Santa Clara Valley was called the “Heart’s Delight.”
Vegetation and wildlife were everywhere in sight.
The valley’s changed a lot in the past two hundred years.
Running out of water is just one of our fears.
The Silicon Valley is what it’s called today.
One point six million people living in the South Bay.

Three cities are in the Coyote Watershed.
Milpitas in the north, then San Jose is spread.
Morgan Hill to the south is the last that you will find.
Six-eighty to 101 is the commuter’s grind.

About the name Coyote, there is still some debate.
Is it named for the coyotes who lived here on that date?
Or for the way the miners dug down into the ground?
So like the coyote holes that many people found.

Anza named the river in 1776.
Arroyo de Coyote, only the last of it still sticks.
Ki-yot or ki-o-te the Aztec word is said.
It’s what they called the prairie wolf;
their language now is dead.

This river stretches forty miles
to the San Francisco Bay.
Coyote Creek is a river
no matter what they say.
It’s area for drainage is large,
we are agreed.
Three hundred twenty-two square miles
we concede.

The Diablo Range runs parallel to the riverbed—
Mount Hamilton’s the highest peak in this watershed.
Four thousand, two hundred, thirteen feet it stands.
It is higher than any other of this county’s lands.

James Lick Observatory is on this mountain’s peak.
You can go there to see the stars any day of the week.
They have a visitor’s center with lots of things to do.
From 10 a.m. til 5 p.m., they’re waiting for you.

There are two reservoirs in this watershed—
Coyote and Anderson on the same riverbed.
Construction of Coyote began in ’34.
Built on the Hayward fault; it cost a little more.

Rolled earth and rock filled, they changed the design,
The thickness of the dam’s base now a 100 feet times nine.
They brought the rock and fill from over a mile away.
The local rock’s not strong enough; this caused a short delay.

Anderson’s the largest lake found inside the county,
Where Cochran had a dairy and cattle ranch for bounty,
Named for Leroy Anderson, a very kindly gent,
The water district’s founder and first president.

In the early sixties, a water search began.
So many people had moved onto this land!
A whole lot of water from the Delta was sent.
A 100,000-acre feet per year’s our allotment.

Water comes through the aqueduct built by the state.
The California Water Project is up-to-date.
It goes to Penitencia, a treatment plant for water.
Then to your tap, take a drink; we think you oughta’!

© 1998 Kathy Machado
SCVWD