

### **Poetry from a Disabled American Patriot**

University professor Helena Pericic, Ph.D. of Zagreb, Croatia writes that she has been translating a text of the poetry of classmate Chester "Chet" Beers into Croatian. Chet's grandparents were of Croatian origin.

She met Chet at a literary conference in Dubrovnik in 1987, while he was traveling through Yugoslavia, Croatia and along the Adriatic Coast. On that trip, Chet wrote several poems about his impressions of the area.

Dr. Pericic has since been attempting, unsuccessfully, to find his family members, so that she could tell them of his poetry collection and know more about him.

In 1987, Chet sent her a type-written copy of 70 of his poems, asking that she take care of it and perhaps translate some of them into Croatian. She also expressed interest in providing the poetry to a U.S. publisher who might publish it for U.S. readers, as she believes few in the United States have seen his poems.

A copy of the "Beers poems" were given by Dr. Pericic to a library in Hvar, Croatia, because he wrote some of the poems about the Hvar area while traveling on the Croatian side of the Adriatic.

Here are a couple from the collection:

#### **Pathos For My Brother**

*My old childhood friend  
Like that abused apple tree  
We played so rough in those backyard winters  
of our broken branches  
Succored by the sap and weeping grass  
Of those leaping dreams  
How your derisive laugh split the air!  
But tarred time never heals, the mischievous  
Frout now removed  
I grieve for that chaste season  
When we shall bruise no more, and  
While my failings stutter in an  
uncertain dank wind  
Pray there will be familiar music  
For us again.*

7 February '87  
Copyright, 1987, Chester Beers

## **My Umbrella**

*I found the name of a friend  
I had known in High School  
On the Black Wall,  
And then I found another.  
I looked for my own name  
But it was not there.  
Under a rainy sky  
Under my umbrella I remain  
A wandering soul, groping  
Inside a disabled body.*

Washington, D.C.

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Chet Beers died in 1987 of complications resulting from exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. His name is inscribed on a monument near the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC.