

ROBERT O. NORMAN

KEELUT COMES TO AKLIASUK 1918

(FOR MARTHA)

He came aboard the *Harmony*—
And even as the canons fired, music played
and people smiled—
It moved slowly,
silently,
and invisibly
among the people.

It was the days of sod houses,
seal-gut windows and dirt beds
when she watched Keelut haul away the dead.
While for three weeks she lived on snow—
hard bread
and slept sitting up.

But one—
Her grandfather's lead dog
lay by her and guarded her.
For not since the days of Jezreel
Did dogs have such a feast—
On the living and the dead.

