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## Howdy / Rock Mary

Dick Chapman

Glen V. McIntyre

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# Howdy

By Dick Chapman

They may have higher mountains somewhere in the West--  
 They may reach nearer skyline where the wild eagle nests--  
 They may cover more territory  
 Spread out farther east or west--  
 But the land from here to Kansas  
 Holds the land of our country's best.

It has soils to fit the season--  
 It has lakes and mountains too.  
 It has people with a "Howdy" and a handshake's nothing new.  
 It has people from here to yonder:  
 North, South, East, and West.  
 It has called them from the nation and has kept the very best.

And they live here from the hills of Pushmataha to the  
 Red Hills of the West

*a scene near Hinton--off I-40*

# Rock Mary

By Glen V. McIntyre

*In 1849, thousands of pioneers pushed through Oklahoma on their way west to the gold fields of California. One of the landmarks they looked for to guide them on their way was a large rock outcropping near Hinton called "Rock Mary."*

Even the land shifts  
 as shaking pale blue air rises  
 in furnace-like blasts;  
 here there are no trees to mark the way,  
 no monument,  
 the horizons stretch out until they touch  
 the awful remote face of heaven,  
 not even God could find His way  
 in this uncertain emptiness,  
 surely we will wander here until we die;  
 but then, faint at first,  
 indistinct on the indistinct horizon,  
 a point,  
 still and certain as the hope of heaven,  
 an island in this shifting sea of grass,  
 Rock Mary, we are fixed upon you,  
 sure for a time in an unsure world,  
 we are on to California!