Winter 1957

Thoughts While Gazing Into Portage Stream

John Murphy
Western Michigan University

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope

Part of the Creative Writing Commons

Recommended Citation
Murphy, John (1957) "Thoughts While Gazing Into Portage Stream," Calliope: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 49.
Available at: http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope/vol4/iss1/49
Thoughts While Gazing
Into Portage Stream . . .

What saves us for God's sake
From these gobs of gunk, these
Turds swimming in procession?
They could climb the banks
And take the city in a day,
Flooding doorways up to chins
And erecting in piles, as
Monuments of industry, the wash
Of pulp from mills beyond the town.

Surely these kids must be strong
Of stomach to defy the stream
And play along its banks like
Tiny naiads in the kitchen sink.
They will not be taught to pity
A million generations of dead fish.
Leave that to the poets.
So for a moment I assume all conscience,
And if there is a moral in this ditch,
It is this:

It will be death by Rinso, friends,
Not war or the outrage in our livers.
Cities dump their despair in streams;
Streams overrun and conquer cities,
And artfully shaping cultures from our clay,
They drown us everlasting in our waste.

. . . John Murphy