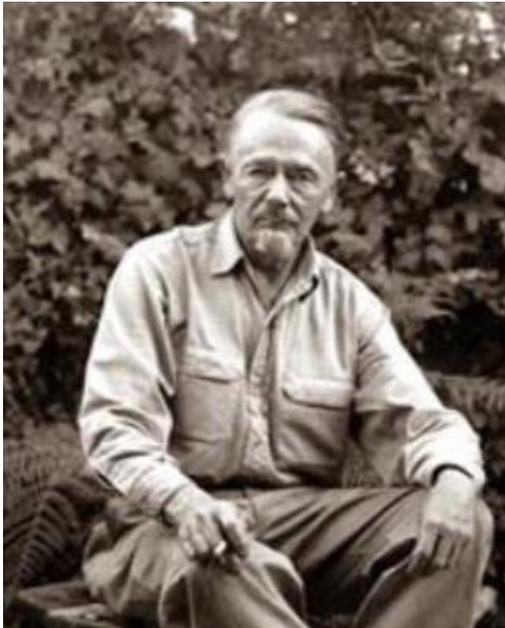


Clark Ashton Smith



Clark Ashton Smith
1893-1961

Smith was a talented poet and prose writer, a painter and a sculptor. He was widely known for his “imaginative writing.” His writing was categorized as “weird, macabre, fantastic and pseudo-scientific.” He was born in 1893 on the outskirts of Auburn in the Skyridge area.

Somewhat of an agoraphobic, he only attended grammar school in Auburn and then turned to self- education. He had an eidetic memory and read the 13th edition of Webster’s Dictionary and read the 11th edition of the Encyclopedia of Britannica twice, retaining most all he read.

Although he became famous with a large following, he was extremely reclusive and never led the “celebrity” life, instead he was a sometime journalist, he picked and packed local fruit, chopped firewood, typed bills, was a hard rock miner and later in life a gardener. Also, later in life he married and divided his time between Auburn and Pacific Grove. He died in 1961.

Wikipedia.com, M-K database, Placer Herald 22 Nov. 1941, 20 Dec. 1941, 16 Nov. 1912
Photo courtesy of Placer County Museums