

NATIVE WILLOW

Buy willow to plant
at our cabin but
pushing it into
pickup split crotch of
two main branches.
At home I bind
the slender limbs
with green stretch tape,
closing the split, hoping
it will heal. Like
a human wound.

LOTTO PLAYER

He plays same lotto
numbers once each week,
not with any lasting
expectations, or
wish to help the schools.
He uses it as
a fantasy to
liven up a life
he feels is hopeless.
A little hedge
against despair.

WHY THE CON?

Received an anonymous
letter today that had
God loves you P.
written on the back.
This disturbed me.
What person could possibly
know God's feelings?
Why the con?
Inside was a printed
tract titled "Steps
to Peace With God"
from Billy Graham.

ENLIGHTENED ONE

It's time. He
hunkers down into
bed. Smiles. This
is where it happens.
In dreams he is
the Enlightened One.

A SLACK MEMORY

Memory's faulty.
Forget my glasses,
names of neighbors.
Forget to meditate
& end my prayers.
Too much booze
over the years.
Now I use tricks.
Reminders. If I
can think of them.

PHOTO FOR B.R.

Today Pat took
my picture
dozens of times.
She was hoping
to capture something
friendly while I
stared & grimaced,
groping for an
expression to
represent me,
collect myself
in black & white.

BOUQUET

Had good friends over.
Most brought wine.
Marilyn brought a
lively, full bouquet
of chrysanthemums.
Yellow, orange, rust.
It's been three weeks.
Yet they struggle,
limp & fading,
to keep their promise.

A PENCHANT FOR SLEEP

I have a penchant
for sleep (although
it doesn't come easy).
I treasure it.
Not just for the rest
it offers, but
for the adventures
it tumbles me into.