

# **Bennette, Jr., Hermand**

**Contents: Documents featuring the Yazoo Poet Hermand Bennette, Jr.**

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- 3. 2015-12-02- Yazoo Herald- Yazoo's Poet Hermand Bennette, Jr. Dies at 83**

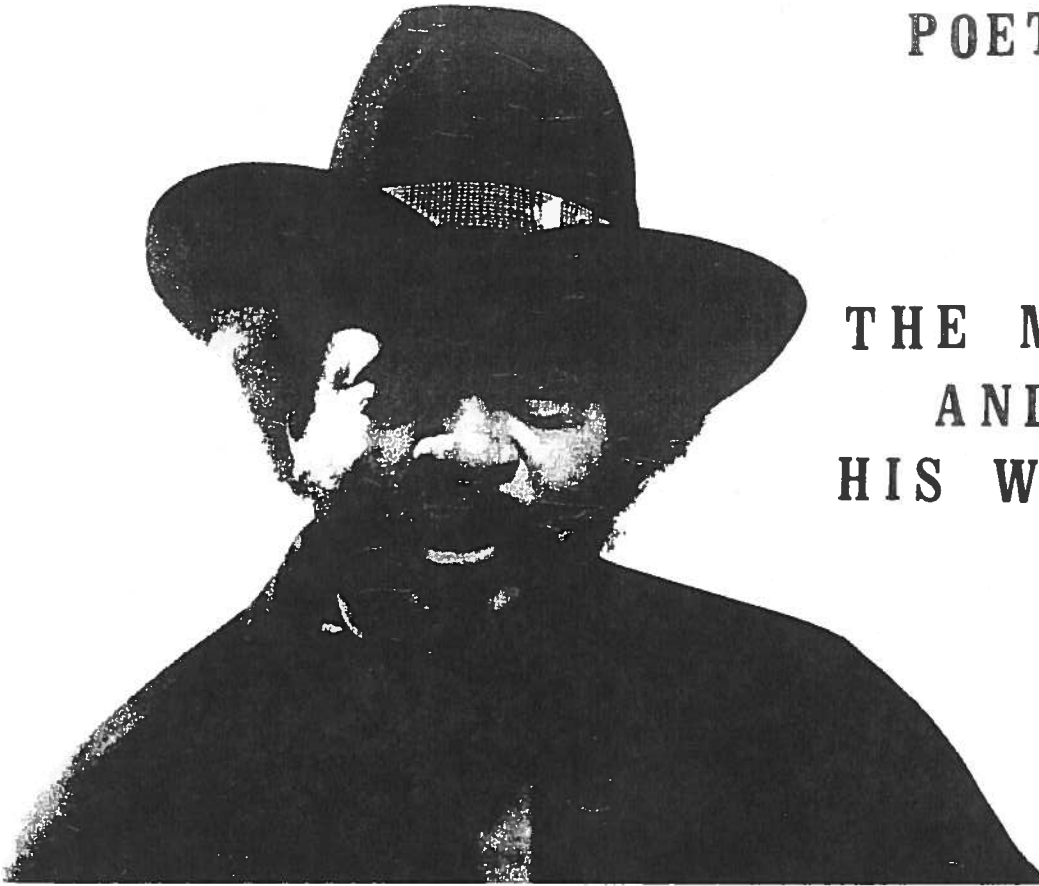
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**Location: Vertical Files at Ricks Memorial Library of the Yazoo Library Association**

**310 N. Main Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194**

HERMAND BENNETTE JR.

POET



THE MAN  
AND  
HIS WORK

*YAZOO the city*

what is there to miss about Yazoo?  
plenty, ridgeroad, broadway, brickyard and newtown too  
jim morrison's ice wagon, dick hatchet's wood truck  
the cotton club, crap games, good and bad luck  
the Yazoo black devils, ham on the mound, and prather at bat  
the new york yankees coun'dn't top that  
Yazoo high #2  
where, we got handmedown when #1 was through  
n.d. taylor principal of #2 a local intellect  
who kept education flourishing spite of city neglect  
St. Francis set atop a hill watching over the town  
while sisters hortense, christella and others  
spread knowledge around  
Yazoo a mecca of talent from willie morries to willie brown  
gave ike turner a wife and home  
though, it was not there he was born  
many a talent was discovered on the "afro stage"  
as we cheered and munched roasted peanuts  
provided by mr. page  
Yazoo always had black business men

oakes, huddleston, steward, thurman  
Yazoo had plenty of everything even twins  
jamisons, big and little honey, r.l. and h.l., edward and edwin  
red who owned the lone pool hall  
had been a hellava athlete, especially football  
I remember friday night socials in commercial alley  
sitting out front, sipping grapette watching aunt hallie  
dancing to buddy johnson, roy milton or b.b.  
when jimmy carter decided  
to get down to the nitty gritty  
he chose the honesty and warmth provided  
by those dear hearted folk of Yazoo city.  
the wold swimming hole, picking plums and blackberries too  
all the things I miss these are just a few  
of course, I've never found anyone who makes tamales  
quite like mrs. knox or theaester's mother used to do  
you still want to know  
what there's to miss about Yazoo?

© 1981 Hermand Bennette, Jr.

# Former Yazooan Herman Bennette Jr. to read poetry

By **VERNON SIKES**  
Managing Editor

Listening to Hermand Bennette Jr. share his poetry is sheer poetry in motion. Bennette and poetry, a peanut butter-and-jelly combination, a bacon and eggs duo, a fit made in heaven.

In commemoration of Black History Month, he will appear at the Oakes African American Cultural Center at 4 p.m. Saturday to work his magic on spectators.

"I do political, love, nature and whatever (poetry) moves and provokes me," the Passaic, N.J. resident said last Friday on a quick trip to Yazoo City. "I'm somewhere between 35 and 100. I'm a senior citizen. And I'm black, so I'm black and beautiful," he chuckled in response to a question regarding his age.

"I think that the way I write reflects the way people think, and when you can have your thoughts disseminated without taking any risks, you can buy into it."

Bennette has been writing poetry since he was in the third grade in Yazoo City's public schools. He is graduate of Yazoo City High Training School.

He spoke of the status of poetry in the latter days of the 20th century.

"I think it's like anything else in that people don't know what they want and you create the demand."

During Saturday's performance, Bennette will introduce two of his books of poetry: "Sing a New Black Song" and "I Remember Yazoo on the Other Side of the Track." He also will read from another of his collections, "Come Walk with Me through Roses and Thorns."

Bennette said one spectator he hopes will show up for Saturday's performance is former Yazooan Willie Morris. "We grew up at the same time on a different side of the track and I knew most of the white boys he was talking about (in his novels)."

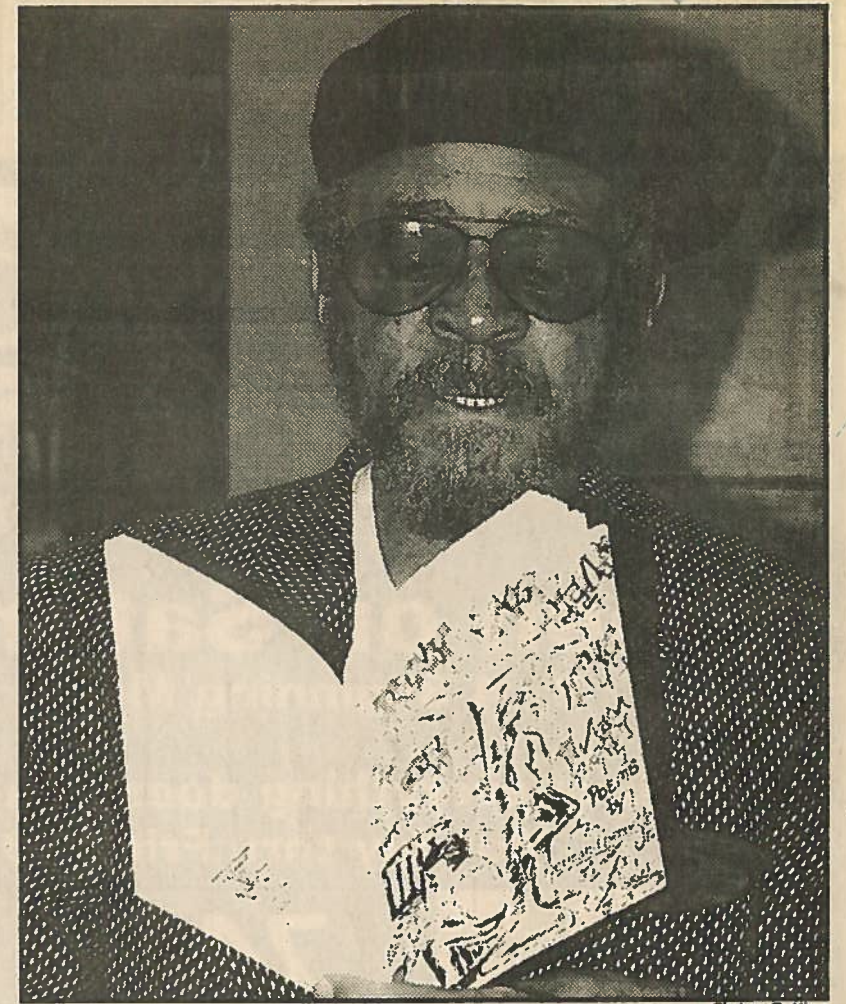
Bennette is not only a poet, but a master of humor.

Asked about his marital status, he responded, "Sometimes." When asked whether he had any children, Bennette said, "No, but I've got a wire-haired fox terrier. I'm not his natural father, though."

In themselves, a history of his careers, no doubt, would fill volumes.

He formerly worked with the FBI in training police officers and was a criminal justice planner. Additionally, Bennette has been an educator, a

**Continued on page 14A**



Christy G. Kiger

Native son Hermand Bennette Jr. will present his poetry beginning at 4 p.m. Saturday at the Oakes African American Cultural Center in Yazoo City.

*Yazoo Herald*

*Feb. 24, 1999 p. 1A*

# Bennette —

Continued from front page

night club comedian and a radio host.

"What do you do now," he was asked.

"Poetry."

"Then, you're retired?"

"No, no. I'm still working and doing poetry."

"How long will you read Saturday afternoon?"

"Until the people get bored, I guess."

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# THE YAZOO HERALD

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## Yazoo's poet Hermand Bennette Jr. dies at 83

■ Bennette published numerous poems on a wide variety of subjects

By **JASON PATTERSON**  
 Editor & Publisher

The story of Hermand Bennette Jr.'s life had many interesting chapters.

As a young man of modest means in Yazoo City he earned a football

scholarship to Tougaloo College and ended up going to earning a graduate degree in Springfield, Missouri.

He served as a presidential honor guard at Arlington Cemetery for the U.S. Army and later held jobs ranging from teacher to night club comedian while traveling all over the United States.

But the talent that de-



Hermand Bennette Jr.

finned Bennette's life began before all of those things. Hermand Bennette was a poet first, and he continued to hone his craft throughout his life.

Bennette died on Thanksgiving at age 83, leaving behind countless poems written over the years.

Bennette was only five years old when he first put the pen to the paper.

His love of writing con-

tinued to grow, and he developed into a talented poet.

Bennette was known for writing whenever he felt inspired. He was so prolific that many of his friends called him the "Poetry Machine."

Some of his published poetry collections include *I Remember Yazoo on the Other Side of the Track*, *Ain't No Help on the Way*,

*Roses and Thorns Again* and *Sing a New Black Psalm*. He also recorded an audio CD titled "Walk With Me."

Some of Bennette's poems were published in *The Yazoo Herald*.

Funeral services were Tuesday at the Woodworth Chapel on the campus of Tougaloo College with Rev. Rachel Pitts officiating.

# Dear Santa...

