



Happy Columbus Day! Monday, October 11, 2004

First Timers Thirst for New Techniques and New Friends

“I couldn’t believe it. It was the best thing that has ever happened to me in my life,” said Connie Smith, 55, an Army veteran from Killeen, Texas and first-place winner in the national art competition this year.



Connie Smith from Killeen, Texas works on her clay sculpture at the Sunday afternoon art workshop.

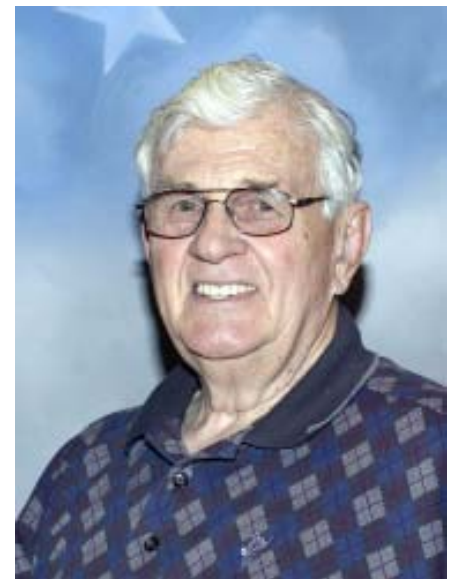
Smith is joining many other veterans from across the nation participating in their first National Veterans Creative Arts Festival this week. Her entry in the fabric art category earned her the invitation to attend. According to

Smith, every time she turned a project in she didn’t think it was good enough – until one day when her entry found its way toward the national judging.

Another 55-year-old Army veteran artist is Garry Norton from Coatesville, Pa., who won first place in color photography. Norton finds that photographing the U.S. flag and Americana is a great release, coupled with a nice touch of patriotism. “I’m always looking for different ways to reflect our nation’s flag and Americana through color photography and I’m very pleased I was able to come to Salt Lake City,” he said.

Performer Donald Fischer from Liverpool, N.Y. is 84 and a combat veteran of World War II, where he served in both the Army and the Air Force. He learned to play the piano as a child but didn’t enter the creative arts competition until 2003 while recovering from a stroke. “When the therapist told me I was a national winner I was elated, because music has been my lifelong interest and hobby,” Fischer said. “In my opinion, music is the best form of therapy.” He will join the chorus in the production numbers at the stage show this week.

Local veteran J. Elroy Jones from Salt Lake City may be another novice at the Festival but not to music – having been



J. Elroy Jones from Salt Lake City

a 12-year member of the world renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Jones is performing with eight other members of the local musical group “The Salty Dogs,” singing the classic “It must have been Moonglow” at

See “First Timers,” page 2



Paint the town

Show Stoppers — Sing, Sing a Song

Some Song Writing Tips to Start Writing Songs!



Practice Makes Perfect

The one habit that will increase your understanding, enjoyment and quality of lyric writing is spending time writing. The more time that you actually spend typing on the keyboard or writing on a legal pad, the more you will grow as a writer.

To begin writing your first song lyric, think of a song as “singable” poetry. Then, begin writing whatever comes to mind. Think of a melody as you go, so the melody you come up with later will fit the lyric you have written.

Study, Study, Study

Once you have tried or even exhausted the above exercise again and again, begin to study the polished works of accomplished writers. Get copies of lyrics to your favorite songs so you know the melodies well. Examine these hit song lyrics and make note of obvious patterns such as rhyme schemes, syllable count and rhythm or accent on certain syllables. More specifically, begin looking for which line endings

rhyme together and whether there is a pattern. Count the number of syllables per line and seek out any apparent intentional design. Check for the rhythm as well, that is the flow of syllables as well as which syllables are emphasized when sung (and which are not).

Use “Singable” Words

Make sure you use the most easily sung words possible. One and two-syllable words generally work better than those with four or more; some three-syllable words will work and some will get hung up on your tongue.

Compliment Your Lyrics with Melodies

If you listen to a lot of music, you will probably find that you already have songs inside ready to be written. If you enjoy songs you can sing along with, you can probably create a melody of your own. To begin, notice which songs you sing are easy for you and sound good when you sing them, and which make you reach too far for some notes. In doing this you will start to notice the range of notes you can

sing well. Try to stay within this range when writing your melodies.

Now, determine what kind of lyric you’ve written. Is it happy or sad? Is it a love song or some other sort? Would it fit in a particular musical category or “genre” such as pop or country? Once you have made a best guess at the answers to these questions, you are ready to find your melody. In your range, pick a note that feels right for a note to start and finish key lines or portions of the song on. This would be the most crucial tone of the song. Start singing around that note with “la, la, la” or with your actual lyrics, experimenting as you go along. Until you are sure you are happy with every note and its “marriage” to every word and syllable, you have no reason not to keep creating and changing anything you wish, whether words or music. It is your property to do with as you like.

“First Timers,” contd.

Friday night’s stage show. “Music has always enriched my life and has led to fine associations with good people,” Jones said.

Army veteran Billy “Moondog” Elkins, 59, from El Reno, Okla., won first place for his Veterans Day poster. An art therapist at the VA medical center in Temple, Texas, saw some of Elkins’ work and suggested he enter the competition. “I entered some of my work not thinking that I even had a chance,” Elkins said about his win. “I am lost for words.”

What is it that makes being selected to attend the Festival for the first time so special? According to Jeff Gardner, a 57-year-old participant from Lutz, Fla., it is “being with others

who do similar works of art and getting ideas about different techniques. I have been looking forward to being a part of the Festival for two reasons. First, because it is a veterans’ event that involves and highlights the talents of veterans; and second, because of the location during October. I think it will be spectacular,” Gardner said.

And now that everyone is here, we all do, too.



Billy “Moondog” Elkins, from El Reno, Okla.

Festival Gala Dinner & Fun Awards Tonight!

The 2004 Festival Gala is a first-time event for the Creative Arts Festival and will be an evening for all participating veterans to “kick back and relax” before heading into their busy week. The Festival Gala will be held at the University of Utah’s Rice-Eccles Stadium Tower this evening. Buses board at 5:30 p.m., with the Gala taking place from 6:30 – 10 p.m. Veterans and guests will have time to visit the displays of the 2002 Olympic Cauldron Park before entering the Tower for dinner.

The evening will feature performances by Dan Bradshaw, local Cowboy Poet (see sidebar below), music and line dance instruction by the Jersey Street Band. Local host site coordinator, Brian Murphy, will be the emcee for the evening along with Liz Mackey, Director of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

The Jersey Street Band members are known for their music and vocals in country western, country rock, rock, country line dancing, jazz, and, would you believe, classical to surfer/Beach Boy music. The band has performed for local parties, conventions, street dances and receptions – and now, its first Creative Arts Festival!

The four members of the Jersey Street Band are:

- Robyn Green, vocals, rhythm guitar, bass guitar and certified line dance instructor.



2002 Olympic Stadium and site of the 2004 Festival Gala

Green will be instructing tonight’s guests and calling out the line dancing!

- Randy Ficklin, drums – a Utah resident!
- Greg Restad – keyboard, guitar, bass, vocals.
- Lawrence Green, guitar, bass, rhythm guitar, drums and vocals – currently on the faculty at Brigham Young University.

Enjoy tonight’s festivities!

Dan Bradshaw

Cowboy Poet from Utah



Dan Bradshaw was raised on a small farm in central Utah. He is an owner and partner of Pace Cattle Company in Millard County where he raises Texas Longhorn Cattle, along with his son-in-law. He has been active in livestock ranching and raising alfalfa since 1974.

Bradshaw began writing cowboy poetry at the tender age of 14. He has been a featured poet at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada, and has performed at poetry gatherings and corporate events throughout the United States. He’s been the opening act for several nationally known performers at rodeos and concerts. He has also published four books and released one tape and a CD.

Bradshaw’s poetry has been released in nationally published poetry compilations, he has been heard on National Public Radio, and has been the subject of a documentary on PBS television.

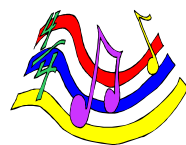
Bradshaw has been married for 35 years and is the father of “four awesome daughters.” He also has “four acceptable sons-in-law, and seven perfect grandchildren!”



Photos from
the Festival



Welcome
Dinner



Meeting
With
Team
Leaders





**Spoken
Word
Program
at
Mormon
Tabernacle**



**In and
Around
the
Marriott**



 **the Festival**
Photos from

Strokes of Art — Watercolors



When you think of watercolor painting, do you remember the kits you got as a child – the ones that came with six colors and a paintbrush and cost about a dollar? Or, do you think of the famous Impressionist watercolor paintings of the early 20th century? Some of the participants in today's art workshop will be experienced watercolor artists while others may be picking up the paintbrush for the first time. If you fall into the latter category, here are a few things to remember before you begin.

◆ While watercolor paint is transparent, opaqueness can be achieved by controlling the amount of water on your brush. Remember, more water means a lighter color, and conversely, less water results in a darker color.

- ◆ To achieve whites, you will have to use the white of the paper.
- ◆ For the wet on wet technique, wet paper and apply paint to it. The paint will spread with less control from the painter.
- ◆ A splatter effect can be achieved with flicking paint off the end of the brush or even a toothbrush.
- ◆ Dropping sea salt on wet paint can give you interesting results.
- ◆ Drawing with candle wax, crayons or oil based sticks then applying paint over it creates a resistance and mixes media for unique results.
- ◆ A nice effect is to 'block' your paper by taping it uniformly around the edges. This will help the paper dry evenly without warping.

Today's watercolor workshop takes place from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the VA Medical Center in Building 5.



Veterans History Project (VHP) interviews continue through Friday in the VHP taping room at the Marriott University Park Hotel. Interviews with performers will take place today, so stop by when you aren't busy rehearsing! Sign up for your interview with Butch Miller in the VHP taping room (Room 302). This historic project is meant to honor our nation's veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Last year, we did not have this opportunity at the Festival, so we are grateful to be able to offer it to you this time. Thanks to all participants who have already recorded their stories and shared them with our VHP program staff this week. You have helped make history!

The VHP taping schedule for today and the rest of the week is as follows:

Monday, October 11: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.
(Performers)

Tuesday, October 12: 9 - 10:30 a.m. *and* 1 - 5 p.m.
(Performers) 6:30-9:30 p.m. (Artists)

Wednesday, October 13: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. *and* 1 - 5 p.m. (Performers)
6 - 9 p.m. (Artists)

Thursday, October 14: 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; 6 - 9 p.m.
(Artists)

Friday, October 15: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 - 2 p.m.
(Artists and Performers)



Participants with birthdays this week!

October 10

Thelma Kathy Gerrald-Riojas
Marvin Hooper

October 11

Anthony Ciampa
Billy Elkins

October 13

Phillip Walls

October 16

Eric McLaughlin

F.Y.I

Hospitality Room

The Hospitality Room, manned by friendly volunteers, offers snacks, soft drinks, juices and coffee for all Festival participants, staff and volunteers. The room is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. in the Willow Room on the 4th Floor.



Professional Continuing Education

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is approved to grant official continuing education units through Salt Lake Community College for the four sessions being offered this week. A total of .6 CEUs can be earned by attending all four sessions.

A fee of \$15 includes all CEUs earned by the participant for the entire professional education sessions. The \$15 fee must be paid prior to the first session attended. Checks should be made out to VAMC #660, GPF #1030. Those not wanting CEUs, but interested in the session may attend free of charge. The second CEU session is Tuesday evening.

Medical Support Room



The medical support team is located on the 2nd Floor, Room 202 and available at all times during the Festival week. Medical support team members will also accompany all tours away from the hotel. If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope to make your stay here in Salt Lake City the very best!

Health Tidbits

You may be noticing the effects of our low humidity. These include dryness of the nasal passages, eyes, skin and lips. Problems can range from minor irritations to nose bleeds. Using over the counter, non-prescription products can help a lot. Plain saline (salt water) nasal sprays and eye drops can prevent drying and discomfort. Daily use of a hand lotion or cream will prevent your skin from drying out, itching and cracking. Frequent use of a lip balm prevents chapped lips. If you use a lip balm with a sun protective factor (SPF) of 15 or higher, it will also help prevent sun damage to your lips.

Meet with Your Team Leader

Meet with your team leader every morning at 8:30 a.m., beginning today. Check with your team leader for the location of your meetings. On Friday, October 15th, the team leader meetings will be at 9:30 a.m.

**Check out the Creative Arts Festival Web site:
www.creativeartsfestival.org**

Today's Weather

**Morning Showers
High - 71° - Low 46°**



Monday, October 10

Breakfast — Hot Start Buffet

Fruit Preserves, Butter, Margarine and Cream Cheese
Fruit with Honey Yogurt Dressing
Ham, Egg and Cheese Burrito
Yogurt, Oatmeal Packets, and Assorted Cereal
Assorted Breakfast Breads
Low Fat Milk, Tea, Hot Chocolate
Orange, Apple, Cranberry and Grapefruit Juices
Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee

Lunch — Soup and Salad Buffet

Salad Bar
Sliced Fruit with Honey Yogurt Dressing
Two Homemade Soups
Assorted Cookies and Brownies
Turkey, Ham, Roast Beef, Cheddar and Provolone Cheese (For Sandwiches)
Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Lemonade, Iced Tea and Low Fat Milk

Dinner — Festival Gala Banquet

Pepper Crusted Baseball Steaks with Herb & Mushroom Sauce
Petite Filets of Salmon with Lemon Thyme Sauce
Chef's Special Au Gratin Potatoes
Glazed Baby Carrots
Caesar Salad
Basket of Specialty Rolls with Herbed Butter
Almond, Chocolate, Amaretto and Traditional Cheesecakes with Toppings
Lemon Iced Water
Sparkling Citrus Lemonade
Coffee

Monday, October 11



Artists



7:00 - 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast
Bonneville Ballroom 2 & 3, First Floor

8:00 a.m.
Team leaders meet with Katy Ryan
Tiered Theater, First Floor

8:30 a.m.
Team leaders meet with artists
Tiered Theater, First Floor

9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Artist Interaction Session
VAMC, Building 8 - MPC

Noon - 1:30 p.m. — Lunch
VAMC

1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Art Workshop #2 "Watercolors"
VAMC, Building 5

4:30 p.m.
Artists return to hotel

5:30 p.m.
Board buses for the Rice-Eccles Stadium and Tower

6:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Dinner and festivities (Festival Group Gala)
Rice-Eccles Stadium and Tower, Scholarship Reception Room



Performers



7:00 - 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast
Bonneville Ballroom 2 & 3, First Floor

8:00 a.m.
Team leaders meet with Liz Mackey -
Bonneville Ballroom 1, First Floor

8:30 a.m.
Team leaders meet with performers
Bonneville Ballroom 1, First Floor

9:00 a.m.
Coaching of acts and chorus numbers with directors as scheduled
Bonneville Ballroom 1, First Floor

Noon - 1:30 p.m. — Lunch
Bonneville Ballroom 2 & 3, First Floor

1:00 - 1:30 p.m. Chorus number rehearsal for everyone - *Bonneville 1*

1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Coaching of acts with directors continues as scheduled
Bonneville Ballroom 1, First Floor

2:00 - 2:30 p.m. "You Raise Me Up" rehearsal with assistant directors -
Fort Douglas Room, First Floor

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Chorus number rehearsal with assistant directors
Fort Douglas Room, First Floor

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Soloists and narrators rehearse as scheduled
Fort Douglas Room, First Floor

Pine Room, Sixth Floor
Oak Boardroom, Third Floor

5:30 p.m. Board buses for the Rice-Eccles Stadium and Tower

6:30 - 10:00 p.m.
Dinner and festivities (Festival Group Gala)
Rice-Eccles Stadium and Tower, Scholarship Reception Room

6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Music Director rehearses with orchestra. Performers and staff need *not* attend