

I became a poet  
in the Marines  
in Japan

#### GOOD GUY POEM

when I found CRIME & PUNISHMENT  
& LEAVES OF GRASS in Japan  
a Marine corporal  
in the Military Police  
I was a good guy  
in a bad job

I went back to high school  
on the G.I. Bill  
then on to college  
eventually I became  
a graduate school dropout

I quit work  
I quit marriage  
I quit the gym  
I quit my car  
I quit rent  
I quit just about everything  
all I wanted to do was read & write

I became hooked on freedom  
hooked on the gamble of the poem  
hooked on the fire of living on the edge

I was a good guy  
in a good job

#### SHALE POEM

I still have a piece  
of striated  
blue-gray shale  
I found in a ditch  
I was digging  
as a laborer  
in Caloundra  
22 years ago

I'm a sucker  
for magic  
mementos