

Hello. I am grateful that you are taking time to read through my personal background. I commend you on your patience should you persevere through all of this.

Writings

When I was a junior in Millburn High School in Millburn NJ, a student publication was named *The Blotter*. Poetry enamored me and I began composing and submitting a few. Mercifully, none were accepted.

I attended the famous Yankton College SD, the “Princeton of the Prairies” (now a minimum-secure prison), from 1967 to 1970 and read classical poems in a freshman English Literature course. My poetry composing increased. In their *Riverrun*, journal, I had a few poems published. I actually typed some epic Iambic Pentameter poems on a manual typewriter, which amounted to useful metric exercise. Alexander Pope probably would not have been impressed and might have written a review entitled “Iambic Rape.”

At UNC-Wilmington NC, “Trilogy” won second place in their student contest, and was published in the *Atlantis* poetry journal. My award was *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*, which further ignited my passion for poetry. I achieved a BA in Philosophy and Religion, and those universal human questions and issues inspire me to this day and are present in many of my poems.

Post college, I continued composing in spurts, sometimes writing as few as two or three a year on various themes. When I made my confession of faith to accept Jesus as Messiah 2-18-78, many subsequent poems had Christian themes with existential and philosophical currents. Due to my warped sense of humor, many emerged with ironic, droll, and zany themes. The past five years or so my volume increased—especially metric, inspired by singing hymns and anthems from exquisite composers.

I shall spare you, and not cite some thirty or so poetry publications. Clearly *The Atlantic Monthly* and *The New Yorker* do not meet the quality of my poems. What follows are a sampling: *Ancient Paths*, *Time of Singing*, *Windhover - A Journal of Christian Literature*, *The Whirlwind Review*, *Kingdom Pen Magazine*, *Vineyards*, *Third Wednesday*, *Time of Singing*, *Bluepepper*, *Prairie Messenger*, and such humorous publications as *Parody*, *Word Riot*, *Laughing Dog*, *The Cynic Online Magazine*, *Hobo Pancakes* and *The Asses of Parnassus*.

A few accolades: “Yeshua” was a first place winner, Davidson Co. Writers’ Guild poetry contest, 10-28-08. In 2015 “The Plunge” was selected in *Poetry in Plain Sight*, a monthly poster poem contest, sponsored by Press 53, as was “Sipping Applewhite Spirits” in 2016.

I have completed three volumes of poetry: *The Nazarene from Galilee*, *The Nazarene from Galilee* (metric) and *Witless*. Their descriptions are in the introductions. Others shall be archived in a MISC. file when I complete it.

My prose compositions are included in this website.

Biography

I was born 5-25-47 (ye gods!) and bred in NJ except for West Springfield, Mass., from the 4th to the 6th grade. I fitted within the *Leave it to Beaver* and *Father Knows Best* lifestyle. Dad was an engineer, so we lived as middle class; mom was a homemaker. I moved to Millburn NJ as a 7th grader. I had a decent tenor voice, ranging three octaves. My Millburn HS notoriety consisted of singing in “The Cult” and “The Millburnaires.” I graduated 333 in the class of 361 without any scholarship offers, attended Yankton College from 1967 to 1970, first as a voice music major (Nah), then PE major (double Nah). I transferred to UNC-Wilmington fall 1970, got a BA in philosophy 1974, and then a M.Ed. at UNC Charlotte 1977. I worked as case manager, counselor and Licensed clinician in NC for decades. I met Chris, married in 1979, and have a married daughter’ Jessica, a fine son-in-law, Daniel, and granddaughter Emma.

Now semi-retired by choice, I work part-time as an addiction and mental health counselor. I facilitate a few workshops in my profession yearly. I sing in a choir and in the yearly *Messiah*. I volunteer at a prison camp, food pantry, Shephard’s Center,

and lead services at a senior citizen's rest home. I "power" walk, and moderately work out at the "Y." Again, I accepted Jesus as Christ in 1978, and my faith has kept me alive and relatively sane. Tom H., "The Cult" bass player from Millburn HS, lives in Charlotte NC, and Dan A. of "The Banned" fame, class of Millburn HS 1966, lives in Greensboro NC. We gather yearly or so and play-sing Beatles songs.

My appraisal of my poetry follows.

Critics' Reviews

Sagacity Rebuked

He thought his poems buoyant and zephyrous.
The editor's note was obstreperous:
"Your zealous hyperbole,
Disportionalty,
Has made your consistency leprous."

Here Lies

What would I want hewed as my epitaph?
An engraved rhyme? On bronze plaque?
On wooden cross, lettered black
"A momentary set back?"

The viewer, in a somber mood, likes wit.
A poetry critic was grave:
"Stubbled verse rated a shave.
For once he's learned to behave."