

THE QUARTERLY

25 / SPRING 1993



VINTAGE BOOKS

A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC.

NEW YORK

MATTHEW LANSBURGH

Still Life: Hopewell, New Jersey

Edward Hopper could have painted
this closed diner with empty
chairs and tables, and behind
its counter, the things that make
a diner work: soft drink
fountain, blenders, silver
nozzles and yank handles
cleaned and shiny
in the streetlamp light.

Then in the darker foreground,
what makes me want
to cry—the register alone,
above an almost empty
case of sweets.

Such space between the shelves.
The massive register itself, so
stout and old.

No children's lip or finger-
print smudged up
against the
glass to reach the
M&Ms.