

THE HOTEL LIFSHIN IS RAISING ITS RATES

it can no longer afford  
to operate as it had  
taking in strays and  
tightwads changing  
the sheets for each  
guest, never re-using  
any tea bag. Regular  
guests who've come  
to expect special  
service, caviar at  
a budget rate, free  
lunch days are over.  
The hotel is not a  
welfare nation. As  
the painter I wanted  
in 1970 told me what  
you give away is  
valued just that much.  
So if you want the  
hotel to put out  
there'd better be  
something coming in.

IT WAS LIKE HEARING

about the man  
who bit the dog  
or the house  
burned down be  
cause it was  
dirty when after  
saying I was  
7 1/4 on a scale  
of because I  
wasn't young as  
I was in 1972,  
shld have a  
Benz not a  
dumb Ford he  
frowns how the  
hell could any  
shrink tell  
his wife he  
was insensitive

PIED PIPER OF THE MIDWEST

In Evanston  
they were wearing  
the same masks  
as he was under  
their skin and  
in Normal too  
driving 600 miles in  
beat up pickups grew  
the same beards  
even the women  
camping before his  
motel door boys  
with corn hair  
down their shoulders  
and cornflower  
blue eyes  
Each woman opened to  
him like peonies  
moistened by his words  
after the reading  
opened to arms that  
seemed able to  
hold everyone

ON MORNINGS LIKE THIS

the poems slinks away  
like a 10 day old  
kitten terrified in  
a new house darting  
under beds and chairs  
wriggling from hands  
that only wanted  
to feed it

IT WAS LIKE

finding a woman's  
hand sticking  
from a mattress  
behind a clap  
board Schenectady  
Cape Cod or  
stepping on a  
mine trying  
to clean a  
mine field