

CALOOSAHATCHEE

for Dan Gravely

To be god of naming

Mississippi, Appaloosa, Snake

To cling like red skin

Memory flush with pride

To fire the smoke of Tecumseh

A crazy horse

I'd gladly succumb to ash

Coal dust, the dried out skin

Underworld

Deep in my throat, the songs

Measure notes, scores

By rote, bang drums

Dumb like heart beats

Who straightens the bearing sea, tunes

the Golden Gate

If I knew, wouldn't you

Seminole you, Caloosahatchee me

Scrawling onshore to see

Gary McLouth