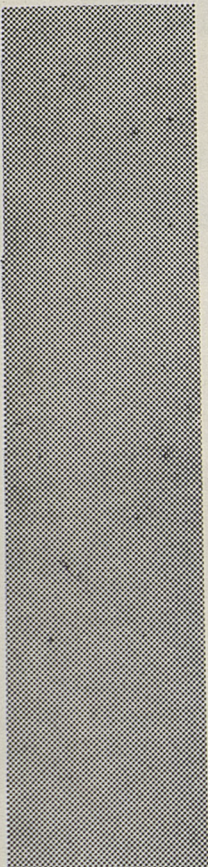


THE MOUNTAIN PENIAL



I traveled there for a cure
beating through
the underbrushes
brash young infidel
in my prime

The Mongol leaf
of a florid resilience
leaf and sign I wept for winter
hater leaf and floral fill
brine was loof
this meek heart weather

Forth and ferral
forth and gain
the wreathed and ferral
heart and lengthened

Must in laminal
moist in heat
the sear that seasoned
shut the ragged wound

Judson Crews