

Whispers

Teacher-poet doesn't expect reaction to his new book.
"I write because I want to."

By **CONNIE RAE**
Times Staff Writer

and waiting for the splash," observes Paul Brown, a 30-year-old Cooksville history and sociology teacher at Central Peel secondary school in Brampton.

Brown has just had a book of poems called "Whispers" published by Three Trees Press of Toronto.

No one in Canada would go to the effort of having a poetry book published in hopes of financial gain. "You're doing very well if you sell 2,000 copies," he says.

So far 350 copies have been sold and there is the opportunity for small remuneration if it goes into hardcover, or over 500 copies, Brown says. But poetry is "in a sense like exotic food," he says. Not everyone has a taste for it.

People tend to relegate modern-day poets to the status of crank, he adds. They recall textbook drudgery instead of the joy of living or celebration

when they think of poetry, he says.

"I have no illusions of grandeur. I write poetry in the same manner that some people like to play baseball on Saturdays. It's not a life and death thing but I will continue to write because I want to," he says.

"I've always thought there was a certain mystique to being a writer and I've gravitated towards it," Brown says. Although he didn't attempt poetry until Grade 13, and there was never time in university or during the first "hectic, intense, mind-draining" years of teaching, he is now into his fourth year and there is more time and mental energy left. Any meaningful "chunk of time" such as March break or summer is spent bringing to life stored away memories.

Brown utilizes blank or free verse because he said it allows the greatest reign for expression.

He perceives his poetry as an "abstraction of painting" — perceiving what the artist sees but translating it into another visual dimension.

His poems deal with nature — the sea, rain and snow, the quiet of the

forest — the elements that "reflect the irony of man" and the frailties and strengths of human nature.

He is absorbed by it and sees nature as a mood-altering backdrop to human activities that define what humans do," he says. It's part of the human spirit — witness the upshot in camping, he says.

Most poets today focus on interpersonal relationships, "an obsession with male-female relations" — it's sort of a nostalgia kick-back to Wordsworth and the romantic era, he says.

It's difficult to pioneer a new school of movement — "We've had enough of futuristic poetry" — and are now getting the Hallmark greeting card types, reflective of a hunger to return to the ideal relationship.

Contemporary music is waiting a breakthrough by some group with the stature of the Beatles and poetry is awaiting a similar breakthrough, Brown says.

"I'm afraid I'm not that innovative, but I'm awaiting someone who is, he adds.

Whispers is available for \$3.95.



Volunteers are needed to work on a one-to-one

basis with mentally retarded adults and to assist in the supervision of workshop areas. These volunteers would help the workers understand their various tasks and show them how to manage in the cafeteria with eating habits, choosing food, handling money etc. There are also openings for volunteers in the areas of horticulture, academic (dialing phones, taking

The Mississauga Times, Wednesday, July 5, 1978 — D7 messages etc.) and day and Thursday afternoons.

In Mississauga there is a special summer playground for mentally retarded children. It is open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The program consists of arts and crafts, games and sing songs. Volunteers are wanted to work in these areas and anyone with an aquatics background could help in the swim program which takes place on Tues-

There are other areas in which volunteers can devote a few hours of their spare time. Typing, filing, secretarial work, meeting and talking to people, contacting groups even taking tickets and answering questions. If you would like to work with the handicapped call the Volunteer Centre of Peel, 275-4299.

Lottery to help deaf

Two hearing handicapped men in Mississauga have donated their spare time to the establishment of an association for hearing impaired in Mississauga. They are Roy Hyson, employed by OHIP and Eugene Franciosi, with the ministry of government services. The aim of the association, called the Mississauga Impaired Hearing Association, is to improve the social and athletic life of the deaf in Mississauga.

Bill McGovern, a Mississaugan, is totally deaf and is president of the Federation of Silent Sports.

His current problems are financial. During world games the federation has accrued a debt of \$14,000 due to cost of accommodation for athletes beyond budget.

Before more grants are forthcoming this debt must be paid.

In Ontario McGovern has organized a raffle. Tickets will be sold through the Mississauga Impaired Hearing Association before July 15. First prize will be a trip to Disney World, Florida. John Lawrence at Cawthra Centre will also have tickets. Call 274-2360.



Times Photo by Ken Kerr

Nature not only acts as the backdrop to man's activities, it defines what man does, according to the author of the book of poetry Whispers, secondary school teacher, Paul Brown. "A true painter of words" is how 1977 winner of the governor general's award on poetry, Joe Rosenblatt, describes the poetry.

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Soap opera planned for local television

A soap opera for Mississauga? Barbara Hammond has created a soap opera (so far untitled) to appear on Cable 10 in the fall. Hammond is the former editor of the Meadowdale World Community Newspaper.

Jackie Tada, previously engaged in a UK serial called Coronation Street, will perform for the production. The 50-person cast is made up of amateurs.

The setting is Mississauga, and there will be sex, scandal, violence and gossip, which of course is not typical of our fair City!

Production rolls in July for fall viewing. Cable 10 is making a television emersion project available to the community for their mutual benefit.

For more information, call 270-2124.

Anniversary

On July 3, Rev. and Mrs. T. A. Morgan celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. As well, Mr. Morgan is celebrating 35 years in the ministry and his wife, Lillian, completes 18 years in teaching.

The couple were entertained at a family

dinner last Sunday attended by their daughter, Maureen Kirk and her husband, Jim, Jim's parents, and sons Mike and Ted, where, said Ted, "the family could express their love and congratulations to the couple in the hope they could look forward to another 30 years."

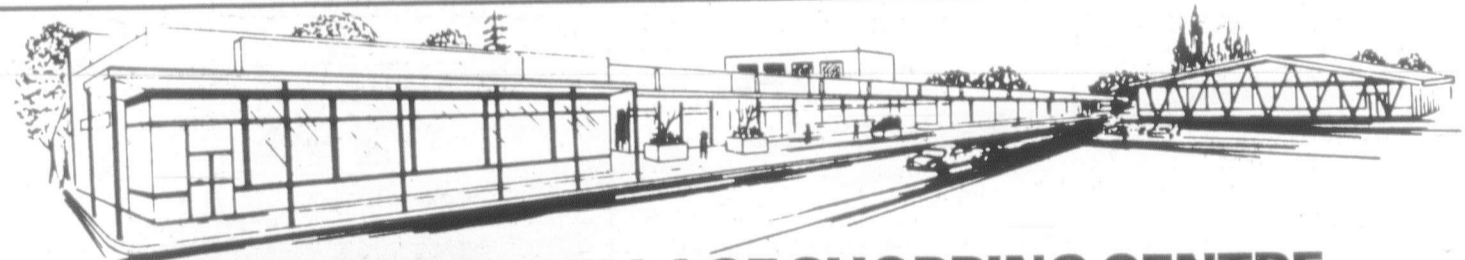
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