

BILL HOWELL

## Once

Tarred dirt lot. Flecked paint indicating **GUESTS**.  
The more recent pumps for diesel & propane wintered  
enough to celebrate the cash register sign inside:  
*FAR BETTER WORLD Where Everything Is Forgiven  
And Nobody Lets Anybody Get Away With Anything*

Wispy-feathered Silver Doctor impostors flaunt everything  
local that floats. Not to mention posed keepsake snapshots  
of huge throwbacks, replete with genuine grins. Location  
remains the most important local secret. And who knows  
the difference between Marketing & Art anymore?

Anybody who stops by soon figures: They claim  
this place is fished out, so probably these people know  
something about the gear that did it. They've rented & sold  
new & used rods & hand-tied flies for twenty-odd years  
since the last salmon was enticed from the M-----.

*O the sun danced on the roof of that river!*  
And the difference between Visual & Arterial?  
Tourists love to hold these fantasy wands  
in their hands & minds. Just for the moment  
you can pretend to be greedy too ....