

Ink-Slingers writer's group announces new book

Special to The Clinton Courier

The Ink-Slingers, a writer's group based in Clinton, is publishing its third book, titled, *What Would Elvis Think? Mississippi Stories*.

It is an anthology of twenty-three short stories, by mostly Mississippi authors, including John M. Floyd, who's published stories in more than two hundred fifty different publications; Judy H. Tucker, who's co-edited several titles for University Press of Mississippi; and Janet Brown, whose novel *Deadly Visits* was recently published in April 2019. *What Would Elvis Think?* was edited by Johnny Lowe.

"I'd read an article about a series of mystery anthologies where each book's stories were based in a specific city, such as San Francisco, Chicago and New York," Lowe said, "and then soon after, I was browsing the Mississippi section of the Barnes & Noble store. It occurred to me that a lot of the books in that section struck me as 'souvenir-type' books: books of jokes about MSU and Ole Miss, a book about kudzu, books with redneck humor, and even more books about the Civil War. Nothing wrong

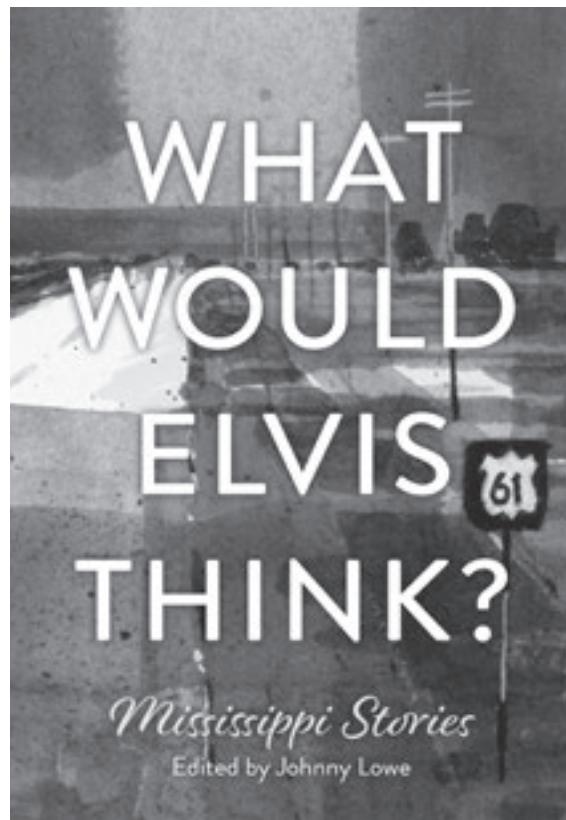
with those titles, but then my attention shifted to the fiction section and novels and stories from Southern authors — and I thought: 'What about putting together a book of stories somehow related to Clinton?'"

"But then I realized that just focusing on the one town felt somewhat limiting — plus, I wasn't getting a lot of submissions at first — so I widened the theme to be about any town in the state. We now have twenty-three stories total for the book, which is about 230 pages," said Lowe.

This is the Ink-Slingers' third book. The first two were nonfiction, with essays, and sold only locally, but the new book is all short fiction, and will be available at independent bookstores, as well as on Amazon.

The wrap-around cover art is from a painting by Mississippi artist Gary Walters, who also gave permission to use one of his paintings for the Ink-Slingers' second book, *Virtues from the Heart*.

"The artwork for the new book is called *Highway 61 Blues*, and I thought it was the perfect image for the book's cover," Lowe said. "It's a landscape, with a Highway 61 road sign front and center."



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"When I was working to come up with a title, I wanted something I hoped would be catchy, and not just 'Mississippi Short Stories,' which is descriptive, but not that interesting. But, look at the cover image — everyone in Mississippi knows Highway 61, and everyone everywhere else knows Elvis, so that's where the title came from. I did keep 'Mississippi Stories' as the subtitle."

The book will be available at several locations in the Jackson area: Lemuria Books, Book Rack, Coffee Prose, Cups Brandon, Cups Flowood, and at the Visitor Center in Clinton, where the Ink-Slingers meet the third Saturday every month from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m.

It will also be for sale at several bookstores in Mississippi: Book Mart & Café in Starkville, Pass Christian Books in Pass Christian, Turnrow Books in Greenwood, and Lorelei Books in Vicksburg — as well as on Amazon as both a print and an ebook. More venues are expected to be announced.

Clinton Police arrest auto burglary suspect, remind residents to secure valuables, firearms

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Clinton Police have arrested an individual wanted in connection to multiple burglaries in Clinton and the metro Jackson area.

Between February 8, 2019, and April 4, 2019, the Clinton police Department investigated nearly twenty auto burglaries.

Of the reported burglaries, all thefts occurred as the result of unlocked vehicle doors.

The primary target of the burglaries were firearms being unattended in the unlocked vehicles.

With the aid of the Flowood Police Department, Clinton Police detectives were provided evidence that linked

eighteen-year-old Qanneic "Quan" Phillips of Jackson to the burglaries. Photographic and video evidence depicts Quan in possession of several stolen firearms, believed to have been stolen as a result of auto burglaries in Clinton.

Armed with arrest warrants issued by CPD, the U.S. Marshal Task Force located and arrested Quan on April 10 on Dixon Road in Jackson. Additional evidence gathered by the CPD detectives determined that Quan was responsible for a residential burglary in Clinton, just one day prior to his arrest.

Further evidence linked Quan to residential and auto burglaries in Jackson. As of June 4, Clinton Police have

Quan charged with fifteen counts of auto burglary, one count of trafficking in stolen firearms, and one count residential burglary. Bond was set at \$320,000.

In each of these cases, the cars were left open and provided an opportunity for theft. Clinton Police say it is important to be responsible and secure firearms in residences, as they should not be left in unattended vehicles. These stolen firearms will ultimately play a role in a violent crime. Firearms left in vehicles are the primary target for thieves.

Clinton Police are seeking the partnership of residents in reducing the opportunity for theft by locking vehicles and securing firearms in residences

when not utilizing a vehicle.

Residents are reminded to lock doors at their residence and on their vehicle. Vehicle doors left unlocked provide an opportunity for someone who most likely wouldn't have forced entry into a locked vehicle.

Police Chief Ford Hayman noted that most auto burglaries are the result of vehicles being left unlocked.

"An unlocked vehicle is an opportunity for a thief, especially if valuables are left in plain view," Hayman noted. "Aside from locking your vehicle, take a moment to remove valuables: wallets, purses, guns, electronics, sporting equipment, etc. from your vehicle. Removing and securing your property is eliminating an opportunity for a thief."

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