

SINNISSIPPI PHANTOMS

1960

We were Kennedy people
The War hero Senator with the very good hair
and the very beautiful wife
declared to run for President
and my parents knew
the time for their generation had come.
They bought the G.I. Bill postwar cottage
on the flood plain of the old farm
at North Second Street and Grand Avenue
where the American Elms made a last stand
before the Dutch Elm Disease wiped them out.
And one early September morning
we three marched off to the first day of first grade
Eddy Lewis, Betty Bressler, and me.

