

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