

## MY WOBBLE

Five days a week  
I walk two miles.  
Everyday I do  
75 lean-ups (an  
old guy's push-ups).  
Every other day I  
exercise my grip,  
both hands, to  
strengthen my wrists.  
Every other day I  
also hold out a  
five-pound weight,  
alternating hands,  
to strengthen my  
shoulders & arms.  
Why? To cut down  
on my wobble  
so I can sneak  
up on perfection.

## SEARCH

Haven't had a home since  
I was 18 & entered U.S.  
Army. Lived in seven  
different houses, but none  
felt like home. Now I  
have another chance.  
Try to trace my roots,  
but they branch out in  
six European directions.  
My wife & I love Sierra  
Nevadas, so I search there,  
hoping to find a magical  
place to plant myself where  
I can love & care for  
the land & all it holds.  
May the ancient Sierra  
spirits accept & guide me.

## I SHUT OFF TV TALK

& go outside to  
listen to backyard music.  
It's after seven & day  
light is fading. I hear  
cars motoring up & down  
Elkhorn, a child scream

in play, a house door  
close loudly, a dog bark,  
a motorcycle downshift,  
my dog pant, my pen point  
scratch over paper.  
Now an airplane.  
I wonder what sounds  
were heard on this spot  
two hundred years ago?

## HARD TO TAKE

Shopping at Home Depot  
left store with cart  
almost full which I  
unloaded into cab of  
pickup. Locked door &  
went back for something  
I'd forgotten. Back at  
pickup discovered one  
of my bags was missing.  
I'd locked cab with  
driver-side window down.  
Theft was irritating  
but the pain of acting  
stupid is with me still.

## BAIT

On clear liquid diet  
in preparation for  
internal exam tomorrow,  
reach for Diet 7up.  
Take a gulp & notice  
large white letters that  
circle rim of can.  
Look inside! Instantly  
win! Try to look  
inside, but it's dark  
in there, & I don't  
feel like getting a  
flashlight to see if  
I'm a winner in some  
trumped-up advertising  
scheme designed to  
bleed my greedy ego.  
Pisses me off that  
I even tried to look.