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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.