

## Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele

The mustache Charlie  
Chaplin wore in his films was  
Not hair but greasepaint.

In the U. S., most  
Male babies are circumcised;  
In the UK, few.

Gingerbread covered  
With warm lemon sauce is a  
Very fine dessert.

Father bought a new  
Car every two years, always  
Another Hudson.

A hanged man's penis  
Stands up and out. He loses  
Control of his bowels.

The basenji dog  
From Africa is noted  
For having no bark.

Father said nothing.  
"My little sugar dumpling,"  
Mother would call me.

Our living room had  
Two double sliding pocket  
Doors of golden oak.

He "streaked" (ran naked)  
Across the football field at  
A big game. Caught, jailed.

The older child stabs  
The hated younger child to  
Death with sharp scissors.

The plastic fake trees  
Seen in countless waiting rooms  
Need no care, fool some.

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My psychologist  
Lost his license for carnal  
Play with a client.

Plain yellow cake, warm  
From the oven, eaten with  
Butter and cold milk.

*Chauncey*: an ancient,  
Old-fashioned, formal name now  
Seldom given boys.

I don't believe in  
Spiritualism. The  
Dead are quite silent.

Yet I read accounts  
That almost compel belief  
In the dead stirring.

Hay-Adams House is  
A small, upscale hotel not  
Far from the White House.

On Election Day,  
Nell sits on her front porch till  
Someone buys her votes.

At Clifton's coffin,  
Mother thought he opened one  
Eye and looked at her.

Our dog Bobby ran  
Loose and chased cars. He got run  
Over by a car.

He stares directly  
And fixedly at the sun  
Until he goes blind.

My cousin Tillman  
Browning went down with his ship,  
The *Arizona*.

Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele (page 3)

I learned that you can  
Hang yourself from a doorknob.  
I don't yet know how.

The cat bore her wee  
Kittens on old clothes lying  
Back in a closet.

Dark hair parted in  
The middle, Virgin-style: the  
Duchess of Windsor.

Mother soaked raisins  
Overnight before adding  
Them to cake batter.

Summers, when a child,  
I would stay for two weeks with  
Our kin on Cow Creek.

Freshwater pearls, once  
Irregular, now are shaped  
Perfectly and sold.

*The Book of Knowledge*  
Told me that Santa Claus was  
Really my parents.

Some Chinese women  
Wear long dresses with a high  
Collar and slit skirt.

On Mother's Day one  
Wore a fresh red rose (Mother  
Living) or a white.

My slight heart murmur  
Kept me from being drafted  
Into the Army.

Some male models are  
Now shown "beardy," with some days'  
Growth of dark whiskers.

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Mother often sat  
On the front porch stringing and  
Breaking raw green beans.

Elizabeth Anne  
Cunningham was my sister's  
Best friend in high school.

The Duke and Duchess  
Of Windsor had two dogs (pugs)  
In place of children.

Mother liked to bake  
A pineapple upside-down  
Cake set with cherries.

For years I have read  
About cheese fondue but have  
Never eaten it.

The traditional  
Ballads my grandfather sang  
Were lost when he died.

None of his children  
Wanted them. They liked music  
On the radio.

Though Mother liked "nice"  
Dishes, she had no passion  
For antique china.

I made a pencil  
Drawing of Jo Ann's head. I  
Think it is quite good.

Selective Service:  
What a cunning term that was!  
Now there is no draft.

A new mode in art:  
Soft sculpture. Cloth, foam rubber,  
Flexible plastic.

Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele (page 5)

Celebrate Christmas?  
No. I have not done so since  
1943.

Mother was skilled at  
Using the sewing machine.  
She often made clothes.

I like parsnips cut  
Crosswise into disks, which are  
Sautéed in butter.

I appreciate  
Ramps for disabled persons  
Instead of steep stairs.

Scratches and bites from  
Cats can turn deadly, I have  
Read. I like cats less.

Mr. Burns in our  
Advanced Latin course later  
Tried to pick me up.

My sister-in-law  
Louise said that Sybil "could  
Not hold her liquor."

Mother bought me a  
White portable radio,  
Which I used for years.

Effexor XR:  
Psychoactive drug. It keeps  
Me sane and alive.

Of a lesbian  
Pair, one may be mannish, the  
Other feminine.

Shakespeare might not have  
Liked me, but I think he would  
Have understood me.