

Second-time poet finds success

By DIANE ABRAMS

After writing poems while in high school and later when she was at Denison University, Helen McLennan tucked her typewriter away.

Now a retired consultant on aging and pre-retirement planning for Family Services of Oakland County, this Troy resident has returned to her early love. She is the author of an ongoing poetry collection, "Faces and Other Facets" and president and member of the editorial board of Green's Magazine.

In 1970 she began a collection of verses which has since developed into a thick folder reflecting thoughts, fears and hopes of people everywhere.

"I want to say specific things that are really universal and to be able to

do it in a pleasant, simple way," she said.

She added to her intuitive understanding of people, common to poets through experiences as a social worker. Her skills as a writer enable her to express complex ideas in clear, concise language.

However, she refuses to take too much credit for her recently published collection.

"WRITING POETRY IS A METHOD of releasing my own feelings," she said. "I never used to submit my work. It's only because of the encouragement I received from friends and family that I ever considered the idea."

Her recognition as a poet began in 1972 when she submitted a poem to

Green's Magazine, a literary publication of short fiction and poetry.

Her poem, "The Prince," was the first in a series under the sub-heading "Faces." Prince was Mrs. McLennan's son's dog. In three verses, the poem poignantly describes his final moments. It is typical of her vivid word pictures.

Mrs. McLennan began her "Faces" series after discussing the idea with David Green, editor and founder of Green's Magazine. He encouraged her to produce poems which portray people, things and experiences to include under "Faces."

Part of this collection is in her book "Faces and Other Facets." However, the series isn't complete.

McLennan met Green in 1971 after taking his creative writing course at Oakland University. Now she is president of Green's Magazine, as well as on the editorial panel.

GREEN ESTABLISHED THE MAGAZINE to provide an additional outlet for high standard short fiction and poetry on a professional level.

The magazine has just completed its sixth successful year of publication. It comes out quarterly—spring, summer, fall and winter.

David (Green) felt sorry for all the people who were writing and getting rejection notices. He originally started the magazine for students, but now we receive over 4,000 manuscripts a year," said Mrs. McLennan.

With enthusiastic response from writers, Green's Magazine is unable to print all the material received. However, instead of sending out rejection notices, the panel of editors send out letters of constructive criticism.

"WE'VE GOTTEN A VERY POSITIVE response about the way we handle rejections. Most of those who receive a list of criteria in areas that need improving send us a letter of gratitude," said Mrs. McLennan. "Many have followed our advice and got their work accepted by other publications."

It was the number of letters requesting more of "Faces" from Green's subscribers that prompted Mrs. McLennan to publish her collection.

Now her poems are sold at a variety of book stores—Little Professor and

Bookworm in Birmingham, Card and Bookshop in Troy, First Edition Inc. in West Bloomfield and Bobbies Hobbies in Holly.

"I start out by writing down everything I want to say, which may take a while. As my mood changes, my preferences change and so does my poetry," she said.

"I DO MOST OF MY WRITING in the evening, but I may have something brewing in my head for weeks. Sometimes I'll just write a sentence, or a title, then set it aside and come back to it later," she said. "Time doesn't matter. Frequently I have two or three things going at once. Ideas have to be worked out in my subconscious before I can get them down on paper."

However, ideas don't always develop as intended, she said. For the best results, she shelves her recently completed work and later returns to it with a fresh outlook. Then begins the rewrite when the work is polished. Eventually a finished product that fulfills her expectations emerges.

"I think of my poetry in layers because one piece works into another. This helps in being able to universalize," said Mrs. McLennan.

Then Mrs. McLennan usually has a specific reason for creating a poem, interpretation is subject to the experiences her readers bring.

A line in her poem "Prognosis" reads, "And of locusts and wild honey." Knowing that this is a biblical quote may change a reader's interpretation. However, that knowledge isn't necessary in order to understand or appreciate the work.

"PROGNOSIS" WAS WRITTEN after Mrs. McLennan attended a number of committee meetings. It reflects on the tedious red tape and inefficient procedures common to meetings.

"The prophets in Biblical times ate locusts and wild honey. They lived in the desert and let hermit lives. What I'm suggesting in 'Prognosis' is that out of all the nonsense prevalent at many of those meetings, there was probably someone who had something significant and meaningful to say," said Mrs. McLennan.

"I think it's tempting to work on another book. I can't stop writing," she smiled. "The poems just produce themselves."



Helen McLennan focuses in on life's small, moving incidents. (Staff photo by Stephen Cantrell)

SEMI ANNUAL Sale

20% off Everything in the studio! including all accessories in our Boutique.

50% off on select items

10% off all special orders!

Sherwood Studios

FINE FURNITURE TO LIVE WITH

Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile / Telegraph • 10-9 Mon.-Sat. • 354-9060

Last 14 Days!

20% off Everything in the studio! including all accessories in our Boutique.

50% off on select items

10% off all special orders!

Sherwood Studios

FINE FURNITURE TO LIVE WITH

Tel-Twelve Mall, 12 Mile / Telegraph • 10-9 Mon.-Sat. • 354-9060

PLYMOUTH NURSERY

COMPLETE GARDEN CENTER
QUALITY NURSERY STOCK
DESIGNING AND PLANTING

YOU CAN PLANT ALL SUMMER.....
No need to delay your Landscaping plans!

The finishing touch to a fine home is a unique landscape. Plymouth Nursery can help you achieve the best effect for your home. Our designers draw scaled landscape plans at no charge when you buy your plants from us - just bring in your site survey or lot dimensions and photos; designers will do the rest. For the personal touch at everyday low prices come to Plymouth Nursery.

FOR EXAMPLE:
THIS IS A 50 ft. House on a 65 ft. lot

4 - dense yews \$17.95.....\$31.80	2 - staked pyracantha \$5.95.....\$11.90
1 - clematis plum \$9.95.....\$19.90	2 - Frobel Spirea \$4.95.....\$9.90
2 - compact cranberry \$19.95 \$27.90	1 - Greenapple Linden \$22.95
7 - Broadmore Juniper \$14.95	
1 - Russian Olive \$30.00.....\$30.00	
8 - Dwarf Red Quince \$6.95.....\$41.70	
TOTAL 26 plants.....\$332.75	
TAX.....\$13.31	
TOTAL COST.....\$346.06	

8800 ANN ARBOR-PLYMOUTH RD. (M14)
7 MILES EAST OF U.S. 23, 5 MILES WEST OF SHELDOON •
OPEN DAILY 9-6
SUNDAY 10-6
ph. 453-5500

Rite CARPET

America's Finest Carpet Mills.
Largest Selection in the Area.

Featuring
LEE'S & KARASTAN CARPETS
at lowest prices

7 Mile at Middlebelt across from Livonia Mall 476-8360

8497 W. Grand River Outside Brighton Mall 1-227-1314

AUGUST STOREWIDE Sale!

Savings from
20% to 50%
On ALL Merchandise

SANSABELT
Slacks
Values to \$45 **NOW \$25**

Fine Men's Wear

ALLIE BROS.

Summer Hours
M-F 9-5:30
Sat. 9-5:00

20201 Middlebelt Livonia (2 Mls. So. of I-96) 477-4434

Saturday, August 19

"MY DETROIT—WELCOME TO IT"

MINI-MUSICAL
Featuring
YOUNG DETROITERS
AMBASSADORS FOR DETROIT

Shows at 2 & 7 P.M.

Livonia Mall
The neighborly people at your neighborhood Mall
Seven Mile and Middlebelt Road

Enroll for Fall
2, 3, or 5/2
Day Sessions
Progressive
Program & Staff
Optional lunch

Call Jay Kaplan
851-1100

FREE! BOWLING INSTRUCTION

Raise your average by
PRO BILLY "G"

Detroit Hall of Fame
Monday thru Friday
12:00 to 6 p.m.

Individual or Team Openings
Mon. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed., Farmington Class, \$2000
1st Place guaranteed, 9:30 a.m.
Fri. Mixed, 6:30 p.m.

Northwest Lanes
14 Mile & Northwestern Hwy. 626-2422

Modern Office, Inc.

Office Supplies • Desks
Printing • Chairs
Office Equipment • Lamps
Rubber Stamps • Sofas
Interior Design Service • Accessories

30% savings
on all PAINTINGS & GRAPHICS in stock

20% savings
on all BRIEFCASES,
TOTE BAGS,
CATALOG CASES
in stock

One week only, now through Aug. 25,
with mention of this ad.

642-5600
Mon.-Fri. 8:00-5:00 31535 Southfield Road
(between 13 & 14 Mile Roads)

FALL REGISTRATION

TRADITIONAL COLLEGE CLASSES
(TRANSFER and CAREER)

Mail-in Registration—Closed

Walk-in Registration—August 25
August 28-29 by student number

Late Registration—September 1
September 5-12

Telephone 591-6400
Ext. 340

CONTINUING EDUCATION
COMMUNITY SERVICES
CLASSES

Mail-in Registration—August 18
deadline

Walk-in Registration—Sept. 6-7

Late Registration—September 12

Telephone 591-6400
Ext. 404

Schoolcraft College
18600 HAGGERTY RD. LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48152

fantastic sidewalk sale

BIGGEST SIDEWALK SALE EVER!
3 Big Days - Friday, Saturday, Sunday
AUGUST 18-19-20

Earl Kaufer
25916 West 7 Mile, Redford Township
(West of Beech Daly)

Short & Long Sleeve
VAN HEUSEN, ENRO
Dress & Sport Shirts Up to \$20 only **\$3**

Pants, Slacks up to \$35
only **\$3**

Designer Jeans Reg. \$17
only **85¢** Two For **\$16**

Men's Robes Velour, Silk,
Terry Lined up to \$35
only **92¢**

Buy A Few For Christmas
WINTER JACKETS
Nylon Down Look
with Hood S.M.L.XL
Reg. \$25 Only **89¢**

Men's Support Hose
Reg. \$2.95
Only **75¢** a dozen
Limit 1 dozen to customer

All Sales Final
In Case of rain sale
will be held indoors

Store Hours
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Every Day for This
Special Sale

LADIES LONG LEATHER COATS
Reg. \$135
Only **\$59**
Not in all sizes

Men's 3-PC
VESTED SUITS
Swedish Knits,
Plaids, Gabardine
Reg. Up to \$20
only **\$37.50**
Two For \$70
SIZES 36-46
Long - Shorts