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The Spirit of the West in Clinton

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The spirit of Clinton

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ILLUSTRATION BY DONNA AND KEVIN HILL

Spirit of the West in Clinton

— by Joanna Thurston Roper

Farmers and stockmen
Businessmen and real estate agents
Students and teachers
Workers — all of them.
The white, the black, the red —
Sharing a portion of American heritage —
the wide Western heritage
In Clinton.



The landscape was rough, the people were a hardy breed,
 And a town grew up in the midst of red hills and canyons.
 It was a rough-hewn town, making its way in the West.
 Business began — General Merchandise and Hardware,
 And taverns made their way (Tables for Ladies!)
 Streets came — Frisco, Avant, Choctaw, and Prairie Chief.
 Population grew and continued to grow.
 Farmers on the Western plains brought in the golden grain,
 And City and Farm together expanded to make a Western Hub.
 The frontier brashness has worn away now, but not the vigor.
 Marble and glass, neon and brick replace false-front stores,
 Brick paving and street cars are long gone from Frisco,
 And a freeway carries traffic around town on I-40.
 The city's pace is brisk, and over noon luncheons
 Rotarians, Kiwanians, and Lions share in civic advancement.
 Every season has a spirit of its own —
 In fall, it's Red Tornadoes all the way!
 Winter brings concert and theatre,
 And spring comes in with a festival of art,
 Followed by summer vacations and Little Leaguers.
 The Clinton people — yes!

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 Businessmen and real estate agents
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