

smoking

three packs a day  
but not inhaling so much  
I just hold it  
between my index and second finger  
try not to inhale too much  
I have watched smokers  
some hold the smoke in  
for 30  
40 seconds  
sit behind a desk all day  
hassling with  
someone on a phone  
such pressure

those are the lung cancers  
I want to be like hubie  
blake  
the success story of all  
marlboro smokers

he often claimed marlboro  
allowed him to  
reach 100  
years of age

you see  
his cells didn't rebel  
because he liked what he was  
doing -- playing  
piano

I like what I'm  
doing -- playing  
my typewriter

poems poems poems  
when I cease writing them  
I'll get  
lung cancer.

-- Steve Richmond

Santa Monica CA