NEW WIFE ON A DAIRY FARM

The Anglo neighbor was
telling me
   Joe Pimintel
should never have brought
that girl to this place
   away from all her family
she can't speak English
   or Portuguese

I saw her standing in the
   pasture
just looking at the cows
like they were circus animals
then she broke off
   a lot of blackeyed susans
and made a bouquet

OKLAHOMA COUSIN VISITS — 1984

Only fifteen minutes
in our house
and his hands were
already shaking

He turned his signet
   ring around several
times
and told me hesitantly

I know you don't smoke
but would you feel bad
if I step outside and take
   a puff or two

Dirty expensive habit
don't know if I can kick it
this late in the game

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