

Thornton Lane

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Asphalt artery to our home,
thoroughfare for touring cars,
boulevard for bicycles,
passageway for pedestrians,
named in honor of Thornton.

Laconic farmer, perhaps,
growing crops on this rocky plot,
vegetables to feed people's bellies;
houses are its perennial plants today,
grocery stores supplying our food.

Taciturn forester, maybe,
harvesting trees on a wood lot,
fuel to warm people's homes;
oaks now supply only shade,
oil and gas providing our heat.

Reticent iceman, possibly,
salvaging coolant from Heart Pond,
blocks to preserve people's milk;
only skaters use the current ice,
refrigerators housing our perishables.

Farmer, forester, or iceman,
his legacy is a street sign,
simply a mapquest datapoint,
set of GPS coordinates,
a nine-digit zip code.

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