

RECOLLECTION

My dad had a large
collection of hand tools.
As a boy I didnt
understand his sudden
anger at my misuse
or misplacing of a tool.
Tonite stepping into garage
seeing my tools
(& my age reflected
by their numbers)
I thot of him
& the inevitable frustrations
of ownership he
must have felt.

GOLDEN BEAR RACES

Went to track 1st
time last week bought
good cigar beer settled
down but couldnt relax
didnt know what
who to bet finally
put 2 to show
on Pat's Birthday
in 3rd & won. Now
reluctant to bet know
Pat wont carry a guy
to more than one
gift at a time.

NEW TERRITORY

If I could just start
over things would be
different. Less jealousy.
More caring tenderness he
tells her. I could make
our experience pay off.
I'm willing she says
but he's busy mapping
out new territory
& doesnt hear.

JAZZ

If it werent for Bird
Diz & Miles thered be
more gaps in here
than I got already.
Jazz sutures
my wounds.

O, SO, SHE SAYS

Soon as I answer her
knock she asks are you
a Christian? I hem &
haw then say what is
this struggle to live
but a search for God?
But are you Christian?
What should I say?
She smells good &
has a promising smile
so I say no
but I'm weak
& a poor reader
& Jesus knows
I need attention.
O, so, she says
reaching thru screen
door for my soul.

THIS HALLOWEEN

not unlike others
started at dark little
people masked & armed
with Alpha Beta bags
knocking
& threatening meekly
for treats parents
watching from sidewalk
& occasional siren
wailing red lights
pulsing in the
distance