

# Michigan writer shares tales of life

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

Most poetry is the stuff of life: excitement and fascination with trains and hobos of childhood, the untimely death of a high school friend and athlete.

Michigan poet Terry Wooten believes those life stories should be lifted from the written page and brought to life through reading, questioning and discussion.

"I think poetry has lost its roots," he says. "For hundreds of years, poetry was spoken around fires at night.

"In this age of high tech passivity, most people have lost touch with it."

The award-winning poet from Traverse City told his story to Farmington High English students last week, as he does to hundreds of students each year. A portion of his visit was paid for with a \$50 grant from the Farmington Arts Council.

"This is all part of our effort to enhance the teaching of writing in the district," explained district Language Arts coordinator, John Barrett. "We wanted to get people to see, hear and meet a real writer."

BARRETT SAID he hopes to coordinate a larger, three-day workshop next year, in which students from various schools can meet and work with Wooten through writing and reading their own works.

Wooten talked of funny and serious topics with students, reading some of his own poetry and that of Max Ellison and others. He told them of his childhood as an average student — of a junior high school teacher who told him he "would probably never be able to write anything."

Watching trains were a big part of his childhood, which he spent just south of Cadillac in Northern Michigan. "When the train came through my hometown, it was a cultural event," he told students. He has based several poems on that time.

In poetry, he said, "the main drive is to communicate, not to have your poems dissected like frogs in biology class."

**'I think poetry has lost its roots. In this age of high tech passivity, most people have lost touch with it.'**

— Terry Wooten,  
Michigan poet

"You treat words more like music," he added. "You must try to melt it down. Short and sweet, and as short and powerful as possible.

"Poetry is music written for the human voice."

Ellison was the one who Wooten him he could visit schools, talk with kids and make an impact. Several Farmington teachers met Wooten in a workshop last year in Traverse City, and asked if he could be brought to the district.

## HAGOPIAN

### 51st Anniversary Sale

2 Ways to Save on Oriental Rugs

Save up to **51%** at our **WORLD OF RUGS**

Birmingham • Ph: 546-RUGS  
1835 S Woodward Ave  
(Just north of 14 Mile Rd)

Save **40-70%** at our **RUG OUTLET**

Oak Park • Ph: 546-RUGS  
14000 W 8 Mile Rd  
(Just west of Coolidge)



RANDY BORSTHART photographer

Award-winning poet and Traverse City resident Terry Wooten reads his poems and tells stories to Farmington High students during an assembly in the auditorium.

Grant a Wish with Our Most Popular  
**Diamond Anniversary Ring**  
only \$1450

Specially chosen for its beauty, quality, and value, our diamond ring for April features a full carat of sparkling diamonds set in a classic 18 karat gold band. A special purchase allows us to offer you a very special price, only \$1450.

Qualify for our interest-free Diamond Club Plan and pay only \$290 down and \$116 a month for 10 months. (Sales tax additional where applicable.)

**CHARLES W. WARREN**  
JEWELLERS SINCE 1908

SOMERSET HALL • (313) 649-3411  
EASTLAND • 748-2444

## CUSTOM WINDOW FASHIONS

FREE SHOP-AT-HOME SERVICE

### Single Source Savings

Custom Draperies, Blinds, Shades & Carpeting:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% Off Reg. Prices. Salins in 100 colors</li> <li>35-40% Off Reg. Prices. Designer's Choice Fabrics. Prints, sheers, jacquards, salins, casuals</li> <li>40% Off Reg. Prices. Bedspreads</li> <li>30% Off Reg. Prices. Accessories: Coordinated top treatments, selected bedspreads, pillows, table covers, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% Off Reg. Prices. Grande Classeque Mini Blinds</li> <li>45% Off Reg. Prices. Nouvelle Micro Blinds</li> <li>35% Off Reg. Prices. Viewscapes Louvre-type Vertical Blinds</li> <li>40% Off Reg. Prices. Northern Lights Pleated Shades</li> <li>35% Off Reg. Prices. Selected Honeycomb Pleat Shades</li> <li>40% Off Reg. Prices. Selected Sierra Wood Blinds</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$2 SQ. YD. OFF</b> Reg. price quality brand-name carpet including Stainmaster • ANISO V Worry-free and Monsanto Wear-Dated* protection. Quality padding and expert installation everyday low prices. Regular prices appearing in this ad are offering prices only. Sales may or may not have been made at regular prices. Percentages off represent savings from regular prices. Sale ends April 26, 1990.</p>
---	---	---

CALL JCPENNEY CUSTOM DECORATING TODAY FOR A FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION