

for their lives. If you shoot mamma-
san, 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

drinking warm wine and
rolling smokes.
at 6 in the evening we charm our blood and
our manner
as we walk our faces through the
spiderwebs.

we've got it right
we've got it right --
the raven and the waves
the tired sunsets across the tired
people --
it takes a lifetime to die and
no time at
all.

When All The Animals Lie Down

got it right, Gus?

Gus had this rag around his
head and was digging at the
dirt. he'd been digging 15
minutes.

I'm getting it, said
Gus.

we were sitting on the side of
a hill watching the 5:30 p.m.
traffic
on the Pasadena freeway.

Gus was trying to get that
round spot in the ground
for hip and
shoulder.

what do you guys do when
it rains? I
asked.

we've got a sheet of plywood
or 2 in the brush, said
Larry, either that or we
go to the mission.

Gus tried the hole. it was
all right. then he came over and
sat with us.

we watched the cars on the
freeway. they barely
moved.