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Weeds

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WEEDS

by Jannett Highfill

Inheritance and bankruptcy being what they are,
some farms are not worked but owned.

Investors mark the gray
across green fields and revere
the noxious "kerosene weeds"
whose roots above a rich crease
of methane inhale combustion.
Gas will pay the section's taxes.

Counting cattle, scratching the washes
for arrowheads to sell in the City
or Dallas, dabbling at a town job—
farmers call it "loco weed."
Each March its quivering silver
cover their barren fields.
No cow is crazy enough to graze it.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAN BRADFIELD

