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Fireline (poem)

Steven Hind

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PRAIRIE FIRE NEAR CASSODAY, KANSAS, 1990
Larry Schwarm

Fireline

STEVEN HIND
from In a Place with No Map

When warm nights come
and April tells the grass
it's time, ranchers fire
the winter leaves, raise
white smoke to the heavens.

Miles burn under the sky
as night guitars spool
clear from Mexico on the dial
in the slow-rolling car.

Fire circles hills with
its hot jaws, and I (with
my lights off) drive
the dusty lease roads.

Surrounded by steel, by
fire and smoke, music
and stars, I sing
in this burning land.

Steven Hind, native to Greenwood County, lives in Hutchinson. His poems have appeared in numerous periodicals and anthologies, and he has published four collections of poetry: Familiar Ground, That Trick of Silence, In a Place with No Map, and The Loose Change of Wonder (a 2007 Kansas Notable Book). He has degrees from Emporia State University and the University of Kansas.