

Place your pencil
where you want the line
to begin.

As you draw
look only at the dot.
Do not look at the pencil.
Do not look at the line.
Do not look at your
moving hand.
Your line
will be tolerably straight.

Your line is not
straight enough?
Then carry a yardstick.
I have nothing more
to say to you.

-- Barbara Drake

Okemos MI

HOW TO SHARPEN THE CARPET KNIFE

Press the blade
on the stone right where you want the curve
(smooth even strokes
without forcing the edge
upon its quick)
and it will sharpen in a crescent.
The sharpness
and the angle of the curve
as you hold it to the jute
will do your work.

SECURITY

"They give you free lunch
and a little box of food for supper,"
says the white-whiskered Chicano
I give a ride to the El Rio
Neighborhood Center.

"I'm 62 now.
If I live to 65 I get Social Security.
I don't know.
None of my friends live that long."