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MOMENTS

Mathews

B965

Blair Mathews

moments

Photography by T. P. Stewart

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of Robert E. Gard and Mark E. Lefebvre.

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to those who want to touch . . .

MOMENTS

Word pictures of the bond
between nature and its people,
what can be learned from each
for the other. Simple life thoughts
gleaned from the human experience.
Lessons through constant engagement
with others, particularly the young,
in a time of accentuated social
introspection, change. Recognition
of man's recreative relationship with
nature seen through quiet observation
of, participation within it.

Certain axioms tend to emerge:

Personal awareness, a function of the
condition of the road, not necessarily
the length of the trip.

Primary characteristics of man, to grow,
to center on goodness, even though
surface manifestations may suggest
aggression or despair.

Nature's lessons hold the keys
to individual development and
understanding.

There is a naturalistic movement
toward encompassing simplicity
afoot.

WHERE EVER BACK IS

Spring time finds wren

Building two nests,

But choosing one.

Canadian Goose maintains

Mate until last snow fall.

A person comes home, also.

Outstretched road traveled

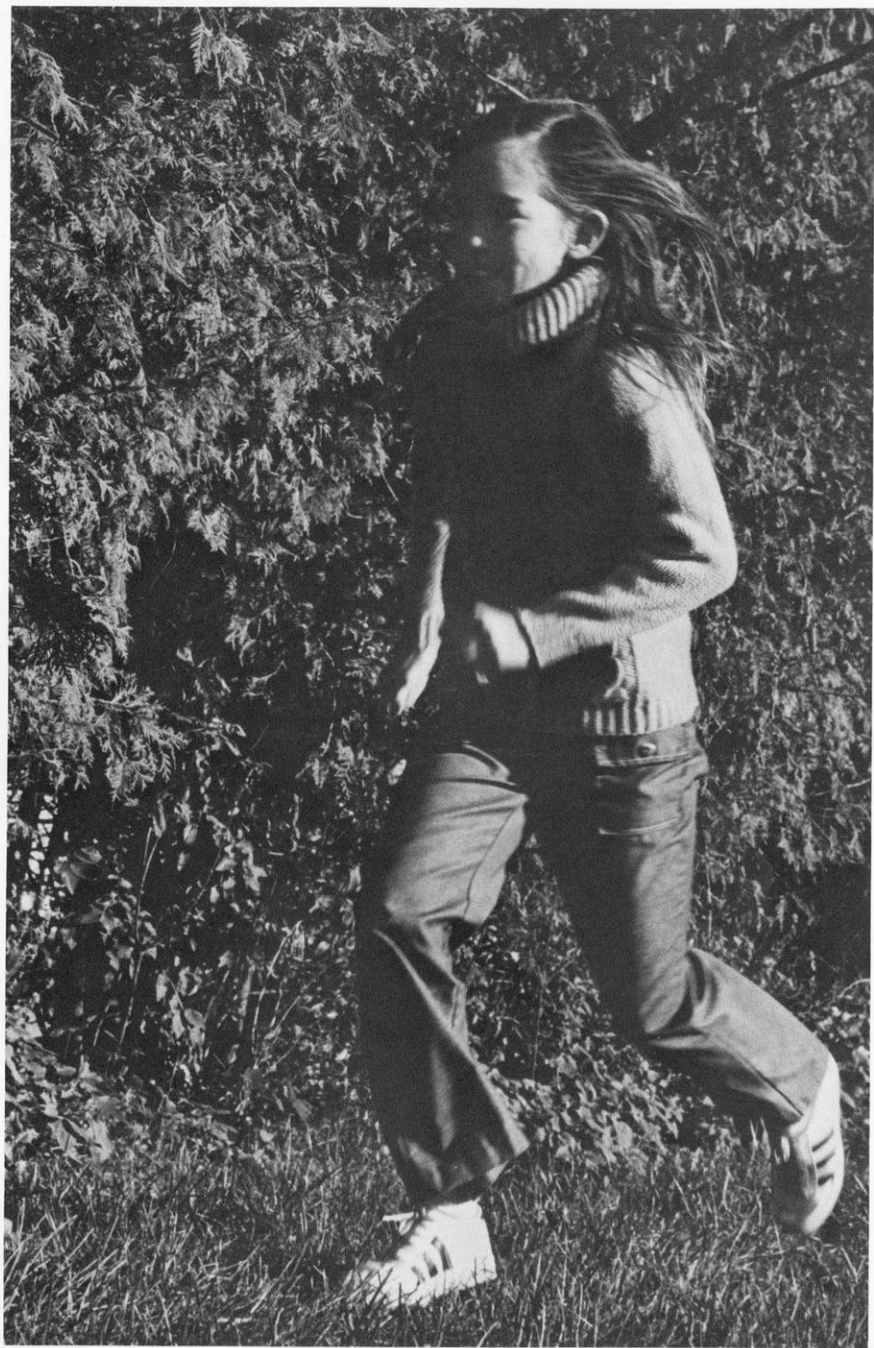
Hard but well.

Evergreen peace is found.

Where ever back is.

FATHER

The consuming grace
Of His humble caring.
His respect for child,
His love for child
Transcended all.
His awareness of his
Passing was but the
Essential price.



DAUGHTER

Fresh cedar, blithe spirit,
Tuned to nature's rhythm.
Unrestrained, trying
Instinctual buds of knowing.
Hazel-green eyes
Sparkling freckled cheeks.
Boughs brushed by
Balmy breeze.

TWO PLUS TWO MAKE FOUR

Strength grows from an understanding
Of human frailty.

Love emerges from wanting to accept
Each man on his own ground.

The individual feels a sense of worth
As he lives his instincts and
Allows others to realize their essence.

Depth is found in simplicity
Which grows as man moves toward
The basic bonds of nature.

PASSED BY

The soul tells you

When a moment of sharing

Has passed by.

Open to the moment.

Take care to do so

For its own sake;

Not out of remorse or guilt.



THE TASK

Readiness to receive life

Is equated with resolve,

Not a declaration of understanding;

With steadfast behavior,

Focusing not on one's self,

But on others.

Work, pain, joy, sorrow, fear,

Become certain measures.

Benchmarks toward the next plateau.

YOUNG LOVE

Standing in tender anticipation,

Wanting to express his love.

Not Afraid.

Not sure of his sense of manly affection.

They move toward each other,

Son to mother; a birthday kiss.

Young love grows.

IT

It is not having;

Knowing.

Restive in the strength

Of the unspoken.

Love beyond love.

TOGETHER

Boy's head pressed to your chest.

Eyes half turned down;

Vulnerability tears.

Lips quivering.

Serene sharing spawned by pain.

ALONE

Loneliness fades

As you bridge the gorge

Of self-avoidness.

Alone, but not lonely,

Echoes of the minds eye

Rise upward.

SANCTUARY

Roosted high above river,
Demanding awareness of life's range.
Eagle surveys your being.
Your heart joins
In soaring flight.
Essential time and
Place renewed.

TEAR

A woman's tear.

Childhood doubts and laughter,

Girl fears,

Suddenly, tenderly, a woman's tear.

From the well-spring of self,

Woman.



EASTER LILIES, QUIET HANDS

In death, birth.

Rest for Him who toiled so gently, well.

Quiet hands.

Unspoken pain ceases, quiet hands.

Lilies stand in recollection.

Gently, quietly His

Spirit grows.

EACH

Slowly you become acutely aware that

The giver receives;

That the receiver gives.

That he who moves from pole to

Distant pole feels the need for each.

The path is difficult to find, involving

To walk, severe in its test.

ULTIMATE

The ultimate goal in this drama

Is the process;

Unfolding of person;

For authenticity in becoming.

Absolutes are off life's stage.

STEEL GATES

It is restful to speak of life
In terms of other living things.
To let unconstrained sensitivity
Carry us over the rivers,
Through the pastures;
Quick to assimilate.
But, communicate love one feels for another;
Inhibition's steel gates slam down.
Constricting the purpose for being.
Reach past those gates,
Let life assume its own terms.
Treat it with regard,
But live it.
Move beyond the frightful shudder of initial awareness,
Touch.

INTERCOURSE

A soft bed-rock of crushed coral
Setting off the pocked stones of time;
One complimented by the other's beauty.
Two persons stand together
With capacity to free one another,
Or, to hold their humanness in tow.
Perhaps they too will find their bed-rock;
Not fear their mutualness,
Knowing that intercourse
Is a sharing of beings.

SWEET

Unsatisfied bitterness begins to scar

The recollection.

Suddenly it is calmed.

Loneliness follows love.

It cannot be without a fulfilling love.

Bittersweet.

MOON OF THE REAP BERRIES

Like a massive firefly
Lifting itself up over southeast sky.
July's moon;
Crisply lighting the thunderclouds,
Not wanting to intrude upon
Cast over the rustling trees and berries
Restfully swaying in the summer night.
Soft moment of unity;
Sky, earth, observer-man.

SIMPLY

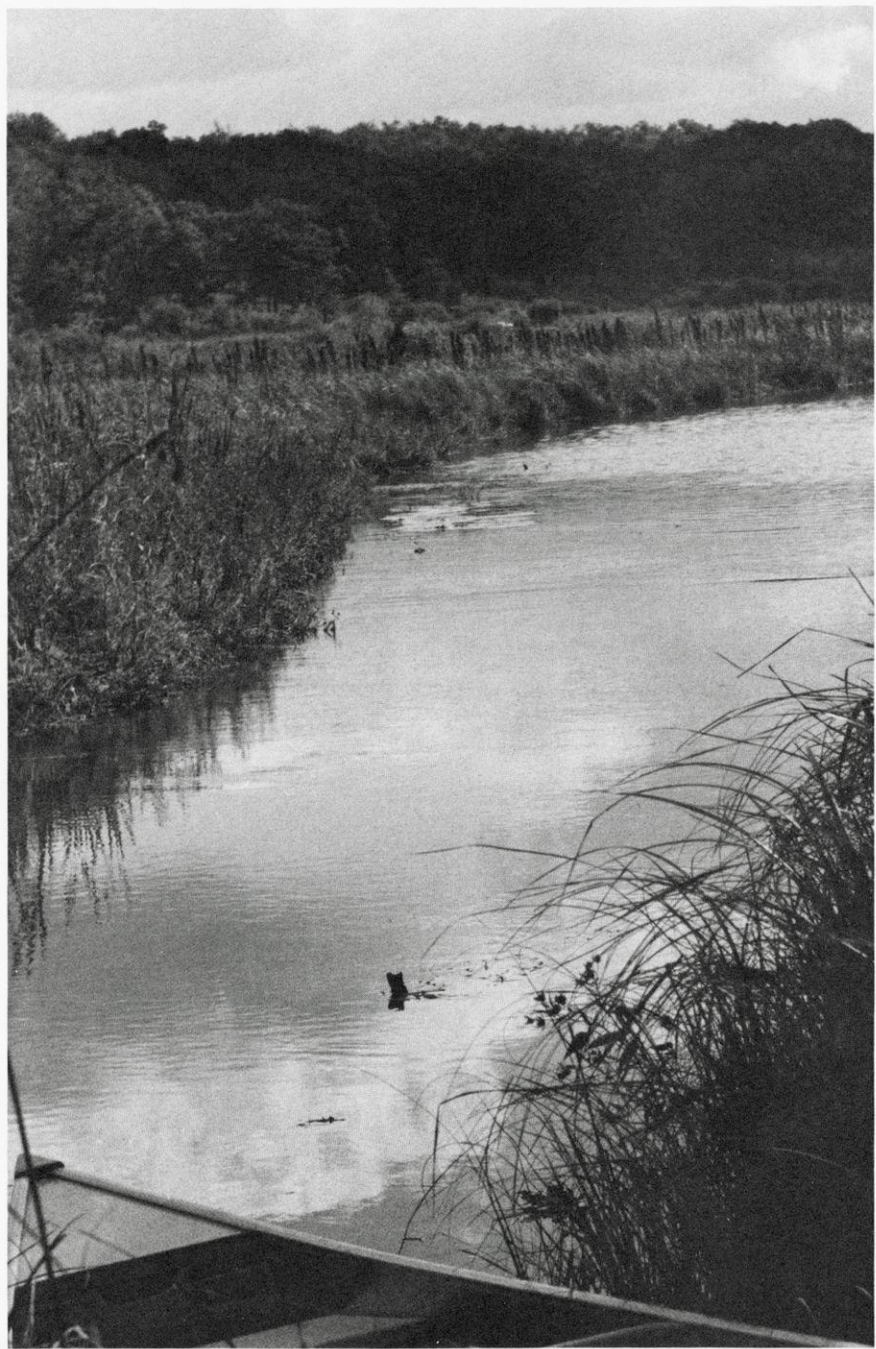
They come, press,
Confront, see.
Move on, and, hopefully,
Sense what growth
Is there came from within
And continue to repair.
Let it be.

Yet, the loneliness from
Turning away,
Allowing for their own self
To emerge and stay,
Moves toward selfishness
And despair.

But this, too, can be
Absorbed, simply.
If others would
Sense the meaning of a
Real smile, or tear,
A touch or glance.
Simply being for a moment.

HEART, MIND

Within us housed,
Functional organs,
But of the spirit,
Beyond us is their reach.
That is why youth
Strives for the essential syncopation.
Sensing man and nature are
Extensions of each other,
They anguish in the dissidence.
They drive their minds
Toward their outstretched hearts.
Because they want it to be so,
It will be.



BACK BAY

Gliding through shallows

Blanketed by earth's silt.

Paddle gently placed,

Harmony unspoiled.

Intruders, no,

Brothers, together

In simple unison.

SURE

Drifting on the steamy lake,
Its surface broken only by
Bay flies and harvester bass.
For a fixed moment locked
In absolute space.
Dim north star forward
Off dipper's pointing pan.
Southern star atop its cross
Over right shoulder;
Both accompanied by Mars
Red globe settled at forty degrees
In eastern sky,
As it will be once again three
Hundred years hence.
A coalition of understanding.

INTEGRITY'S SOLDIER

He knows the way,
The ultimate way.
Yet, in this time,
In this place,
It is a self-denying path.
This is known also.
It burns the mind and
Stings the soul.
He is left with his anguish;
But a will also.

OAK

Conversation became a treasure to be sought.

Grandfather-man waiting in anticipation.

Drawn to him like a magnet,

Not wanting to resist the pull.

When illness set,

With each loss of limb,

He moved a step closer to his faith,

No complaints to be heard.

In passing, saying,

"I must rest now."

And smiled,

And died.

MOSQUITO BAY — WEST

The dawning sun,
Locked in morning gases
To liberate its golden hue;
Breaks above far pine point;
Gleams through the mist
Above the water pasture;
Reeds and rushes reach upward;
Casts its pale light
Onto the haze in the wooded shore.

REACH OUT

There comes a time to search,
To reach out and find your place.
Through the quest the self emerges.
Slowly you test the newness of it,
Wondering if you should risk the change.
Then, one's substance manifests a difference.
There is no need for definition.
On to the next plateau.

WANTING

Gray-pink inner bark of oak,

Cracked sandstone's aging rings;

To be seen by the wanting.

Like eyes that carry sure

Signs of being,

To be known by the wanting.

Disclosure's threat moves toward assurance.

FISHERMAN, SON

Hours turned to minutes

Through intense yet tranquil pursuit.

Holding life's lesson in his hands,

To be caught by

A willing spirit.

FOG

Crest climbed, hollows, stretches run.

Nearing the front edge of endurance.

Lowland fog wraps around you.

First hesitation grips the mind.

Then, a feeling of comfort prevails.

Next now familiar patch

Is approached with anticipation;

Like life's episodes.

Running beyond fatigue's sting,

Gaining the unexpected

In the process.

HEARTS, SOULS

Oathes ceremoniously married the

Hearts,

Time, anguished searching,

Wedded the souls:

Hearts freed to love.

AWAKENING

A young life moves on.
You stand bewildered, sad;
Yet more aware of self and others.
You reach out with conscious regard.
His passing becomes your awakening.

Youth's death allows each
To probe his being.
Old and young meet in common
Bounds of brotherhood.
His passing is not wasted,
Rather, honored in steadfast resolve.



PORT

Tannic dark waters

Dash against the island,

Rooted in the rocks of time.

Turbulent rapids,

Enhancing nature's calm.

TIME TELLS

Each person has his time

To be consistent

Or consciously carry his incongruence;

To assert free will

Or not be distressed by other-direction;

To be empathetically enabling

Or sympathetically inhibiting;

To be what one is

Residing in its accompanying grace,

Or stand in uncertainty

With its encumbering load.

One knows when his time has come.

FENCES

No trespassing;

To protect land or self?

To gain seclusion,

But through the existence

Of the barrier,

Avoid dealing with differences

Within self and with others.

Confrontation could gain solitude.

Let the gate swing both ways.

Respect and sharing will insure that which

Fences can in no way guarantee.

Seclusion or solitude?

STORMS

Light breeze and dusty light.

Winds move in, trees bend,

Gray-dark front rolls faster.

Storm signs.

Like life's cues,

Not to be avoided.

Stand face to,

Exposed to the elements.

The roots of uncompounded insight

Are found therein.

SWEDISH GRANDMOTHER

As delicate as the lily-of-the-valley
Seen through her white crocheted curtains.
Reliable as the wood stove
Which she also mastered.
Available as the ginger cookies
That happened to come to brown
After school shut down.
Long hair in a bun,
Wrinkles complimenting her supple presence.
Homeland's tone color still recalled.
She knew.

STAND FAST

Instinct calls out its response.

Hesitantly, behavior follows.

Its clarity, newness holds its own concern.

Will the other be hurt?

Will I be received well tomorrow?

The call remains.

Learning is hard,

Not bad.

The degree of stress a measure;

Signal of genuineness

Or, need to grow.

Like a full crop,

Or blight.

ULTIMATE COMPROMISE

Striking out rather than reaching toward.

Presuming you carry the weight of your people,

Instead of knowing that indispensability

Is not strength.

Requiring reciprocity in lieu of loving.

Assuming a relative position as opposed to being.

Expecting acknowledgment in place of silence.

Living to die, not to live.

And

HORIZON

A sense of horizon,

A human requirement.

As needed as the elements.

Both physically, personally demanded.

Where the twilight puts the sun to rest,

Allowing for the evening star.

Cognizant of life's expansive energy

The edge where sanity dwells.

AGING

Aging, a youth begetting process.

Simplicity springs from discernment,

From an emerging global view;

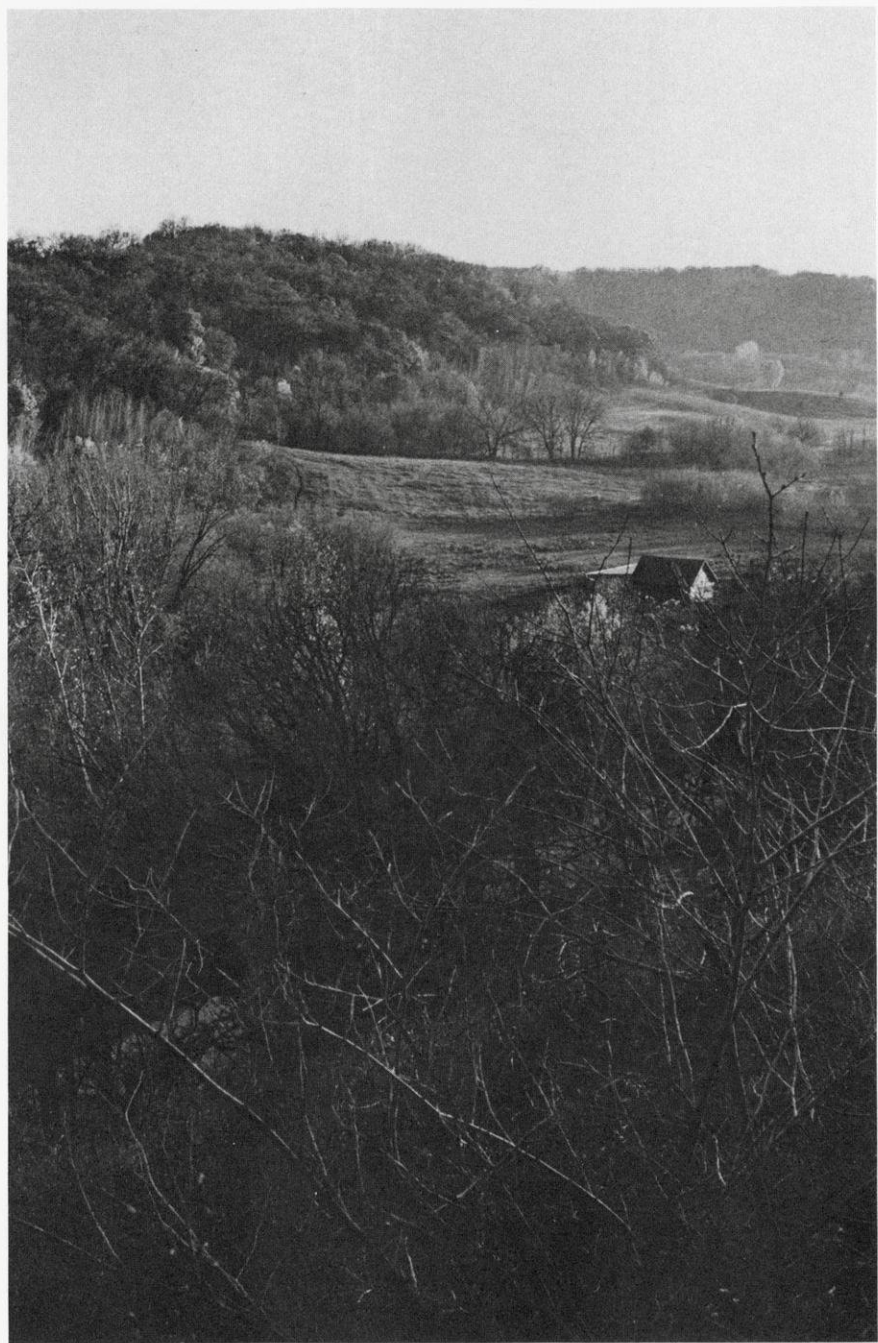
Transcending person with humility.

Commodities not to be sought or acted out.

Their presence is sensed;

Knowing when you are not,

Not when you are.



ROCK LEDGE

Standing on the rock ledge
Above recollection valley.
Crisp chill rises;
Vanguard of Fall's dew.
Turning trees across the way
Lighted by fading sun-rays.
Below, chestnut mares
Moving toward barn,
With reluctant yet
Anxious gait.
Day's end revealing
Life's potency.

HELLO

Restrained passing with its preserving tones,

When each is sensing an exhilarating hello.

Lift the restraint.

Let the response grow.

What is real, is safe.

JUST THERE

A totality realized through presence of another.

Requiring no words.

Demanding no return.

A moment of wholeness in life's shifting scheme.

Just there, together.

A living prayer.

QUIETLY

Peeling birch,

Rings in pond.

Dusty sun ray on

Moist leaf that

Once shared its beauty.

Now giving itself.

Its beauty grows.

REUNION

Life passes

In the twinkling of an eye.

There is no sting;

No predeterminable victory.

Living, its own reward;

Loving another into goodness the goal.

Each person must create his intercession;

His own peace.

Life passes

Toward a simple reunion.



TIME

Soft, warming hint
Of hushed sun
Presses fading edge of
Cold, yet clear,
Intriguing night.
They meet in muted glow,
Black, purple, burnt gold.
Soon the sun will
give way willingly,
With a flare of brilliance—
Sailors Sky.
Fitting continuum of
Day - life.
A culmination.

ONE

Cross down, flat-out.

Arrow pointed toward

Making of man.

Carrying cross-currents

Crafted by Spirit-man.

Gnarled from omission's sin,

Strong through given grace.

Unreachable, erect goal gone.

Sturdy olive table

Where God is man,

Death part of life.

Toasted with basic elements.

Unforsaken celebration of

Existence's outer bounds.



