



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

155 INDIAN AVE

LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66046

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Prof. Thomas Averill
English Dept. Washburn University
Topeka, KS 66621

Dear Tom,

Great to see you and Jeffrey Ann and Alex—grown so tall. Amazing Matt Porubsky is joining an august body of Topeka poets.

Here are the Stafford letters from our correspondence when we were working on Kansas Poems of Wm. Stafford, 1990. I hope they can be of research use for Washburn students and scholars. If you post anything, you might want to check with Kim Stafford—he has been generous in granting permissions.

All best,

Dr. Denise Low-Weso
dlow@haskell.edu/denise.low@bie.edu
English Department, Haskell Indian Nations University

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
16 Jan 86

Dear Denise,

"Spring Geese" already came! It was exciting to receive the package this morning, all done up in plastic with a sign saying the packet had been damaged in handling. But the book and your note were not damaged, and I have been luxuriating in the poems.

You had a good idea, and I can understand how the museum scene could stir you again and again. It happens that I too have done museum poems; one I think of first is called "The Museum at Tillamook," where I used to prowl while waiting to teach an extension class.

Your book made me think of someone you may know (but if you don't I am glad to aim you her way some time): Linda Hasselstrom. She runs the Lane Johnny Press in South Dakota. I think you two would have much in common.

Will you be part of the gathering of Kansas authors gathering at Washburn this spring? I hope so. I am looking forward to it, and if you are around I hope we can have a good visit.

The book is a delight. You got to use so many good words in your diligent pursuit of accuracy. I am going to be learning from this book....

Adios--

Bill Stafford

written June 1984

Purifying the Language of the Tribe

Walking away means

"Goodby."

Pointing a knife at your stomach means

"Please don't say that again."

Leaning toward you means

"I love you."

Raising a finger like this means

"I enthusiastically agree."

"Maybe" means

"No."

"Yes" means

"Maybe."

Looking like this at you means

"You had your chance."

(a broadside for
Charles Seluzicki, Nov 84)

William Stafford

A circular postmark from Portland, Oregon, dated March 1968. The text "PORTLAND, OREGON" is curved along the top, "MAR 1968" is in the center, and "U.S.A." is curved along the bottom.

Buffalo Bulkhead

Denise Low
c/o Cottonwood Press
Box J, Kansas Union
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Which reminds me, some time next school year, not yet set, I will do an appearance at Emporia State. I always like such chances--and maybe opportunity to converge with old friends.

Adios...

Bill T. Anderson

PEACOCK BOOKS COLLEGE SQUARE CUTTACK 753002 INDIA

[illegible]

AWARENESS

Of a summer day, of what moves
in the trees.

Of your own departing. Of that branch
no one else notices.

Of time, what it carries, the sideways
drift of it.

Of hiding important things because
they don't belong in the world.

Of now. Of maybe. Of something
different being true.

WILLIAM STAFFORD

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
7 ~~December~~ January 1988

Dear Denise,

How good to get your letter and the copy of the book-poems. You took me right into the land of those rivers. Isn't Wakarusa a wonderful word? And I've always wanted to do more with the Smoky Hill.

By the way, in Emporia I asked my nephew Pat Kelley what "Neosho" meant, and as he didn't know we looked it up wherever we could. I don't know if I romanticize it, but my definition came to be "water made muddy by buffalo crossing farther upstream." I got that into a poem somewhere.

When they told me I was honorary member of the Center for the book (I'm a member here in Oregon, by the way), they said I might designate someone near to represent me in person; so I sent in Tom Averill's name--he wrote me that he was already on the board.

My other choice was going to be Pat Kelley, who still works for the Emporia Gazette (remember, he met me there in Emporia that time...). Anyway, if the board needs another stand-in for me I could say Pat....

Let's not lose track of each other! And one of these times I'll be alert for another convergence.

Adios--

Bill Stafford

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
17 Nov 89

Dear Denise,

I'm glad the Kansas poems project is rolling--
how I hope my poems will provide you with a worthy
text!

It occurred to me that among other places for
poems of mine are some issues of "The Little Balkans
Review" some years back. I know I have a copy of
a crucial issue to send you, but at the moment I can't
lay hands on it--just some poems you might glance at;
I'm not sure they would qualify for your selection.

I just got back from a circuit to Oberlin and
Cleveland State U, but as I get straightened around
I'll look for that review issue, but in the meantime
I know you may have seen it anyway.

The Kansas visit begins to loom on my anticipations--
and on the same loop I'll be at two other places at
least--Mennonite colleges in Bluffton, Ohio, and Goshen,
Indiana. Those two are the result of a sudden interest
in my work on the part of a writer at Bluffton named
Jeff Gundy, a Mennonite poet and critic.

If I come upon some poems I think you might miss
and might consider I'll send them along. I feel I have
many, many Kansas poems (maybe all of my poems...?).

Adios--

Bill Steffand

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Or 97034
6 Feb 90

Dear Denise,

Your packet of material makes me feel great. I'd like to deserve such care and insight as you offer, and I have read it all over and made a few notes, just little things.

In terms of the general drift of the material, I love it.

And it seems to me that the selections you have decided on are just right. You make me feel more coherent than before!

I'll see if I can locate a photograph or two for your possible use.

With Harper & Row's permissions editor alerted now, we should see action from there promptly I think.

If there is more I can do, please let me know. My wife Dorothy and I will be at Emporia, as I've probably mentioned, arriving some time March 22 and leaving March 25 or 26. We will stay with my nephew Pat Kelley, whom you may remember--he works for the Emporia Gazette. The plan is to trek over toward Hutchinson once my work at Emporia State is finished on Mar 23.

My very best to you--

Bill

Wm Stafford

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Or 97034
12 Feb 90

Dear Dave,

In today's mail came your Feb 7 letter and the packet of stuff for me to sign for the business office; so here comes my rebound to you, and I am mailing in the official stuff too.

By mail time tomorrow maybe I'll have my ticket arranged and can tell you my arrival details (and departure). At any are, you will learn in good time just how I aim to slither in and out.

Your letter makes me eager all over again for the visit to you and the area. I am grateful to those who find my work worthy of the invitation!

I'll enclose a photo and a vita page, to help drum up the audience if any.

It is snowing here, but is really a sort of Zone 3 climate and has been quite mild. I got back from a swing through Idaho just two days ago--a circuit with our son Kim, who soups up our act with his guitar, stories, and--beard.

All the best--

Bill Stefford

Here's my travel schedule:

*Arrive at Nashville on Delta # 786 at 3:10 p.m. April 18
Depart Nashville on Delta # 1045 at 12:15 p.m. April 20
(easy times!)*

William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
Telephone (503) 636 4075
Social Security 514-07-1493

Born 1914, Hutchinson, Kansas

BA, MA U of Kansas; PHD U of Iowa

Work experience: sugar beet fields, construction, oil
refinery, Forest Service, Church World Service, etc.

Teaching: high school in California, colleges in Iowa, California, Kansas, Indiana, Washington, Alaska, Ohio, Oregon, etc.

Other work and engagements: Poetry Consultant for The Library of Congress, Literature Commission of The National Council of Teachers of English, lecturer on literature and writing for USIS in Egypt, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Nepal.

Publication: Poetry and prose from early 1950's in Atlantic, Nation, Poetry, Harper's, Hudson Review, New Yorker, Northwest Review, Virginia Quarterly, Yale Review, Ironwood, etc.

Collections of poetry from Harper & Row (Stories That Could Be True, A Glass Face in the Rain, An Oregon Message), from Graywolf Press (Smoke's Way), from BOA (Things That Happen Where There Aren't Any People), from Copper Canyon and others.

Prose books from University of Michigan Press (You Must Revise Your Life, Writing the Australian Crawl), Down in My Heart from The Bench Press, etc.

Various identifications: Married, four children; Fellowship of Reconciliation; biker, hiker, photographer, reader....

Most recent work, since the above: Writing the World (poetry, Alembic Press, 1988), A Scripture of Leaves (poetry, The Brethren Press, fall, 1989), Fin, Feather, Fur (poetry, Honeybrook Press, fall, 1989).

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Or 97034
13 Feb 90

Dear Denise,

Casting about for some other poems for you to consider, I have stumbled on a group I suspect you have not considered. They are a bunch from my book "Smoke's Way," published by Graywolf Press (the address I have is PO Box 142, Port Townsend, WA 98368, but I think their new address is in the twin cities of Minnesota--and I suppose the KU library would have it).

Anyway, though as with Harper and Row permission would have to be obtained from the press I suspect that costs would be less. When I got to thinking about it I could see why H&R charged a significant fee, for they have to pay me quite a bit more for a book than that \$3 a line; and I suppose they saw potential sales draining away.

So--that bunch of poems from "Smoke's Way" is my first big suggestion for you. And I will seek out some other possibilities and enclose them with this letter. In each instance I will note the place of first publication; if it is a book the publisher should be queried, but if a periodical I think just an acknowledgment is sufficient clearance.

All the best to you--

Bill
Wm Stafford

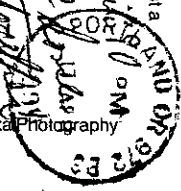
Poems to Denise Low for Possible Use in a Kansas Book

In a Country Cemetery
Oak
Lake Wendoka
An Early Massacre
For a Distant Friend
Because of the Rain
A Dream
The 1940's
In Touch's Kingdom
Home Economics
Graduate

(the following from SMOKE'S WAY:

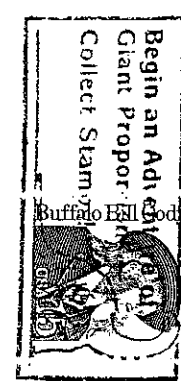
Pages 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 20, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 37,
38, 45, 52, 81, 88, 90, 93, 98, 104, 107

A saguaro cactus is shown in silhouette against a sunset in the desert north of Phoenix, Arizona.



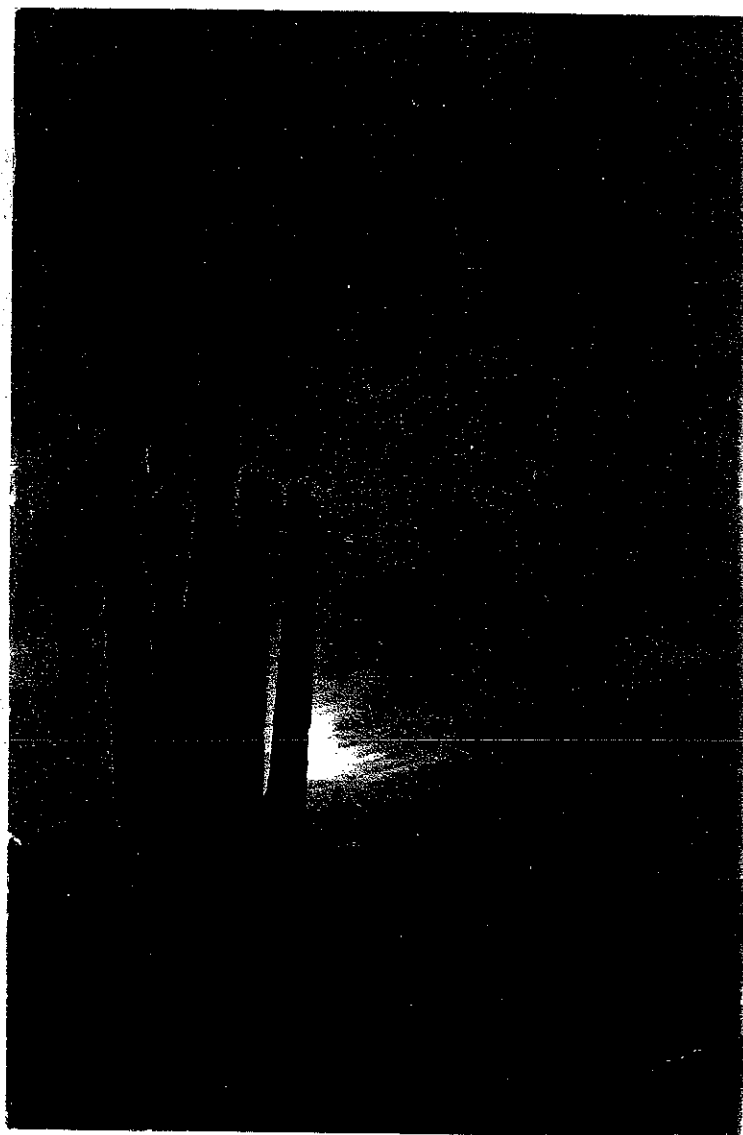
Overland,
 Wish we could have been
 with you at that point
 2000, my father had me
 do some Indian work
 (one of my great claims for
 inclusion in the 1968
 year book all that
 it's including the 1968
 pages - soon hardy
 with...
 - also
 Bill Stegert

©1988 The Heard Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, Jerry Jackson Photography



POST CARD

Overland,
 1916 Stegert
 Overland, Phoenix
 66044



1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
8 June 1990

Dear Denise,

Your June 4 letter with the table of contents etc. just reached me.

Thanks for the glimpse of what our book will be—I can't help liking it.

And I am pleased and awed by your wide net for poems. What a search it must have been! I gloat over having these "home" poems together in one book. I guess all the time I have been spreading work around I have felt wistful about scattering my home feelings so widely. Now I can take a good look at the center of my life.

The Newberry Library sounds good, and I know about the NEH programs.

About our Indianness, yes, my father used to remind me that we had some Indian background, and he always made me feel near to it. Together we read, camped, and Indianed around. Since then I have taught at several schools with that background—Mt. Edgecumbe just off Sitka, the center for Indian art in Santa Fe, a summer program for students and teachers of Indians at Santa Cruz. It makes me feel good to know that my work has appealed to your students.

All the best—



William Stafford

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Or 97034
26 June 1990

Dear Denise,

I hope you are enjoying NEH.

Your letter of June 16 came while I was away at a gathering of state poetry societies in Wisconsin. Now I hasten to greet you in the big city.

You ask about terms I'd like, and I don't know what to say—total ignorance. Is there some guideline? Maybe Bob Lawson can decide? I'm ready to bet on our book, take a chance. In other words, I'd rather share the risks with no money up front if that would help. Or copies of the book. I'm adjustable; I'm from Kansas.

Have fun this summer. I'm off for Centrum conference up on Puget Sound by July 12. Otherwise mostly about here—which I suspect is cooler than Chicago.

Adios—

Bill
Wm Stafford

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Or 97034
3 July 1990

Dear Denise,

Just got a note from "Poetry" passing along your request for using "Oak" in our Kansas book and asking me to carry on with use of their permission form.

With this letter I do add my permission to theirs, with their permission form enclosed to show what they would like for a notice of first publication.

So, with whatever arrangement you are using with me for the other poems, please feel free to use this one. I'll relay any other such requests, if there are any more, right along to you.

Adios—

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill", written in dark ink.

William Stafford

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with
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The Modern Poetry Association is pleased to give Denise Low, editor, permission to reprint the following works, published in POETRY and registered at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., in Kansas Poems of William Stafford on the following conditions:

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<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Published</u>
William Stafford	Oak	December 1977

POETRY



Helen Lothrop Klaviter
Managing Editor

Date: June 27, 1990

cc: William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

June 4, 1990
Woodley Press
Washburn University
Topeka, Ks. 66621


Dear Editor,

Woodley Press is publishing, with permission of William Stafford, a collection, KANSAS POEMS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD. We plan to reprint a poem (or poems) that first appeared in your journal: "Oak."

Full acknowledgement will be made to your publication in the front pages. Let us know if you would like a copy. We expect to publish the book early this fall.

Thanks for your ongoing contribution to the art of poetry.

Sincerely,


Denise Low, ed.

Dec 17

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
25 July 1990

Dear Denise,

The enclosed might relate to our book; so I thought
I'd send it along, for your glance when you get back from
Chicago.

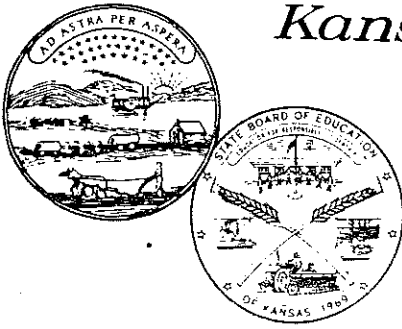
I'll be too far away to take advantage of the meeting.

I'm back from my ten days at Port Townsend, about to
dash for a week in The Virginia Highlands Arts Festival, or
something like that, in Abingdon, VA.

Adios—

Bill

Wm Stafford



Kansas State Department of Education

Kansas State Education Building

120 East 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612-1103

July 1990

Mr. William Stafford
c/o Penmaen Press
R.D. 2, P. O. Box 145
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Dear Mr. Stafford:

On October 21-22, 1990, the Kansas State Department of Education, the State Historical Society, and the Kansas Council for the Social Studies will sponsor a conference designed to assist local schools in fulfilling the requirements of statutes relating to the study of Kansas. It is expected that approximately 500 teachers, administrators and curriculum and library media specialists will be participating in this conference to be held at the Ramada Inn and Tower, 6th and I-70, Topeka. A tentative agenda of the conference is enclosed.

One concern expressed by Kansas educators is that they are not familiar with the works of many Kansas authors. To rectify this omission in educators' backgrounds, I invite you to attend a get together session on Sunday, October 21, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom West which is planned for educators to meet with authors and discuss their works. In this way, it is hoped that classroom teachers will feel more comfortable about discussing Kansas' authors and their works with students. Also, if you desire, your books may be available for purchase by the participants.

If you are interested in joining other Kansas authors and your schedule permits your attendance, please complete the attached form. Since the space allowed to us is limited, I request you return the form as soon as possible. Should you have any particular needs, do indicate such a need on the form. It is my intention that your visit be pleasant and that your interaction with teachers be mutually beneficial.

This conference will bring together educators from all parts of the state and the potential for impacting students and educators should be great. If I may answer your questions or be of any assistance, please call me at 913/296-4946. I am looking forward to meeting with you in October.

Sincerely,

Richard Leighty

Richard Leighty
Social Studies Specialist

RL:tm
Enclosure

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE FORM

"Incorporating Kansas Studies into the K-12 Social Studies Curriculum"

October 21-22, 1990

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____ Phone _____

Book Title _____

Publisher's Name _____

Publisher's Address _____

City State Zip _____ Phone _____

Book Title _____

Publisher's Name _____

Publisher's Address _____

City State Zip _____ Phone _____

Book Title _____

Publisher's Name _____

Publisher's Address _____

City State Zip _____ Phone _____

Special Needs:

You will bring books for sale - Yes No

Publisher will provide books for sale - Yes No

No books are available for purchase - Yes

October 8, 1990
1916 Stratford Lawrence, Ks. 66044

Dear Bill,

I just received copies of Kansas Poems from the printer, via Tom Averill who was in Lawrence today for a KU English Dept. conference. He promoted it to Kansas high school and college English teachers, along with the new book by Steven Hind.

Anyway, I wanted to get a copy off to you immediately, and more will follow by slower means.

It feels good to get it out, and I hope you like it; the way it looks; the interaction of the poems with each other and the paper, type, drawings, and layout. Of course, I see a lot of little things that could be better, and some unexpected skewing by the printers. But with Cottonwood I learned that this is, as far as book printing goes, an imperfect world. Please excuse the flaws.

The press would like to give you 25 books and 40% discount on any other copies. Please let us know if this is acceptable. If in the event reprints are requested, would you like a fee charged? Our instinct is to disseminate good poetry in Kansas as easily as possible. We would like the reprinting to be free (with acknowledgement) or the fee to go to you.

Myself, I feel pleased to have this collection of poems to read and learn from. This project coincided with the sadness of my father's disability, and I am glad to recoup something of positive value from that dark time. (He is unable to speak, read, walk; he can gesture, eat, listen to music, watch tv, feel.)

I will be taking the book to bookstores, conferences, and readings. I have a list of reviewers in mind, which includes the KC STAR, the Manhattan MERCURY, the Emporia GAZETTE, the Lawrence JOURNAL WORLD, Cottonwood, Midwest Q., Road Apple Rev., Victor Contoski, New Letters Review of Books, Judith Kitchen. Please let us know of anyone you would like to have a review copy.

Again, my gratitude for making this possible.

Best,

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
3 November 1990

Dear Denise,

This rebound to your October 8 letter, along with the copy of our Kansas book, is delayed by my absence in England delivering the truth over there at many schools and such.

Now I hasten to say how elated I am with the book—you have sought out poems that seem to me the very best array we could have found. And I like the idea of a book that is handy and easy to acquire if our readers find it of interest.

I have to head for Wisconsin tomorrow, so can't communicate much more now. (I will be at English Dept, Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511, till December 15.)

I look forward to some more copies so I can begin to flaunt them around here. As for the deal you and I have with the press, I will go along with anything you say. Let me counsel, though, that maybe we should be businesslike in case we have a best-seller on hand! Shouldn't we have a deal so that if the press run is reprinted we would begin to have a cut of all those thousands of copies when schools all over Kansa—and libraries—have to have their hands on this? Think about it. As for reprints from the book—copies of pages to be used in classes or whatever—I don't have any qualms about that if you don't. You as editor, though, deserve—are worthy of—your hire. And artists have to eat....

Thanks for all you have done. I hope to be in touch more adequately later.

So long—


Wm Stafford

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Or
97034
3 Dec 90

Dear Denise,

Your letter of November 26 lightened my lonesome stay here at Beloit.

And then--here came a package of our books, beautiful sight. I'll pass a copy or two around here in hope of inducing some buying....

Dec 14 I fly home, to be there--prevalently--till along in Feb, when I do a two-week circuit in New England.

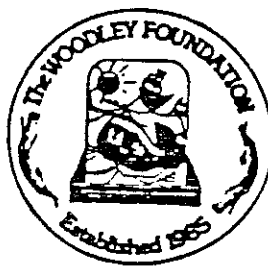
Anyway, I'll have a spell at home and a chance to relish our project and hope for its success.

I hope you have had a good time with your ongoing ambitions; I want to repeat my gratitude to you for the great selecting and seeing through of our book.

And I hope to be in touch--and to be seeing you when geography allows.

Adios--

Bill Stafford



WASHBURN UNIVERSITY • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66621

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woodley Memorial Press of Washburn University announces the publication of Kansas Poems of William Stafford, edited by Denise Low. Most of the selected poems are from Kansas literary journals, including Cottonwood, Kansas Quarterly, Little Balkans Review, and Ark River Review. Other poems are reprinted from his previous books. The place and spirit of the Midwest are the unifying theme.

William Stafford is a nationally recognized Kansas poet. He was born in Hutchinson in 1914, and he also lived in Wichita, Liberal, Garden City, El Dorado, and Lawrence.

Stafford graduated from the University of Kansas with an M.A. in 1946, and he received a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1954. He taught at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon from 1948 to 1980.

His second book of poems, Traveling through the Dark (1962), won the National Book Award. Other honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Shelley Memorial Award, and the Award in Literature by the America Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters. Recently he was a featured poet on Bill Moyers' PBS series, "The Power of the Word."

Other major books include Stories That Could Be True: New and Collected Poems (Harper & Row, 1977), Smoke's Way (Graywolf Press, 1983), A Glass Face in the Rain (Harper & Row, 1985), and An Oregon Message (Harper & Row, 1987). Two collections of Stafford's prose are Writing the Australian Crawl and You Must Revise Your Life (University of Michigan Press, 1978 and 1986).

Stafford's poems move as fast as the imagination itself. The past is intertwined into the present, as in "At the Breaks Near the River,"

Autumn some year will discover again
that gesture of the flattened grass, wild
on the Cimarron hills when a storm
out of northern New Mexico raided
Cheyenne country to hunt for rusty armor
left by Coronado, and my father sifting his
fingers in that loose ground of the Indian
campsite said, "Oh Bill, to know
everything! Look - the whole world is alive,
waving together toward history!"

The poet begins each poem with a locale or object, but soon slips away into "the whole unexplored realm of human vision."

Although Stafford has lived in many regions of the country, he still considers himself "an Osage orange, hedgewood Kansan."

Publication date: Nov. 15, 1990
Pages: 74
Cost: \$7.00, paper

Publicity: Denise Low, 913-841-5757
ISBN: 0-939391-14-7

KANSAS POEMS

OF WILLIAM STAFFORD

edited by Denise Low

KANSAS POEMS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD is about the region called Kansas, and also about the poet's explorations of human potential. Liberal, Hutchinson, and the Cimarron River are surface traces of deepest human intricacies. His writings renew memory, place, histories, and bonds to friends and family. Stafford shows what it is to learn a territory well: the universality inherent in detailed moments and landscapes, and the transcendence of human imagination. The result of such wisdom is these poems.

The highly acclaimed poet William Stafford was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, in 1914. As he grew up he also lived in Wichita, Liberal, Garden City, and El Dorado.

He graduated from the University of Kansas with an M.A. in 1946, and he received a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1954. He taught at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon from 1948 to 1980. His second book of poems, *Traveling Through the Dark* (1962), won the National Book Award. Other honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Shelley Memorial Award, and the Award in Literature by the America Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters.

LIVING ON THE PLAINS

That winter when this thought came--how the river
held still every midnight and flowed
backward a minute--we studied algebra
late in our room fixed up in the barn,
and I would feel the curved relation,
the rafters upside down, and the cows in their life
holding the earth round and ready
to meet itself again when morning came.

At breakfast while my mother stirred the cereal
she said, "You're studying too hard,"
and I would include her face and hands in my glance
and then look past my father's gaze as
he told again our great race through the stars
and how the world can't keep up with our dreams.

WOODLEY PRESS

Washburn University
Topeka, Kansas 66621

____ copies KANSAS POEMS, \$7.00 @
____ ISBN 0-939391-14-7

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

1916 Stratford Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66044

December 21, 1992

Dear William,

Semester end already. It's a beautiful solstice day here, sunny and in the 40's. Haskell has a 4-acre medicine wheel, constructed this fall, and Tony and I plan to get out to it for sunset.

I hope your holiday season goes well.

The editors^{*} of an anthology of Lawrence poets--about 25 of us, Irby, Luci Tapahonso, Vic Contoski, Ken Shedd, Mike Johnson, George and Phil Wedge, Tony, Judith Roitman, Stanley Lombardo^{*}, Caryn Goldberg, et al--have asked if I would ask you if you would consider writing a brief introduction. Is this at all a possibility? We would be honored if it is. (* *Addis*)

Will you be in Kansas at all this coming year? And I trust you have heard from Woodley Press regarding royalties? I will be at their Jan. meeting and will check up on what is happening in Topeka.

I'm working on several projects--a review of Adrian Louis' new book, a journalistic piece on the medicine wheel for an Indian publication that our PR office wants, and Christmas shopping. My boys will be home Wed., from college, so I look forward to enjoying family time.

Best wishes for your end of year,

Thanks for the
copy Denise -
I'm trying - this
copy for you
- Bill

1050 Surningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
26 Jan 91

Judy Roitman,
2807 Harvard Rd
Lawrence, Kansas 66049

Dear Judy Roitman,

Denise Low sent me a copy of your letter about
the Elkins Prairie Project.

I'd like to help if I can. The enclosed poems are
some that came to mind. On each I have indicated if and
where it has been published; in each instance it was just
periodical appearance, and the poems could be used in a
book, credited to me and to the place of first publication.

Denise as you may know edited a collection of my Kansas
poems, and it might be that something from that book would
pertain too. I offer whatever you find worthy for use in so
good a project as yours.

Sincerely,

William Stafford
William Stafford

JOAN MIRO, Spanish, b. 1893
Circus Horse, 1927
oil on canvas, 6'4 3/4" x 9'2 1/4"
Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
© Smithsonian Institution, 1981



Dear Denise -

Thank you so much for

the copy of Kanaka Poems -

and for including me in

your introduction. What

an interesting collection!

And the drawings remind me

of Ted Kory's drawing of

Ukaka. Again, thanks.

Yours, Judith Kitchell



Denise has
English Dept.

~~University of Kansas~~
HASKELL JR.
KANSAS
COLLEGE

To Wm Stafford

Sept. 17, 1991

Dear Bill,

A quick note to let you know that I am still here, grading papers, persevering.

I've enjoyed the exchange in Poets & Writers, and I'm glad the points are made clear: education to develop the dignity and ability of each individual vs. education of sheep to support leaders with weak egos. Thanks for articulating the issues so well.

Woodley has done some advertising of KANSAS POEMS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD. I regret that they insist on displaying my name. The book is about through half the run (250). It continues to sell steadily in moderate numbers, as expected. We'll see if it gains momentum in the next 6-12 months.

I am glad to see that Vivien Minshull-Ford has contacted you for the ElDorado conference. She had not been familiar with your work, and assumed it was no longer connected to Kansas. She was going to feature cowboy poets. I was appalled, and strongly urged her to read your STORIES THAT COULD BE TRUE (let alone KS. POEMS) and to include you as a featured speaker. I continue to be frustrated that Kansas-educated people, especially in the public schools, are unfamiliar with your work.

I'll be co-sponsoring the Ks. Writers Ass'n. conference with George Wedge at KU. This will be a first for Haskell. I hope we can do some public education. The board has not yet gotten together to make plans for a focus.

Woodley will be publishing books by Stephen Meats (PSU) and Harley Elliott, a collection of Ks. written plays, a Ks. novel, and we're sponsoring a novella contest this fall, so small gestures continue to be made.k

All the best,

David

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
20 Oct 91

Dear Denise,

Your Sept 17 letter waited here while my wife and I were on a five-week circuit in Europe (for the US Information Service, a good deal we should talk about some time), just finished.

I hasten to rebound, for it is good to be in touch, and I am grateful for glimpses of how our book is getting around.

When the El Dorado deal gets itself into action I hope to see you. I get excited thinking about getting back to Kansas, though I had to pass up another bid for next summer, because of schedule problems—it was to something up around Cheyenne Bottoms near Hoisington, in Great Bend, come to think of it.

I think I'll hold this note for you till I work out a list of my coming engagements—some of them might provide chances to get our book around.

Adios—

Bill Stafford

Box 53)

an editor etc named David Webb ↑ out in Protection, So, 67027
is putting together "399 Kansas Characters," or
something like that, and he is including me! Maybe
the publicity will help on our book.

William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Engagements, as of 21 October 1991

- 24-27 October: The Regional Writers Project of the Yellowstone Art Center, Adrea Sukin and Pat Palagi hosts, Yellowstone Art Center, 401 N. 27th Street, Billings, Montana 59101-1290, phone (406) 256-6804.
- 29 October: Lane Arts Council (a reading at the Hult Center in Eugene, Oregon), Cindy Heidemann host, at University of Oregon Bookstore, PO Box 3176, Eugene, Oregon 97403, phone (503) 686-4331.
- 30 October: Portland College of Oriental Medicine, Patricia Campuzano host, 2323 NW Irving #3, Portland, Oregon 97210. She comes for me at 6:30; the college is at 10525 Cherry Blossom, near Mall 205.
- 3 November: Hamilton College, host Prof Wm Rosenfeld, Dept of English, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY 13323, phone (315) 859-4460.
- 1 December: Oregon Historical Society Book Sale, Oregon Historical Society, 1230 SW Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205, phone (503) 222-1741. (This is a big book sale, with invited authors signing all day for their displayed books.)
- 6 December: Audubon Society of Portland—a book sale, host Sylvi Larsen, 5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland, Oregon 97210, phone (503) 292-6855.

1992

- 9-13 January: A package deal at San Jose and Asilomar in California, host John Mathias of the San Jose Poetry Center; his home address is 549 Hull Avenue, San Jose, California 95215. I read Jan 9 evening; go to Asilomar to open a workshop by about 4 p.m. on Jan 10; workshop all day Jan 11; close out by noon Jan 12.
- 16 January: Waverly Woman's Group, host Ella Lee Ross, 18254 Westminster Drive, Lake Oswego 97034. I read at 11:30 at the Waverly Country Club.
- ✓ 28 January: Brickell Avenue Literary Society, 700 Brickell Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131, phone (305) 780-1324, host Gregory B. Wolfe, chairman of the organization.
- () April sometime, hovering date for Walker Center, Mimm.
- () 23 February: Corvallis, Oregon, public library—details later.
- () 16-17 October: Butler Community College conference on prose and poetry of The Great Plains, host Vivien Minshull-Ford, Butler Community College, 901 S. Haverhill Road, El Dorado, Kansas 67042-3280, phone (316) 321-5083.

William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
Telephone (503) 636 4075
Social Security 514-07-1493

Born 1914, Hutchinson, Kansas

BA, MA U of Kansas; PHD U of Iowa

Work experience: sugar beet fields, construction, oil refinery, Forest Service, Church World Service, etc.

Teaching: high school in California, colleges in Iowa, California, Kansas, Indiana, Washington, Alaska, Ohio, Oregon, etc.

Other work and engagements: Poetry Consultant for The Library of Congress, Literature Commission of The National Council of Teachers of English, lecturer on literature and writing for USIS in Egypt, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Iran, Nepal.

Publication: Poetry and prose from early 1950's in Atlantic, Nation, Poetry, Harper's, Hudson Review, New Yorker, Northwest Review, Virginia Quarterly, Yale Review, Ironwood, etc.

Collections of poetry from Harper & Row (Stories That Could Be True, A Glass Face in the Rain, An Oregon Message), from Graywolf Press (Smoke's Way), from BOA (Things That Happen Where There Aren't Any People), from Copper Canyon and others.

Prose books from University of Michigan Press (You Must Revise Your Life, Writing the Australian Crawl), Down in My Heart from The Bench Press, etc.

Various identifications: Married, four children; Fellowship of Reconciliation; biker, hiker, photographer, reader....

Most recent work, since the above: Writing the World (poetry, Alembic Press, 1988), A Scripture of Leaves (poetry, The Brethren Press, fall, 1989), Fin, Feather, Fur (poetry, Honeybrook Press, fall, 1989).

Denise Low
Haskell Indian Junior College
English Dept.
Lawrence, , KS 66046

January 8, 1992

Mr. William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Dear William,

Thanks so much for the list of your engagements. I will contact the Miami person for late Jan., the Corvallis library if you send details, the ElDorado gig, and the Walker Center in Minn. Is this latter at the time of the AWP conference, April 16-18 in Minneapolis?

I have a respite here, before classes begin again. My dad was ill again this late fall, but nothing serious in the long run, and he has several weeks here before some surgery. I feel for him so. He still cannot talk and is paralyzed on one side. He was very verbal, and this is a new state of existence for him. He actually has become more peaceful in a way - an odd state of grace.

Woodley press should be getting out a new book by Harley Elliott. So it goes on, little by little.

I look forward to seeing you this year in ElDorado for sure, and perhaps elsewhere during your travels. I did get about in 1991, with the KAC grant to help, to Boston, Miami, LA. I'm trying to plan something for the summer - perhaps Port Townsend? I have a friend who wants to go.

Thanks for your help with KANSAS POEMS.

Sincerely yours,

Denise Low

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
6 JAuly 1992

Dear Denise,

Your letter today in the mail sparkled up our July lives—I like to think about you back there in a place I remember so well and with so much affection. (I think I'll enclose a recent poem I originally titled "Tombstones Back Home"; I changed the title to enhance its negotiability—and it did get taken by a friendly editor).

Thanks for letting me know about our book—I'm glad it is getting around. How I would like to get it all over our state. If I can help get the word out I'll be glad to do so.

It appeared, in fact, that I might be in Kansas this fall, a gathering in El Dorado; but the funding didn't come through. It might get revived for some other time. And with that cancellation an adjunct appearance at Hutch College evaporated too—its was tentatively piggybacked on the El Dorad deal. Steve Hind promises to be alert when my next orbit takes me near.

Let's keep in touch—and our teamwork in gear. All my best to the circle in Kansas.

Adios—

Bill Stafford

*Save poems
more neatly taken
by 2/2/92
first time
maybe that
will help*

William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

From Tombstones Back Home

1.

God said come in. I came.

Then God said get out.

2.

Vini Vidi Abscondi.

3.

I never had a clue.

4.

I'm here.

5.

What's the hurry?

6.

I've gone to find my real name.

7.

Bad brakes.

8.

They called me Smiley.

9.

Sometimes I looked at the sky.

#

Oct. 9, 1992

Dear William,

Thanks for "From Tombstones Back Home." It brought smiles and thoughts. "Bad brakes." Where will it appear?

I was disappointed that the El Dorado conference turned into a cowboy thing. I like to think of Kansas as having yes folk culture but also informed writing as well. I think they missed the point. It was also interesting to see no ethnic groups or women represented on their program. I am not militant, but I do see, here at Haskell, a lot of contributions made by Native Americans to poetry: Lance Henson's Cheyenne song/poetry pieces, etc. Anyway. On to other things.

I'm taking a course in postmodernism and modernism at KU, learning a lot and feeling more in touch with contemporary scholarship: and yes, a few ideas about approaching my own writing. Mostly it is good to get a historical perspective and "the vocabulary." But it's not a religion for me as for some of those people.

And I'm getting a new books out (enclosed), which I'll be happy to send a copy when it's out if you're interested: combining European alchemy and gardening on the prairies.

And the next book (always something in progress, isn't there--writing is my process of being) is essays mostly on Kansas, trying to break some stereotypes and be individual and specific as to my experiences. One piece in progress is about the medicine wheel at Haskell, recently constructed (see enclosed). It's an amazing revival of mound builder earthworks plus high plains medicine wheels.

And Woodley does seem to be doing well by your book, including the ad in the *Wichita Eagle*, and the contract for the second printing should be in the mail to you from Bob Lawson soon. I understand several hundred of the second printing have sold.

Thanks for staying in touch.

Best,

1916 Stratford Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66044

December 21, 1992

Dear William,

Semester end already. It's a beautiful solstice day here, sunny and in the 40's. Haskell has a 4-acre medicine wheel, constructed this fall, and Tony and I plan to get out to it for sunset.

I hope your holiday season goes well.

The editors^{*} of an anthology of Lawrence poets--about 25 of us, Irby, Luci Tapahonso, Vic Contoski, Ken Shedd, Mike Johnson, George and Phil Wedge, Tony, Judith Roitman, Stanley Lombardo, Caryn Goldberg, et al--have asked if I would ask you if you would consider writing a brief introduction. Is this at all a possibility? We would be honored if it is. (* *Addie*)

Will you be in Kansas at all this coming year? And I trust you have heard from Woodley Press regarding royalties? I will be at their Jan. meeting and will check up on what is happening in Topeka.

I'm working on several projects--a review of Adrian Louis' new book, a journalistic piece on the medicine wheel for an Indian publication that our PR office wants, and Christmas shopping. My boys will be home Wed., from college, so I look forward to enjoying family time.

Best wishes for your end of year,

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
25 December 1992

Dear Denise,

In regard to your December 21 letter about the anthology of Lawrence poets—if you continue to find the possibility that my writing an introduction might help, I am ready to give it a try. It would be an honor; and if you find my attempt in any way lacking there would be no harm in disregarding it. Please let me know a next step for me.

I almost got ~~the~~ Kansas last fall, but a deal at El Dorado fell through, and an out ^{rigger} invitation to Hutchinson Community College had to lapse as a result too. But I am alert for chances to see the old home state.

I hope you hear good things about our book when you attend the Woodley Press meeting in January. I continue to cherish the book, and to call it to people's attention when I get a chance. One person who got such a nudge was Judith Ramaley, who came out from KU a few years back to be president of Portland State University.

All the best to you and yours.

Adios—

Bill Stapp

Approach with Caution

These writers launch their attempts, their conjectures, like flare above an unexplored continent. Fitfully lighted, that great unknown stretches out there around us.

And sometimes, flatfooted, we readers or hearers have to hold back, skeptical, wary: it is risky to commit to excursions beyond the immediate, the usual. Offered greatness, we lean away and wonder. We glance at each other out of a mist; perched on our own little islands, blinkered from knowing, we live tame at the edge of riches. Only occasionally do we glimpse possible landscapes that stagger the mind and the emotions.

For think of it — maybe our days dole out to us only little bits of what life could be. Like whoever it was who discovered America, we begin to boast; we think we inflating our reports: and meanwhile what is out there far surpasses any lie, and "inflated" report. We can't catch up, even with our wildest "lies."

These poets have glimpsed that inexhaustible wilderness, and their language sometimes goes creaky and breathless under the strain.

Poetry assumes the license to cut loose. Not just into new forms but new sequences and angles that ordinary vision doesn't offer.

Phoenix Papers will show how lively a time this license can create, with springing surprises and hidden connections among feelings and ideas. These poets are urgent to take life and make more than life out of it. They put a spin on things; they are ready to give it a try, see what happens.

But to make claims for poetry, and for projects like this book, is to encounter possible rebellion, for some readers; and such rebellion can lead to doubt and unfriendliness, which can collapse poetry into something ridiculous. As Wordsworth remarks somewhere about the poet: "You must love him, ere to you/ He will seem worthy of your love." You have to lend attention and be ready to accompany the writer on excursions that can expand your visions and feelings.

Once you grant permission for exploration, you become available for a life that includes adventure. As one of the writers in this collection reminds us: "Buddhism flourishes where dragons are honored."

You are entering a world with a strangeness in it. Please be open. Give a little. You may get back a lot.

William Stafford,
February, 1993

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
11 May 1993

Denise Low
Humanities
Haskell Indian Jr College
Lawrence, Kansas 66046

Dear Denise,

It's been awhile and I wanted to stay in touch anyway, and now has come a special occasion.

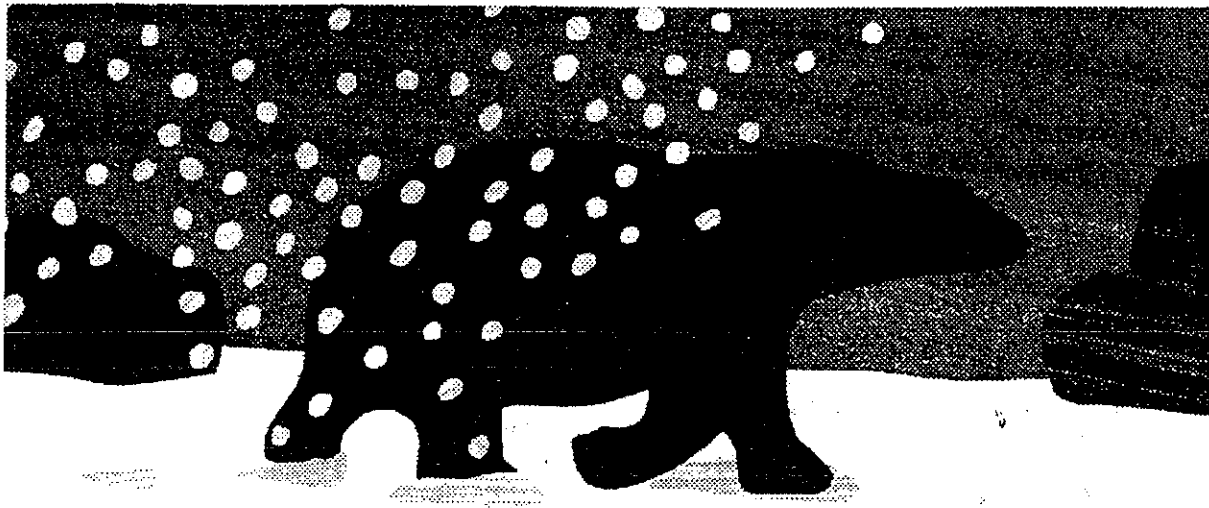
For long I have wanted to push our Kansas Poems book more, and in the mail just arrived is an invitation to come to Salina next April for two engagements. Maybe on that occasion we could do some good.

Patricia Traxler, PO Box 1216, Salina 67402-1216, started all this. She proposes that I come to be part of a series they have on some Tuesday night in April. And she added that another group, The Southwind writers group, would like me to do a Saturday workshop for them. I am bidding to come for the Southwind workshop on April 16, 1994, and then do the following Tuesday (April 19) for Patricia's group. It might be that Patricia will request me to come for her group on the Tuesday before the April 16 event, which is ok so far as my calendar is concerned. The Salina people haven't quite nailed all this down, but it looks likely to happen, and I thought I would alert you early, in case we can meet for a visit, and maybe even do something for our book.

Many things are stirring out this way. I'll load in a few items that show your Kansas cohort has been busy. And I hope you are flourishing—and that you won't let this letter clutter up any busy times you may be experiencing.

Adios—

Bill Steffen



THE ANIMAL THAT DRANK UP SOUND

by William Stafford illustrated by Debra Frasier

An animal walks the land, drinking up summer's green sounds, "the croak of toads, and all the little shiny noise grass blades make," and in his footprints, winter falls. What will bring the sound back?

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William Stafford has won the National Book Award, the Shelley Memorial Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives with his wife in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Debra Frasier is the author and illustrator of *On the Day You Were Born* (Harcourt Brace, 1991). She has worked for many years designing projects that combine natural history with the visual arts. She lives with her family in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



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"THE LIFE OF THE POEM accomplishes superbly the elusive task of evoking on film the process of writing a poem. Deft editing brings forth fully William Stafford's gift, rare even among outstanding poets, to speak clearly from inside the creative process."

Peter Sears, Oregon Arts Commission

This Volume Includes:

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 - Reproduction of a handwritten draft by Stafford
 - A detailed biography
 - A bibliography
 - Commentary and questions for class, study groups, and workshops
 - Writing exercises

POTPOURRI
A not for profit literary magazine
Potpourri Publications Company
P. O. Box 8278
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208
(913) 642-1503

August 19, 1993

William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Dear William Stafford.

Thank you for your letter and poem, "Epiphanies of an Old-Model Hoover." Wonderful poem, and we'll send a consent to publish.

We would like to have several more poems because we believe that *RE-PUBLISH* magazine offers an excellent opportunity to mention your latest book and show that some of the published poems are selected from that book. We will be glad to satisfy the fee per line from your publisher, so perhaps you will select two or three poems for such reprinting, and, in addition, please send three or four more poems selected from other publications so that we may build several pages on you in *RE-PUBLISH*. Also we would appreciate a photo of yourself for use with the article.

Denise Low has been selected by our poetry editors to do the interview with you which could run 1500 to 2000 words for our allocated space. The interview with you by Thomas Kennedy for *APR* a few months ago was excellent and in a depth that still causes us contemplation respecting the theory of art and poetry. Denise might want to use a poem or two from *Kansas Poems of William Stafford* in her article.

The format for *RE-PUBLISH* will be the same as for *Potpourri* except much larger in number of pages and with a 60 # cover. Complimentary copies of the magazine will be circulated throughout the literary community in the USA and several foreign countries. Projected date of publication is November, 1993.

Any suggestions you may have regarding selection of poems and projected interview are certainly welcome. In *RE-PUBLISH* we hope to combine the literary approach with reader interest and edification.

Sincerely,

Herman M. Swafford
Publisher

cc: Denise Low ✓
Phil Miller, Poetry Editor

*All the Xeroxed poems are from
Pass words, HarperCollins, 1991*

1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034
25 August 1993

Herman M. Swafford
POTPOURRI
PO Box 8278
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208

Dear Herman Swafford,

Your August 19 letter just came and galvanized me to action on submitting some more poems and a photo, as you suggested—enclosed.

Please let me know if the poems I am sending do not find favor—I have many and will try to supply worthy material. I'll enclose some poems from my latest HarperCollins book, as you suggested, and will add some that have seen just periodical publication. For each poem I will note the background data.

And working with Denise Low is a great idea.

Which reminds me—next April from the 9th through the 16th I expect to be around in Kansas, doing something about a prize in Kansas City April 9, and some Salina appearances later. I can give details later if such might be relevant, even verging toward a chance to get acquainted if you would have the time.

Thanks for your cordial reception to my work.

Sincerely,

William Swafford
William Swafford

*I know I'm sending much more than
you could use—just to give
many choices...*

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August 29, 1993

William Stafford
1050 Sunningdale
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Dear William Stafford,

Just received your latest material with photo and thank you for the quick response. I will send copies immediately to Denise Low so we may proceed promptly.

Yes, I was aware that you were to be the recipient of the Edgar Wolfe award. Congratulations. This is a nice honor, among the many you have received. *Potpourri* will be well represented at the presentation of this award to you.

Keep us in mind, and if you have any free time—hate to use that expression these days—a few *Potpourri* people would like to invite you and your wife for a luncheon and to get acquainted. David and Judy Ray send their congratulations and are looking forward to your visit. They asked that I inquire if you will need friendly quarters while you are here and have offered their hospitality for you and your wife, Dorothy.

We would like to hear from you when you know your schedule here in Kansas City during a part of April. We look forward to meeting you.

Thank you for the poetry, and we will write HarperCollins for the permission.

Sincerely,

Herman M. Swafford , Publisher

cc: Denise

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POTPOURRI

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September 9, 1993

Denise Low
1916 Stratford
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Denise,

I enclose the material sent us by William Stafford.

I think we should go ahead with the article on him for *RE-PUBLISH* magazine, but not include any poems in his latest book published by Harper-Collins (New Zealand).

We are scheduling the first issue of *RE-PUBLISH* for November '93. Does this pose any problems for you?

I enclose a return envelope hoping you will give me a quick response on your present thoughts, or call me collect at 642-1503.

Best regards,



Herman M. Swafford, Publisher

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POTPOURRI

A not for profit literary magazine
Potpourri Publications Company
P. O. Box 8278
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208
(913) 642-1503

September 24, 1993

Denise Low
1916 Stratford
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Denise,

Thanks very much for your letter and reassurance on the Stafford article. I had been in touch with Paul Pintarich, staff writer on the *Oregonian* newspaper, and if it is okay with you, I will send him a copy of your article on Stafford. He evinced interest in our magazines and is, himself, a poet. Maybe he will reprint part of it.

Tom Ferté, editor/publisher of Calapooya Collage, sent out extra copies of Calapooya with an insert on Stafford, some of which was written by Pintarich. I am enclosing a copy for you. I am using some of it for *Potpouri* this month. Your work will be used in *RE-PUBLISH* where we are putting our emphasis on his life and his contribution to poetry.

Looking forward to your article, and I should tell you that we have a screened photo of Stafford he had sent us earlier which we will use with your article.

Best regards,



Herman M. Swafford