

I heard my neighbor who wears
a teeshirt every day of the year
saying, with fear in his voice,
"You better watch out
he could hurt you."
I kept pulling, my attention
was still up in the trees,
but finally I said to myself,
I wonder does that
have anything to do with Bowman?
I checked, and Bowman wasn't
in the back yard, and he wasn't
behind the blue house.
Then I saw him
back of the white house.
The fireman was standing
safe behind his fence
still pleading with him.
I ran and scooped up Bowman
and just then a big German shepherd
tore around the corner of the house.
Bowman, who was looking back
being carried, pointed at
the dog chasing us,
and asked,
"What's his name?"

TRAVEL

What I wouldn't like to do is travel,
get out of my rut
and find myself some place
where I don't know where to buy
a paper or dink some coffee.
Where I want to be is in my rut,
I don't want to be distracted,
the summer is ideal:

1 pair of shoes
2 pairs of pants
4 or 5 shirts
no socks

Rise at 7 A.M., put on shoes,
dusting off my feet on the porch steps,
walk across the river to school,
read the Times.
Then play in my office with my poems.
Lunch, walk home,
nap, maybe grade papers, sometimes
Debbie sits on my stomach

in her underpants. Eat at 5,
walk back, teach three hours
and walk the two miles home,
eight for the day.

AN EXQUISITE OMBRE EFFECT

Walking the asylum grounds,
a village by itself, really,
gaining on two men walking,
one trailing a stick. By
their extreme sense of leisure,
they almost seem tourists. But
they are so self-contained.
Lovers? Dragging a stick?
Large children -- which is
impossible! So, peasants
on a large estate! And I
a guest ending a stay with
their master, having eaten
and made wisecracks with him
and his lady, shattered nuts,
drunk, seen the estate through
their eyes. For some reason these
two are delighted to see me, but
I hardly know them and walk ahead
to the pharmacy, closed with a note,
return a few minutes later, etc. etc.

-- Jim Klein

Rutherford NJ

ONLY THE ORDER OF EVENTS HAS BEEN CHANGED

I don't make up these
stories. I don't have to.
Just three days ago a
battery thief shot it out
with the cops under our
house, although I missed it
since our air conditioner
is far too loud. Shortly
thereafter, Lee telephoned
to say that Moonyeen
in Australia had finally