

## SAFE KEEPING

Aunt Ora has worn  
Aunt Lois' gold band  
& turquoise ring  
since pushing them  
on her finger for  
safe keeping day  
a mortician  
handed them to  
her last july.

## LOCKED OUT

Locked keys in Honda  
dog inside back  
window down two  
& a half maybe three  
inches arm too  
big tried half  
dozen times woman  
in parked car  
scowling I murmured  
brief prayer &  
ignoring pain  
tripped lock with  
tips of two fingers.  
Today upper arm  
is three tone yellow  
green & blue violet.

## LIMITED

47 year old  
got no business  
staying up so  
late waiting for  
glue to dry  
on new collage  
while wife fidgets  
in bed knowing  
their time is  
limited.

## VALENTINE

Woke this morning  
to discover card  
& two gifts.  
Candy & aftershave.  
After work stopped  
to buy roses  
from street vendor  
but found they  
were scented cloth.  
Ended up at  
florist's bought  
single blood red  
carnation tastefully  
encased in narrow  
plastic box.

## SECOND READING

Reading Tropic of Cancer  
underlining unfamiliar  
words with red pencil  
(to look up later)  
catch myself skimming  
over ideas & craft  
radar tuned to sex  
same as first reading  
20 odd years ago.

## SPEAKERS

Last night someone  
ripped stereo radio  
out of our Honda.  
This evening I taped  
note on dash which  
read: Watch out!  
Old squint eye  
has a gun!  
Just in case someone  
comes back for  
the speakers.