

New Mexico Quarterly

Volume 8 | Issue 4

Article 7

1938

Mr. Pilson Entertains Privately

Lawrence Olson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

Recommended Citation

Olson, Lawrence. "Mr. Pilson Entertains Privately." *New Mexico Quarterly* 8, 4 (1938). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol8/iss4/7>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Quarterly* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

The Old Man Who Walks With a Cane

By LAWRENCE OLSON

My grandmother told me
God walks the stair at midnight,
Dragging no chains.
She was there in the room
All night with little feet,
Running in silence over dreams;
Every night she told me
God walks the stair, dragging no chains.

But I saw hot crowd faces and I thought:
God missed a step and stumbled
Down where light dripped in the cold hall.

My grandmother told me
In the interminable afternoons.

Mr. Pilson Entertains Privately

By LAWRENCE OLSON

Tschaikowsky in a bare room,
Around bare tables.
The taste of relighted cigarettes
That glow on the floor
Like eyes.
Water runs through a broken tap,
Dripping on stars, brightly burning;
While Giotto cracks, and smoke
Licks out under the heavy door.
Strain for a hidden voice
Three pages past, unutterably,
Like frightened pigeons
On a leaky roof.