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Maintaining Orbit

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Maintaining Orbit

by Robert Kendrick

In the vacant lot by the Beer Nuts plant,
our rock band played whiffle ball
barefoot on fescue & dirt, heads still
in the nebulas of Saturday stage lights.

Clay spun screwballs that bent
natural laws, while Tommy flicked
double plays behind his slim back,
the lengthening ash of his menthol
never seeming to drop.

Ann's legs caught the sun as they circled
the grass, while John snared liners
with bare-chested dives, then rose
with green streaks on his Navy tattoos.

Not ready for what waited over the fence,
we sliced a toy bat through shadows
that pointed our way to Eureka & General Electric
& kept time with the wind
as we hummed with the ball's Doppler song.

