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## Reversion

John Sterling Harris

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## Reversion

My father was born in the mountains of Mexico.  
On his fifth birthday in El Paso, Texas,  
That was nineteen ought five  
He saw his first automobile  
And got his first pair of shoes.

At thirteen he drove a six horse span  
To break one hundred and sixty acres  
Of Alberta prairies grassland for wheat,  
Then moved to a college town  
With his newly widowed mother  
And became a town schoolboy,  
And spent his summers breaking horses in Montana.

In college he studied agricultural economics  
And played guard in the first football game he ever saw.  
He taught school and coached,  
And chased mustangs on the desert on weekends.

He became a renowned educator  
Running schools with a multi-million dollar budget,  
And had a field of black Angus cattle.

At eighty he still sat a horse well on his daily ride  
And spoke of the problems and opportunities of youth.  
He preached value of hard work and fiscal responsibility.  
And the necessity of checking the cinch  
Before you put your foot in the stirrup.

—John Sterling Harris