

sandblasts Dutch Boy from window sills, strips
shingles from saltbox houses in Chilmark.
Moorings labor in Lambert's Cove.
The sea claws the Gay Head Cliffs.
A hurricane slams ashore at Squibnocket.
Down-Island sewers roil, Five Corners backs up,
waves push into the post office parking lot.
A man in oil skins rows across Water Street.
A lover's roof leaks on the Chop, the power shuts off.
At the Lamp Post,
in a candle-lit end-of-the-world atmosphere,
nurses and firemen dance barefoot till dawn.

— Gene Mahoney

Vineyard Haven MA

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INCA

The Inca became the Inca when the Conquistadors arrived and mispronounced the Inca's real name: the Tahuantinsuyo. A rather large mispronunciation, true, but then again, the Spanish thought they were in China.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INCA PART TWO

When Pizarro arrived in Peru he found an empire of twelve million Inca that had mastered brain surgery, bronze tools, gold engravings, terraced farming, quipas, and polygonal masonry. Then Pizarro massacred them all.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE INCA PART THREE

Fifteen centuries before Christ, Andean Indians constructed a city as glorious as Athens. Black granite pyramids, white granite temples, sewer systems, aqueducts, amphitheaters, labyrinths, sacrificial altars — these all exhausted centuries in their construction. But the Indians, unlike the Greeks, were wise enough to leave their city and abandon it forever.

— Matt Buys

Indianapolis IN