

## NATIVE WILLOW

Buy willow to plant  
at our cabin but  
pushing it into  
pickup split crotch of  
two main branches.  
At home I bind  
the slender limbs  
with green stretch tape,  
closing the split, hoping  
it will heal. Like  
a human wound.

## LOTTO PLAYER

He plays same lotto  
numbers once each week,  
not with any lasting  
expectations, or  
wish to help the schools.  
He uses it as  
a fantasy to  
liven up a life  
he feels is hopeless.  
A little hedge  
against despair.

## WHY THE CON?

Received an anonymous  
letter today that had  
God loves you P.  
written on the back.  
This disturbed me.  
What person could possibly  
know God's feelings?  
Why the con?  
Inside was a printed  
tract titled "Steps  
to Peace With God"  
from Billy Graham.

## ENLIGHTENED ONE

It's time. He  
hunkers down into  
bed. Smiles. This  
is where it happens.  
In dreams he is  
the Enlightened One.

## A SLACK MEMORY

Memory's faulty.  
Forget my glasses,  
names of neighbors.  
Forget to meditate  
& end my prayers.  
Too much booze  
over the years.  
Now I use tricks.  
Reminders. If I  
can think of them.

## PHOTO FOR B.R.

Today Pat took  
my picture  
dozens of times.  
She was hoping  
to capture something  
friendly while I  
stared & grimaced,  
groping for an  
expression to  
represent me,  
collect myself  
in black & white.

## BOUQUET

Had good friends over.  
Most brought wine.  
Marilyn brought a  
lively, full bouquet  
of chrysanthemums.  
Yellow, orange, rust.  
It's been three weeks.  
Yet they struggle,  
limp & fading,  
to keep their promise.

## A PENCHANT FOR SLEEP

I have a penchant  
for sleep (although  
it doesn't come easy).  
I treasure it.  
Not just for the rest  
it offers, but  
for the adventures  
it tumbles me into.