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Every Origami microchap may be printed
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Cover: *Tall Grass Prairie* by Lauri Burke

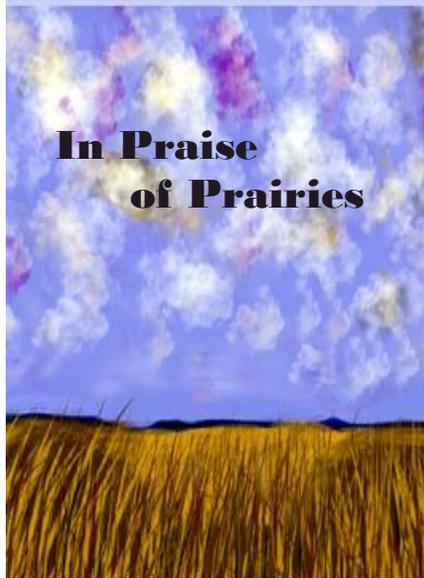
Origami Poetry Project™

In Praise of Prairies
Duane L. Herrmann © 2017

Recipient of Robert Hayden Poetry
Fellowship: 1989 and Ferguson Kansas
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Recycle this microchap with a friend.
The OPP is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit

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Duane L. Herrmann

THE FLOWER DREAMS

The blossom wanted to open
greet the sun
feel rain
dance with wind,
but it deplored
that it could not.
Try as it might
restriction all around
kept it closed.
Eventually the flower
resigned itself to wait:
it could only dream
of sun
and rain
and wind.
It waited,
unaware the plant
was still a seed

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THE FULLNESS OF SUMMER

Sunflower glories
along the road
and goldenrod bright
amid dark grass
and other plants
of summer's growth.
Trees dark green
with deep shadows
and bumper crops
approaching harvest.
It was a good year.
There was rain
to fill ponds
and creeks –
refreshing
after years
of drought.
We will survive.

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COTTONWOOD

Tree of the plains:
tall, enormous,
where there is water –
enough.
Glistening leaves
flicker the eye
and rustling breeze.
Deeply variegated bark
speaks its age
and the shade
most welcome –
on hot, wide
tree-starved plains.
Horse pulling wagon,
and family,
aim for the tree:
cool shade – and rest!

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TREE DANCE

Tree glistening
in wet
soft breeze
glistening leaves
dancing
alive
joyful
rejoicing in rain
and summer's day.

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STONE SHELL

The rock house stands
alone
in what once was
a front yard,
now pasture
from prairie.
No roof –
long gone,
doors too, and windows.
Did the family take them,
scavengers or time?
Red cedars crowd
from the gully in back
marching to invade:
no one keeps their place.

The house had charm,
the lines say that.
Stunted trees say:
poor soil, no crops,
and the family,
future in debt,
moved on
with pain and hope
that next time will be better
next time,
maybe,
it will rain.

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