

Barbara Brooks

UT Sweatshirt

I kept my sweatshirt with short sleeves;
gray with an orange UT in the center.

It is one of the few things I have kept from my college days.
Used it to warm-up before racquet ball.

Folded neatly in the bureau, I take it out sometimes thinking
I will wear it but I don't. I want to keep it just for the memories

of basketball practice, running the stairs eating cheeseburgers
and fries after every practice. By the time practice was over, the
cafeteria was closed.

Forty years old, looks good: I keep it with the light blue t-shirt
with UT Women's Athletics on the front;

we've come a long way baby on the back. Must of gotten this one after
Title IX.

We sold doughnuts to fund our field hockey and basketball, used our own cars

to get from game to game. Rock Hill, South Carolina for a tournament
was a big trip for us. Not the same today, the women have home

and away uniforms, warm-ups, airplanes to get from coast to coast.
No eating cheeseburgers every night.

Don't know how long I will keep the sweatshirt,
I have carried it with me from Knoxville, Kentucky, Memphis, North Carolina.

I refold it and put it back with the t-shirts.
I guess it will be given away to Good Will.

Barbara Brooks, author of the chapbooks *The Catbird Sang* and *A Shell to Return to the Sea*. She is a member of Poet Fools. Her work has been accepted in *Avalon Literary Review*, *Chagrin River Review*, *The Foundling Review*, *Blue Lake Review*, *Granny Smith Magazine*, *Third Wednesday*, *Shadow Road Quarterly*, *Indigo Mosaic*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Boston Literary Magazine* and on line at *Southern Women's Review*, *Poetry Quarterly*, *Big River Poetry* and *Agave Magazine* among others. She lives in North Carolina with her dog.