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LAST WORDS

Noyo River

ROBERT M. PETERSEN

weeds grown wild
rough board fence old
broke down
with rusty nails
& wire
meadow filled with
broom tipped
gold in the sun
smoke from a morning
fire

ROBERT M. PETERSEN (1936–1987) was a poet who contributed four lyrics to the Grateful Dead, including “New Potato Caboose” and “Unbroken Chain.” A longtime friend of Phil Lesh, who set three of his lyrics to music, Petersen was a part of the band’s early scene and remained a member of their extended family until his untimely death.