

THOMAS EDWARD BELL

(33)

Technician, Tennessee Federal Writers Project
Murfreesboro

Creative Writing

I roled here A last year
and with bekey of Boubieps
I feel here there again

Name Bell, Thomas Edward (1909)

Negro
White Southerner

Position Federal Writers Project, Nashville

Special Field Creative Writing Group

College Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, 1929-31.

University

Plan of Work: *W*

A book describing the redemption of a soil-eroded Tennessee farm.

Action of Fellowship Committee:

Granted \$1,800



Reporter on Daily News Journal, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1931-34; correspondent for the Tennessean, Nashville, 1931-34; reporter, Rutherford Courier, Murfreesboro, 1937-40; correspondent, Chattanooga Times, 5 months, 1939-40; editor of the Rutherford Courier, Murfreesboro, February to August, 1940; technician, Federal Writers Project, Nashville, \$1,800.

Novels: Fish on the Steeple, 1935, Farrar and Rinehart, and Tommy Lee Feathers, 1937, same publisher. Short stories in various magazines.

1944: Staff member, Associated Press in the Nashville, Tennessee, bureau. Was editor of home semi-weekly, Rutherford Courier, about a year before joining AP. Continuing to write twice-a-week column of folklore and such for this paper. Works intermittently on novel, but no end in sight.

820 East State St.
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

FISK

UNIVERSITY

Name Thomas Edward Bell Field: Creative Writing

*permanently
settled*

Technician, Tennessee Federal Writers' Project, WPA
820 East State Street, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Plan of Work

To tell the true story of how one man took some land which had been ruined almost completely by erosion and built it into a fine, profitable farm where the tenants get paid the year round and live in homes as good as the land-lord's. Farrar & Rinehart has agreed to publish.

Probable duration of work, twelve months, beginning June, 1942.
Will not return to present position. Wishes to do fiction writing and newspaper work.

Applied 1941. *12 months*

Personal Data

Born Smithville, Tennessee, February, 1909. Age: 33
Married. Two dependents: one wholly, one partially.

Undergraduate Work

Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, 1929-31.

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4/21/42*

Graduate Work

Experience

Reporter, columnist, Daily News Journal, Murfreesboro, 1931-34, \$300; correspondent, The Tennessean, Nashville, 1931-34, \$300; reporter, Rutherford Courier, Murfreesboro, 1937-40, \$400; correspondent, Chattanooga Times, 1939-40, five months, \$120; editor, Rutherford Courier, Murfreesboro, Feb.-Aug., 1940, \$840; Technician, Federal Writers' Project, Nashville, August 1940 - , \$1800.

Accomplishments

Publications: Two novels: Fish on the Steeple, Farrar and Rinehart, 1935; Tommy Lee Feathers, Farrar and Rinehart, 1937. Also short stories in magazines and an anthology. Helped edit Big Ivy, Tennessee WPA book on rural community. Has had contributions published in Franklin P. Adams' column.

References

- John Farrar, 232 Madison Avenue, New York
- Franklin P. Adams, New York Post
- Malcolm Cowley, Editor, New Republic
- John Thompson, Associated Press, Nashville
- Dr. James R. Patterson, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Herschel Brickell, Ridgefield, Connecticut

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed	\$1,800
From Applicant	---
From Fund	\$1,800

AMOUNT GRANTED \$1,800

Sent to Committee

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\$1,800