

PST Summer Conference, July 2008  
*"Ropin' the Muse in Texas"*

"You be the judge", poetry contest

Third place winner: Billie Preston



### **The Poetry Contest**

Aunt Alice always said I was poetic  
And I put great stock in whatever Aunt Alice said  
So I painfully began my life as a poet \_\_\_\_  
Actually in the cellar where my mother always took us  
Because of her paranoia of storms and coincidentally  
The discarded backless literature book lay encellared.

It was there I dissected the poems of the masters  
Substituting my own words interspersed at irregular intervals.  
It plagued Mrs Matthews to see my entry of  
Such a rendition in the Freshman Class Poetry Contest  
Her red-inked comment: "modified from other originals"  
Flashed out at me like neon lights - signaling second-rate.  
Willa Hinds won- Who cares, anyway?  
So I spilled soda pop all over her paper.

Being justly vindicated, I deserted the art of poetry  
Until later in my life, only to reappear  
In the State Poetry Society of Texas Yearbook Contest  
I practiced diligently, submitting to magazine contests \_\_\_\_  
Using entries from last year's winners of the PST Yearbook contest  
Freely interspersing my own words at irregular intervals.  
The many rejection slips left me somewhat rejected  
And I spilled coffee all over Fannie Mae Doogle's first place poem.

Resilient, I secretly submitted to a rather unusual contest  
Sponsored by a state congressman, trying a one-time poetic fling  
Ultimately, I was both ecstatic and gratified to read:  
Congratulations, you have been awarded Honorable Mention  
In our contest for: "The Most Plagiarized Poem".

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