

ROARSHOCK PAGE

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October 9, 2020

October 9, 2020 — the 60th birthday of ROARSHOCK PAGE publisher and editor, D. A. Wilson. ROARSHOCK SIXTIES begins now! Here's a new poem that looks at a place of inspiration. It's not a house, it's a home.

CASA CANTOROSA

My Mom and Dad
bought the house
and the lot
in 1972 for about \$40,000.
They insisted on this lot
and no other.
Last house on a steep street
top of the hill
backing onto parkland
and views back down the hill
into the big valley
and across it to the south
the looming form
of Mt. Diablo.
The subdivision lots
had been carved from the hill
there were native grasses
and a few wild oaks
and hard local dirt.
Not much else.

John O Wilson
began to build the soil
and in close consultation
with his wife Helga E
create a remarkable garden
of rare beauty
and rare practical use.
Many years of truck loads
of horse manure
were shoveled into
the flower and vegetable gardens.
Many, many times
I was enlisted
to shovel shit!
Writing this in 2020
nearing our half century mark
@ the Top of the Hill.
Beautiful rich soil
full of all that manure
and years of our own compost

vegetable scraps and yard clippings
sustained by precious
and expensive water
pumped to us up the hill
via the mid-hill pump house
(where we sometimes hung out in youth)
by the City of Martinez.
Water, ever the concern
and especially in dry years.
Dry, hot years of the 21st century.
Some years the garden has gone dry
but the soil remains
and when there is water
the garden blooms.

I love the yard.
So much
that my father built
all around me.
The fences
and the brickwork
with the bricks he salvaged
from the Howard Street Terminal.
When the Oakland A's play baseball there
(in some future when people again
congregate in ballparks)
that field will be known to me
as John O. Wilson Park.
And I will take
his great grandson
to a game.
Hey, since I am dreaming
of a social world beyond 2020,
Let's make it
a World Series game.

"A feeling is an idea
with roots." -- what was inside
the bluejay's fortune cookie
(I had left a whole
fortune cookie
out in the backyard
and a bluejay ate it,
just the paper
fortune ribbon
remained).

All day long
the humming bird
is flying in the wind.
At night darkness descends.
Zandar the cat and I
on the back deck

listening to racoons
chattering down the hillside.
A startling screech
as the huge owl
flaps low through the yard
to perch in the plum tree.

I understand Gary Synder's wisdom
about picking a place
in the physical world
and making a difference there.
I grew up here
but moved into the City
to make my difference
and my career
and raising children
was a success
with two beautiful, funny
and dazzlingly intelligent daughters
who are all the work
I really needed to do
according to evolution.
And now I have grandchildren
so great concern
that a world remains for them.
So that they may have
their chance to push
evolution a little further.

Helga and John's little hobby
now there are well over 300
different roses in the yard.
In spring a riot
of scents and colors.
Helga has cut flowers
brought inside to arrange
in her vases.
The outside garden
comes inside.
Sometimes the roses fade
And lose their sweet scent,
and as the summer heats
then she does arrangements
with sunflowers
that look like Van Gogh
paintings come to life.

Top of the Hill MTZ
on some dark nights
Troll Hall atop Troll Hill.
Always, under sun, stars and moon
Casa Cantorosa.
The House of the Book of Roses.

— D. A. Wilson

*Excerpts from a longer poem
"Words to the Soil"
Top of the Hill
Martinez, California
2020*

OCTOBER ALMANAC

10/01	2020	FULL HARVEST MOON
	1921	Lisbeth Holz Roessler born in Cincinnati.
10/05	1978	Kathryn Blum was born.
10/07	1849	Edgar Allan Poe died in Baltimore.
	1955	Six Gallery reading in San Francisco.
10/09	1776	Mission San Francisco de Asís founded.
	1940	John Lennon born in Liverpool, England.
	1960	D. A. Wilson born in Walnut Creek, CA.
	1975	Sean Lennon born in New York City.
10/10	1985	Orson Welles died in Los Angeles.
10/11	1963	Édith Piaf and Jean Cocteau both died on this day in France.
10/12	1810	First Oktoberfest in München.
	1875	Aleister Crowley born in England.
10/13	1884	Greenwich, London established as the Universal Time meridian of longitude.
10/14	1926	A. A. Milne's <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> published
10/15	1953	Christina Johns Wilson born in Idaho.
	1966	The Black Panther Party was founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.
10/16	2020	NEW MOON
	1854	Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland.
	1947	Bob Weir was born in San Francisco.
10/17	1989	Loma Prieta earthquake hit San Francisco Bay Area at 5:04 PM Pacific time.
10/20	1854	Arthur Rimbaud was born.
	1991	Oakland Hills firestorm.
10/21	1772	Samuel Taylor Coleridge was born.
	1952	Brent Mydland was born in München.
10/22	1920	Timothy Leary born in Springfield, MA.
	1972	Brian Cox, DJ and artist, was born.
10/23	1958	First appearance of The Smurfs in <i>Spirou</i> .
10/25	1991	Bill Graham, impresario, died.
10/30	1938	Orson Welles' broadcast of H. G. Wells' <i>The War of the Worlds</i> caused a panic.
	1987	Joseph Campbell died in Honolulu.
10/31	2020	FULL BLUE HUNTER'S MOON HALLOWEEN

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