

1951 · *Terry Savoie*

During Eisenhower's first campaign
march toward the Presidency,
a heat wave worked some overtime
in the Chrysler Plant
leaving welders on salt tablet diets
and benching foundry men
along a First Aid Station wall
for the nurses to work over.

Back home, in front of the row houses,
grass-patches browned out and
in the bedrooms their women wouldn't
cooperate, not once,
so that going to bed was like
getting up, no difference.
It was behind one of these houses, behind

the back yard and a one car
garage, in the smelly alley on
an afternoon in that August,
that a boy led a small girl to give her
half a Hershey Bar
if she took down her panties and
hiked up her dress.

And he looked and looked
all the while the brown melting
sticky to fingers and around her mouth.
He unzipped, reaching in to
show her. She looked and looked,
holding out her chocolated
hand toward him in this
Eden, this Eden of their lives.