



Carolyn Cochran has written book reviews and poetry for newspapers and anthologies since 1965. During that time she taught college English, catalogued books for college libraries, and directed the library at DeVry University in Dallas. While on disability for a visual impairment, she completed two creative writing courses that Richland College offers to senior citizens. Her teacher, Rica Garcia, encouraged students to write about their childhood. While Carolyn began to recreate Tyler, Texas, in the thirties and forties, she realized that she had grown up in a place as lovely and bucolic as Alan Paton's South Africa in



Cry, the Beloved Country. Unlike the people in his book, she experienced daily love, caring, and regeneration after sickness and death. With the use of the book reading machine and a computer screen enlarger that Blind Disability Services gave her, she completed four courses with high marks,

Her book *East Texas Garden of Verses* revives the time when people opened their windows and doors to fresh air outside of their homes. The artist and architect Joe Graham Tomlinson enjoyed the same kind of atmosphere when he grew up in Dallas. He built a seven room house in a back yard tree. He illustrates the poems and stories inside this book with dry brush water color paintings.

Carolyn Cochran graduated from John Tyler High School in the fifties, received a BA. in English from Beaver College, in Glenside, PA, and an MA in English from University of Texas at Austin. Her Master of Library Science came from Texas Woman's University.

She writes poems to honor the scholarship winners of her chapter of the American Council of the Blind. Call, fax or email her to schedule speaking engagements. Contact information is provided below.



For Immediate Release

East Texas Garden of Verses

ISBN 1-932196-88-9

Retail Price \$21.95

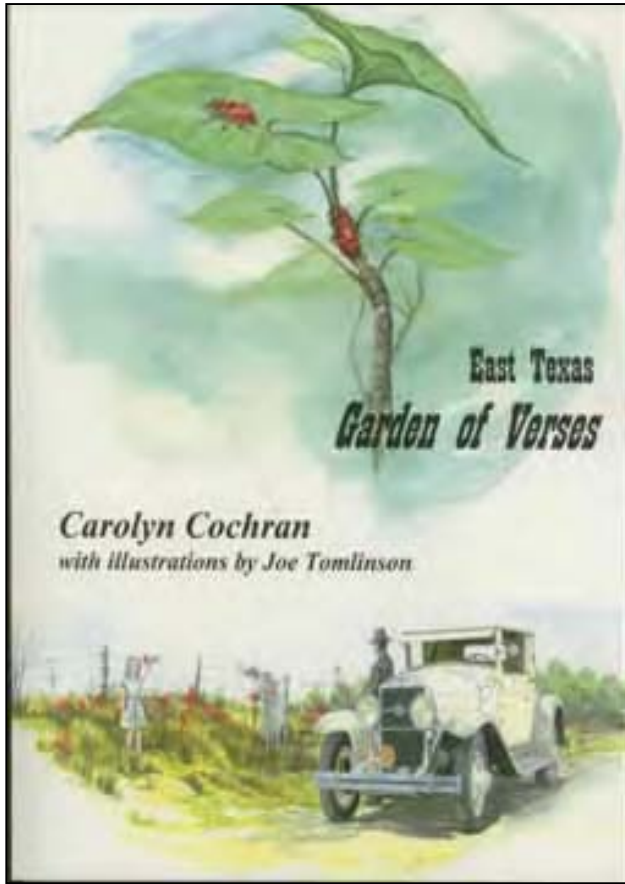


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Wordwright.biz Inc. announces the release of *East Texas Garden of Verses* by the Tyler native Carolyn Cochran. She recreates in poetry and stories the time in the thirties and forties when people opened their windows and doors to fresh air outside and connected with their children and neighbors. She tells about playing in the flowerbeds, locating earthworms, doodle bugs, ladybugs and ants. She breathes life into the images and allows the reader to connect with his or her own outdoor world.

The poems recall times when neighbors gathered around a hand-cranked ice cream maker and made ice cream using milk from a neighbor's cow. Another tells about the neighborhood children walking home alone safely from a city park after swinging on swings that had hard seats. These allowed the swinger to stand up, pump his knees with the swing going back and forth, and reach a maximum height before jumping off and landing feet first on the ground.

The Dallas architect and artist Joe Tomlinson amply illustrates the book with dry brush and watercolor paintings. The book sells for \$21.95 retail. Buyers can purchase it online from Barnes and Noble, Borders, Amazon, Wordwright.biz.



CUSTOMER'S BOOK REVIEW

Barnes and Noble's Web Site

William Champion

(A reviewer, 08/15/2006)

Southern Nostalgia

After retirement Carolyn developed her writing skills while almost blind.

Carolyn's nostalgic poems are about her childhood, growing up in East Texas in an oil-rich family. The writing is true to the viewpoint of a young girl. Her poems have a visual image in the words, amply reinforced by the sketches. This book is as much art as poems and short stories. My favorite poem is "Black Madonnas in Action", with no racial prejudice whatever. My reading reminded me of my youth. I look forward to her little girl growing up in future poems and short stories.



PUBLISHER'S BLURB

Poet and author Carolyn Cochran allows her memories to go back to East Texas. In this wonderful and sensitive book, Carolyn takes readers by the hand and shows them the world of her childhood, where she, like all of us growing up, tried to learn about the world and make sense of it.

You don't have to be from East Texas to relate. You only have to be human. The tender illustrations by Joe Tomlinson complete the pictures that Carolyn's words have begun.

Step back into another place and time with Carolyn Cochran. Read, savor, and enjoy her latest offering - *East Texas Garden of Verses*.

Carolyn Cochran Phone 214-213-6005 Fax 972-664-9506 Email: Speech@CarolynCochranCreations.com

The Bugs of My Youth

East Texas from 1935 to 1946

Before AC, TV, and DDT,

I played in Mother's flowerbed.
Neighborhood kids joined me.
We dug up earthworms,
Doodle bugs, lady bugs, and ants.
We chased and dropped
Them down each other's back.
We ran and struggled to be free.
We rolled in the dirt
to stop painful stings.

We dug up wiggling
earthworms and
watched them crawl
in our hands.
They raised their
heads and stared at
us.
We looked down at
them and watched
their bodies hook
and curl.



Before AC, TV, and DDT,

Mother kept house windows and doors
open.
Fresh air flowed from front to back.
She and other mothers heard us play.
They knew when we fell out
Of our swings, skinned our knees, or
misbehaved.
They called us in when we were tired.
We lay in beds to take afternoon naps.
We pretended to sleep. They knew
better though.

Before AC, TV, and DDT,

We grew our own tomatoes,
squash and mint. We had fresh
mint in tall glasses of ice tea.
The iceman delivered blocks
of ice to our house.
Mother and Dad chipped the
ice to surround the ice cream
maker. They took turns hand
cranking it. We had peach,
strawberry and vanilla ice
cream. The family next door
made the egg custard base.

The cream
came from
Daddy's
partner's cow.
He delivered
her fresh milk
to us three
times a week
At night we
caught the
lightning bugs.

We tried to keep their
thoraxes lit. Their lights
went out as we watched
them die. Dirty, sweaty, we
had grounding in the earth.

Before AC, TV, and DDT,
we felt at home with home.

Carolyn Cochran

Public Speaking – Presentations – and Speeches



Carolyn Cochran is actively involved in making presentations and speeches that both motivate and inspire.

Her appearances have been made before but are not limited to the following groups and organizations:

- Barnes and Noble Bookstore at North Richland Hills
- Scholarship Banquets for Dallas Chapter of the American Council of the Blind
- Strategic Planning Session for Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

She is available to speak on the following topics at civic and service organizations:

- Locating official government information for consumers
- Journaling for health and happiness
- Strategies for coping with sight and hearing losses
- Creating stories from childhood memories

Contact Information – Carolyn Cochran can be reached through:

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