

Michael Chandler

REMEMBERING EMERSON DAVIS

You probably never heard Walter Cronkite say:
Emerson Davis. No matter.
Old Emmet was a road scholar.
Keeper of the Worthington Disposal.
Conscientious objector in World War I.
In the General Store, he stood
in front of me, like the Himalayas.
As if he were planting seeds,
he set down three rolls of paper towels
saying: "Two for the town hall and one for me."
His voice anchored me like a handmade chair.
Every day he walked the miles
from the town hall to the dump,
as if the road were made of rice paper,
the feel of what a town throws away
heavy on his hands.