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## CML News

We share a squat, sleepy warehouse just before the end of a dead-end road, in an industrial part of a suburban town on Long Island, with a manufacturer of ethnic foods and spices. Across from us sits a large, open field, surrounded by small woods where some people come to run their dogs. Along this road, there are other warehouses and small manufacturing companies, two gyms and a growing tech company, but we rarely see anyone other than our postal worker. And, since the anchoring property at the end of the road has been vacated by the previous tenant's 300 employees two years ago, vehicles rarely pass. It tends to be fairly quiet.

Or, it *was*, until drills and hammers, compressors and screeching circular saws, and other ground-shaking sounds joined our idyllic reading place. Our neighbors, like the stories and ideas contained in our anthology, are growing and expanding, and we have all been invited to the party. Please enjoy another issue of CML (while we try on some noise-cancelling headphones)!

## Highlights

It's 2020—there's the green flag—and they're off! Our first issue of the new decade takes us to the thrilling world of automotive racing. In "Calling Danger at the Grandview Speedway," **N.R. Kleinfield** remembers his father, a beloved announcer on the East Coast racing circuit, and the gradual decline in popularity of the sport among American audiences.

Taking up the spirit of adventure and exploration (subjects always dear to us here at CML!) we offer two accounts that feature creative writers also working as scientists. In "The Wild Man Within," **Jeff Wheelwright** remembers his uncle, the great novelist, naturalist, and one-time CIA agent, Peter Matthiessen. Rigorous in his scientific approach to natural history, Matthiessen's sense of wonder opened

his mind to nature's myriad possibilities, including even, to his nephew's surprise, the existence of Bigfoot. Another great novelist with a passion for nature was John Steinbeck. In 1940, Steinbeck and his best friend, marine biologist Ed Ricketts, set out on an expedition to collect rare undersea biological samples off the coast of Baja California, which he would later memorialize in his 1951 book *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* [DB68309]. "From the Tide Pool to the Stars," by **Richard Grant**, revisits this expedition and the fascinating story behind the recent salvaging of the *Western Flyer*, the 75-foot purse seiner fishing boat used by Steinbeck and Ricketts for their epic voyage.

Poetry and fiction are strong as always at CML. In this issue, we feature poems by **Sharon Olds, Eamon Grennan, Sophie Klar,** and **Heidi Andrea Restrepo Rhodes,** as well as memorable short stories by **Thomas Pierce, Ted Chiang, Louise Erdrich** and **Dennis McFarland.**

## TOP PICKS

In his magical short story, "Charlie Parker Plays Bossa Nova," **Haruki Murakami** tells of a jazz critic who reviews an LP in which the legendary saxophonist, Charlie "Bird" Parker, performs Bossa Nova hits. The only problem is, Parker died in 1955, well before the existence of the Bossa Nova style. The critic's youthful hoax takes on new life years later in a small Manhattan record shop.

"Blue Monotone," an essay by **Laura Glen Louis,** describes the physical, psychological, and spiritual effects of performing in Yves Klein's *Monotone Symphony*. Klein, a precursor of Performance Art, and the inventor of the color International Klein Blue, composed this unusual choral work in 1949. The piece consists of 20 minutes of a single sustained chord, followed by 20 minutes of silence. As a bonus, we are pleased to provide you with a brief audio sampling of the Klein work to supplement narrator Mare Trevathan's virtuosa reading.

"A Brief History of the Huron," by **Kevin Honold** is a profound, and complex, meditation on history and the interconnectedness of past and present, the sublime and the quotidian, the communal and the personal. This unusual essay is

as much a close reading of Francis Parkman's epic *France and England in North America* [DB34519 and DB34520] as it is an exploration of Honold's own, often painful, memories of early adulthood, blue-collar labor, friendship and betrayal.

**And Special Thanks To...**

**Bill B.**, a veteran from Kingsport, TN who told us, "They keep me connected to the outside world. I so enjoy those articles on CML."

Happy Winter from Annie, Mike, Jay, Alfredo and Raquel!

**Did you Know?** The "D-B" Beat

Our past newsletters have, on occasion, mentioned numbers prefaced with the initials "DB." These represent digital talking book titles that you can request from your local Talking Book Library's reader advisor. Whether you want to learn more about a subject covered in our articles, or simply need some additional reading material between issues of CML, stay tuned: we're keeping an eye out for occasions where our articles mention books in the National Library Service's BARD collection and will be sharing them with you here.