

Garry Gay
1275 Fourth St., #365
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Pat Gallagher
864 Elmira Drive,
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

July 30, 1996

Dear Pat,

I came across this letter in my files and thought it should be with the secretary's permanent files or if not there at least with HPNC's early history papers, which Helen tells me you are holding for now. This letter was from Doubleday. I had asked them for permission to use the Buson haiku for the Two Autumns chapbook when I was creating the Two Autumns reading series. I named the reading series after the last line of the Buson haiku.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Gay', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Garry Gay

9-20-90

Doubleday & Co. Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue,
New York, NY 10103

Dear Sir/Madam,

9-20-90

I am writing to you to seek permission to reproduce a haiku poem from a book you have published in 1958. The title of the book is AN Introduction To Haiku by Harold G. Henderson. The haiku I would like to reproduce is on page 111. It is a haiku by Buson, its at the bottom of the page. It goes as follows:

Parting

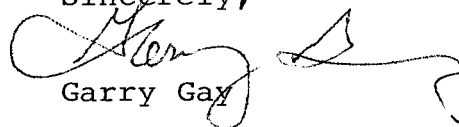
For me who go,
for you who stay-
two autumns.

I belong to a local haiku organization called "The Haiku Poets of Northern California" and we are putting together a small chapbook with a limited edition of about 150 copies. We would like to reproduce this haiku on the back of our publication. Could you please tell me how I go about getting permission to do this? I look forward to your reply. Thank you for your time.

Permission is granted free of charge by DOUBLEDAY a division of Bantam, Doubleday, Dell Publishing Group, Inc. Please credit title, author and publisher.
Doubleday Permissions Department

Carole Christensen
10/22/90

Sincerely,


Garry Gay
President

Haiku Poets of
Northern California

GARRY GAY
1275 FOURTH STREET, #365
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404

Garry Gay
1275 Fourth St., #365
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

May 29, 1996

Dear Helen,

It was mentioned at the last meeting that you were going to create or put together the history of HPNC. So I have enclosed a few things for you. One item is a notice or flyer that announced an Oct. 9th meeting at Jerry Kilbride's apartment. What makes this notice so important is the fact that it was at this meeting (35 people showed up I believe) that we realized that we had grown so large that we needed to organize ourselves. I was elected chairman of a steering committee of eight people including my self (I think there were eight). We later met at my studio on Fell Street to decide how to structure our organization. Somewhere I have a single paper that gives some information as to what happened at that meeting. At the moment, I can't find it. But when it turns up I'll pass it along.

The other thing I have enclosed is a copy of the first WOODNOTES. You will notice that it did not have a cover. One of the important things in this issue is our listing of who is a charter member. This is important because as we were getting this issue together we had heard that the HSA (Haiku Society of America) was having a lot of problems with who was and who was not a charter member, they had not kept a good record. We did not want to historically have that problem, so we went out of our way to spell it out right from the start. Otherwise the issue may hold a few other historical items. I think there were only fifty copies printed of this first issue. You may have this issue for the archive.

Should I come across anything else, I will pass it along.

All my best,



Garry Gay

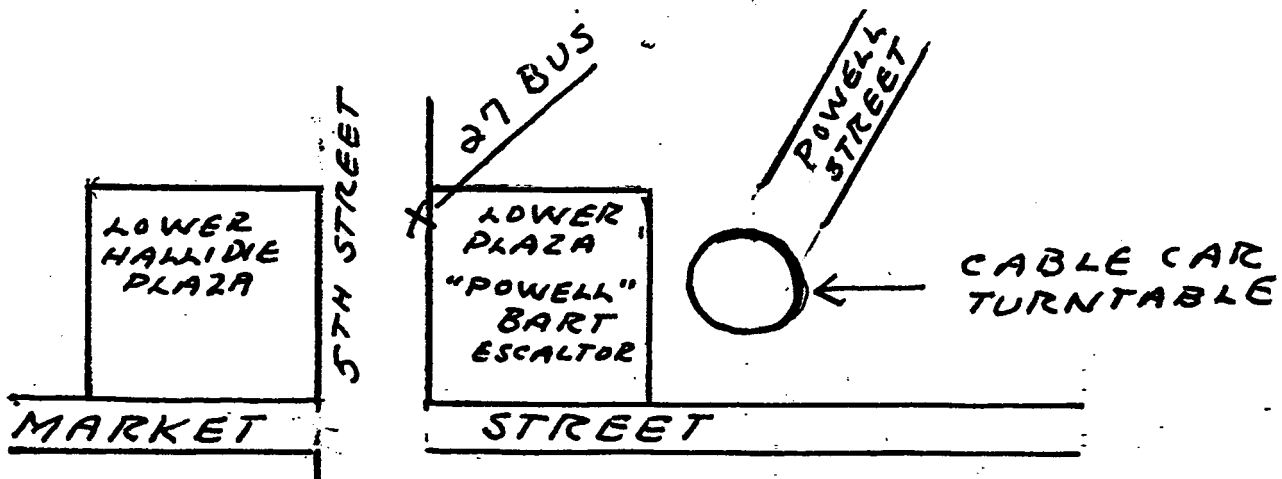
OCTOBER 9TH, SUNDAY

The next meeting of the haiku group will be at Jerry Kilbride's on Sunday, October 9th, 1988; 11:30AM-2:00PM. Kathleen Burgy will share her memories of Lucille M. Nixon. Miss Nixon, who died in 1963, taught in the Palo Alto schools, and was the first non-Japanese to read her work, a tanka, in the presence of the Emperor at an Annual New Year's Poetry Party held at the Imperial Court. There will be the usual discussion and critique of haiku, so please bring one or two haiku. In addition, for those who care to, bring a haiku on the subject of a mime in the fog. We will wind up with our regular pot luck lunch - please call Jerry Kilbride beforehand as to what you will bring to the pot luck for the sake of variety.

Jerry Kilbride, Apt. 301
969 Bush Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 771 9834

969 Bush is between Jones and Taylor, the building to the East of the HOTEL MAYFLOWER. Taylor is one-way running South to North, Jones is one-way running North to South, Bush is one-way running West to East. 969 Bush is just a few blocks from Union Square. Parking can be a problem in the neighborhood on weekends, so allow yourselves plenty of time to find a parking space. If you're lucky and find a parking space right off the bat, then come on up to the apartment early - coffee will be brewing!


For those coming by MUNI or BART the #27 BRYANT BUS comes to within a block-and-a-half of the apartment. The #27 Bus crosses Market Street at 5th Street, making a stop on the bridge over Hallidie Plaza. After leaving Market Street the bus twists and turns and then comes up Leavenworth. Get off the bus at Bush and walk a block and a half East. If you should ride the cable car up Powell Street, then get off at Bush and walk two-and-a-half blocks West.



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL, OLDTIMERS AND NEWCOMERS!!!

RSVP

WOODNOTES



Newsletter of the Haiku Poets of Northern California
Spring, 1989

In the Beginning

by Garry Gay

Perhaps as this organization embarks on the pathway to the future, we should take a moment to look back at both our origin and our accomplishments.

About four years ago, three of us, Jerry Kilbride, Roger Verran, and I, met fairly often for dinner and a good discussion of haiku. Roger came down from Gulala each month to edit a newsletter for The Olympic Club. Jerry also worked for the club, and they had met there. Although we did not get together every time Roger was in town, it probably worked out to about four times a year. Often Jerry would invite a fourth writer to join us. Among some of those were John Thompson, Gerry Wilson, Ty Hadman, Tom Tico, Bill Garrett, and Raymond Stovich. By the time Raymond had joined us, we realized there was quite an active group in the area that was devoted to the haiku form. We all agreed it was time to hold a meeting to share our work and exchange information.

Raymond Stovich hosted the first meeting at his home in Santa Clara. If memory serves me well, these were the writers in attendance: Ty Hadman, Robert N. Johnson, Jerry Kilbride, Raymond Stovich, John Thompson, Lequita Vance, Roger Verran, and I. From this point forward we became an unofficial group of writers meeting four times a year for the last several years.

As everyone knows we have been growing rapidly in size ever since. A time came when we realized in order better to serve our needs as writers who want to share our work, exchange both information and constructive criticism, produce books, and conduct public readings, we needed to organize to give ourselves the platform from which to enrich ourselves, educate the public and inspire the next generation of writers. Thus the "Haiku Poets of Northern California" was born.

Looking back over last year's accomplishments, I think we can see how successful this organization has become. We had four public readings: The Haiku Celebration at 50 Oak Street, the Cafe Milano and Bonanza Book Store readings, and the presentation at National Poetry Week. There were also the KSCU radio show and the filming of one of our meetings by a Japanese TV crew for showing on public TV in Japan. To top it all off we were able to participate in the "U.S. - Japan Conference on Haiku Poetry" held here in San Francisco and to publish the anthology, *Sandpipers*. Here's to our future...cheers!

Spring rain
A letter thrown away,
Blown along in the grove.

-Issa (1763-1827)

With the first step the earth and a clear-sky are before us. In the spirit of *Woodnotes* the writing flows through. We do not cling or fear that there is something we might miss...or try to understand. The poems at once arrive, walking by the senses. From the season of our love, a flavor of sincerity remains for all to live.

v.t.

Woodnotes is the quarterly newsletter of the Haiku Poets of Northern California (HPNC), a nonprofit group dedicated to studying, writing, and sharing of haiku, renga, and senryu. Poems, letters, and articles by members are encouraged.

Contributions in any amount should be made payable to the HPNC, c/o Vincent tripi, Treasurer, 478 A Second Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Send haiku, news, letters, and other material to Vincent tripi or to Paul O. Williams, 2718 Monserrat Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002 (no checks to Paul).

Note: Individual copies of *Woodnotes* are available at a cost of \$1.50, postpaid.

Logo Calligraphy by Mary Fields
Woodnotes, Number 1 - Spring, 1989
© 1989 HPNC

For Nature ever faithful is
To such as trust her faithfulness.
When the forest shall mislead me,
When the night and morning lie,
When sea and land refuse to feed me,
'Twill be time enough to die;
Then will yet my mother yield
A pillow in her greenest field...

Ralph Waldo Emerson
"Woodnotes", 1840

Emerson's journal at the time of this poem reflects a recurrent theme worthy of consideration: "Blue is the sky, green the fields and groves, fresh the spring, glad the rivers...I wish to write such rhymes as shall not suggest a restraint, but contrariwise the wildest freedom."
Woodnotes

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Woodnotes

Charter Members of HPNC

Tom Arima
Jerry Ball
Jim Boyd
Kathleen Burgy
Catalina Cariaga
James Chessing
Beverly Clark
Carole Colucci
Davina Kosh
Margaret Molarsky
Jim Normington
Jane Reichhold
Mary Rudge
Ken Shockey
Raymond J. Stovich
Ana Takseena
Mary Fields
Adele Foley
Jack Foley
Garry Gay
Ruth Holter
Robert N. Johnson
Jerry Kilbride
Carolyn Talmadge
John Thompson
Tom Tico
vincent tripi
Lequita Vance
Paul O. Williams
Gerry Wilson

Officers of HPNC

President: Garry Gay

Vice President: Carolyn Talmadge

Secretary: Paul O. Williams

Treasurer: vincent tripi

Newsletter Co-editors: vincent tripi and Paul O. Williams

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RICORDI

by Jerry Kilbride

One-day-removed-from-Little Christmas and something whimsical about Nick's casket placed under that huge tree of a thousand Italian lights. One could imagine God reaching down, opening the casket and shouting, "Whoopce, I got a new poet for Christmas!" And Father Doyle confessing that he should have known that something significant was going to happen when the wind blew a hole in the wall of his church. Mary Fogarty saying that the last time she saw Nick was in the rear-view-mirror of her car--Nick standing on the corner outside of Sacred Heart Church, waving goodbye the day before he left for Washington. Beyond that corner the snow-covered streets and the gutted and boarded-up houses are ghosted with Italian weddings and First Communions, Irish wakes, little kids playing ball or carrying home not-quite-satisfactory report cards, and if you would only look hard enough you could still see in the windows of those gutted houses small flags hanging in honor of beloved sons and beloved brothers lost in the cruel wars. At the cemetery red flowers are placed on Nick's casket, while off in Japan, Akihito, a lover of Nick's poetry, ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne, and all has gone full circle, and if you could imagine God reaching down for that casket, you could also imagine Nick, standing on his head in front of the Pearly Gates, saying to St. Peter, "Do you mind if I speak to you from this position?"

Nick Virgilio: June 28, 1928 -- January 3, 1989
midwinter,

a hearse passes
the lily pond

Jerry Kilbride

January third:

Off on a haiku journey
The silent door wreath...

--Mangon (Tom Arima)

light

inurned in a bulb

the lily

--Jane Reichhold

almost buried him

white shirt, white snowflake

white mountain

before me

--vincent tripi

Woodnotes

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"...say what that thing really is before a true gaze."

--Henry Thoreau
(On Haiku?)

Haiku Gathering February 5th

Catie Cariaga hosted the February haiku gathering at her house at 689 Santa Ray Avenue, Oakland, at 1 p.m. We began the meeting by a round robin reading of haiku by those present. A number of members presented haiku in memory of Nicholas Virgilio, who recently passed away.

Since we had so much business to settle at this unusual meeting, we spent the next part of the meeting on it.

It was voted that our name would be the Haiku Poets of Northern California. Members would be anyone who is on the mailing list. Current members on the list and those at the meeting today will be charter members of the HPNC.

Discussion ensued concerning dues or contributions, and it was decided that for the present there would be no official dues, but we would depend on contributions. Since we will be having a newsletter, though, some system of supporting it, it was felt, will be in order. The people putting it out can not be expected to bear the expense from their own pockets.

The slate of officers presented by the steering committee was approved. That is, for president for the next year, Garry Gay; for Vice-President, Carolyn Talmadge; for secretary-treasurer, Paul Williams; and for co-editors, Vincent Tripi and Paul Williams.

A lengthy discussion ensued about presenting papers to the meeting. For now, papers will be presented on a first come, first serve basis. However there will be rotation in presenters. Those present voted that no more than two papers would be presented at any meeting. These should be limited to fifteen minutes.

Discussion of the regular meeting for the year followed. It was decided that the normal four meetings per year would be continued, and in addition perhaps another, a symposium in a public place. The idea of forming committees was also discussed, so that those interested in a project could push it forward.

Dates and places for later meetings were brought up, but nothing was decided.

Jerry Kilbride gave us an account of his haiku trip to the east coast, including a poignant recounting of Nick Virgilio's funeral.

More haiku followed, as well as a social hour and munchies. Catie's gracious hospitality and her charming little house were appreciated by all. The meeting ended after 4 p.m.

A. p.w.

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Nethaway Visits California Haikuists

On March 31, 1989, Jerry Kilbride hosted a gathering of local HSA haikuists to meet Charles Nethaway, president of the Haiku Society of America, at his apartment on Bush Street, San Francisco.

Mr. Nethaway discussed many things with the group, such as the organization in New York, the recent celebration, the progress with the 20th year commemorative anthology, and the potential for future regional meetings.

Jerry showed slides of his haiku trip around the country, giving many their first views of Elizabeth Searle Lamb, Marlene Mountain, Cor van den Heuvel, Sister Mary Thomas Eulberg, Bill Pauly, Lee Gurga, and others.

p.w.

A Tribute to Davina Kosh -- for her years of serving nature and the poem

[Bonsai]

morning ritual

I bow to the tree

it leans toward me

--Davina Kosh

"...haiku has a way of keeping us alive and working."

--Davina Kosh

Born in San Francisco in 1904, Davina was a driving force behind the Creative Writing Workshop 1945. She has published one book of collected poems (including haiku) which is treasured by all of us fortunate to own one. Davina's interest in bonsai led to her writing of haiku for the *Bonsai Magazine*, a relationship which lasted over thirty years. She has transliterated the haiku of the *Bonsai* Master John Naka. These were published under the title, *Naka and Kosh*. Upon introduction to Cor van den Heuvel's first anthology in 1975, she awoke to the challenge of writing Western haiku. We are very privileged to have her as a member of the Haiku Poets of Northern California. Thank you, Davina.

Special thanks to Margaret Molarsky for information concerning Davina Kosh.

--v.l.

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"...to become more sensitive to the pleasures in one's life. That's where haiku begins."

Jane Reichhold

WOODNOTES

Well into spring...this season of changes and the haiku they offer to us all.

Contests

Congratulations are in order to Jerry Kilbride, who was awarded first place in the annual *Mainichi Daily News* Competition for the following haiku:

kamakura,
a toy balloon
above the giant buddha

Jerry also came in third in the prestigious Henderson Awards (1988)... almost an extended exercise of beauty on his part (1st place in 1987) with the by now classic poem, "mime/lifting/fog." In the same Henderson contest, Carolyn Talmadge earned very special recognition for the following senryu:

taking time...
listening
to the grocery clerk

Both Garry Gay and Vincent Tripi were given special recognition for their submissions to the eleventh Hawaii Education Association Contest, for the categories of Hawaiian theme and Humorous, respectively. Both poems should appear later in a winners' anthology published by the Hawaii Education Association. Vince was also awarded First Honorable Mention in the 1989 North Carolina Haiku Contest and Second Place in the recent Rockland Co. Loke Hiikimani Haiku Contest.

Notes

Highly recommended reading in the February issue of *Modern Haiku*, "The Lasting and Ephemeral In Haiku," an inspiring piece by Paul O. Williams, two sensitive readings of Buson by Tom Tico, and a brilliant essay, "Six Approaches to Haiku," by Raymond J. Stovich, and in *Frogpond*, "A Return to the Center," by Jane Reichhold.

Wonderful to have Ruth Holter in nearby Alameda now...which may mean greater access to her sensitive haiku. The February meeting at Catic Cariaga's saw two new participants...Beverly Clark from the *Flash* and Jim Boyd, known for his tanka writing. Hoping to see more of their work. Special thanks to George R. Thompson for his contribution in support of the newsletter, etc.

Woodnotes

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Jerry Kilbride and Vincent Tripi appeared together for a one hour reading on the KSCU radio, "Poetry and Beans." The program was broadcast, and the tape of this event has been received. In addition to this, tapes are also available from the Cafe Milano reading as well as a color video from National Poetry Week, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco. Please address requests to borrow these to Vincent Tripi.

Catie Cariaga's sequence, "Found: Easter Haiku," in the latest issue of *Mirrors* (spring 1989) is a marvelously welcome addition to that ever growing and needed magazine...though I would disagree with her statement that it "would not do well in the more traditional haiku journals." Any publication would be fortunate to have it!

Classes

"Haiku as Meditation"--ongoing by Carolyn Talmadge...read and write and experience haiku. Includes field trip to Green Gulch Zen Center. Class meets Wednesdays, June 21 to July 26 (10-11:30 a.m.) at the College of Marin, Kentfield, CA. Fee \$33.00 for 6 weeks. For information call 381-0136. To register call College of Marin at 485-9657.

Gualala Haiku Writers

In February the Board of Gualala Arts agreed to sponsor again the publishing of the Haiku Writers' collected works. The previous book, *The Land of Six Seasons*, published six years ago, has sold nearly two thousand copies--quite a feat for a poetry book of this kind...or any kind.

Jane Reichhold reports that plans are underway to incorporate the most popular features of that book while adding biographies of the authors, photographs of the area, and haiku and illustrations from students of Point Arena schools. Submitted haiku are in the process of being selected with the goal of having the book available by November 1. In spite of the added responsibilities, the Haiku Writers' Group has continued monthly meetings and the publication of their in-group newsletter, *Haiku Sharing*. For information on the group's next meeting date and time, call (707) 882-2226 after 3 p.m.

Northwest Haiku Meeting: The next gathering is scheduled at the Bellevue Public Library, Bellevue, WA, on Thursday, May 18, 1989 (7:00 to 9:00) usually every other month on a regular basis. Participants have included Francine Porad (editor of *Brussels Sprouts*), Anne McKay, Mike Dillon, George Swede, Edgar Pope, Beth Jankola, etc. For more information write P.O. Box 1551, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Of special note: In celebration of the 300th anniversary of Basho's journey to the far north providences, AHA Books is bringing out a collection of renga titled, *Narrow Road to Renga*, in November of this year, containing several different kinds of renga with eighteen different partners. --v.t.

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Books

Handshake, by Werner Reichhold. 1989. 7 by 8 1/2 inch perfect bound containing more than 50 drawings, collages, and photographs, with an equal number of haiku. Many of these are reproduced as full-page drawings for the haiku. \$11.50 postpaid from AHA Books, POB 767, Gualala, CA 95445.

Known to most of us and recognized worldwide for his indoor-outdoor steel sculptures and installations, more recently for his large pencil and graphite drawings, Reichhold explodes here in a flight of driving spirit. Most daring is its passage through the words or through the pictures which escape us or are growing deep inside. Much to be a part of from the uniqueness in design to the total liberation of experience. There is nothing taken here, nothing old...nothing to hold onto but ourselves and the living that we come to be as life. Unusual mixture of haiku and art as when the full moon takes the wave...and we are waiting.

Slightest touch
shaking all over
the gong

Hermit crab
ebb tide swirls it
in a sandal

Her legs
two lines of haiku
his the third

Mammoth
frozen
storyteller



Free of Clouds, by Francine Porad. 1989. Measuring 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 inches, this carefully produced and sensitive edition contains 45 poems, 2 sequences and imaginatively balanced artwork by the author. \$5.00 postpaid to Vandina Press, P.O. Box 1551, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Francine Porad's fifth book of poetry...a poetry which continually seems to be evolving...to the joy of a growing group of readers familiar with her work. A sense of personal power pervades these pages, and the magic of the haiku rests partly in their uncanny ability to share with us again and again the direct experience of our being---our sharing with the author in the world. A fine walk between the tradition of the form and the growth that comes from clearing out the corners of our life.

monastery:
 the all-white room
 hoards the sunlight
 row of lounge chairs--
 only eyes chase
 the white butterflies
 swallow's nest
 braced on the concrete wall
 drying bit by bit
 fortune telling
 stalls in the park--oh!
 to know Japanese

v.1

**THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
 HAIKU COMPETITION
 ANNOUNCED BY:
 The Haiku Poets of Northern California**

PRIZES

- \$100 First Place (Haiku)**
- \$75 Second Place**
- \$50 Third Place**
- \$100 First Place (Senryu)**

RULES

1. Deadline for submission: October 31, 1989.
2. Entry fee: \$1.00 per haiku or senryu.
3. Please enter each poem on two separate 3 x 5 cards (or paper of same size) for anonymous judging. Kindly include an additional card with name, address and telephone number.
4. Submit as many haiku or senryu as you wish. Work under the category of "senryu" should be marked as such by the author.
5. Contest is open to all women.
6. Mail to: The Haiku Poets of Northern California, 478 A Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94118.
7. Outstanding poems in each category to be printed in *Woodnotes* - publication of The HPONC. Send SASE if you wish a list of winning authors and their work. Submissions cannot be returned.
8. All poems sent should be unpublished, not under consideration by any other publication or contest.
9. The judges for this competition are Anita Virgil Garner and Adele Kenny.

Wind Chimes...moving on

"It is with a deep and what I am sure will be a lasting regret that I must inform you the issue of Wind Chimes in your hands will be the last. For me it has been a most rewarding eight years of building friendships and enjoying some of the finest haiku and related poetry ever written; but now I must move on..."

--Hal Roth
Wind Chimes
May 1, 1989

...yes, a naturalist in the full sense of the word,
because he has not forgotten the people."

--Barry Lopez

the same road...
talking
over wind chimes

--vincent tripi

Deepest gratitude,
The Haiku Poets of Northern California



Typeset: Jane Reichhold
Illustrations: Linda C. Kneeland