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North of Cheyenne

Marj McAlister

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MISCELLANEOUS

Winter Scene

NORTH OF CHEYENNE

By Marj McAlister

Locked in by winter's firm embrace
the old ranch house rests in the snow.
Its chimney smoke is curling low
above a blanket of soft lace.

No caller passes through the gate;
barbs on the fence wear coats of glass.
The ancient well is frozen fast
and half-white branches are sedate.

The barn lies back of a smooth drift
against a background of stark white.
On the outhouse path to the right
no footfall yet has made a rift.

Where the South Canadian bends
around the broad Antelope Hills
Western Oklahoma is still:
Here, north of Cheyenne, time suspends.

MARJ MCALISTER is a free-lance poet who lives in Oklahoma City.

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