

Billie Preston,
Poet of the Month
for November, 2007



Billie Preston retired from teaching after twenty-three years in the classroom. She received her B.A. Degree from the University of Oklahoma and her M.A. Degree from the University of Houston Clear Lake.

Billie is a published writer of educational articles, children's stories and poems. Her publications include "You Give Me the Willie's," a series of children's stories, Haun Publishing Company; educational articles in *Business Week* magazine and National Teacher/Parent Handbook. Exxon/Houston Independent School District published several of her educational projects in Impact II joint venture. Her poems have been included in *Se La Vie Writer's Journal*; *Westview, A Journal of Western Oklahoma*; *Best Poems of 1997*; and *Yesterday's Magazette*. Eakin Press published her book, The Longest Trailride, a collection of Texas and country poems.

She was awarded a grant by *Business Week* magazine for innovative classroom teaching and also received several honorary educational grants from Exxon/Houston Independent School District. The Houston Business Committee for Educational Excellence honored her several times with awards and grants for innovative teaching.

Billie has been president of the San Jacinto Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas for the last five years.

Bittersweet

Now I know the meaning of bittersweet
The whole meaning of it
Death sawed me clean into
One leg, one arm, one hand is gone
But I remember what the whole was like
The things we did together
When you were the other half of my brain
Some say your life is finished
But I know better
I see you every day in every thing I do
Remembrances...sweetness 'til it hurts
The private moments, the shared dreams
You are alive!
And still finish my thoughts.

Billie Preston