

*Faith, Hope  
and Fiction*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM LILY POND**

**By Tom Sheehan**

*When each tree is snowed upon each limb,  
when children lie sleeping waiting him,  
when Lily Pond provides quick owl's hoot  
and snow is crunching beneath my boot,*

*know I walk here and think now of you  
who sometimes or not knew this view;  
who by this pond and this water wide  
may have walked here along its side;*

*who one summer may have early cast  
for bass or pickerel that quickly passed,  
or shore-wide winds of December ilk  
dared touch your cheek with dash of silk;*

*or when plush leaves oft were turned to gold  
as pure-flung autumn engaged its hold.  
Be sure all seasons of your younger grace  
walk beside me in this most silent place,*

*know I think, while Christmas spreads  
from angel's top to children's beds,  
of all my friends whom I correspond  
and wish visitation beside this pond.*

*Come to Lily Pond again, to Saugus town  
where Christmas once was tender known,  
where we'll gather in childhood memories  
this pond's air and smell and winter breeze,*

*where all our younger lives were spent  
about the shores where skaters went,*

***and on slicker ice we slickered flew  
fair to the Turnpike and out of view.***

***Welcome Christmas back as it was then,  
fair songs we sang, the friends we've been,  
good wishes springing now full on air...  
for you all the hopes the heart can bear.***

***Merry Christmas.***

***Tom***

*Tom Sheehan's books are Epic Cures (an Ippy Award winner) and Brief Cases, Short Spans, Press 53; A Collection of Friends and From the Quickening, Pocol Press. His work is in Home of the Brave, Stories in Uniform: and Milspeak; Warriors, Veterans, Family and Friends Writing the Military Experience, both issued by Press 53. He has published 4 collections of poetry, has 15 Pushcart nominations, a Georges Simenon Award for Fiction, a story in the Dzanc Best of the Web Anthology for 2009, and nominations for Best of the Web 2010 and 2011. He has 231 stories on Rope and Wire Magazine, has been in Rosebud Magazine four times and Ocean Magazine seven times. His newest book is Korean Echoes, September 2011, from Milspeak Publishers. He served with the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment in Korea, 1951.*