Contents

Introduction xiii Editor's Note xxvii

Hill Daughter

Memoria 3 4 Warning Blizzard 5 Snow Angels 6 American Boating Song (1939) Mayapple Hill 9 Poet 10 The Dream 11 Lullaby 12 Aubade to Fear (Heavy with Child) 13 Second Sight (My Son's First Springtime) 14 Hill Daughter 15

Wire Brier

Fox and Geese 19 Hill Song 20 2 21 Faldang Fiddler (1976) 22 Mountain Corn Song 24 Moonshiner 25 26 Wire Brier Involved (The Spider) 27 Overheard on a Bus (Woman with a Cleft Palate) 28 Chestnut Orchard 29 First Flight 30 Lost in Orbit 31 How to Unbewitch a Backtracking Hound 32 Ballad of Joe Bittner 33 Stories at Evening (A Suburban Mother Tells Stories to Her Son) 34 Ballad of Miss Sally 35 Ballad of the Rest Home 37 West Virginia 38 Garden Moment 39 Coal Fern 40 Ballad of New River 41

Gauley Mountain

Arrow Grasses by Greenbrier River 45 Gabriel MacElmain, Pioneer 46 The Clearing 47 The Flame 48 Cornelius Verner 49 Katchie Verner's Harvest 50 Oil Field 51 52 Lvdia Verner The Son 53 Pioneer Lullaby 54 Granny Saunders 55 Granny's Story 56 Martha MacElmain 57 Jane Renick MacElmain (1) 58 Jane Renick MacElmain (2) 59 Donna MacElmain 60 Susan O'Kane 61 Nora O'Kane 62 Tillie Sage (1) 63 Tillie Sage (2) 64 Tillie Sage (3) 65 66 Jed Kane Sol Brady 67 The Turnpike 68 Traveler and Old Sorrel 69 Burying Field 70 The River 71

The Horsemen

Corner Tree 75 The Autumn Drives (Early 1800s) 77 The Horsemen 79 Timber Boom 81 Log Drive 82 Saturday Night (1890-1910) 83 First Train (1895) 84 The Spark 85 Deserted Lumber Yard 86 Reforestation 87 Saturday Night (1930s) 88 Stoic (Circa 1907) 89 The Company (Coal Miner) 90 Best House They Was Ever In (Retired Coal Operator) 91 Monongah (December 6, 1907, Marion County, West Virginia, on the Monongahela River) 93

Overheard on a Bus (Miner's Wife) 94 Winter Day (Coal Country) 95 The Hard Road 96 The Roads 97 The Great Depression 98 Depression Wind (Winter 1930) 99 Pasture Line Fence 100 Threnody for Old Orchards 101 The Grave Creek Inscribed Stone 102 The Runway Team (Written a Few Days After John Glenn's Space Flight) 103

Time Is Our House

Time Is Our House 109 Cassandra 110 The New Corbies 111 After the Blast 112 Potherbs (Of the Edible Wild Plants My Granny Taught Me) 113 Of Fitness to Survive 114 Life-Force 115 The Cave 116 "Light" 117 When the Scientists Told Me of the Expanding Universe 118 To the Boys in Freshman History (Thermopylae, 480 B.C.) 119 The Hounds 121 Epitaph in the Imperative Mode 122 The Passage of Time 123 The Verb 124 Wife 125 Backward Flight 126 Over the Mountain 127 Author's Notes

Author's Notes 133 Bibliography 137