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The Cowboy Grows Older

Barbara Armbruster
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The Cowboy Grows Older

Barbara Armbruster

He mounts the mower
in a stained straw hat
saved special for the occasion.
He has waited all week for this—
waited for the rain to stop,
for the battery
to charge up the horse power,
for the doctor
to say he is able.
He leaves the confines
of the garage
with the steely concentration
of a rodeo cowboy
bolting from the chute.
In graceful arcs
he swoops around
the plum tree
the tulip bed
the wood stacked for the fireplace—
the cowboy cutting it close
around barrels
as the crowd whoops.
And I think I see him
waving his hat in the air,
beating the dust from his jeans.