

INA M. TINSLEY
ny News Service

adoptions could get more

al ade reement
ague C on will go
United States sometime
hening the rules that gov-
adoption.
ring for prospective par-
ents, insurance for
and forthrightness
from adoption agen-
at children are truly eligi-

onvention is the gold
stion," said Marshall
esident of international
nily services at Fort
Center for Adoption. "It
ring and sets certain stan-
n agencies and certain ed-
s families must complete.
l thing for families," he
long run, it's the right

ent officials advise people
national adoptions to re-
ms and agencies carefully.
Kent of Fort Worth,
he Gladney Center, a
agency that officials say fa-
30 adoptions a year.
onths to collect and sub-
paperwork, the couple
ore months before they
Ping, a girl in China,
ughter.
y said, all the waiting and
orthwhile.
ting at times," Dot Kent
our perfect child, our per-
e're very happy."
year and a half later, Joy
Kent — known as "Gracie"
s well through the night
is energy.
er every day and pinch
Kent said. "It's so won-

re are more than 100,000
erica; r one-fourth
one-f domestic
ren in are, accord-
y the National Council

options are the least ex-
ge international or do-
an cost \$15,000 to
six to 12 months, said
president of the Alexan-
uncil.
ny more parents looking
ies to be adopted in the
two said. "It's the other
her countries."
China, Russia, Guatemala
are among the most likely
ording to the State De-
edoption records.
tries, including the Unit-
edged on to The Hague
ch means adoption re-
ary by country.

ee ADOPTION, C5

IONAL ADOPTIONS

ildren are adopted from
y Americans every year.
f the top places for inter-
ns, based on fiscal year
or more information on
the U.S. State Depart-
vel.state.gov and the Na-
r Adoption at
uncil.org.

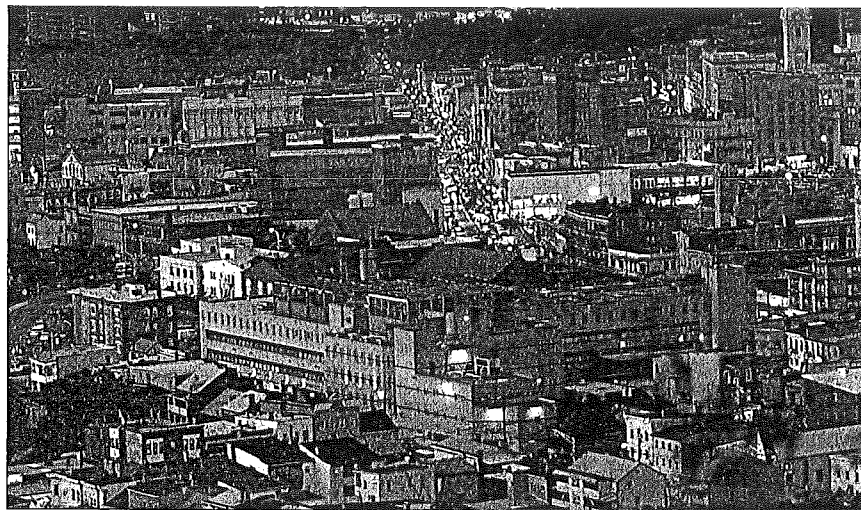
Adoptions/Participa-
ue Convention

Agrees to terms of the
put in place a centralized
ions to Americans could
h applic-ns under way
to cor
IO/no

/no

s
es

artment of State



File photo

Object of his desire

Epic poem draws professor to Paterson

By JEAN STEVENS
Herald News

Joe Milutis lives in Providence, R.I., 190 miles from Paterson. Two years ago, he knew little more than the city's name.

But then he began reading the epic poem "Paterson," and at 4 o'clock one morning in July, while driving to New York City, he detoured into Paterson for the first time, unhooked his bike from his roof rack and rode the streets, just as the sun was rising.

A year later, the city became the star of his pet project: to explore the poem written 60 years

LIFE & ART

ago by the modernist poet William Carlos Williams. Milutis, 38, a visiting assistant professor of modern culture and media at Brown University, has made four more short visits to Paterson for the project, and has begun to document his thoughts on his blog, "New Jersey as an Impossible Object."

Through a few conversations with residents and his own observations, he's drawn some early conclusions about Paterson and its connection to the poem, most relating to abandonment and economic hard times. But the project is still young and he'd like to spend more time with Silk City and its residents to get a fuller sense of it.

"This project could almost be a continuation of the poem," Milutis says. "Its residents are a continuation of the poem. It's literary and a way to interact with a place I wouldn't normally interact with."

Williams, born in 1893 in Rutherford, wrote the first book of "Paterson" in 1946 and released four more volumes by 1958; he died in 1963.

"There are so many things about Paterson that are impossible to encapsulate in (poem) form," Milutis says. "I'm interested in the actual Paterson."

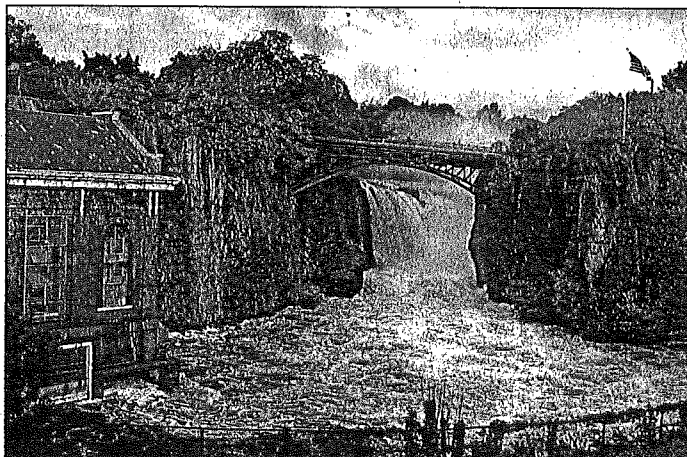
"Impossible Object" is his personal experiment, really, most relevant to poetry aficionados. Within contemporary and modern poetry circles, people discuss the loss of context in poetry, Milutis says; when readers pick up a poem such as "Paterson," they don't know the background of the poem's ideas, places or people. He plans to link the city and the poem by finding certain poetic references in their real state: the Great Falls, for example, and Garret Mountain. As he works, he will document what he can on his blog. The blog's

Milutis, who earned a Ph.D. in media art from the University of Wisconsin, has taught at the University of South Carolina and researches and



LESLIE BARBARO/Herald News

Joe Milutis, who teaches at Brown University in Rhode Island, found himself attracted to Paterson after being inspired by the epic poem by William Carlos Williams titled after the city.



File photo

writes non-fiction work, including the 2006 science book "Ether: The Nothing that Connects Everything." He has also produced several abstract short films.

He chose to create a blog to document "Impossible Object" when he realized the project would be a long process; he lives four hours away, teaches during spring and fall, and is footing the bill. The blog forces him to

Paterson lies in the valley under the Passaic Falls its spent waters forming the outline of his back. He lies on his right side, head near the thunder of the waters filling his dreams! Eternally asleep, his dreams walk about the city where he persists incognito.

WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS,
from the poem "Paterson," book one,
"The Delineaments of the Giants"

Please see BLOG, C5

Blog: Connecting Paterson of poem and real life

Continued from C1

make frequent updates and allows the public to follow along.

In his first visit to Paterson, hat pre-dawn morning, he thought of Paterson as a small, ethnic, working-class town. Sort of sleepy, he says. But his next four visits, each about five or six hours long, taught him that the busy, crowded city is far different from his first impression. He explored its industrial section and its downtown and Garret Mountain, near "the castle," he says, referring to the overlook near Lambert Castle. He's not sure which streets he traveled and he admits he didn't know Garret Mountain had more than one area to visit. He's spoken to only a few residents, usually to ask directions.

He's a bit ashamed of all that, he says.

"I couldn't make an impression at this time," he said. "I still find it hard to get my brain around. I feel like if I spent more time there I'd maybe get a good impression of it."

Still, he is forming an idea. During one visit to the falls, he met a man who said he'd lived in Paterson his entire life and escaped what he described as the emotional drain of the city by sitting near the water, specifically the falls. Another time, he asked several people in various shops if they knew of a diner where he could sit down and have a bite. They told him he could go to Burger King, Milutis says.

"I just got a sense of a lot of chaos and a city in the midst of hardship and one that's been in hardship for a long time," says Milutis, who notes that it had a sense of abandonment, whether by politicians, big business or community. "There doesn't seem to be a lot of public space for people to feel a part of something, like they're in the city. What would you suggest to a friend coming from out of town? Where would you take them in Paterson to show them around?"

His blog, so far, is a hodgepodge of topics. A few recount parts of his visits but most analyze the poem "Paterson" from a literary perspective. He includes small video and audio clips, including one of a drive into the city and another of a scene from the TV cartoon "Family Guy," to make a point about the poem. Written in lofty, complicated sentences — some of which may require several readings to understand — the blog seems most appropriate for an academic, literary-

minded audience.

From his Nov. 13 entry: "Does the site, Paterson, matter? If it's a nonsite (sic), and the matter is the sight of the word, is it sound that fills the nonsight, or if the matter of Paterson is not sound, nor sight, it is (is it?) not non-sight. ..."

Some entries include unexplained references, leaving the reader scratching her head. From the July 26 entry: "Desparate (sic) to get some Paterson footage, even if it is ersatz Paterson, I convince Max Goldfarb to be the next special guest, even though our main objective was to explore a Wal-Mart parking lot in Hudson, NY for wormholes into another dimension. We ride out to the site in a red step van, M-49, a mobile unit once used by the fire department in Stockbridge. ..."

Goldfarb is an artist and

The Paterson Cricket Club, 1896. A woman lobbyist. So be it. Two local millionaires — moved away.

So be it. Another Indiana rock shelter found — a bone awl. So be it. The old Rogers Locomotive Works. So be it ... The "Castle" too to be razed. So be it. For no reason other than that it is there, incomprehensible; of no use. So be it. So be it.

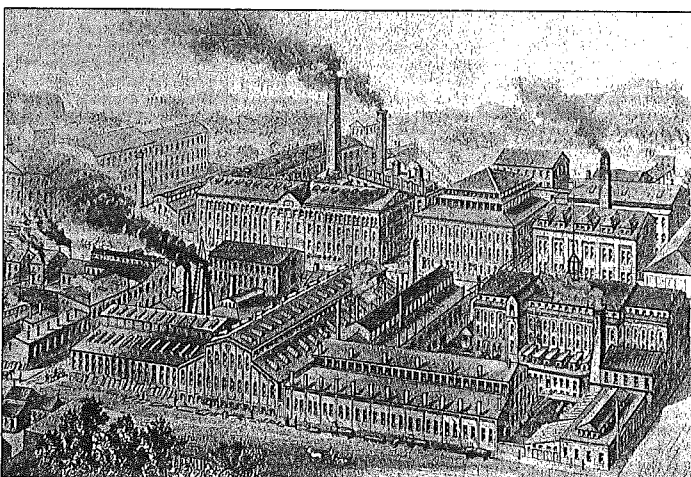
WILLIAM CARLOS WILLIAMS,
from the poem "Paterson," book three, "The Library"

friend who lives in Hudson, N.Y., Milutis said in an interview.

Milutis says his exploration of Paterson might be met with bitterness from local residents. He could be perceived as insensitive, coming into the city and assuming he'll understand it. And he wonders if his inability to understand it thus far comes from his identity: a white, middle-class outsider examining a predominantly black, Hispanic city. "The bottom line is it's very hard for me to talk about Paterson because I realize I could be construed as racist," he says.

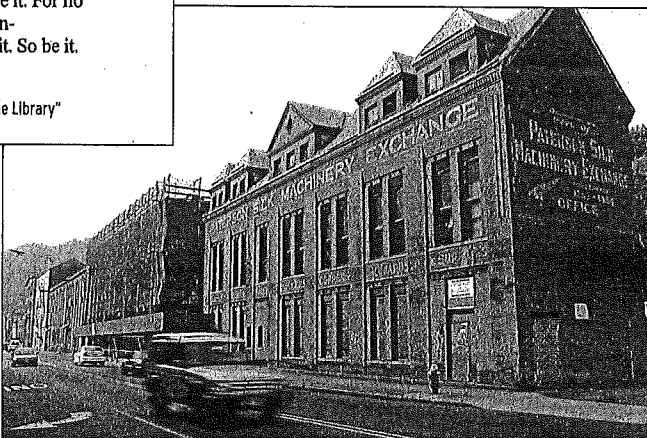
Since his last visit, he's focused on talking with other artists about their experiences with Paterson, both the city and the poem. Most believe the poem is enough and have no need to visit the city, he says.

As of now, Milutis has no definite plans for his next visit to Paterson, though he said he hopes to make a trip during Brown's winter break. Until then, he'll record whatever thoughts remain from earlier trips. In a recent entry, he ad-



File photos

The old Rogers Locomotive Works, mentioned in William Carlos Williams' poem "Paterson," in an artist's rendering of how it would have looked in the late 1880s and in a 2002 photo of one of the buildings on Spruce Street prior to renovations.



ressed his observation that the late comic actor Lou Costello, a Paterson native — enshrined in a statue in Lou Costello Memorial Park on Cianci Street — seems a bigger Paterson presence than the poet Williams.

"If you really consider Paterson," Milutis says, "there's no evidence at all of William Carlos Williams."

Reach Jean Stevens at 973-569-7131 or stevens@northjersey.com.

ADVERTISING

A classic jingle to get re-fizzed

By TANYA BARRIENTOS
McClatchy News Service

Plop, plop, fizz, fizz ... you know the rest, even though it's been 26 years since the famous Alka-Seltzer jingle graced prime time.

In fact, the last year ads featuring the catchy tune were broadcast, the Phillies won the World Series, Ronald Reagan defeated Jimmy Carter, and the new-fangled, 24-hour news network called CNN had just started up.

And yet, the slogan resonates. Which is why Alka-Seltzer is bringing it back. Only this time, the Waltons-era melody is getting a cyber-age makeover, "American Idol"-style.

Musicians of every stripe (and talent level) are being invited to submit a new version of the

Entries must be between 30 seconds and two minutes long and must include the famous lyrics, "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is."

and must include the famous lyrics, "Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is."

"The words have become part of American culture," said Jay Kolpon, vice president of marketing for Bayer Consumer Care, the parent company of Alka-Seltzer. "So we've decided to put

rap. It could even be Baltimore club music.

Alka-Seltzer has dubbed its ditty redux the Battle of the Bands — Bring Back the Fizz.

The nitty-gritty of the competition's rules can be found at <http://plopplpfizz.com>. But, essentially, what will happen is that four national finalists will be chosen by Jan. 2, and then America will vote for a winner by the Internet.

Voters will be able to listen to the jingles at the Web site. The grand-prize winner will be announced Jan. 17.

The victor will receive \$10,000, and the new jingle will be featured in an ad broadcast during the Super Bowl pregame show.

Anybody can enter a song online, or by snail mail.

"REST EASY GRINCH-O-PHIL"
The lively whole pleased the legions of critical audience who really matter, the 10-and-who hardly stirred in their seats"

—The New York Times

"GROWN-UPS AS ENTERTAINERS AS THEIR YOUNGSTERS!"
Gleeful songs and joyful staging! [Patrick] Groll Grinch is worthy of a Tony Award

—The Star-Ledger

"HOLIDAY-LIC-I-OUS!"
The Grinch is lighting up Broadway! I promise you'll burst out in smiles! You'll actually be in the theater while humming!"

—Philadelphia Inquirer

"Broadway's new Grinch is SURE TO STEAL YOUR HEART"
—The Hartford Courant

