

# My Brother Outside a Cantina at Night, Mexico

*by* Jerry Ratch

On the mantelpiece  
suddenly there it is  
the picture taken of him

in his thin, swanky  
black leather jacket  
out on the town at night  
in Mexico with his girlfriend

Holding a small cheroot  
in his hand  
with his palm upward

His head turned in profile  
looking at her as if to say:  
*"Is this cool or what?"*

The hair well over his  
ear and collar  
Elvis Presley sideburns  
At the height of his power

enjoying life after  
closing a deal  
on an empty building  
somewhere

There is something  
about the way he's  
holding that cheroot  
between his thumb  
middle and ring fingers  
with his palm held upward —

relaxed beyond reason  
outside a loud cantina  
casting shadows in the warm  
brightly-lit Mexican night

