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Interment

Leroy Thomas

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INTERMENT

by *Leroy Thomas*

Marilley Alice Rhiem:

This is a hurt I can't endure.
Wasn't it enough
that I watched inside the church building
as they closed your coffin for the last time?
And now they tell me to leave—
that the time for interment has come.
I don't know how to handle this—
as today's kids say.
I was only twenty when you so
confidently stole into my life sixty years ago.
I was yours from the first—
All you would've had to do was claim me.
Our life together was a series
of births and deaths
that hurt so much.
Only four of our twelve children lived.
Those four surround me now,
They'll make it all worthwhile
as I pick up the broken pieces
and face life again. ■