

## He Had Given Up He Said

*Thus do old men love*  
Ovid

He had given up he said  
believing or looking for

(a distinction not without  
differences) escape from death

fairly early on (not  
long after he in fact

paid attention to it) in favor  
of trying to find out how to make

the best of the situation.  
Dancing bears came into his mind

polar bears in polar seas  
keeping the pieces of the ice floes

underfoot as long as they can  
in the warmth of mating season.

from *Mr America Drives His Car*