Little House On The Great Plains

The first night rats trundled through the walls, Hilda cried and kept the baby in bed. He laid out poison and they died. One thrashing and screaming in the basement, the rest between partitions. Hilda couldn't stand the smell. He knocked the walls out and found a chest full of money. They paid off the car and bought the sailboat he'd always wanted. The boy's dog keeps the rats out now, the neighbors are very nice for the most part and Hilda is real busy making the house into a home for all of them.

About Song My, Since You Ask

When those yahoos shot those boys in Mississippi I imagine at least one yahoo was smiling. I tend to think it was an "embarrassed smile" though it was probably dark and no one was looking at anyone else.

Just see yourself out in the woods, all that stupid moss in the trees, knowing you're going to die.
Shit! I really did it this time!
All those dimestore loafers so excited they're forgetting and slapping their boils, drinking too fast.

Brush your teeth but your breath stinks. So you chew gum. You sweat, your hair cream won't work, your wife sleeps around. Your girl does too. Best goddam country in the world and all you've got is pimples and a hurt.

Those boys over in the Nam didn't want to die either. It was hot, they were scared. All those ugly slime screaming and pleading in gobble-de-gook

for their lives. If you shoot mammasan, you have to shoot the kids too.

It's the secret fear, unspoken truth that twists the heart to any frenzy.

Rejecting Advice

Oh, you poets
with hidden rooms
called the study.
Or better yet
reconverted henhouses.
Let me tell you
right now
I won't improve with age,
or do what I want.
So shut up.

-- William Hathaway

Ithaca, New York

16 Jap Machinegun Bullets

Norman Jimmy Max killed in World War II while I hid in old roominghouses in Philadelphia and San Francisco listening to Mozart and Bach.

with George it was a bad liver. Dale died of mislead ambition. Nick went the common hard way of cancer. Harry of a wife and 5 beautiful children.

Jimmy had it right -trying to bring that bomber back to
England with half the motors shot
out. Norman had it
right -taking 3 weeks to die from
16 Jap machinegun bullets.

we've all got it quite right -sitting around reading the comic strips