

Leonard Tate was the poet laureate of Grundy County, living from 1912 until 1989. He spent most of his life in working and writing in Beersheba Springs, Tn. The compilation of his work, *All the Lost Octobers* was published posthumously by the Beersheba Historical Society.

The Mocking Bird

A song came to me
As I lay in the grass,
And then disappeared,
Like breath from a glass.

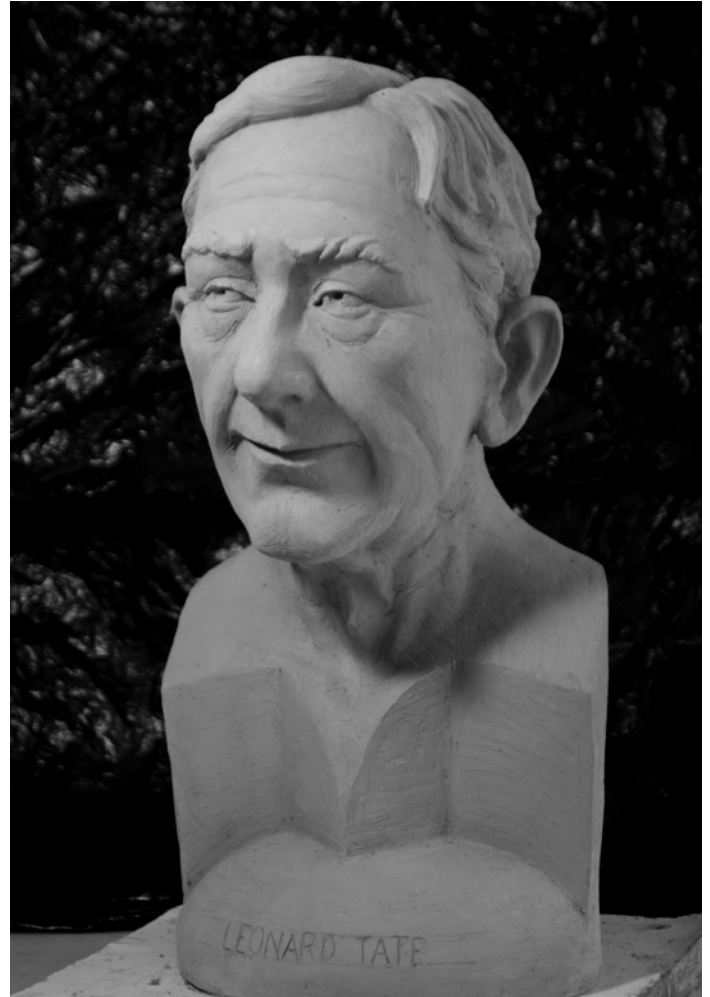
Next day I want back
To try to re-capture
the vanquished refrain
of such lyrical rapture.

But the trees were all dumb,
And the wind gave no cry;
No sound reached the stillness
Beneath the quiet sky.

Then at piccolo notes
Shaken down on the clover
I knew that my quest
Was suddenly over:

For a maple stood near
With a mocking bird in it,
Singing as if he must say everything that is sweet
in a minute.

-Leonard Tate



Bust of
Leonard Tate

Artist:
Jo Fassnacht

My earliest memories of Leonard Tate go back to summer days as a child, walking along the road to the store. I can still see him, working with a swing blade, shoulder high in weeds, the blade whipping through air. As I walked by he would take a minute to say hello. After awhile at the store visiting with friends I would see him on my return, some yards along on his progress, the blade throwing large clumps of green left and right. At the time, to me, he seemed a force of nature. He was always patient, kind and keen to listen to others tell their stories, in which he seemed to have an abiding interest. I don't know when I found out he was a poet. I remember my mother Suzanne saying that he was a writer. To me he was a gentleman.

-Jo Fassnacht

About the Artist:

Over the past three decades, Jo Fassnacht has been a freelance sculptor, designer and advocate for the arts in the Southeastern United States. As a sculptor, his creations range from the Dolphin Mall Murals in Miami, FL to the Georgia Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Capitol Complex in Atlanta, GA. and the Georgia Veterans Memorial in Conyers Ga.

The Portrait Bust of Leonard Tate is created in a limited edition. It is life size, about 20" in height and made of ceramic stoneware bisque.

Price 1500.00

Profits from the sale of the bust will go to the Beersheba Historical Society.

For information contact
Jo Fassnacht at
jofass18@yahoo.com
770-846-9714

