

Local poet evokes small town image

By Cheryl Kisting

Images of small town life in the Midwest are reflected in the poetry of a 46-year-old Nebraska Wesleyan teacher. William Kloefkorn began writing poetry about 10 years ago instead of obtaining his Ph.D. in English and said he has no regrets about it. Since that time six of his books have been published and he is working on three others. Kloefkorn grew up in Attica, a small farming community in Kansas. After reading the work of contemporary poets, he began to search his own potential.



Daily Nebraskan photo

Poet William Kloefkorn

"When I saw I might be able to use the material, people and places I began to tinker with it, and I've been tinkering ever since," Kloefkorn said.

He got his start by sending poems to various magazines. One of the first he wrote was entitled "Funeral for an Old Man." It is about an old man who died that reminded him of his grandfather.

Kloefkorn earned his Bachelor of Science and master's in English at Emporia State College. In the fall of 1962 he began teaching at Nebraska Wesleyan College and wrote his first poem in February of 1969.

Ballgame

One of the books Kloefkorn is working on is about sports. A selection from that book is entitled "After the Ball Game."

"It's about my high school basketball team," Kloefkorn said. "We were bad but had a good coach. During half-time he would always say one of those day, boys, things are going to gel." Well, they never did. Then I thought he might have meant it in a longer range context. Who's to say?"

His other books are *Alvin Turner as Farmer*, *Uncertain the Final Run to Winter*, *looney, ludi jr.*, *Voyages to the Inland and Sea* and *Stocker*.

Midwest setting

Most of his poems are deliberately set in Kansas and Nebraska but some are set elsewhere. An example of that is of a small town kid, about 18 or 19, leaving home for the first time and telling of his experiences along the way.

Humor seeps into Kloefkorn's poems occasionally, which he refers to as "gentle cynicism."

"A lot can be done with humor," he said. "Many poets take themselves too seriously."

Kloefkorn is married and has raised his four children in Lincoln.

"I don't wish my hometown experience on them," Kloefkorn said. No place is automatically better to bring up children in and all places have surface advantages.

"I like Lincoln," he said. "It's a good place to grow up in and write out of. I don't make any apologies for writing from here and I don't envy coastal writers."

According to Kloefkorn, it's the person and his attitude that make the poem, not where he writes it.

City discos waltzing along

By Doug Hull

Disco. The word conjures up sophistication and glamor, but Lincoln patrons may not be buying that image, according to four nightclub managers.

Greg Hiatt, assistant manager of Sweep Left, 815 O St., said although he feels disco is not a passing fad, it hasn't caught on in Lincoln yet.

"Our customers aren't really into disco dancing," Hiatt said. "At Sweep Left we really don't have a disco atmosphere."

Sweep Left lost customers who seek more of a disco environment, he said. "We've lost a few customers to the Starship Enterprise, but not enough to alarm the management," Hiatt said.

Ron Rucker, manager of The Point After, a teen disco at 2440 O St., said disco will survive, but will change as rock 'n' roll did.

"It will be like the metamorphosis of rock 'n' roll since the 50s," he said.

Rucker said he is not worried about competition because The Point After caters to the "teen-age crowd."

"Top 40 was all we played when we started out," he said. "We more or less refused to play Top 40 later on and began to expose the kids to more disco music."

Although disco is still "pushed" customers are still requesting Top 40, Rucker

said.

The recorded disco sound is unpopular with some music lovers and Paul Dietrich, manager of the Hidden Valley Club, said his patrons come to hear a live band.

"I can't stand disco, and most of the customers at Hidden Valley can't stand it either," Dietrich said. "We have strictly live entertainment."

Dietrich said disco is attractive because the audience can get into a "star trip." He said disco dancing allows people to perform and say, "Hey, look at me!"

He said the future of disco in Lincoln is uncertain because he does not feel it attracts a representative crowd.

"I don't know if the midwest is quite ready for disco yet," he said.

Dave Genzmer, manager of Little Bo's West, 2630 Cornhusker Highway, said he expects disco to die within 10 years. He said he has noticed a decline in the demand for disco music among his customers.

"Lincoln isn't ready for disco," Genzmer said. "It's the worst town I've seen for disco."

Genzmer said Bo's will continue its disco format until the demand stops completely.

"If the bar would go to hell because disco was dying, we'd go back to presenting live music," he said.



They're Coming SUNDAY MAR 18 at 3 PM.

In Person! **Harlem Globetrotters**

One Performance only... everyone loves the clowning antics of the Trotters!!!

All Seats Reserved! \$6.50-\$5.50-\$4.50
Box Office opens 12 noon till 6 p.m.

AUDITORIUM

BENEFIT

ERIC FOR CITY COUNCIL

O. G. KELLY'S
220 N. 10th

WEDS. MARCH 14, 1979
9:00 till 1:00

DAVID LANDIS CHRIS GRIFFITH
JOHN WALKER DAR HERRIGAN

\$1 DONATION

Pd. for by Eric for Council Committee
Doug Kline Treasurer

TOP QUALITY

NEBRASKA BOOKSTORE

Photofinishing

Bottom Prices and fast service, too.

AN EXERCISE IN EROTICA

The **Health Spa**

A Quality Adult Film

STARRING ANNE CLAYTON
RAY PARKER

EMBASSY

1730 "O" 432-6042

The **NEBRASKA THEATRE CARAVAN**

Presents **TWELFTH NIGHT**

—a special adaptation of Shakespeare's hilarious misadventure

Saturday, March 17, 1979 8:00 PM

HOWELL THEATRE
12th & R Streets
Lincoln, Ne 68588
CALL 472-2073
TICKETS \$3 (all students)
\$4 (general admission)

The Nebraska Theatre Caravan is a special project of the Omaha Community Playhouse with the support of the Nebraska Arts Council.

Art design created by John Grebow