

Two poems from Thelma Ackley 2004

How to Write Poems While Traveling

I note when I travel I spend most of the time,
Trying to find a few words that rhyme,
I use vowels and letters with irregular verbs.
Anything goes, mix up those words.
Select a good subject, keep it in mind.
With this crowd of travelers, it's not hard to find
Phi Mu keeps us traveling to locations so prime,
It's easy to think of subjects that rhyme

The Red Horse Carver

When I was a lad I served a term ,
Sweeping the s-awdust at a carving firm.
We made small wooden horses and painted them red.
It wasn't that much, but it kept us fed.
They turned out so well we couldn't meet demand
So I became a carver with a knife in my hand.
I carved so well , they rewarded me.
I became the best carver in the industry .
So stick to your carving and use a sharp knife,
And you will have a wonderful, useful, life

Harem Jim's Lament

They told me having a harem was a great treat.
They told me I'd have women at my feet.
They told me they would do things I can't repeat.
They told me they would listen, and not refuse.
They neglected to tell me they were all Phi Mus

TRAVELING WITH PHI MU

...Thelma Ackley

We've traveled by plane.
We've traveled by bus,
Over mountains and passes,
With nary a fuss.

We've traveled by sleigh.,
We've traveled by train,
Thru tunnels, o'er bridges.
Whether sunshine or rain.

This Phi Mu crowd's fun
They laugh and they joke ,
But when they mean business
They support Project HOPE.

(Thelma's poem was written following the group's visit to the Project HOPE working site across the border from Vienna in Bratislava, Slovakia)