

LUCKY TEETER AND THE SPHERE OF TERROR

were real. But dead and gone before I was born.

I always thought you'd made him up. Like

Arvilla's son Herkimer Claude was the first

man ever killed in an automobile—fell drunk

off the running board, only going about 15 miles

an hour but there was a cow. . . You get the

picture? And I see it. Balanced on top

of the K-Mart water tower—stainless

steel, the Sphere, like a whole hollow world flung

from some distracted Atlas hand. The little men,

the little motorcycles, the rising buzz, the shrieking

fall, rolling, rolling, rolling, into someplace under the wires

of my mind back with Herkimer climbing the walls

of a brandy snifter and a cigar stubbed out

on a rusted floor.

