

# LARRY EIGNER

August 19-20 (1980)

from readiness / enough / depends / on

August 19-20 80

all angles steep-  
ly enough leveling

sky

crisscross

firebreaks

when a cloud comes

how long can it

hold rain

in the air

corral or

fence waste

and

the land up-ended

or far  
earth

ridges

a line where air  
you see

# MARIGOLD LINTON

Transformations of Memory in Everyday Life (1982)

Some years ago, my curiosity about how memory functions in a naturalistic setting led me to an investigation of my own memory. During the course of this six-year study I developed event items based on my own experiences, and later attempted to reconstruct the probable dates of the event's occurrences. (Dating may seem a rather restricted, perhaps even uninteresting behaviour, but its quantifiability continues to appeal to me). Performing a prolonged study on personal life events has, I believe, provided me with a unique perspective on memory functioning; perhaps some of these insights, as well as a description of the unforeseen difficulties in constructing this research may be informative to others.

[...]

The stimuli for this long-term study were brief descriptions of events from my life written each day throughout the study's six-year duration. At first it seemed there might be a simple set of heuristics for describing events, but rather shortly I abandoned the search for simple regularities.

So a wide range of content and presentation styles may be employed to specify events that the elements necessary or sufficient to describe "an event" have continued to elude me. To avoid unnecessary narrowness in my event pool I accepted all brief unique descriptions. (No description exceeds 180 letters, and when it was written every item was discernible from all other events then accessible to memory). These criteria were dictated by my major dependent variables: dating accuracy (only unique items can be uniquely dated) and response speed (reading times must