

Classic Yankee

by Sterling Warner

Honoring Jim Bouton & Notoriety

House fire flames consumed
walls, floors and ceilings
brass bedposts remain, patina
enhance by intense oxidation
yet the hearth stone bookcase
covered in ashes discolored
by smoke remained resilient
against the blazing onslaught;
leather bound copies of Homer's *Iliad*,
Shakespeare's *Complete Works*,
Dante's *Inferno*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*,
Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, Brontë's *Jane Eyre*
and Cervantes' *Don Quixote* stood
proud, upright, vulnerable in the face of
a blistering conflagration, only charring
the paper jacket on Bouton's *Ball Four*
a natural albeit fitting tribute to a memoir
dedicated revealing locker room antics
team jealousies, and onetime code of silence.