Heroine" appeared in the The Sanders County Ledger and The River Journal. Her writing appeared in the Warrenton-Wentzville Journal, again in The Sanders County Ledger, and in two press releases. She also did a booklet called "Turning Insights Into Money! Write inspirational stories for fun and profit" with ongoing sales since August.

Dianna Winget's agent at Wylie-Merrick Literary Agency has been actively marketing her middle grade novel, True As Steel. Her second middle grade novel, Break Through, is nearly completed. She is also working on a short non-fiction article for a children's magazine and has submitted stories for consideration for the celebrity CD Mary Smith informed us about.

SET or SIT/ LAY or LIE

The AskJeeves site which Helen directed us to did not explain the "why" of the usage of sit, set, sat. I don't know why I think I can explain it, but I'll try. I'll discuss lie and lay, also.

To me, this is what we need to remember. Set and lay are transitive verbs which mean they have an object. "Set the book down." "Lay the package on the table."

Sit and lie are intransitive verbs which means they have no objects. "Sit in that chair." "I will lie down."

The following are the present tense, past tense and past participle of these four words.

set, set, set (with object)
sit, sat, sat (without object)
lay, laid, laid (with object)
lie, lay, lain (without object)

These rules may not apply when talking about a hen or a million other exceptions.

Bette Poss

LIBRARY MAGAZINE RESOURCES

I found these two magazines in the magazine section at the Sandpoint Library:

1. **POETS AND WRITERS MAGAZINE**
What Creative Writers Need To Know
Published bi-monthly by Poets and Writers Inc. Article in past issue: "8 Editors' Tips on Getting in the Glossies."
2. **WRITER'S DIGEST**

A LETTER TO A FRIEND by Kathryn Hamshar

Audie, when you said to me that you wished that I could find someone who would share my interests and be a "literary" type, I almost told you this story, but decided that I'd wait and send you the whole correspondence that I had with this guy, "Jack". My neighbor, Jan, sent me this clipping of an ad a month ago and urged me to respond. "It should be interesting!" she said. "Give it a try." So I did.

This is the ad: *OLD POET/STUDENT seeks retired lady w/time to rhyme. Write "Jack" (the address followed).*

I sent him this poem, nothing more.

HELLO, "Jack":

Perhaps it isn't prudent

To reply to Poet/Student,

But your ad is just too tempting to ignore.

And my life would be much brighter

Just to find a fellow writer

Whose love for words is solid to the core.

I have all that is required,

I'm a poet who is retired,

With time to rhyme and swap a joke or two.

I'm a widow, solvent, single,

And if you can write a jingle

I'd love to get acquainted with a poet/guy like you.

(Signed) Old Poet

HIS REPLY

Dear "Old Poet":

I like your poem very much. I got it quite a while ago, but was so busy I couldn't answer until now. I've been sick a lot with some kind of flu.

I'm a student at Spokane Community College. I write poetry, but call myself a poet rather loosely. I plan on Writing as my new career.

I have been self employed for 20 years. I fix things or build them in general. I want a career that excites my mind. Its been a long time since I was excited about work.

I'm a loner and prefer staying home. I try to eat healthy. I don't eat beef or pork. Also a minimum amount of sugar and dairy products. I don't like to cook so eat a lot of raw vegetables and fruit. I don't think I'm weird about what I eat. I like to eat about four times a day. Sometimes raw vegetables give me tummyaches. Then I usually make a soup, especially when they aren't crisp anymore and start getting moldy at the tops. I make my own health

drink and when my stomach is bothering me I have that all day, no solid food. It is a secret recipe, but I'll share the drink with you.

I don't like the phone much so don't expect me to call. I prefer letters. I am very quiet. I don't like loud voices or quarreling.

I like cuddling up on the couch and watching a movie sometimes. I'm an early riser and I usually go to bed early too.

When I am feeling well and have time for relaxing, I like to cross country ski, backpack, camp out and fish once in a great while. I seem to be too busy to get away much. Do you have a sleeping bag? Mine is worn out.

Do I sound like someone you would like to know? If so, let's write for awhile before we meet. I would like to get to know you some first. Would you mind writing for awhile? Tell me about yourself. If you are honest with me, I will be honest too. You can tell me anything you like. You can ask me anything also. I might not answer certain questions right away.

I have been taking medication for a nervous condition. Sometimes my hands shake. Sometimes I can't drive my car. I need a driver at those times. Are you a good driver?

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely, "Jack".

MY RESPONSE

Your ad says "Old Poet", the word "OLD" I believed!

But now I just know it completely deceived.

Why, you're really a schoolboy, and I'm

SEVENTY-PLUS!

So while you sound cool, boy, that's too much for us!

Its a shame, and I know it, but Fate pulled a scam.

When I sign as "OLD POET", YOU CAN BET THAT I AM!

(Signed) Old Poet

There was one more letter from this poor soul. He would like to apply for the position as lover, he said, but would settle for "friend." Never, in those three letters from him, was there so much as a two-line verse.

I ask you, was it cruel of me to fail to reply?

Love, Kate