

"This Bond We Share"
William H. Davis Jr. of Beaumont Texas
"\$250.00 1st place Winner:

**This Bond we share is sealed with blood
and binds us with its weight
we bear the scars of meeting
dealt by the hand of fate**

**As chance would have us enemies
in a contest . . . kill or be killed
the stage now set, the die was cast
in a moment our fates were sealed**

**Our lives both changed forever
in the twinkle of an eye
we met as strangers, face to face
in a match where one must die**

**We both had ground we had to stand
and neither one could yield
so the ground that lay between us
became our battlefield**

**Only we can know the truth
about the guilt that we both bear
this truth that we can not escape
like this bitter bond we share**

**This bond we share, as old as time
born of tears and pain
sealed forever in our hearts
and words can not explain**

**How in the heat of battle
two warriors join as one
you had only duty
and I . . . no place to run**

**Each believing that we were right
we struck out, yet both were spared
now we must live with what we did
and this bond, forever shared.**