

*Peggy Garrison*

## CITY BLACKOUT

• • •

No streetlights,  
a few candle-muted windows,  
without electronic amusements  
night comes closer  
in New York;  
stores shutter early;  
neighbors cluster on stoops;  
sudden firecracker bursts  
and little-boy cheers  
dare the dark;

the air's a thick tent-  
camels munching desert shrubs,  
Bedouins around the fire.

I look out;  
tell time with the stars.