

## OF OKIES, CHEESE, CHICKEN & BREAD: ROAD FOOD

"I wonder if eighty-four-year-old Colonel Sanders ever gets tired of travelling all around America talking about fried chicken?"

— Richard Brautigan

us Okies never ate Brie  
i never even knew the stuff existed  
until moved back East  
in my 30s  
it was of a flavor & consistency  
that took some gettin' used to  
— rich people food —  
but us Okies is generally hungry  
all the time, at least us males  
of the species are  
tho i much prefer a hard sharp longhorn cheddar  
& a hunk of sour-dough bread  
& a heartily spiced fried chicken  
crispy wing.

## SHE

likes to think that  
she's the medical expert  
in this household  
and was exasperated  
struggling to figure what  
this Dunlap Disease was  
that i kept referring to

when she finally got up enough nerve  
to ask and reveal her ignorance  
i said, "Dunlap Disease is  
generally endemic among the male  
of the species  
diagnosed by a characteristic  
large stomach or belly  
that has done lapped over the belt."

## ETIQUETTE

another one of my Grandfather's tricks  
was  
when he was about to burp  
after a hardy meal  
he'd call one of us kids over  
and say, "Here, pull my finger"

which we would do  
then he'd belch  
and say, "Thank you, I needed that"

usually we would want to  
explore this phenomenon further  
pulling on his fingers  
but he'd chase us off.

#### SUPERBOWL SUNDAY MORNING COMIN' DOWN

asked Janet if  
she ever wanted to be a cheerleader  
she said not even for a minute  
did such a desire cross her mind,  
"besides, I didn't have the body type  
to be a cheerleader."  
"Well," i said, "I'm sure there's a lot  
of chubby girls that have wanted  
to be cheerleaders."  
we were watching a bunch of them  
bouncing around in their tutus on tv  
shaking their money makers.  
"I actually never understood why  
anybody would want to do that. I  
always wanted to play," she said.  
and even though the girls are  
awfully cute  
doubt i would have ever done  
such a thing either.  
Janet says nowadays they give  
college scholarships to cheerleaders,  
which, amazes me.

#### A DRINKING BUDDY

he's exactly twice my age  
and i have a grey beard

of all the poets one reads  
in the little magazines

unless you move to Albuquerque  
there is no thought of meeting them

on the phone Judson asks  
"You do drink don't you?"  
"Sure do, sometimes too much."  
"Oh good! Then we have something in common."