

# Progress?

by John Engle

What was Cassinelli Nursery now is  
Cassinelli Square. They've pulled up  
all the flowers to plant a shopping  
center there. They've bulldozed all  
the trees away and in their place have  
planted a thousand lovely light posts—  
just what we've always wanted.

They've blacktopped eighty acres  
to hide the evidence of evergreens  
and daffodils that once grew rank  
and dense. Now parking lots all glisten  
with rows and rows of cars that bring us here  
to shop and drink at cozy little bars.  
A hundred stores now sprout their wares  
where roses used to grow, while bargain-seekers  
congregate to watch their money go.  
And everywhere the hungry hum of registers  
is heard, replacing the old fashioned song  
sung by a mockingbird. No one weeps for the  
nursery. It could never equal this—  
the happy people pushing carts  
through endless aisles of bliss.

What was Cassinelli Nursery now is  
Cassinelli Square—proud monument to progress.  
Let us all go shopping there!