

Ancestral.....

Chester Sheppard Dawson

The licorice  
of time melts in

my mouth  
acrid now to the

taste.  
Yet I do not

spit it out:  
Grandpa said

avoid waste. \$\$

Charity.....

Chester Sheppard Dawson

Worth so  
little

my small  
smile

yet

a beggar  
picked it

up and  
carried it

a mile. \$\$

Habit.....

Chester Sheppard Dawson

Watching a bulldozer  
scraping brush for  
  
commercial invasion  
I saw a tortoise thundered  
  
to goo.  
I suppose the operator  
  
had reasons. One need not  
be Einsteinian to know  
  
that's the way it's always  
been: we find  
  
a reason — or excuse — for  
turning Death loose. §§

Obesity.....

Chester Sheppard Dawson

She walruses up  
the long long

hill pausing at  
the crest

smiling now at  
the succulence

of rest. \$\$

Tact.....

Chester Sheppard Dawson

You do  
not need  
a  
knife to  
cut  
or match  
to  
burn.

To crush  
does  
not require  
force.  
Consider this:  
it took me  
years to  
learn. §§

Take-Off.....

Chester Sheppard Dawson

As I watched  
you slowly ascending with  
those ahead and  
turning briefly wave;  
when a Niagara of  
noise assailed us all;  
when so massive a device  
became a  
bird  
then I knew somehow  
in my most shattered heart  
the words I never said -  
but thought -  
you heard. §§

**Abstracts**

