

Michael McDowell

## Senator Corbett's Pasture

*Seaview, Washington*

Senator Corbett's pasture has disappeared behind a new garage.  
From our kitchen sink it's slats and shingles  
and tops of trees against the low coastal clouds.

Senator Corbett's pasture used to graze cows.  
From the dusty street we watched them munch  
as we walked nickels in hand to Sugarman's Store.

Senator Corbett's pasture long ago used to graze chestnut horses,  
When his family and servants summered  
On this peninsula of pines and brown pelicans.

Now Senator Corbett's pasture grazes RVs parked side by side.  
Super-sized families in T-shirts and caps  
hose dead fish on the grass beneath the awnings.

We hear their scooters buzz the length of the pasture,  
Behind the slats and shingles of the new cedar garage,  
Where once the cows and horses stood in coastal fog.