

# Lights and Shadows

---

Volume 19 *Lights and Shadows Volume 19*

Article 20

---

1975

## Chunk Smith

T. P. Greer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Greer, T. P. (1975). Chunk Smith. *Lights and Shadows*, 19 (1). Retrieved from <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows/vol19/iss1/20>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by UNA Scholarly Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Lights and Shadows* by an authorized editor of UNA Scholarly Repository. For more information, please contact [jpate1@una.edu](mailto:jpate1@una.edu).

## CHUNK SMITH

ebony Chunk Smith

tattered black hat cocked cool on  
balding head, sad brown bluesman's eyes

City dump scavenger among silent dark

t.v. eyes, broken chairs, piles of paper  
-- his mellow mule 'n' wagon parked close by:  
wagons rubber tires resurrected from this very  
graveyard.

Sun silver glinting off the plow

. . . tilling spring gardens, his real vocation,  
spark ragpicker remembrances of tennessee  
riverbottom days

. . . cleaving alluvial loam into fertile furrows  
plodding plowing mahogany mule faint rhythm  
of trumpet notes: strains of st. louis blues  
floating in sweltering air, rolling off the hill

"I hate to see dat ole evenin' sun  
go down . . ."

Sustaining itself across florence forests, up

through tennessee towns, kentucky hills, to the  
city of the brown god . . . brass notes bending . . .

then lazily lolling down river serenading the  
cotton fields, sliding past the shoals,  
past Chunk plowing,

hot furnace sun overhead,  
drifting down to new orleans dreams

-T. P. Greer