

A Brief Curriculum Vitae
(A Requirn)

I am Alan Justiss.

I was born in 1943, March 7.

I fail the 3rd grade & completed the 9th grade.

I left home at the age of 16 to join the army on the 14th of February 1960. I received my GED while with the 101st Airborne Div.

I received an Honorable Discharge in February 1964 & was admitted to St. Johns River Jr. College in Palatka, Fla.

I then attended Florida Jr. College here in Jacksonville, Florida. By that time I was 21 & was asked to be the Editor of the first lit. publication by the Eng. Dept. Dean. I refused at first by explaining that I was a poor speller. "Spelling has nothing to do with writing Alan. You are a good writer is what matters to us." That let me off the hook when I was told that. That was 1967 & soon won five state of Florida awards. Dureing that time, 1967 civil rights was a flame in the south. A cash award was being offered for the best three act interracial drama written locally. I had written 6 one act plays a few years before & took a shot at it. With the cash award I was able to leave my home town & hitch-hike to California. I had begun to send my poetry out dureing these years & to my surprise found that my work made sense upon publication.

In 1971 at the age of 28, I returned to Florida to live in Gainesville. Dureing the 2½ years that I lived there, the Univ. of Fla. English Dept. took notice of my work. First from the coffee house readings. Then, Dr. Redmean offered me a reading on campus. As the head of the english dept. he made it possible that I would give eleven readings dureing those years. I was payed well & never let them know that I would have gladly done all for free. I was invited to speak to the incoming freshman class of 3,000 plus. I spoke to grad. & undergrad students. Things were moveing to fast for me. Then I was offered Poe t in Residence. Needless to say, all of this put a fear in me, so I bolted.

For the next 2 yrs. without direction, I hitch-hiked & jumped the box-cars. I stayed in touch with Dr. Redmean. Upon his invitation, I returned in 1975 for a special reading with Allen Ginesburg, Gary Snyder, Michael McClure. Lawrence Ferlinghetti was unable to attend. I was 32 & still wet behind the ears. I cashed my check & bolted again.

From 1975 until 1994 I traveled this country writing & running. Dureing this time, Backwater Press published my 1st chapbook; "Freedom at Its' Worst Angle". That was 1995. I now live in a flop-house. The walls are pressed with boxes that contain over 57,000 type-written, dated & numerically numbered pages for that date:poetry. I am to old to run anymore & it has been my good fortune since returning to my home town to have had friends put me up in over 25 locations & store my body of lifes work. A few weeks ago I was told of your Travelling Scholarship & noted the dead line almost to late.