

After Reading Updike at Joe's
"Original" (that is)

I dine at Joe's
Original (that is).

Though none has said what 'tis
That makes him so original
There must be something
And tonight perhaps
I've found it out,

I dine alone — perforce.

I have no cute or sweet
companion — no kindred soul
Sharing Updike's verses with me.
Just my lone self.

Inspiring? — No!

But I did learn that

One may get a salad
A tossed green "small" salad
(Hidden in the "Salads" list
For forty-five cents)

(The regular cost

85 cents to two dollars
And are all a' la carte.)

With a meal.

And I did find a pearl

Within an oyster, but

It was cooked and its luster gone!

Pearls should not be cooked!

And anyway, too early 'tis,

To give the food at Joe's the 'biz.

Carl D. Duncan June 1, 1965