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Matter of Time

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A Matter of Time

To Jeff Gesch

Brian Huseland

Wires lurch sideways
Across four thousand miles of America.
Sound shoots from ear to ear
At speeds that would make
Chuck Yeager jealous.

My clumsy digits dial
An old uncle in Seattle suburbia—
Skirting the Black Hills,
Screaming over Montana's skin,
Skipping over Idaho as I blink my eyes,
Roaring in its fiber-optic tunnel
Above the sagebrush and ranges of Washington,
Finding the correct house in a city
Of more than half a sprawling million:
In slightly less than 2 seconds.

But it's busy. I tap my fingers
For another anxious minute
Before trying again. I am like the innkeeper
Of long ago; ignorant of miracles
Right under my nose.