

## Steam

With pain, I shake my dull  
and useless head of fumes  
thanks to patience  
and lack of heat.

The noxious gas creeps naturally  
from the stove and kerosene heater  
to mouth through skin into lungs and  
blood to brain, confronting all the while.

Failure to see the labor  
Needed to repair the broken  
Boiler in the light and dark  
of suffering is personally  
regrettable reasoning in circumspect.

900 pound pans  
need welds, knowhow, manpower  
and 8 days to join  
with the steam-  
marker, which once assembled,  
carries dry, radiated warmth  
to converted rooms  
inside the tall, 1800's era building  
with a barbershop downstairs.

by Tom Hoffman