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## Anniversary

Ethel McInturff

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written by Senior celebrant in 1957 for Oklahoma's fiftieth birthday

# ANNIVERSARY

By Ethel McInturff

Golden anniversary, a dream come true  
Of the sturdy pioneer.  
We give a salute to them and to you,  
This semi-centennial year.

The tall grass fell before the plow;  
The nester made a home:  
A field of corn, a pig, a cow—  
Where once the buffalo roamed.

Crude methods of the earlier years,  
To progress took a bow.  
The trails they blazed with blood and tears  
Are gleaming highways now.

Bridges span the rivers wide,  
Where once they struggled through.  
Dams have helped to stem the tide  
Where ruin and destruction grew.

This was their goal, their aim fulfilled  
To find a better way.  
The land they once with oxen tilled  
Is farmed by power machines today.

Because somebody dared to dream  
Of a better way of life  
And fight for it, when it would seem  
Avalied them only toil and strife.

Our state's the best—our statesmen too,  
Our people leaders everywhere  
In peace or war, our boys came through.  
We have champions to spare.

Not many pioneers there will be  
Joining in our celebration.  
We thank and praise their memory;  
We are number one in the nation.

*ETHEL MCINTURFF of Clinton was 86 years old at the time she submitted this poem two years ago. She has been writing poetry since the 1950's.*