

CALL

D.R. called tonight
to say Nat Shiner
dropped dead in
New York subway.
Under forty
heart attack.
Didn't know Nate
that well but D.R.
did & laughed
& cried when
I thoughtlessly
thanked him
for calling.

HAND CREAM

Hands are sore
& swollen
one cut from
hatcheting ice
dams off roof
of mountain cabin.
Skin is dry
& cracking so
squirt hand cream
into palm &
start rubbing
hands together
& since I'm
urinating rub
some onto penis
which isn't sore
or dry but
loves attention.

APRIL SNOW

Secretly snowed two
inches last night.
Today it silently
melted away.
Tonight stars glitter
between dark
pine shapes out
cabin window.
I build up
fire in Fisher
stove heat water
for tea & puzzle
over pleasures
& anxieties
of being alone.

CRISP'S EYE

Drawing student Crisp
has been absent
getting left eye
put back together.
Friend shot him
with BB gun.
For God's sake
why I asked.
We got bored
shooting other
stuff he said.
Looking at it
you can tell it
won't ever be right.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands CA

AUNT TISNELDA SEES "ON GOLDEN POND"

Goodness gracious every time she went
out to a movie things she couldn't stand --
truckdriver words and goings on in bed --
gave her a headache -- in "On Golden Pond"
she hoped pure light and no clothes would be shed.

But with Jane Fonda in it what could you expect?
That one would pull her dress off for a dime --
a leftwinger and they were oversexed.
Such beautiful scenery and what a crome --
all the sleazy people nervous wrecks.

No more "Young Mr. Lincoln" or "Bringing Up Baby" --
Henry's heart and Kate's control gone bad --
she might just write Dear Abby asking why
we can't have movies like we used to have
instead of ones so real they make you cry.

MIGHTY WHEELER: USED CAR DEALER

When somebody trades in a lemon,
transmission about to go
not to mention the rear end --
miles per about zero,

you think I should take a loss,
give it away for the parts --
shit no, some sucker'll buy it
if it's shiny enough and starts.

This Chrysler's just the thing
(if you want an albatross)
or take this one-owner Pinto
(you're better off with a horse) --

a little old lady owned this one,
treated it like kid
(child abuse you'll say
when you find out what she did).

They have to sign As Is --
we've got that clause in there,
whatever the salesman says
they can't blame me for the wear.