

All Shook Up

(Recalling Browne's Milk Bar, Barrack Street, Perth).

The décor retro: Art Modern
frosted glass chrome and laminex
padded private cubicles full length
along one wall as you walk in.

Tall stools line the chrome-edged bar
marbled laminex of course
and on a long mirror behind the altar
embossed art presents Brown's delights.

Banana split
will it be Coke or Pepsi?

Palookas piled high with ice cream
topped with a phony cherry.

Spiders; syrup mashed with ice cream
please add lemonade for froth.

Milkshakes spun in aluminium canisters
seven flavours malt and ice cream extra.

Oh those sickly things made from
Golden Circle pineapple rings from a tin.

Service from a short round southern Italian
white coat white side cap
jaunty angle red piping.

The bar is high (but he's not that short)

his leering lascivious eyes
miss nothing on the catwalk.

Not one of those provocative lasses
with swaying hips swinging pony tails
can suppress their urge to advertise.

A juke box throbs
Pat Boone Patsy Cline and Elvis
you may as well forget the rest.

Someone's blitzing the pin ball machine
to keep the ball alive avoid the traps.
And win.