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## Let's Meet in Carrboro

BY GARY PHILLIPS

Today let's meet in Carrboro  
Paris of the Piedmont  
West End, Lloydville, Venable  
Today when phoebes nest in their wattle and daub  
And fireflies cross their first open meadow  
Let's meet in Carrboro  
Across-the-tracks town for two centuries:  
cracker town, mill town, music town  
Today when knotty-heads start pebble beds  
And the first yellow-breasted chat flies into Bolin Forest  
Let's meet in Carrboro  
Where Alton Junius Alston ran a multi-racial pool hall  
For decades off Main Street, wearing shark-skinned suits  
Tailored in Chicago and calling everybody mister  
The tow-headed boy-children skipping high school  
The corner hipsters with baggy Pacos  
Captains of industry  
Hiding from their offices in Chapel Hill.  
Let's meet in Carrboro  
When Beltane fires are blooming, maypoles fling  
And every country in the world except America  
Celebrates International Workers Day  
Let's meet in Carrboro  
Hardwood crosssties town  
Art town-coffee town-whiskey town-boom!  
The home of Nyle Frank's Invisible University  
Almost visible, somewhere near Shelton Street  
Today when ground squirrels feast on the honey-nectar of poplar blossoms,  
Grey tree frogs find their voices  
And evening bats mate in the middle of the air after dancing for hours  
Let's grind our bodies against the music and  
Meet in Carrboro  
We saved the Carr Mill  
Sheltered Libba Cotton in 1906  
Daphne Athas in 1932  
Mike Nelson in 1995  
The Carrboro Citizen in 2007  
We have The Hoop Convergence  
And the Carrboro Music Festival  
Poetry, poetry blooming everywhere.  
We have gone by many names  
But let's meet in Carrboro  
Today  
Under ukulele skies  
When the first spotted egg releases its wren song  
While hawkweed flowers bloom  
And hummingbirds return to every back yard off James Street  
Let's meet  
in Carrboro.

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