

# New Mexico Quarterly

---

Volume 35 | Issue 3

Article 12

---

1965

## Take-Off

Peter Thorpe

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Thorpe, Peter. "Take-Off." *New Mexico Quarterly* 35, 3 (1965). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol35/iss3/12>

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](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

PETER THORPE

*TAKE-OFF*

He let go,  
moving a racket  
down the length of his mile-and-a-half concrete  
farewell to Mother Earth, the faceless slabs  
blinking, blurring, disappearing, till the black scabs  
of oil and rubber blended and vanished  
and he lifted sweet and clean and struck out  
for always-autumned altitude,  
the door of daystars,  
the bird now less refractory,  
shinnying along on a long string of sky,  
the priceless, skyscraping engine  
turning brightly through its fearful chemistry,  
thrusting the farm-quilts down, out and away  
till all around for miles and miles and miles  
that faded map of Texas lay majestic  
far and away under the exotic metal  
hissing and hung from the ox-straps of heaven.