



STAND UP

Writing from Bezazian and Mabel Manning Branch Libraries, Albany Park Community Center, Lindblom Park, St. Leonard's House, and Southwest Youth Collaborative

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Images from the [People's Atlas of Chicago](#), a project of [AREA Chicago](#).

This issue of JOT is dedicated to the memory of Shrong Clemons, member of the St. Leonard's and Mabel Manning Writing Workshops.

**TREE
Elvarnado Payne**

Serene fall evening from lake
Sunset point of view
Leafless tree chill perspective

**A SECRET PLACE
James Nowik**

I found a secret place
where I could ride in the fast lane...
doo-wop-diddy
and all that jazz...
A pump-jump, rock-a-billy roll
riding a freeway like a
sleek silver streamliner leaving town...
for parts unknown.
Hotfooting my way up Bucktown...
doing whirlies and fast turns.
I stop in the middle of nowhere
where the road turns to dirt.

Construction guys waving at me, yelling,
"Hey kid! Get off the freeway..."
I found a secret place
where I could ride my
doo-wop-diddy in the fast lane
rock and roll...
Riding my bike to Grandma's
ice cream, candy, bubblegum...
Sweet recollections
one summer in the 50s...
in the midst of my youth.