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plano

Mil Riese
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plano

— Mil Riese

I would like to be quiet
and peaceful again —
a small person in a small town.
A place where men in cowboy hats
startle me with their kindness
and leap from their seats to help
a lady on a walker,
graciously assuring me
that older is indubitably better!
Where courtesies, American style,
grafted onto lifetimes
in woodsy small towns
are something I'm thrilled to see.
I long to know that it still goes on,
and could even happen to me
in a town like I remember,
not yet too big for its britches,
dreaming sweetly off the road,
in its niche of tassled corn.