

The Wormwood Review

Volume 13, number 2 (issue fifty). Editor: Marvin Malone;
Art Editor: A. Sypher; Assistant Editor: G. Christa Malone
Copyright © 1973, The Wormwood Review Press. Editorial &
Subscription Address: P.O. Box 8840, Stockton, California
95204 U.S.A. US-ISSN:0043-9401

.....

Commissioner of Dead Horses

When a horse dies, my phone
rings and orders me
to hunt causes.

I lock a couple of forms
along with my notebook into
my briefcase and catch a plane
to wherever horses die. There
I ask questions and act
suspicious and always have time
to shadow some strangers
or sneak out at night into the hayfields
and take off my clothes
to learn the feeling of horses.

Back at my desk I type my report:
Killed by wet hay. I have never
found a natural cause in 23,000
horses -- something always kills them --
that's what I know about horses.
I file my report in a classified
cabinet and waiting for the phone

dream I see death
mounted naked on a horse.

-- William Aarnes

Washington DC