

Barry Hellman

A Hot Dog At Woolworth's

Your mother won't let you
have a foot long wiener.
She'd rather you had
no wiener at all.
She doesn't want you
to have relish
all over your face,
or end up
with a great big
mess on your lap.
If you want one,
you'll have to go
to the Ironbound section
of the city,
past the saloon,
where the Jersey Railroad
used to be.
The man behind the counter
serves Coke in a glass
with lipstick on the rim.
He'll let you
sit in a long line
of chrome chairs,
any one of which
will spin you
into the red hot world.

Barry Hellman was born and brought up in Newark, N.J., lives in Eastham, MA, holds a B.A. in English, a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and practiced psychotherapy for many years in western MA. He studied poetry at The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and Castle Hill Center For The Arts in Truro. His poems have appeared in *Writers' Journal*, *Five Hundred Tuesdays: The Wellfleet Writers' Guild Anthology*, *The Aurorean*, *Cape Cod's Literary Voice*, *World of Water*, *World of Sand: A Cape Cod Collection of Poetry, Fiction & Memoir*, *Poetica*, *PrimeTime Cape Cod*, *Ballard Street Poetry Journal*, *Still Crazy Literary Magazine*, and in several broadsides, radio programs, and videos. *The King of Newark*, a chapbook will be released by Finishing Line Press. Barry hosts The Chapel In The Pines Poetry Series in Eastham, Co-hosts the Poets' Corner Poetry Open Mic at The Cultural Center Of Cape Cod in S. Yarmouth, conducts workshops on writing and performing poems. His website publishes <http://home.comcast.net/~bmhellman> provides information about all poetry events on Cape Cod and other material of interest to poets.