

CHRISTMAS CARD FROM A MISSIONARY
IN A REMOTE AREA OF THE PHILIPPINES

It arrived late
a poor small flyspecked card
of a sampan on the silver
grey Indian Ocean
sailing past three bamboo
huts on stilts
all brightly lit with
oil lamps
in honor of the Infant Saviour
and I want to weep looking
at the 3.60 postage
this holy man used to
greet me
his entire Sunday collection
he once wrote
is never more than that

CHOICES

Strange how the government
works
Manuel has nine hundred acres
of cotton
all subsidized by Uncle Sam's
other taxpayers

But a real catch
Grandma Riley assures Zoetta
who disagrees today

Granny
a man who wears lizards
on his feet
and rattlesnakes
is beginning to feel crawly
to me

Better
I stick to rawhide boots
and Calvin
who works for John Deere