



2008--2009 NATIONAL SENIOR POET LAUREATE
 MICHAEL "MIKE" GULLICKSON
 Burnet, Texas

A PROMISE OF MUSIC

The lady in 101 bed B
 is going to the symphony,
 no matter that it is a memory
 that drives her,
 no matter that
 the baton was raised
 fifty years ago.

Her sparrow bones show through
 the thin gown;
 she is up now,
 needs to find the blue dress,
 the strand of pearls,
 the white shoes.

After the concert
 she will drink mimosas,
 savor the melodies,
 imagine the composer
 weaving a web of sound
 so beautiful it has survived
 two hundred years.
 So beautiful that though
 half a century has passed,
 it still rings in her ears.

We help her back to bed,
 wondering what music we will hear
 when the curtain falls
 on our lives.



MICHAEL GULLICKSON, 64, Burnet, Texas is a retired furniture salesman. He and his wife Joyce, also a poet, have done readings in cities across the U.S. Mike produces a local poetry festival and magazine, "The Enigmatist." He welcomes submissions at poetkind@yahoo.com. His sign is Pisces.

2008-2009 NATIONAL SENIOR POET LAUREATE RUNNER UP



Edwin S. Rice
 Kansas City, Missouri

SUPERMARKET SATURDAY

His eighty years regarded me, I'm sure,
 As fifty years of at-their-mercy sap;
 And thus we took the supermarket tour
 On Saturdays before my father's nap.
 I'd trail his steps and listen while he'd state
 The facts on melons while he'd thump their side.
 "The fools," he'd say. "They picked this one too late,"
 Then proudly choose another that he spied.

But reading labels -- that's what took the time--
 He'd show me how to figure price and weight,
 And how his wise computing saved a dime.
 I'm thinking: Dad, it's getting kind of late.
 On thinking back, what was my hurry then?
 I'd love to hear that melon-thump again.



EDWIN S. RICE, 86, Kansas City, Missouri, a talespinner and occasional serious sonneteer who uses rhyme and meter to entertain readers with witty, warm and masterfully crafted depth is a retired stone mason. He belongs to Missouri State Poetry Society and is return SPL winner. He is a Gemini.