

Dry Hole Blues

it was a sure thing
he said

the land lay real good

gentle rolling
hills pricked
with oil
rigs

on every side

the geologist
predicted
production
in the Mississippi Lime
with an out
side
chance
in the Lower Carmichael

then they sank the six thousand foot Wilcox Test

today they drop
the cement
plug

Wisteria

lavender froth
foams from
the snaking vine

that has squeezed
into the pecan
tree trunk

in one strong constriction
that left only
dead wood

and crushing vine

corpulent
with the scent

of wisteria

Pelican

white wings
stretched

she floats
low

through the space between waves and clouds

black feathers
at her wing
tips

finger the air

hold momentarily
before she
drops

to the Gulf water below

where the fishing
looks

best

South-Going Geese

The geese are flying over
this morning

snows and blues
down from
the North

pushed out
of the Dakotas
Nebraska
Kansas
and Oklahoma
by this frigid
blast of Artic air

they've been
coming through
all morning

flocks and flocks and flocks

held low
by thick
grey clouds

loose V's
pointing

South

Real Talent

Dad had some
talent

he could stand on
his head

he would make
that perfect tripod
then slowly
precisely
raise
his legs

and there he was

all six foot two
of him
upside down
smiling

Texas Rangers Baseball

the screeching grey
haired lady

in white tennis shoes
tells them
how to
do it

a red-faced fat man
yells the strikes
before the
umpire

the tan beauty
in white shorts
can't see the plate
but doesn't complain

a pair of old men
behind home
make all
batters
swing

then chuckle to
each other

Winter Words

water splashes up

out of the crack

in the creek's

icy crust

shatters

cold quiet

like crystal

teeth

chattering

Texas Blue Norther

the barometer drops
fast

chubby grey clouds
float down
across the sky

pushed by a stiff northwest wind

then the snow
starts

a few light flakes first

then more
and more

until the air
turns to

white grosgrain

West Texas Blizzard

chived potato soup
ladled into
a hand-thrown pottery bowl

hot rye bread
on a wooden
cutting board

the drifting
scent of fresh
banana cake

the spatter of sparks
shooting out
against

the fireplace screen

a tall stack
of library books

all tucked
in

by driven
white crystals

Texas Ice Storm

fresh ice
outlines the silver
chain-link
fence

like a transparent shadow

a northeast wind
wiggles through
the scrub oak grove

limbs rub and bump

sound gritches around
like a hundred
hands

squeezing cellophane

The Orchard Spider

hangs
red and yellow
black and white
in her horizontal orb
centered
among the apples
primed for a
Med fly
to buzz
in
when he
does
she titters
over
to immobilize
then
dissolve
her meal

Remember Goliad

trapped in a waterless
depression on the Texas prairie

three hundred and forty-two men
surrendered and were marched
back to Presidio La Bahia
the old fort at Goliad

they spent part
of that March night
singing "Home Sweet Home"
believing after dawn's
white flagged
surrender

in English
and in Spanish
they would live

only to be duped
on that Palm Sunday
by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna
the Prince of Butchers

into moving out in three divisions
wounded and dying pulled from their beds
Colonel James W. Fannin, Jr. and fellow officers
last

into the fiery flintlock finale
with any survivors sabered
then roasted in
bonfire

that only twenty-seven men escaped
by running to the river
before the Mexicans
were finished

with Fannin
and his heroic
volunteers

Texas Trawl

spiraling in a slow motion vortex

like dark
leaves trapped
in a dying
tornado

seven
buzzards weave
concentric
circles

over

the buffalo
bones

below

Biography

Sheryl is from Marysville, Kansas. She graduated from South Dakota State University with a B.S. in Family Relations and Child Development.

She has had over 4,500 poems, stories and articles published. Some of the magazines, anthologies and textbooks that have used her work are: *Reader's Digest*, *Modern Maturity*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Capper's*, *Grit*, *Country Woman*, *Poetry Now*, *Confrontation*, *Strings*, *This Delicious Day*, *The American Anthology* and *Men Freeing Men*.

Thirteen collections of her poetry have been published. Some of them are: *Their Combs Turn Red In The Spring*, *The Oketo Yahoos*, *Strawberries and Rhubarb*, *Rural America*, *Land of the Blue Paloverde*, *Friday Night Desperate*, *Aunt Emma Collected Teeth*, *Secrets of the Wind*, *Howling At the Gibbous Moon* and *Greatest Hits 1978-2003*.

She has taught writing and poetry classes at conferences, colleges and schools in Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona and South Dakota. She recently taught workshops at Amarillo College, The University of Texas at Dallas, Abilene Christian University, Tarleton State University, the Society of Children's Book Writers Conference in Arlington, Texas and at the Tarrant County College. She was a

Bread Loaf Contributor at the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, Middlebury, Vermont.

She was Editor of *Oakwood*, the SDSU literary magazine. She was a Contributing Editor to *Byline*, a national writers' magazine and to *Streets*, a national literary magazine. She was the Editor of *Crawford's Chronicles*, an insurance trade publication. She has been a staff writer for several newspapers and magazines. She is currently the Fiction/Non-Fiction Editor of *The Pen Woman Magazine*, the national magazine of the National League of American Pen Women.

She is a member of the National League of American Pen Women, The Society of Southwestern Authors and Trinity Writers Workshop.

She makes a living as an insurance adjuster. She is also a painter, a weaver and an old dirt biker.

Publishing Credits

Bluebonnets

1. "Texas Hill Country" – *Hot Springs News and Ram*.

2. "fresh day" – *My Restless Heart, Grit, Poetry Forum, Sisters Today, Lyrics of Song, The Best Poets of 1999, PMS, Hiram Poetry Review, Nettles & Nutmeg Anthology, Lutheran Women, The Goofus Office, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, and Strawberries and Rhubarb*.

3. "Altocumulus Clouds" – *Silver Wings*.

4. "Meditation" – *The Courier-Index, ...having writ..., Progressive Farmer, Sound and Waves Anthology, Kaleidoscope, Voices for Peace, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Bitterroot, Earthwise, Lincoln Log, The Beebe News, Japanese Mail Art, Capper's, Writers Voice, Time of Singing, Integral Yoga Magazine, Pegasus, Moose Bound Press, yefief, Purpose, Wandering Anthology, and Girls Night Out Anthology*.

5. "The Pharmacist's Daughter" – *Trinity Writer's Workshop Newsletter*.

6. "Wash Day on the Farm" – *The Small Pond and Elements Magazine*.

7. "Blue Ticks Eating Asparagus" – Unpublished.

8. "Spring Soundings" – *Wings, Poetpourri, Pinchpenny, River City Sampler, Channels, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring and Strawberries & Rhubarb*.

9. "Sunset at Eagle Mountain Lake" – *Land of the Free Anthology, Skyline Literary Magazine, and SP Quill Magazine*.

10. "breathe deep" – *If We'd Wanted Quiet, We Would Have Raised Goldfish, The Gatekeeper, The Waterways Project, Writers Voice, In My Shoes, Time of Singing, Our Bundle of Joy, Messages From Mothers To Sons, Purpose, Kaleidoscope, Silver Wings, Farm Wife News, Dialogue, Progressive Farmer, Aztec Peak, Capper's, Yesterday's Magazette, We Magazine, Feelings, Rockhurst Review, Ideals, Silver Boomers, and Victory News Journal.*

11. "Downed Hawk" – *Progressive Farmer and Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly.*

12. "from April's palette" – *Silver Trees and Wind Songs, Purpose, Wanderlust New Mirage Quarterly, Bibliophilos, The Poet, Midwest Poetry Review, Capper's Capper's Anthology, Roanoke Review, Kaleidoscope, and Strawberries & Rhubarb.*

13. "Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring" – *Zen Tattoo, Flimsie Excuse, Earthwise, The Kindred Spirit, Dead Angel Magazine, The Maine Mail Art Exhibition, Nettled & Nutmeg Anthology, The Courier Index, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, and Strawberries & Rhubarb.*

14. "The Spit Bucket" – *Autocaust, Long Island Quarterly, and Best Poets & Writers in Literary Achievement.*

15. "to dust" – *Underground Rag Mag.*

16. "The Old Goodnight Ranch" – *Ruby, The Poet, Wildcat, Central Maine Morning Sentinel, Westview, The Wesleyan Advocate, Yesterday's Magazette, and Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring.*

17. "Black Birds" – *Wellspring, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Capper's, and Friends Journal.*

18. "The Fort Worth Tornado" – *Capper's.*

19. "Moment In Time" – *Aero Sun-Times, Capper's, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Lutheran Women, The Cameron Forum, and Night Roses.*

20. "killing the rooster" – *Horizons, Poetry Magazine, Embers, Japanese Mail Art, String Anthology, The Mind's Eye, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, Strawberries & Rhubarb, After the Storm, Oakwood, Pteranodon, Imprimatur, and Princeton Spectrum, American Poetry*

Anthology, Dancing Shadows Press, Poetry Today, Harpur Palate and Howling At the Gibbous Moon.

21. "The Spirit" – *Sunshine & Butterflies, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Integral Yoga Magazine, Pudding, The Poet, Porch Swing Rhyme, Scree, Central Maine Morning Sentinel, Westview, The Courier-Index, Sunrust and Texas Anthology.*

22. "Texas Wheat Harvest" – *Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Farm Wife News, Purpose, Wanderlust Anthology, Westview, The Pawn Review, American Poetry Anthology, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, The Point and We Magazine.*

23. "Outhouse Blues" – *Midwest Memories, The Music of What Happens, Nightmares of Reason, The Mind's Eye, Newsletter Inago, Manna, Capper's, The Maine Mail Art Exhibition, Writers Showcase, Winewood Women Anthology, Modern Maturity, Capper's Anthology, Westview, Art Mag, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Crystal Rainbow, The Ecophorizer, Two Twenty-Four Poetry Quarterly, Waterways, Voices, Feelings, The Funny Side of Feelings Anthology, Borderlands, Expressions, Pegasus, Fast Food Blues, Alpha Beat Press, Desktopper, The Orange Room Review and Freckles to Wrinkles.*

24. "The Car" – *Tucumcari Literary Review, Time of Singing and The Writer's Voice.*

25. "fishing for monsters" – *Newsletter Inago, America, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Westview, The New Era, Dance in the Sun, The Best New Voices in Poetry, Acorn Whistle, Central Maine Morning Sentinel, Crab Creek Review, Writers Showcase, Capper's, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Bubble Gum and Poetry, Calm Thoughts, Ideals, Victory News Journal and Atlantic Pacific Press.*

26. "Visible Echoes" – *More Big Thoughts, Kaleidoscope, Poet's Fantasy, Wilderness Blessings, The Louisiana Review, Howling At the Gibbous Moon, Their Combs Turn Red In The Spring, Sleepy Tree II, The Archer, Central Maine Morning Sentinel, The Beebe News, Capper's and Cricket.*

27. "Cumulus Clouds" – *Sisters Today, This Delicious Day, The Kindred Spirit, Writer's Info, Westview, Golden Blessings, Tales of the Old West, Poetry Now, Scree, Central Maine Morning Sentinel Capper's, The*

Courier Index, North Dakota Rec, Modern Maturity, The American Anthology, Cricket, Trail and Timberline and Wilderness Blessings.

28. "country cream" – *The New Press, Eve's Legacy, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Marriage and Family, Time of Singing, Chiron Review, Buffalo Spree Magazine, Minotaur, Capper's, Inky Trails, The Courier Index, Mill Hulk Herald, Crossing the 50 Yard Line, Poet's Fantasy, Alpha Beat Press, Silver Wings, Reflections, Westview, Over the Back Fence, Hazmat Review and Victory News Journal.*

29. "ag synthesizer" – *Into the Teeth of the Wind, Poetry Now, Westview, Capper's, Sunrust, Evangel, Strawberries & Rhubarb and Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring.*

30. "Behind Every Ranch House in Texas" – *Curbside Review, Midwest Poetry Review, Capper's, Sunrust, Westview, Angus Journal, Cornerstone, Progressive Farmer and Strawberries & Rhubarb.*

31. "4th of July" – *Silver Wings, Byline, Modern Maturity, Capper's, Psychopoetica and The Writer's Voice.*

32. "Chicken Canning Time in West Texas" – Unpublished.

33. "Blue Heron" – *Another Place to Publish, Tapjoe, Live Poets, Prophetic Voices, Capper's, Oakwood, Piedmont Literary Review, Collegian, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Lutheran Women, Ripples and The Goofus Office.*

34. "Meteorite Showers" – *Silver Wings.*

35. "Heat Waves" – *Purpose Magazine, Highway News and Good News, Candles in the Wind and Silver Wings.*

36. "Icicle Radishes" – *Night Roses, Sketches of the Soul, The Writer's Voice and America at the Millennium.*

37. "Aunt Emma Collected Teeth" – *The Village Idiot, The Western Journal of Medicine, Iowa Woman Anthology, The Ecphorizer, The Roswell Literary Review, Yet Another Small Magazine, The Artful Mind, The Black Fly Review, Incendiary Publications, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Kaleidoscope, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Tearful Soul, Creosote, Hard Row to Hoe, Dan River Anthology and Art/Life.*

38. "East Texas Root Hog" – *Gryphon, Modern Images, Delta Snake Quarterly, Famous Last Words, The Writer's Voice, The Roswell Literary Review and Texas Poetry Calendar 1999.*

39. "Great Cormorant" – Unpublished.

Boots

40. "Those Crows" – *Night Roses, The Advocate, Writer's Voice, Streets, Blue Unicorn, Agenda, Pinchpenny, The Beebe News, My Restless Heart, Prophetic Voices and Shooting Star Review.*

41. "City Life" – *Capper's, Wherever Home Begins, The Aureorean, The Backwaters Press, Measured Progress, Iowa Woman, Howling At the Gibbous Moon, Strawberries & Rhubarb, The Beebe News, Horizons, A Galaxy of Verse, Strings Anthology, ...having writ... and The Poets Perspective.*

42. "Real Cowboy" – *Gryphon.*

43. "Bull Fighter" – *Reflect, The Texas Anthology and For Folks with Their Boots On.*

44. "Rodeo Circuit Cowboy" – *Nexus.*

45. "The Brazos River" – *Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Oregon, Princeton Spectrum, Vanderbilt Review, America, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly and Late Knocking Poe Anthology.*

46. "Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Female" – *Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Anthology of the Best Poems of 1988, Bluestem News, Poet's Fantasy, Hard Row to Hoe, Abbey, Blackbird, Hyperion, Pasque Petals, A Galaxy of Verse, The Beebe News, Calli's Tales, Love Letters and Waterways.*

47. "Grandma's Gypsies" – *Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Kaleidoscope, The Ecphorizer, In My Shoes,*

America, *Blindskills*, *Fresh Tracks*, *Princeton Spectrum*, *The Kindred Spirit*, *The Maine Mail Art Exhibition*, *Writers Showcase*, *Capper's* and *Tales of the Old West*.

48. "Grandma's Sunbonnet Quilt" – *December Rose*, *The Beatrice Sun*, *Array Magazine*, *The Waterways Project*, *The Ecphorizer*, *So Young*, *Aim*, *Cer*Ber*Us*, *Up Against the Wall Mother*, *Crystal Rainbow* and *Tales of the Old West*.

49. "old lady Wilson" – *beginnings*.

50. "West Texas Wheat Farmer With Early Alzheimer's" – Unpublished.

51. "Salting Down" – *New Words Unlimited Anthology*, *Hard Row to Hoe*, *Ambergris*, *The Higginsville Reader*, *Ellipsis*, *The American Aesthetic*, *Window Panes*, *Poetic Eloquence*, *Curbside Review*, *Aldebaran*, *Soundings East*, *Dark Starr*, *Crazy Quilt*, *Men's Issues Anthology* and *T.R.'S Zine*.

52. "Picking Granny Smith Apples in West Texas" – *TWW News & Showcase Newsletter*.

53. "West Texas Halloween" – *Anthology Who's Who of 2008* and *Wanderlust Anthology*.

54. "Gutting A Diamondback Rattlesnake" – Unpublished.

55. "horned toad" – *Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring*, *Strawberries & Rhubarb*, *The Courier-Index*, *Ursus Press Anthology*, *Great Lakes Fireside Reader*, *Capper's*, *The Kindred Spirit*, *The Muse Letter*, *Hieroglyphics Press Anthology*, *Abraxas*, *Cumberlands*, *Bury Me Sioux*, *Poetry Flash*, *An Old Wag's Tale*, *Japanese Mail Art*, *The Courier-Index*, *Today's Prairie Woman*, *Kids Say "Oh Billy" Magazine*, *Skywriters*, *The Gentle Survivalist*, *Poet's Fantasy*, *Bibliophilos*, *Skyline Literary Magazine*, *Musings* and *Dan River Anthology 2004*.

56. "Frog" – *Poetry Press*, *Creative Graphics*, *Central Maine Morning Sentinel*, *Capper's*, *Poet's Fantasy* and *Atlantic Pacific Press*.

57. "it's raining in Texas" – *Nit and Wit*, *Hot Spring News*, *Late Knocking Poe Anthology*, *Bibliophilos* and *Strawberries & Rhubarb*.

58. "Indian Summer in Bowie, Texas" – *New Texas 2003, Bibliophilos, Clackamas Literary Review, Voices of a Nation, Timber Creek Review, Silver Wings, Poetalk and Time of Singing.*

59. "Parker County Texas Fall" – *Soft Whispers II.*

60. "Dragon Fly Wing" – *Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, Strawberries & Rhubarb, Crystal Rainbow, The 100 Best Poems of Beauty, Faith & Inspiration Anthology, Bluestem News, Poetry Depth Quarterly, Poet's Fantasy, Oregon, Hazmat Review, Atlantic Pacific Press, Green River Review, The Honey Creek Anthology, Love Letters, The Courier Index and Z Miscellaneous.*

Buffalo Bones

61. "Evening Thunderstorm on the Callahan Divide" – *Lone Stars Magazine and Trinity Writers Workshop Newsletter.*

62. "Paleo-Indian Feet" – *Confrontation and Fat Tuesday.*

63. "Josiah Walbarger, Pecan Springs, Texas, August 1883" – *Feelings.*

64. "Cirrus Clouds" – *Writer's Journal, Welcome Home, Crazed Nation, Art Mag, Lone Star Magazine and Bay Windows.*

65. "Dallas Farmer's Market" – *Chronogram Magazine and Writings of the Ages.*

66. "Houston Street Bag Lady" – *Cries on the Wind, Poetry of the People, Onionhead, Aim and Words of Wisdom.*

67. "The Bag Lady's Ode" – *Golden Apple Press, First Northwoods Anthology, The Awakenings Review, Kaleidoscope, Publishers Choice: Selected Poets of The New Era, Lactuca, Silver Wings, Feelings, Poetry of the People and Earth's Daughters.*

68. "Rosetta" – *Howling At the Gibbous Moon, Gryphon, Soundings East, The Pub and Fox Cry.*

69. "Stripping Cotton Blues" – *Felicity, Kaleidoscope and Riversedge.*

70. "Alzheimer's: What Year?" – *Survivors Share Their Success Stories, STET, Words of Wisdom, The Hearthside Reader, Backwoods Home Magazine, Sidewalks, Anthology, Time of Singing, Candlestones, Feelings, Infinity, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Opossum Holler Tarot, Sisphys Poetry Quarterly, Art Times, Alzheimer's Association Anthology, Star Line, The Unforgettable Fire, Sisters Today, Mother's Underground Magazine, The Waterways Project, Manna, The Garden of Life, Hob-Nob, Writer's Voice, Echoes, Ibis Books, Challenges, Pandaloon, The Awakenings Review, The Storyteller, Time of Singing, First Northwoods Anthology and The Rockhurst Review.*

71. "Cirrostratus Clouds" – Unpublished.

72. "The Buzzard Roost" – *Call It 2008 Anthology.*

73. "The Fort Worth Queen of Cans" – *Offerings and Verse Libre Quarterly.*

74. "Blackstrap Molasses" – Unpublished.

75. "Sunset in the West Texas Wild Mountains" – Unpublished.

76. "Crescent Moon in Texas" – Unpublished.

77. "Rusted Red Ford Pick-Up Truck Full of Turkeys on Farm to Market 1178" – Unpublished.

78. "Texas Grasshoppers" – *The End of the Age of Oil Anthology, The Southern Standard and ALURA.*

79. "The Roughneck Woes" – *Westview.*

80. "Runnin' Pipe" – *Westview, Texas Anthology and Smellfest Magazine.*

81. "Dry Hole Blues" – *Westview.*

82. "Wisteria" – *Colonnades, Capper's, Oregon, Angels Embrace Our Hearts and Dan River Anthology 2002.*

83. "Pelican" – *Nexus, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Who's Who in Modern Literature 1998, Prophetic Voices and Out of Our Minds.*

84. "South-Going Geese" – *Pivot Sharing, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, Capper's, Silver Wings, Cricket Magazine and Mayflower Garden Log.*

85. "Real Talent" – *New American Poets, On the Threshold of a Dream, Time of Singing, Tidings to a Tick, The Village Idiot, Voices, English as a Second Language, Sagebrush Scholar, John Milton Society for the Blind, Buffalo Spree Magazine, Hope Tracks, The Kindred Spirit, Poetry Flash, Capper's, This Delicious Day, Celebrations of Life, Cricket Magazine, The Poetry Mission, Sink Full of Dishes, The Roswell Literary Review, Cer*Ber*Us XXXII, Heavenly Words, Silver Boomers and Atlantic Pacific Press.*

86. "Texas Rangers Baseball" – *Cricket Magazine, Fan Magazine, Flimsie Excuse, Poet's Fantasy, Green's Magazine, Dark Horse, Spitball, Anthology, Spitball Anthology of the Best, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly and Nite Writer's.*

87. "Winter Words" – *The Christian Science Monitor and Cricket Magazine.*

88. "Texas Blue Norther" – *Alabaster Pathways, Saint James Press, Time of Singing, Golden Apple Press, Botique, Wellspring, The Beebe News, Lucky Jim's Saloon, America, Angus Journal, Not Your Average Zine and Endless Sky An Anthology of Air and Space Poems.*

89. "West Texas Blizzard" – *Angus Journal, Paisano, Capper's, Time of Singing, Capper's Cookbook, Writer's Voice, Cricket Magazine, Silver Wings, Cattails & Meadowlarks, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, College Poetry Review, Cricket Magazine, Silver Wings, Cattails & Meadowlarks, Their Combs Turn Red in the Spring, College Poetry Review, Pegasus, Active Aging, The Pegasus Review, Audio-Visual Poetry Quarterly, A Trinity Writer's Workshop 2006 Christmas Anthology, Creative with Words and TWW Newsletter.*

90. "Texas Ice Storm" – *Capper's, Sisters Today, Poetry of the People, Voices Poetry Magazine, The Christian Science Monitor, Seasons Anthology, The Writer's Voice, Poet & Critic, Strawberries & Rhubarb,*

Pauses In Time, The New Press, Voices for Peace, Newsletter Inago, The New Era, Wanderlust Anthology and TWW Christmas 2006 Anthology.

91. "The Orchard Spider" – Unpublished

91. "Remember Goliad" – Unpublished.

92. "Texas Trawl" – *Inside Joke, Blue Horse and Strawberries & Rhubarb.*

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