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PENN KEMP

Berlin, 1945: for the Six Children of Goebbels

Tenderly as a lion licking fresh
 kill, she combs her children’s cow
 licks down, bids them tidy bunks
 and toys: they may choose one to
 bring along. Dress smartly now &

hurry, your father will be back any
 minute. There’s no time left, none
 at all for any of her customary in-
 dividual admonishments before

she must administer the spoonfuls
 that will lay them all down to sleep
 forever. Helga, Holde, Helmut,
 Heide, Hedda and Hilde. So pretty
 to be raised like porkers, pink for
 slaughter.

This poem was written upon seeing a Swiss newspaper reproduction of a photograph of Frau Goebbels with her six beautiful, blond children. Neither Frau Goebbels nor her children had any human rights as they ingested the cyanide.

Poet, performer and playwright Penn Kemp is the inaugural Poet Laureate for London Ontario, a Life Member of the League of Canadian Poets, and a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee medal.

KAY EGINTON

The Dance

Tossing spring winds of November
 Dancing white pine
 Here in war sun
 Longed for long

So long ago. Cooling all
 In white sunlight,
 Warm spring winds
 The reprieve

The end only a dream we had
 Schubert, Mahler, Brahms attendant.
 Who can say how? No one seems to have the
 time.
 No one we know.

The cold spring winds of November
 Dance on, the sun cools, cools
 We dance long.
 We dance long together for an hour’s time.

We dance on.
 No one seems to have the time.

Kay R. Eginton is the author of Poems (1981). Kay has also been a contributor to Lyrical Iowa, a publication of the Iowa Poetry Association. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa.