

## BYPASS

Three days ago Jane called  
& said Al was going in  
for a triple bypass.  
It seemed sudden to us  
& scary. Jane didn't sound  
worried & neither did Al,  
but connection from hospital  
was bad & his voice sounded  
weak. What could we do?  
Not much except hope & pray  
& wait for Jane's next call.  
Today I talked to him on  
phone & surprisingly he  
sounded like his regular  
self: strong, thoughtful, in  
control. Tomorrow I'll drive  
over to see him, offer  
congratulations, pretend  
it's nothing serious &  
could never happen to me.

## NEVER TOO LATE TO SCORE

Having shot 22 pistol  
erratically for hour  
& a half felt it was  
time to drive home, feed  
the dogs but decide to  
try one last target &  
nailed nine solid tens,  
last bullet just breaking  
nine ring for a slow  
fire 99, just one point  
shy of perfection.  
Gave me a high  
right up there with  
my first French kiss.

## BANK IT

I'm happiest when I'm  
absorbed in writing,  
making love with my wife  
or shooting well  
with a handgun.  
Illuminating conversation  
with friends is

right in there.  
So was teaching  
when germinating ideas  
flowed both ways.  
Sometimes lately I  
fill with joy  
for no good reason.  
But I'll take it.  
Bank it for  
a down day.

## GUIDANCE

Searching for a home  
in Sierras east of  
Sacramento Pat was  
visited by my mother  
who died last December.  
Driving back to valley  
Pat said she felt Mom's  
presence & believed she  
guided us to a beautifully  
treed & landscaped half  
acre with a well kept  
ranch style house on it.  
This totally surprised me.  
Pat doesn't operate  
like that. She always  
keeps both feet planted  
in tangible reality ...  
but I wouldn't put  
it past my Mom.

## WAITRESS

At a little coffee  
shop in Torrance  
I asked our Mexican  
waitress if she'd  
teach me Spanish.  
She took one look  
at my pretty wife  
& said you won't  
be here long enough.  
Watch Spanish soap  
opera on tv,  
that's how I learned  
to speak English.