

A Challenge to Kentuckians: Seven Faux Anglo-Saxon Riddles

by Jim Hinsdale

I

seabed risen,
flow funnels
through coral.
under trilobyte eyes
cats and walleyes
cruise the reef.

Ans. Falls of the Ohio at Louisville

II

english timothy sifts
through seams in deerskin packs,
from boxes of china and crocks,
through cracks in wagon boards.
roots in sweet soil.
grazers speed its spread
from worn traces and
springs near Elkhorn.

Ans. Bluegrass

III

shaggy roadmaker
bulldozes trails.
haberdasher, cup-molder,
he folds his tent
when flame licks air
to erase him
from green pastures.

Ans. Buffalo

IV

above treetops
currents eddy
through mountain peak.
needle's eye to where
three rivers meet.

Ans. Natural Bridge at Slade

V

trodden serpent
 slithers across canetucky,
 joins ohio to little tennessee.
 gapped teeth allow entry
 into dark, bloody ground.

Ans. The Warror's Path or Wilderness Road

VI

from Penn's land,
 slung or at ready,
 they breathe fire,
 ejaculate lead
 when cheek caresses
 smooth walnut,
 finger curls brass,
 butt smacks shoulder.

Ans. Pennsylvania Long Rifles

VII

stub-tailed feline
 stalks cardinals,
 drives women insane,
 makes sane men cry.

Ans. UK Wildcat