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In Search of Place (poem)

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In Search of Place

*...for the listener...nothing himself, beholds
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.*

—WALLACE STEVENS

You come to the prairie searching for a way
out, constrained by agendas, contracts
and a sense you've missed something

more than a business opportunity.
You're ready to negotiate. Slow
the pace. You've nothing to lose.

Opting for a dirt road, you are astonished
by nothingness.

But you stay to see it through.

You borrow a 4 wheeler, surprised the rancher
tosses you keys—points to wheel ruts,
says, *Follow the two-track to find your way.*

You unload the cell phone and ear buds,
the plastic, the bills and change, the watch
and ring and ride to the crown of a hill.

You cut the engine, wade into bluestem,
listen for the something—
a word perhaps,

and consider your next move.

Kansas Flint Hills
24 AUGUST 2008



WHITEWATER FALLS STOCK FARM
Ben Moore

H.C. Palmer, an assistant poetry editor for Narrative Magazine, is a retired medical doctor, a Vietnam War battalion surgeon, and a poet. His poetry has appeared in New Letters, War Literature And The Arts, The New Mexico Poetry Review, Flint Hills Review, I-70 Review, Ekphrasis, Island Journal, Kansas 150, and several anthologies. His work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.