



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This week our topic is **home as house**, apartment, room—wherever we take our rest at the end of the day.

To address this theme, we’re using the small but potent American Cinquain. Its 22 syllables divide among 5 lines in this order: 2, 4, 6, 8, and 2.

Both poets get us into their homes in different ways. **Rich Hawkins** of Colby is a broadcaster retired after 52 years, who does a five-minute weekly essay on KXXX radio. His poem’s details engage our senses. I can hear that clock ticking at the end.

Hallway

*A clock
Stands in the hall
It still chimes faithfully
Where my father hung his Stetson
Hear it*

Boyd Bauman grew up south of Bern, Kansas, with his storyteller father and his mother, the family scribe. His choice of the verb “spiral” is especially resonant, reminiscent of the phone cord itself.

*I miss
those dial-up days,
the farmhouse party line
through which I yearn to spiral back
to her.*

Poets and poets-to-be of all ages from across the state are invited to submit to *HomeWords*. For guidelines, visit www.kansashumanities.org.

The Kansas Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization that supports community-based cultural programs and encourages Kansans to engage in the civic and cultural life of their communities.



Poets Rich Hawkins, Colby, and Boyd Bauman, Bern