

and our supervisor does issue all of us machinists keys  
and makes us use them to open  
the gates and doors which we are told  
must be kept locked at all times,  
and our supervisor does promise  
to put all thieves  
in jail.

When you have as little to work with as we do,  
you've really got to hang on  
to it.

#### REPRIEVE

When the final buzzer sounds  
throughout building 8,  
machinists jump to life  
for the first time that day,  
hustling in a line  
to the final punching of the timeclock  
to charge out the door,  
legs and arms pumping and eyes brightening  
as they get their circulation and alertness back  
and regain full lung capacity,  
breathing huge sighs of relief  
as they increase speed  
heading toward the guard gate  
and laugh,  
pointing at the speed and energy of those ahead of them,  
saying things like "What drive!"  
or "What initiative!"  
and making jokes  
about the resurrection of the  
dead.

— Fred Voss

Long Beach CA