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Imagine

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Mobilis in Mobili
Erin Curry

IMAGINE

Imagine someone finding Herefords and sycamores unnatural and uninteresting, one who lives inside caves of tall buildings, who wears dark glasses against the sunlight. Here, out of curiosity or even despair, he considers a creek bed for the first time, uneasy that shadows are diffused in timber and tall grass and unaware he has walked over a trail of wheel ruts and through the bowl of an old buffalo wallow. The spare tops of hills, set level by the bed of a Permian sea, appear the barest edges of a desolate landscape.

So, you go to him, walk him through the prairie grass into the timber, to the edge of Little Cedar Creek. You name plants he hurried by—sideoats grama grass, snow-on-the-mountain, and Jerusalem artichoke. You take him to an outcropping cut on the bank of a dry oxbow. You search through a trail of flint washed clean by spring rains. He removes the glasses to look for himself and discovers a Munkers Creek point. You tell him it is his to keep—a gift. You tell him if he stays after dark, he can see clearly the constellation Pleiades, thinking he has no idea; then you are pleased when he asks if he can see the Big Dipper too.

H. C. Palmer is a Kansas native. He served with the U.S. Army's First Infantry Division in Vietnam as a battalion surgeon. H.C. is now retired from his internal and sports medicine practice.