Tyler, Texas

2 out of towners
   in the sharp grasses
white churches
not a hair feels out of place
   They say the next county over
from Smith is wet
You go around Ben Wheeler
Through dumb-fuck White House
Back over Black Beauty Ravine
   Drink till mothers due
   back at the home (for memory care)
for a random viewing of Eastside-Westside, 1949
   (Where Stanwyck and Ava Gardner step into the same picture)
Finally alone together
more arrowhead hunting
   We are fuses left scorched under lavender skies
       where Karen Carpenter’s longest note
is broken in half. Near dark I shot what I thought
   was a long stick
and didn’t check back for two days
   It was a water moccasin
   head all blown off
and caved in
   slick as snot