

CACTUSCEAN* ODE TO BUCK

during his Amarillo tribute 11/29/'95

by Cactus Jack McCarty

Unstrung, his legs hang quiet 'neath his arms,
Buck rolls unhinder'd, leading Cowboy's charms.
Tho' cag'd in iron, he soars where few can sail
thru' whirlwinds, lightning, thunder, wind and hail.
Well verse'd in pain, compassion floods his trail.
His inner riding wrangling thoughts with words,
he's leading wounded herds.
He models making use of what remains.
"tho' decks are stack'd, it's how the hands are play'd."
This great man's known for helpings of the small.
Late decorated by First Lady's hand,
Yet ne'er forgot his roots at Middlewell.
A writer raise'd to Horseman's point of view,
Buck sings the Cowboy's song.

* "Cactuscean" named for Cactus just as "Horatian" is named for Horace. This ode is a variation of the strict rhyme and rhythm pattern of the Horatian Ode scheme made popular by John Keats in the 1800's (Ode to a Grecian Urn). Been there, done that (Horatian Ode to the Horseman). This poem utilizes strict rhyme, off-rhyme, and no rhyme in iambic pentameter with iambic triameter in the 7th & 14th lines. Trying to follow Buck's leadership "Don't let you rhyme and meter get in the way of what you're trying to say." I know J B will think this is "pretty far out there," but maybe when it's his turn to be tributed, I can manage to write something he'll like (maybe). Also "It's my poem, I can write it any way I @\$% please!" Huh, Buck?