

I'll watch the wind carryin off the best parts
of the old man
then talk to the railroad men
and tell em
Lord I'll tell em.

INSURANCE

Last week some man
drove his Cadillac into the side
of my grandfather's house
where it ended up in the basement
severing the water pipes, shorting out the electricity
and demolishing the basement refrigerator.

It was late at night
and my grandfather was sound asleep
with the dog in his lap
in front of the 11 o'clock news.

Abruptly awakened during a chewing gum commercial
he called up my father to come have a look
and together they found the Cadillac
in the basement, its driver unhurt
and claiming he had no idea what happened
and that, yes, he had insurance
but it had run out that afternoon.

Everyone agreed that the Cadillac had no business
there in the basement and that the refrigerator
was a write off,
that some things are unexplainable
and defined as acts of God
even by the insurance people
who must have known about the vehicle's
attraction for basement walls
and the rising costs
of masonry repairs.