

Auburn

These were thy charms, sweet village...

Oliver Goldsmith "The Deserted Village"

Under the shadow of Mt. Rainier
lies *Sweet Auburn, loveliest village of the plain*,
with a supermall, college, Boeing, trades,
and a main street that keeps

its Main Street USA appearance.
The Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks
stitch one side of town to the other; lights flash,
and the great arms fall for the metal snake

that clickety clacks through, shaking the sidewalks.
Young men go off to war. Babies get born.
Lawns get mowed. There's a Veterans Day parade
and crime, a police station, hospital, museum,

graduations, and notable people.
And there is to be found still
The cooling brook, the grassy vested green,
The breeze covert of the warbling grove...

loveliest village of the plain...
thy charms have not been withdrawn or sold.
And under the great volcano's shadow,
sweet Auburn still does lie.

by Susan Landgraf