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Five Sixes

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REQUIEM

To the memory of Cora Headington,
December, 1958

*We buried her alone in the sage,
Raw herbs spring from her breast
Where compassion rose and fell in beats
Like an Indian drum.*

*We lifted the cedar box from its cart
And stood with you in the Holy Field,
The weeds a testimony to a hundred years,
The black cross to a thousand.*

*To your earth home we brought you,
To your testimony of living grass
We commit you,
For your life is not here, but
In silent juniper canyons and in stone cairns.*

—KEN WELLS

FIVE SIXES

*Six mountains in the rear
Very clear*

*Six peacocks in the grain
Very plain*

*Six cataracts from the sky
Delight the eye*

*Six almonds in a dish
Nourish*

*Six songs have left their lover
To recover*

—PAUL GENGE