

Sunny California

I left Texas one beautiful day
I made up my mind that I would not stay
No longer in Texas the place that I love
Though it was like giving up Heaven above.

My old dad was growing old
His body was bent from hard work and toll.
My mother was sleeping in a gay little town
Where friends and her loved ones had seen her laid down.

My sisters and brothers they hated so bad
To see me go West like someone gone mad
To leave all my loved ones and kiss them goodbye
Just hoping I'd meet them in the sweet by-and-by.

I thought at first that I would not go
No further West than New Mexico
But the work it was scarce and the weather was bad
I felt like I'd left all the friends that I had.

We landed at Peori' one sad, lonely day
No place for a shelter but a rag house to stay
I felt like Arizona was too much for me
I cried 'til my heart ached and I scarcely could see.

Our next stop was California where the sun always shines
I know that is a saying [but?] I'll tell you my [mind?]
In the little town of Colton hemmed up on a knoll
And the black water splashing 'til the hearts had grown cold.

Now I know you all heard of this awful fate
So many were drowned in this awful state
The state of California where the sun always shines
How I did wish for Texas that old state of mine.

The black water rolled and the homeless were brought
To this little knoll at Colton for shelter they sought
The radios broadcastin' begging people to stay
Off of the streets and off the highways.

The rain finally ceased and the sun shined out bright
How I prayed to Heaven and thanked God that night.
For our lives had been spared and all was made right
But I did wish for Texas and the old folks that night.

Further on in California over mountains and plains.
To the San Joaquin Valley we drew up our reins
For four years today we've lived it just fine
In the state of California where the sun always shines.

Sunny California

Now in the state of California I guess you all know
The President built homes for people to go
Who were homeless and broke and just travelin' around
Tryin' to find work and a place to settle down.

Now this little camp it stands here today
The little rag homes for people to stay
From there they find work and it really isn't bad
Although it is different from the lives they have had.