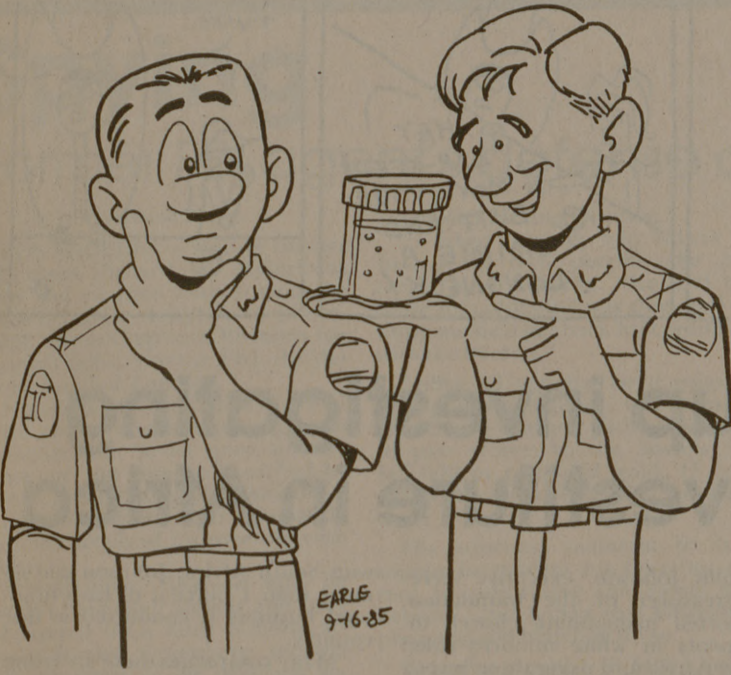


Slouch

By Jim Earle



"This is the last one I have and it's an amazing opportunity for you! A genuine bottle of seawater taken from the site of the Titanic, and at a bargain!"

# Texas poet has number of 'irons' in the creative fire

**Associated Press**  
**ARCHER CITY** — Normally, the thought of a writer's or poet's studio brings to mind a large, airy garret with windows aplenty.

That's not so for one of Texas' most respected poets.

Her "studio" is part of a converted walk-in closet so narrow she can almost touch the walls by extending her arms.

To get into it, she has to walk around a large pool table in the den. But Margaret Slack prefers it that way.

"I can come in here, close the door and not be distracted by anything," she explained.

It might be an unusual work place, especially when she could have any room in the large, comfortable home she shares with her husband, Joe. But the confining situation obviously works for her.

Earlier this year Slack won first place in lyric poetry in a contest sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

Entries came from all over the United States and foreign countries.

But Slack wasn't the only member of the Wichita Falls Poetry Society whose work the judges liked. Six other members of the Wichita Falls group also finished in the contest's top 10 in their various divisions.

These included Ann Moorehead, Mrs. Clark Gresham, Jennie Spray, Ruth Ruther, Candace Dimitri and Lou Gatlin.

Slack said the Wichita Falls poetry group is especially active and serious about its work.

Despite her talent, Slack said she has never published a book of her work, though she said a friend once had some of her poems bound in a one-of-a-kind book for her.

"I don't like to make the effort to be published," she said, explaining

that publication requires constant revising, editing and perfect typing.

And to be honest, the longtime Archer City resident said she doesn't have the time all that would take.

She said she has other irons in the fire. She is an accomplished portrait and landscape painter. Her home houses a large collection of her hand-painted porcelain.

Her talent in this particular field has prompted numerous requests from friends for specially painted porcelain sets.

But she has steadfastly refused all requests, explaining she doesn't like to "mass produce" her work.

"I'd go crazy painting one color on a bunch of dishes and then doing the same thing all over again with another," she said.

She said she has been writing poetry since she was a child, but still believes "the bottom line is poetry like nursery rhymes."

She has little patience for more modern free verse.

She recalled that as a child, her younger sister found some of her poetry in the bottom of her drawer, including a piece that had moved her to tears while writing it.

The sisters read it aloud and "laughed themselves silly."

"I didn't forgive them for that for a long time," she said with a laugh.

Slack has lived in her present home since her late parents built it when she was 7 years old.

Her husband, who retired in 1974 after more than 30 years of teaching shop and mechanical drawing for the Wichita Falls schools and at Sheppard Air Force Base, added onto the house as their family grew.

The Slacks have two sons and two daughters, who are scattered from Wichita Falls to Montana to New York City.

The Slacks have nine grandchildren.

## Police Beat

The following incidents were reported by the University Police Department from Sept. 9 through Monday:

### MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- Nine bicycles were stolen from various locations on campus.
- Four wallets were stolen from various locations on campus.
- A backpack was stolen from the Commons Dining Hall.
- A backpack was stolen from the Sterling C. Evans Library.

- A telephone was stolen from 115-E Zachry Engineering Center.
- A telephone was stolen from the Louis Pearce Pavilion.

### HARASSMENT BY PHONE:

- There were eight reports of harassment by phone from various locations on campus.

### FELONY THEFT:

- A 1982 Chevrolet pickup truck was stolen from where it was parked near Building W-3.

### DISORDERLY CONDUCT:

- A nude man was jogging in Hensel Park.

### TERRORISTIC THREAT:

- Someone called on the Gay Hotline and said a bomb would go off at the Gay Student Service organization held in 402 Rudder.

### ASSAULT:

- A woman reported that a man entered the women's restroom on the fifth floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library. The man began speaking to the woman, placed his hand on her back and would not allow her to exit the restroom. The man left when another woman entered the restroom.

## Nursery caretaker still working at age of 94

Associated Press

**ROSHARON** — It's Monday afternoon, and Rubin Banks is resting in the shade of an old barn. The barn smells of wood smoke, and the walls look like they aren't going to stay upright much longer.

Banks doesn't seem to mind the smoky smell, the bugs, or the run-down shape of the barn where he works. As far as he's concerned, it's "his" barn.

Banks has been working at the same place in Rosharon for 26 years. Or maybe it's 28. Even people in the accounting office of Teas Nursery in Bellaire aren't sure.

Teas hired Banks to take care of the trees and grounds at the Rosharon nursery, which is across the highway from the Darrington Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections.

He used to walk the three miles every day, but many people have come to recognize the short, stooped figure shuffling along FM 521, and they stop to offer him a ride.

He doesn't have a driver's license. Never did. No sir, never had a need for one. Not in his 90 years. Or maybe it's 94. Again, nobody is exactly sure how long Banks has been around. Except Banks.

"That's right. I turned 94 on July the 26," he said with a smile that exposed the gaps where his front teeth used to be.

Most of the relatives gave up trying to talk him out of walking to work 10 years ago, when he was a youngster of 80 or so.

"When they tell him he shouldn't keep going up there he says, 'Oh no, I got to go to work,' said his great-niece Josie Lee Banks.

Banks has worked all his life. He said that's why he has lived so long. It's in his blood.

He was born in Rosharon, the second of five children, and stayed until he was 14.

He left at 14 to work the cotton fields in West Texas, mostly around Odessa. He went from farm to farm, always keeping busy, always working hard.

Eventually he returned to Rosharon, sometime around 1927.

He brought his wife and four boys, and lived on land owned by Frank Turner, where he said he stayed for 18 years while he raised his boys and the three other children who were born after the family moved to Rosharon.

Banks' eyes seem to look back in time while he recounts stories from those years.

His youngest daughter, Lucy, now in her late 50s, still lives in Rosharon.

"He was a strict father, but he always stuck with us," Lucy said. "We worked hard dry farming, cotton, raising chickens and pigs anything you can name, we raised it."

Lucy said all her brothers and sisters grew up with an appreciation for hard work, which Banks helped instill.

Banks spends his time watering trees and making repairs on the nursery grounds.

"He was always working hard for us," she said. "We didn't go h'angry much. We did real good."

Not surprisingly, Banks is well-known around Rosharon.

As Banks sits by the barn talking about old times, a car pulls up by the muddy drive outside the nursery gate. A young man with bulging muscles and no shirt struts down the path.

"Yo, Rubin!" he calls.

Banks looks up and smiles in recognition.

"Oh, hi," says the man. "I saw some stranger's car out front and I just wanted to check up on you, make sure everything's okay." He smiles, flexes and leaves.

"That boy is a guard over at the prison," Banks said. "Yeah, it's nice to know people will watch out for you."

THIS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 16-20, MSC AGGIE CINEMA WILL BE SPONSORING A POSTER SALE IN THE MSC MAIN HALL! WE'LL FEATURE YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE POSTERS, PLUS BROADWAY SHOW BILLS, GLOSSIES, AND MORE!

LOOK FOR THE RED GLASSES... I'LL BE THERE - WILL YOU?

**DAVE'S LIQUOR**

BEER WINE

KEGS KEGS KEGS KEGS

**B4U BUY Your Next stop of Beer and Our Prices**

Daves also has weekend specials on liquor and imported beer.

524 University Dr. E. (Across from Interurban) 696-4343

Cash or Check Preferred On Sale Items

Drive-Up Window DAVE DEAN, OWNER

**CHIMNEY HILL BOWLING CENTER**

40 LANES  
 League & Open Bowling  
 Family Entertainment  
 Bar & Snack Bar

701 University Dr E. ....260-9184

**Get ACTION with WANT ADS**

**Battalion Classified**

845-2611

## A Party Comparison



Without Party Time

The boring party. No fun to attend. Worse yet, a disaster to give. But there is hope...Party Time.

Party Time puts an end to the boring party.

Small parties. Wild parties. Cocktail parties. Toga parties. Big parties. Birthday parties. Party Time has everything you need to make it a success.

From plastic flatware to margarita machines. Tablecloths to a complete Hawaiian luau package.



With Party Time

It's all at Party Time. Come in today. And put an end to the boring party.

**PARTY TIME**

"We Rent Fun"

Park Place Plaza, College Station 696-5555  
 U RENT M Location 1904 Texas Ave., Bryan 779-0085