Monday, March 12.

Curvy, tree-lined, two-lane:
maples', oaks' ancient trunks
east-facing sides
plastered with snow,

snapped boughs
at their feet;

branches and twigs piled
at road shoulders.


* Monday, March 12.

Backroad sugar shack:
windows steamed,

several open a crack,
vapors escaping;

wood smoke's
sweet scent.

* Police log, 13:97: Loose cows at Pfersick Road, owner advised.

* Monday, March 12.

Neglected orchard’s
gnarled trunks,
riot of bare branches
in need of pruning,

one shriveled apple
still clinging.

Police log, 18:27: Traffic stop, MV towed to owner's residence, no working headlights,
Route 116/Plainfield Road.

*

Tuesday, March 13.

The gravel driveway's
entire length

ankle deep
in overnight snow,

pristine but for
two tire treads;

rabbittracks
along one shoulder.

Police log, 11:42: Passing motorist reported heavy ice buildup at intersection of Hawley
Road and Suburban Drive, Highway Department advised.

*

Wednesday, March 14.

Bridal white field
back of house

unblemished but for
two converging tracks

one hare, one feline--
ferule cat? bobcat?--

converging,
then parting again.

Without incident?
Without incident!

*Police log, 08:39: Loose dog reported in area of Baptist Corner Road, ACO advised.*

* *

*Thursday, March 15.*

Outside bathroom window, icicles
catching afternoon sun, dripping;

inside, toilet seat up,
me tinkling.

*Police log, 07:49: Report of open door at Buckland Road residence, checked same, found
to be secure.*

* *

*Thursday, March 15.*

Two desiccated moths
between window

pane and screen
hang from threads

of last summer's
spider web.

*Police log, 10:41: Medical emergency, Baptist Corner Road, assisted Ashland Fire and
Highland Ambulance.*

* *

*Friday, March 16.*

Snow, falling straight as the sentinel pines at field's edge. Pewter sky too heavy to lift:
predawn light yet at 7 AM. Plow passes on main road; after an interval, a pickup with
headlights on; another interval, another pickup, headed the other direction. Snow now
falling slant, towering pine tops swaying. Blurred outline of a hunched man walking
beyond the tree line where sidewalk borders road. Ancient maples line driveway: white
beards growing in their crotches, upper halves of boughs, branches lace-draped, gaping
knot holes' lower lips frothy. Chorus of upper branches dancing in unison; one snapped
twig hangs vertically from the crotch of another, jittery as a compass needle. Now a snow
devil twirls across the field, exists stage left.
Police log, 09:27: Wood stove malfunction, Watson Spruce Corner Road, assisted on scene with Fire Department.

*

Friday, March 16.

Towering, many-branched, girthy maples; slender, fish-netted oaks; straight-arrow, beech saplings; droopy, snow-laden spruce; hangdog rhododendron.

Garden shed, cordwood, fence posts and rails all snow-capped; flat, sloping, peaked, and gabled roof-tops blanketed; composter, brush pile, patio table, bird feeder sugar-frosted.

Snow-covered sedan wind-sculpted.

Police Log, 11:48: Report of large pothole at Baptist Corner and South Street, causing damage to vehicles, MA DOT District 1 advised.

*

Saturday, March 17.

Bent maple bough outside window its tip snapped-off under weight of snow curved like a lens-- the focus of all my attention.

Police log, 11:59: Tree limb on wires Apple Valley Road, same on fire, assisted Ashfield Fire and Eversource Power.

*
Saturday, March 17.

Brass bed frame in roadside field

just the head and foot ‘boards’ visible in deep snow.

“What cheer! What cheer! What cheer!”

comments Cardinal perched high in a tree.

Police log, 13:14: Call to Mass Highway District 1; one of the school zone amber lights on Route 112 near Sanderson not functioning.