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## Lament for Bert

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# Lament for Bert

Mike Vanden Bosch

At last a day not thinking of him, and then I saw  
the sky-blue 1936 Ford Coupe at a car show and Bert  
alive again at the wheel, windblown, puffing on a Lucky  
Strike, me in the rumble seat, wind whirling my hair.

How we soared then, he seventeen to my seven, law  
to my dreams, invincible and oblivious to any hurt,  
charming as the Marlboro man, until lured unlucky  
down death lane, to suck hard for one puff of air.