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Whatever Happened to Rich

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Lynch: Whatever Happened to Rich
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RICH

Bill Lynch

His yellow swing against spring grass
was lauded as “regenerative”
and he left the graveyard shift
to toil in his own darkroom.
We held his slides up to a bar lamp
and drank to his future health,
lost touch and moved away—

only to find he had taken up
with the San Bernardino Sheriff,
turning his eye to a circus
of suffering riddled out on corpses.
Blue faces in spasm,
or lips limp with surrender,
and—surprise—never any one
from a natural cause.
His work took root in the
prosecutor’s syllogism,
gained favor with the shiftless jury.
He was trusted up to the point
of disappearing and
no one has heard of him since.