TOWN OF NORWAY
BICENTENNIAL POEM

THE SONGS OF HISTORY RING ACROSS THE LAND
SOMETIMES SAD AND SOMETIMES GRAND.
WE SING OF FREEDOM LOUD AND LONG
WE BRING A MESSAGE IN OUR SONG.
IT'S THE TALE OF PEOPLE WHO CAME TO STAY
IN THIS TOWN OF NORWAY.

LONG AGO BEFORE ANY MAN CAME,
OUR LAND AND LAKES WERE FULL OF GAME.
ANIMALS AND BIRDS CALLED THIS HOME
THEY WERE ALONE AND FREE TO ROAM.
THEN THE WINNEBAGO TOOK THEIR STAND
AND BUILT THEIR WIGWAMS ON THIS LAND.
THEY LIVED OFF BOTH FISH AND BEAST
UNTIL FORCED OUT BY TRIBES FROM THE EAST.
THESE WERE THE POTAWATAMI, SAUK AND FOX
WHO LEFT THEIR MARKS UPON OUR ROCKS.
The tribes lived as others before
leaving us legends and Indian lore.
Burial mounds show they passed this way
they're found here to this very day.

THE SONGS OF INDIANS RING ACROSS THE LAND
SOMETIMES SAD AND SOMETIMES GRAND.

IN THE 1830'S THE INDIANS MOVED OUT.
THEN CAME OUR FIRST SETTLER, THOMAS DROUGHT.
FROM CANADA TO WISCONSIN HE CAME
A HOME TO BUILD, A WILDERNESS TO TAME.
FROM NORWAY FAR ACROSS THE SEA
CAME MEN NAMED HEG, CLAUSSEN AND BACHE.
WORD OF THE LAND NEW SETTLERS WOULD FIND
SAW MANY LEAVING THEIR HOME COUNTRY BEHIND.
THEY PACKED THEIR TRUNKS AND SET SAIL
FOR THIS NEW LAND ON THE PIONEER TRAIL.
THESE NORWEGIANS FOUND A STRANGE LAND.
WITH COURAGE THEY BUILD THEIR HOMES BY HAND.
THEY BUILT THEIR CHURCH UPON A HILL
ALWAYS TRUSTING IN GOD'S HOLY WILL.
THEIR LIFE WAS HARD AND AT TIMES CRUEL.
COLD AND SICKNESS WERE A LIFE AND DEATH DUEL.
YET THROUGH IT ALL THEY STRIVED
TO KEEP THE LAND FOR THOSE WHO SURVIVED.
THE SONGS OF PIONEERS RING ACROSS THE LAND
SOMETIMES SAD AND SOMETIMES GRAND.

THE 1860'S FOUND OUR COUNTRY SPLIT
OUR SETTLERS WERE BRAVE AND FULL OF GRIT.
THE NORWEGIANS ANSWERED THE UNION'S CALL
WITH COLONEL HANS CHRISTIAN HEG TO LEAD THEM ALL
THESE BRAVE MEN OF NORWEGIAN NAME
BROUGHT TO US BOTH HONOR AND FAME
THEY ALL FOUGHT HARD AND SOME DIED
FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM IN WHICH TO ABIDE.
THROUGH THE YEARS OTHERS HAVE HAD TO FIGHT
TO KEEP THE TORCH OF LIBERTY SHINING BRIGHT.
TOWN OF NORWAY MEN HAD A PART IN HISTORY
IN KEEPING THIS LAND OF OURS FREE.

THE SONG OF FREEDOM RINGS ACROSS THE LAND
SOMETIMES SAD AND SOMETIMES GRAND.

JUST LIKE AMERICA WE HAVE GROWN
ACROSS OUR LAND HAVE WALKED COUNTLESS UNKNOWN.
AMONG THE NORWEGIAN NAMES CAN BE HEARD
IRISH, POLISH, GERMAN, ENGLISH AND SERB.
PEOPLE OF EVERY NATIONALITY AND RACE
WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY HAVE FOUND A PLACE
MAY WE ALWAYS HOLD OUR FREEDOM DEAR
IN THIS OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

THE SONGS OF HISTORY RING ACROSS THE LAND.
SOMETIMES SAD AND SOMETIMES GRAND.
WE SING OF FREEDOM LOUD AND LONG
WE BRING A MESSAGE IN OUR SONG.
IT'S A TALE OF PEOPLE WHO CAME TO STAY
IN THIS TOWN OF NORWAY.

WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR
THE TOWN OF NORWAY BICENTENNIAL

CARYLE WESTERN
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