THE POETRIE GALLERIE

I HAD IT ALL

I once owned a house up on the hill
with a picket fence all around
I had Benz and a Rolls
the finest cars in town

I vacationed the winters
in the Caribbean
and the summers in the south
of France
I even spent lots of money
just to learn how to dance

I ate Lobster de Jonghe for
breakfast
and had Caviar Canapes for
lunch
I drank my share of Dom
Perignon
with the best of the bunch

I brought a suit
almost every day
And presents galore
I have given away

Oh, I was rich
and was having a ball
Then one day I realized
I had spent it all

I sold the house
and the cars went too
My friends found out I was
broke
and away they flew

To them I was a great guy
when I had money to spend
and now that it is gone
I cannot find a friend

You know-I should have
listened
to what the old folks used to
say
Never spend it all, Son
save some for a rainy day

And now that I have told
you
my story this night
Never spend your money
unwisely
Always remember my plight

IRVING SEALS
Philadelphia, PA

THE VALUE OF A SMILE

In this world we live in
We must walk many a mile,
That's why it's so good to know
The value of a smile.

We may not have a song to give
Nor riches, nor silver, nor gold,
But if we can give a smile
Its riches are worthy to behold.

We know not the day nor hour
When friends of ours must part,
So let's be ready, whenever the day
To give a smile and ease the broken heart.

Life may be very short, dear friend
So let's share a smile
With loved ones who are dear,
Let's do it now, not tomorrow
When it may bring many a tear.

LEE NORA WILLIS-SAVAGE
Pine Bluff, AR

FORTY ACRES AND A MULE

The Civil War is over, and you've set black folks free.
The peace between the North and South, will go down in history.
But I am here to tell you, that there's something you forgot.
What happened to my forty acres and a mule?

Now, please don't think I'm ungrateful, for this freedom that you gave.
You were only trying to make amends, for making black folks your slave.
But you gave us all a promise, and I hope this one comes true.
I need my forty acres and a mule.

You made other people promises, paid them off with great rewards.
Now I'm not jealous of that fact, and I'm happy for their cause.
But I've worked for you in slavery, and I've paid my dues in full. And I want my forty acres and a mule!

Did you take my forty acres, and sign it away with the mule?
Did you take advantage of black folks, that never went to school?
You said we took off running, didn't stay to get our claim.
What happened to my forty acres and a mule?

Some people want to be snooty, and forget about the past.
But I want everything that belongs to me, including my land and my ass.
Don't pat me on the shoulder and say, "Tomorrow's another day."
You'd better give me my forty acres and a mule!

The years are passing swiftly, and folks are getting old.
Some have died and even cried, that the white man was so cold.
But I am here to tell you, no matter how long it takes,
I'm going to get my forty acres and a mule!

BEATRICE GARRETT
Los Angeles, CA

FOR THOSE WHOM THE BELLS ARE TOLLING

The acid rains have come and gone, leaving nuclear winter chasing the purple autumns of our lives;

Dying bones, wrapped in parched skins, silhouette the inept horizons of the desert's edge.

Famine, the silent emissary of death, carpets the naked alter of life: hunger tutoring the sacrificial lambs;

While in the shadows and hues of distant dawns, ships sail to the moon: leaving death smiling at the evil that men do.

MILLARD L. LOWE
L.A., CA

SUMMERTIME GESTURE

The flowers bloomed upon a solemn meadow of tranquil lore,
The sands shifted and were made countless by the rushing sea that hurried in to bless the shore,

The oak trees bended with foliage thick to form some shade, the season beckoned bright and lovely across the hills and valleys, touching the heart of a pure summer's day.

JAMES E. KELLY
Philadelphia, PA

All materials must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Address all correspondence to: The Editor, Dawn Magazine, 628 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore, MD 21201