

SHORTCUT

William Walden

Strange sights I've seen upon the street—
Amusing, tragic, bittersweet.
The most unusual to meet
My disbelieving eyes
And leave me slack-jawed with surprise
Is one I saw not long ago
While I was visiting the South
And which I'd not for gold have missed:
A man of forty-five or so
Upon a busy sidewalk kissed
A young and pretty girl goodbye
(I swear that this is not a lie,
Nor am I joking)
Without removing from his mouth
The pipe that he was smoking.

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