

Wise Guy

Donald Semenza
The Line

Back then it was the line----
the line was everything back then----
we walked up the line—
waited for the bookmaker to get off the line----
to give us the line----
5 &1/2 --6&1/2--pick-em 8&1/2 –
9&1/2---2-12----
we put our money on the line---
we bet the games with the red line ---
the blue line---the foul line---the goal line--the 50 yard line ---the finish line---
we spoke the line back then –
our line had all the answers---
it was the wise guys line not the wise man`s line----
we listened to the sportscasters lines---
Mel Allen---how about that----Russ Hodges---bye bye baby----Fred Capasella---
-around the far turn it`s big shoe by a length----
Red Barber ----it`s a high can of corn---Vince Skully ---you may recall----
We watched Mantle-Mays and Snyder spray line drives between the lines---
There was no place for Euclids geometric lines---Shakespeare`s poetic lines---
Mozart`s lyrical lines---Picasso`s abstract lines---
We had Sinatra lines---so deep in my heart ----
Witch craft ---that wicked witch craft---
Nat Cole lines Mona Lisa Mona Lisa---Slam bam ala kazam----
We stood on line not in line ----with the date--the girl---the chick--the babe----
We watched Bogart deliver his lines----
the stuff dreams are made of----
Ladd deep voice his lines-----
That was Wilson ---he was fast ----fast on the draw---
Derek`s youthful lines---live fast die young---have a good looking corpse---
We fed the date--the girl --the chick---the babe the line---
They smiled----
The line was empty ---we were empty----
For some there was the main line---heroin thru the veins----
escaping pain with everlasting peace---there was a line up---
a hooker --a wayward soul---lost love looking for love---
Of course we had our line of work---
We were late ---no shows---fed the boss the line---
wound up on the unemployment line---
Finally some of us crossed the line---
We left the subculture---we became citizens---
We strive to improve our method of thinking----
sucking up information on line not in line---we read the editorial lines---
The new york times---the wall street journal---
We listen to the liberal and conservative line---
We vote line A and B---
We listen to Brokaws line Linbaughs line Jennings line Rathers line O`Reillys line ---
Our political leaders feed us the lobbyist's lines---
we smile ---the lines are empty the political leaders are empty---
Our religious leaders feed us their lines---
when one of the flock sins---they`re out of line and will be dammed to hell---
when the cloth sins they give us the old we're only human line---
Our corporate leaders rehearse their lines-----I refuse to answer on the grounds-----
Didn`t we leave Costello and Vilachi behind---
Wait I hear it ---it`s haunting me---Its Yogi`s line---
It`s De ja vu all over again----5&1/2 -6&1/2—pick `em—
8 &1/2 -9&1/2---2--12----how about that ...

