

## My Grandfather Dies

Even for their time,  
your family was out of step—  
your father's mustache waxed too generously,  
insisting on speaking German  
where German was not spoken.

Your brothers did all right  
for what they were, foolishly  
big-nosed. Farmers, they harvested  
their wheat. Unable to hug anyone,  
they knew they would be unsatisfactory  
in marriage, so lived alone.

You wouldn't know; you married,  
then couldn't recognize your children.  
Your son in those snapshots, posed  
like a sorry actor in his motorcycle cap,  
was said in that small town to be no good.  
You said nothing. How would you know?

That daughter,  
always trying to get personal,  
asking what you thought about everything  
as if you should be taken apart,  
as if it were anyone's business  
to know what you thought.

And all needing to be buried, then.  
Your wife, thrown from the car  
you should have stopped, broken  
like a foul egg. Your son,  
under the weight of a flatbed truck,  
giving up breath by degrees.

All but your daughter, taking you home  
to a man who couldn't build a doghouse  
and me—one of two rude children to be played with,  
who resented you for never mentioning  
your wife, speaking of long-dead brothers  
as if they were wives.

The day you walked out our front door  
with two hats on your head, your underwear  
over your left arm, saying  
you were going home to Iowa—  
you made fools of us.

You thought green stamps were money.  
Our tomcat liked you best.  
You weren't satisfied and you weren't  
miserable and you still wouldn't  
be touched. What was to be done with you?

And you really did us, dying,  
silent in your small bed.  
Without giving anyone time to get there,  
to tell how we'd loved you, how  
sorry, how you'd done your best with what  
you were and no one knew what that was.  
Without having to hear all that.

Laura McDonald



## Add something special to your food storage menus with Mountain House Freeze Dried Food

You can add real taste and variety to your food storage menus with our quality freeze dried foods.

### All Meat Unit

Delivers 12 large #10 cans of real meat, fish and poultry. Pork chops, beef steak, shrimp, turkey, ham, fish steaks, sausage patties...and MORE. All USDA inspected and packed to store for many years, or to be used as needed. Some items are pre-cooked...some are freeze dried raw to be cooked to taste.

### Main Course Entree Unit

Delivers 30 large #10 cans, most of which feature real meat, poultry or seafood entrees, in 16 different menus...and they'll be just as good after years of storage.

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY REAL MEAT CAN BE STORED FOR SO MANY YEARS AND RETAIN ITS FRESH COOKED OR NATURAL FLAVOR.

■ For a free food storage Customer Catalog and the name of your nearest distributor, send a 24¢ stamped, self-addressed envelope to: FOOD STORAGE, Oregon Freeze Dry Foods, Inc., P.O. Box 1048, Albany, Oregon 97321.

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

**Breakfast Units Also Available.**

**MOUNTAIN HOUSE®**  
 **Freeze Dried Foods**