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Silent City

Marion Dodson

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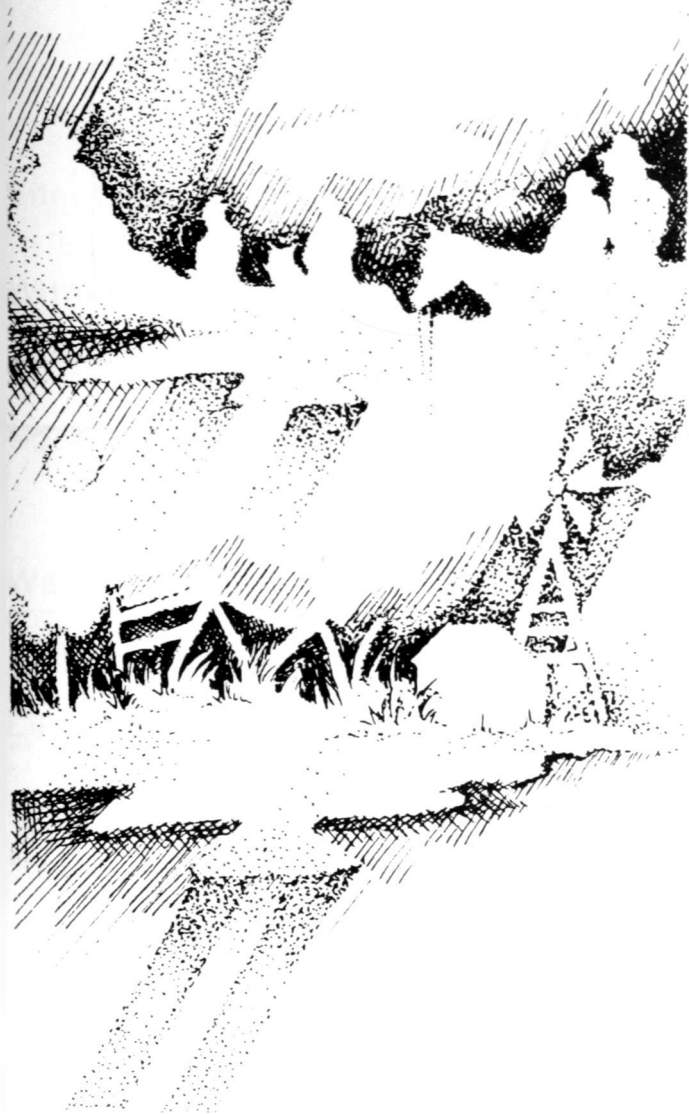
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SILENT CITY

By Marion Dodson



There on a flat, grass-covered mound
Growing thick with loco weeds
Texola became a pioneer town
Supplying the settlers' meager needs.

And closeby, another little city grew
In which it may be said
Lie the good and bad and false and true
In this silent city of the dead.

The old pioneers are sleeping there,
Their troubles all forgotten,
Unmindful of the common fate we share,
Untouched by the praise we've spoken.

No more shall they blaze the western trails
And no more shall they turn the sod;
The spirits that weathered privation's gales
Have urged their way to God.

But the state they've built will forever stand,
A symbol of courage true,
Like a painting touched by a master's hand,
It reflects their vision to you.

And we today so far removed
From the hardships of the past
Must never forge their gallant mood
And uphold it to the last.

We know not the day nor hour
The call may come to us,
When God shall recall His spirit power
And we shall return to dust.

But in that day—be it when or where—
We cross the silent tide,
I'm sure we'll find the old settlers there,
Pioneering on the other side.

submitted by Margie Snowden North

Illustration by Erin O'Connor

written April, 1942

MARION DODSON came to Oklahoma by covered wagon at age 5. All his life he enjoyed writing poems but never saw any of them published. He was born February 1, 1895 and died February 16, 1978. "Silent City" is an excerpt from "Looking Backward," a longer poem that describes the hardships of making a home in early-day Oklahoma.