

## The Marlboro Man Lives with Aunt Ethyl

*Mel Clark*

Like a pregnant teen in the 1960's  
He goes wheezing into that good night  
As though not seeing him  
Could change  
A Nation's stolen youth.

The girl would return  
Never speaking of what she'd done  
To pretend forever  
Everything is okay.  
But He will not come back  
Living forever in a nation's memory

And what is left in his void?

He was the last rugged tough guy  
(John Wayne is long dead)  
But our culture can no longer understand  
    the last of a breed that worked harder  
    lived harder  
    died harder  
Extinction of more than a bad habit.