

[Home](#)

[Current Issue](#)

[Winter/Spring 2008](#)

[Autumn 2007](#)

[Summer 2007](#)

[Spring 2007](#)

[Winter 2007](#)

[Autumn 2006](#)

[Summer 2006](#)

[Spring 2006](#)

[Winter 2006](#)

[Fall 2005](#)

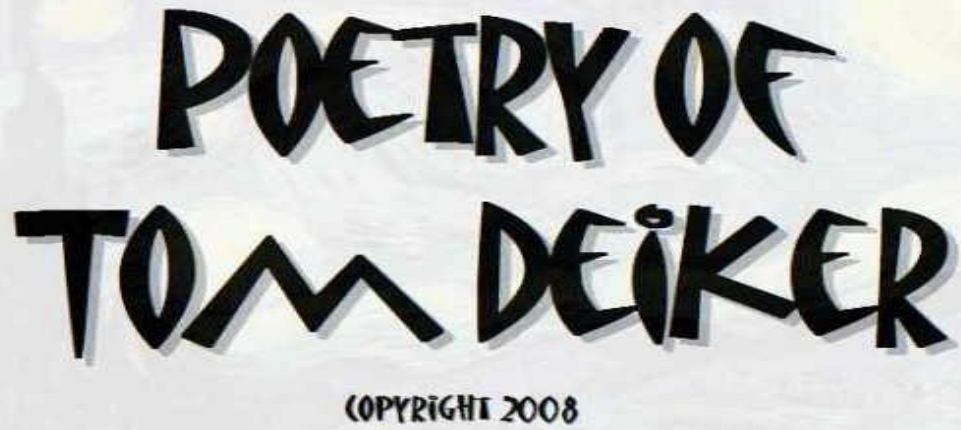
[Summer 2005](#)

[Editor's Note](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[SNR's Writers](#)

[Contact](#)



POETRY OF TOM DEIKER

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Planting Time

Curlicued grass yields to the cleaving plow.
Earth's warm womb swells upward for its seed.
Freed from winter's forced sterility,
Birth's first mother dreams into being
--Row upon row of proud green children.

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Tom Deiker graduated from Louisiana State University with a Ph.D in Clinical Psychology. He recently retired from research, training, and program development in public health, serving as administrator of psychiatric hospitals in Louisiana, New Mexico, and Iowa. Since retirement he has written and produced stage-plays in regional community theaters. His applied research, articles, essays, short fiction and poetry have appeared in several dozen publications, including *American Psychologist*, *Animal Behaviour*, *Cimarron Review*, *Galaxy*, *Newsweek*, *The Plain Dealer Magazine*, *Poetry Midwest*, and *SNReview*.