



WYOPOETS

DECEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER



Blessings of Christmas

The smell of pine tree in our house,
The taste of fresh baked Christmas bread,
Steam from the oven, roasting grouse,
Candy canes all white and red.

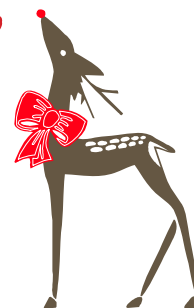
White-capped hills and frozen river
Houses with their lights aglow,
Children with excitement shiver,
Wait by socks stuffed heel to toe.

In the church the holy family
Kneel in the crèche so meek and mild,
Hovering angels watch so patiently
Worshipping the newborn child.

As we gather round our table
Let us ask a blessing there,
Let us always love each other
Grant us peace throughout this year.

C. Valentine

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL
OF OUR WYOPOETS'
MEMBERS



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ABBIE TAYLOR

TAYLORING WORDS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2010



When I last wrote this column, I was enjoying a warm fall afternoon in the back yard. Now, the weather has made a drastic change. I'm working in my office today because although the sun is shining, it's only one degree above zero, and there's a winter storm advisory in effect until eleven o'clock tonight. In other parts of the country, heavy snow is causing power outages, road closures, and flight delays and cancellations. *So much for going over the river and through the woods to Grandma's house for Thanksgiving*, I thought, as I heard the news.

Outside, the snow's not falling, and friends aren't calling, "Yoohoo," because it's too darn cold for a sleigh ride together with you. Okay, that was pretty lame, wasn't it? I guess the part of my brain responsible for producing poetry is frozen. I hope the rest of you have better luck writing poems during this cold and busy holiday season. I also hope your holidays are enjoyable. If by some strange twist of fate, you have a few free minutes, check out my new blog at <http://abbiescorneroftheworld.blogspot.com> Maybe spring will come early next year.

Abbie Taylor
WyoPoets President

MEMBER NEWS

From Jim Rolf: My Branson children and grand children came to visit last weekend (November 18-21) and we had pictures taken of all 5 grandchildren together. I'll be spending Thanksgiving with my Cheyenne children and grandchildren. Had one poem in the Serendipity Poets Journal. Got my annual Christmas poem finished to send out to family and friends. Darlene and I began a tradition of sending our Christmas letter in verse in 1972 (I think it was) and, with the exception of the year she died, I have done it ever since. Best wishes to all for a blessed holiday season. God bless our military men and women who spend Thanksgiving and Christmas in distant and difficult situations protecting us at home.

From Ed Warsaw: Cheyenne Serendipity Poets have completed their 15th annual Poetry Journal and thank all their contributors (16 men and 16 women) for their creative efforts in 2010. Ed Warsaw, Tom Hamm and Pat Corrigan completed the proof reading a week ago, and Michael Riversong completed the layout and formatting. Michael's daughter, Rhianna Rose, a Colorado artist, did a great graphic for the front cover entitled *REGENERATION*. Copies are available for \$12 plus postage and handling, and may be ordered from Ed Warsaw, Founder and Editor, 922 West 26th St., Cheyenne, WY. 82001 (307-635-4726)

From Art Elser: I had a poem, "*To Interpret Nature is ...*" accepted for publication in the Nov/Dec 2010 issue of Legacy Magazine. Legacy is the bimonthly magazine of the National Association for Interpretation. I donated a poem I wrote recently to the Plains Conservation Center in Aurora, CO, where I volunteer as a naturalist. The poem, "*Visiting the Bison Herd*," is about the bison herd on PCC's property and the Cheyenne who used to hunt bison there. They will use the poem in their printed and website material.

From Chris Valentine: I recently won two 2nd place awards in the Louisiana State Poetry Society Contest. Also my poem "Solar Symphony" was accepted for an anthology called "Science Poetry" to be published in Canada. My poem "*cabin fever and the internet*" will be included in the next issue of Harp Strings Poetry Journal.

Congratulations to:

Art Elser and Eugene Shea who both placed in the 2010 NFSPS Contests!

Our sincere sympathy goes out to:

Rose Hill upon the loss of her mother;
Harriet Messer in the loss of her husband,
Aaron Holst in the loss of his father.

Get well wishes:

go to Midge Farmer's husband Donald, and our thoughts and prayers to both him and Midge.



Call for submissions
VOICINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY

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Guidelines

Founded in 2000 and published in the spring, **VOICINGS FROM THE HIGH COUNTRY (VFTHC)** is an annual poetry publication of High Country Word Crafters, Casper, WY. **VFTHC** spans 40-45 pages (including a haiku, senryu, and tanka page, and contributions by a guest poet), is about 8 ½ x 5 ½ inches, computer-printed, and photocopied on 24-lb. paper with a 110-lb. card stock cover of in-house artistic photography. A single copy is \$8.00. Make checks payable to the Editor.

VFTHC Requirements: **VFTHC** requires poetry with a main point; with substance, not just pretty words. It must be understandable, rather than obscure, poetry that goes beyond the self. No rhyming poetry, pornography, violent language, "Hallmark" verse, political, or overtly religious verse is accepted, nor is poetry that's unsure of why it was written, is demeaning to the human spirit, or untitled. The Editor is biased toward free verse that is worldly rather than introspective, tells a story, and uses many/most/all of the five senses.

How to submit: Submit 3 or fewer poems (including haiku, senryu, and tanka), each on a separate page, 35 lines or less (including blank lines after the title, before the author's name, and between verses), typed or computer generated (but no e-mail submissions) with your name and address in the upper right corner of each page. The Editor accepts no simultaneous submissions but previously published poems are O.K. with credits given. Include a cover letter with a brief biography (3-5 typed lines), and a SASE for a response.

The deadline is February 1 of each year. Submissions are accepted and read July 1 through Feb. 1 *only*. An Editorial Board reviews submissions after the Editor has screened them. The Editor rarely comments on rejections. Payment for accepted poetry is 1 copy of **VFTHC**

Rights: **VFTHC** acquires one-time publication rights. The rights revert to the author upon publication. **VFTHC** is not responsible for contributor errors, libel, failure to acknowledge sources, or copyright infringement. **VFTHC** assumes that submitted poetry is the original work of the author, and that it contains no material that violates any law. **VFTHC** does not assume responsibility for views expressed by contributors. *Voicings From the High Country* is listed in *Poet's Market*.

NOTE: This year we will again add a "Six-Word Short Story" page," and hope to be able to include several. An example comes from Ernest Hemingway (which, of course, is morbid): "*For sale: baby shoes never used.*" A lighter note comes from Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" radio show on PBS: "*Returning your zucchini. Accept my fruitcake.*" Put your thinking cap on!



MORE MEMBER NEWS

From C.J. Cherie Clarke: I've been in a foot cast for 3 weeks and don't know when I'll get out of it. Tears in heel/achilles. You'd think being laid up I'd do beaucoup writing, but it's been like that adage: I've got the time, but not the money, or vice versa. Well, I've got the time, but the muse just isn't here. So, I'm just doing a lot of reading. Merry Christmas one and all!



HIGH PLAINS PRESS BOOK-SIGNING - NOVEMBER 28TH 2010
W.C JAMESON - *LOST MINES AND BURIED TREASURES OF OLD WYOMING*



W. C. Jameson



Nancy Curtis; W.C. Jameson; Laurie Buyer Jameson

Photos and article by Lee Ann Siebken

How does High Plains Press in Glendo kick off the Christmas season? Invite W. C. and Laurie Wagner Buyer Jamison to Glendo for a book signing on Saturday, November 28! More than forty people gathered for Christmas cheer, W. C. Jamison's original music and a signing of his new book, Lost Mines & Buried Treasures of old Wyoming published by High Plains Press.



Country Music Concert - Frontier Days

The wind is blowing right
on this hot July night,
I can smell the oil refinery,
and hear the music
from Frontier Park.
It almost sounds like
sing-along right now,
the long lonesome sound
of cowboy music out west,
what's not to like in a
small enclosed porch
in the dusk, alone but
still one with the crowd,
sitting here in invisibility.

by Patricia Corrigan



THE ARSONIST

By C.J. Clark

An arsonist arrived last night
Setting trees aflame,
Riotous persimmon, scarlet, maize, blazed,
Enjoyed by color lovers,
For only a few short days, before parchment
Caramels, siennas, and umbers took over.
Crispy, crunchy, their shards lay heavily aground.
Until a second arsonist raked and stacked
The friable parchment 'round
Into blazing pyres
Of homage to the Fall.