

# George F. Babbitt

## TOM STAFFORD

At the age of forty-six I had neither made nor done anything in my life,  
Neither poetry nor shoes nor butter,  
But I could sell houses--for more than people could afford to pay.  
I had married--two daughters, a son.  
I was always longing to do something I liked--  
Never doing, never finding it.  
I became the foremost speaker in Zenith--  
Offered membership in the Good Citizens' League--  
Of my own convictions I refused,  
But others' convictions forced me to join.  
I had told my son--"Get a college degree."--  
He opposed me.  
My son had been told not to marry too young;  
He did.  
It took my son to convince me--  
How great it is to do what you please.

# Cemetery of Happiness

TOM STAFFORD

Alone - alone in a desolate burying place  
All the happiness of years past -  
Here it lies - dead and forgotten.  
Who will remember - who can relive  
The happiness and the joy these souls remember?

Alone - separated from the world around  
This is the place to be cheerful -  
Not dispirited.  
Here is a place to smile -  
Not cry.

Why smile - why be cheerful?  
The souls in this place of sepulcher are happy -  
At peace with themselves - aware of no fear -  
Thankful to God for His blessing of peace upon them.  
Be content - smile with them.