

GRATEFUL DEAD STUDIES

Volume 2

2015/2016

ISSN 2572-7818 (Online)

ISSN 2572-7702 (Print)

Petersen, Robert M.

Noyo River

CITATION INFORMATION

Robert M. Petersen

Noyo River

Grateful Dead Studies

Volume 2 (2015/2016)

Pages: 145–146

URL: http://gratefuldeadstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/GDSv2_Petersen.pdf

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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.