St. Francis

Francis cleans his paws tongue working gingerly between the toes. He's been running all day in the rocks after a yr of lawn & rugs.

Ernie

Unexpectedly I'd see Ernie after stomach cancer whittled him down to diet of strawberries & he died. I'd see him drive by in an unfamiliar car a Hudson or DeSoto wearing dandruff flecked pinstriped suit & stetson.

Old Crow

At noon parked Farmall behind wall of cattails left it running undressed swam a bend in Pit river shotgun held overhead commando style climbed steep mud bank planted feet flicked safety off rose aiming at crow high in its willow perch & nerve fired at empty branches leaves & sky.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands, Calif.

Call

Phone rings 11:13 in bed dopey with sleep race to kitchen heart banging ... it's Dalton ... something about art.

Trout

Sometimes you got to knock out the brain to get down to it -down to the magic ... bellie kissing stones with the trout.

Ted's Old Lady

Ted next door dropped dead one nite last winter now his old lady brings me beer wants to yak with my old lady knows I'll let her in if she's got beer.

John Frank

Little John Frank came today to collect for the Bee doesnt know how to make change relies solely on honesty.