



1974

24 Hour Open

Peggy Abbott
East Grand Rapids High School

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

 Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Abbott, Peggy (1974) "24 Hour Open," *Calliope*: Vol. 1974 : Iss. 1 , Article 5.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope/vol1974/iss1/5>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the English at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Calliope by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact maira.bundza@wmich.edu.



Peggy Abbott

24 HOUR OPEN

Forty year men—
they park their trucks
and come in to place
semi-orders;
toast and coffee,
cigarettes.

Suited and tied
with a salesman's smile
other men stack the cups
and ask for cream—
"Miss, the cow's gone dry again."

They stare into spoon swirls and dissolve
like sugar crystals,
into past-year pictures—L.A. and Amarillo,
G.R. and Rapid City . . .
I guess by now they're reruns.

A wink for the waitress,
quarter for the cup.
And the super seller looks
to the proudly distant semi-man—
thinking no tie,
 no ties, . . .
he sets his sales for the road.

He doesn't see
the bare-necked man
eye-following his polished shoes—
while he packs a trucker's flanks to leave.