THE REWARD OF MAMA NATURE

Usually the Spring is the time to sow
And the Fall is the time to reap.
So it must be that harvest is
The best time of the year.
Harvest time is the reward of the time spent
In the growing of the crops you have sown.
Now the harvest can be big or small,
Depending on the smiles of Mother Nature.
Whether the weather is good or bad
Dictates the crop you will grow.
When harvest time comes,
You must take what you get
Produced on the land that is there.
The good land that was here when you came
And will be left when it's your time to go,
When you use the land as best you can
And Mama Nature smiles on your efforts.
The harvest will be great.
All your efforts will not go in vain.
When you run a foul with the qualms of Nature,
All your effort can disappear in one fell swoop.
The harvest here in the valley
Starts with the first cutting of hay.
With luck you can put it up leafy and green
And have choice hay put up in a stack
To be used by yourself or others another day.
But untimely rain can change a delight of Harvest
Into a drudge just to get the hay off the ground.
So another cutting will emerge for yet another try.
Then comes the harvest of grain.
The wheat crop you sowed in the fall
That wintered thru the weather that was cold
Stood the winds of the spring
Ripened into a gold colored grain,
Having spent it's energy, and it's head has turned down to dry.
The end of it's growing season.
It's the farmer's time to gather the fruits of his labors,
Be it bumper or small it's Harvest Time.
You must take what you get from Harvest.
Yet it seems always there will be another harvest.
And you can try again for the big crop you produced before.
Then there are the vegetables that you have planted on time
And nursed them with great care,
The melons, the chilies, the tomatoes.
Usually the cantaloupes, chilies and tomatoes
All seem to be ready about the same time,
Each to be grown and harvested with great care.
Then come the jolly green giants, the watermelons.  
I don't know why, but the large round melon  
Has always seemed to me as being the most good natured crop of all.  
I do not believe I ever saw anyone eating a good watermelon  
Who didn't have a smile on his face.  
People, be they rich or poor, this melon  
seems to bring out their best.  
We always have cantaloupe each morning  
Till they are gone.  
And the red tomatoes you eat as they are (salt or not).  
Put them in salads, sandwiches, can them, juice them, freeze them,  
Always so you have this tomato for another day.  
And then you harvest the onions you've grown.  
They are pulled, topped, put in sacks to dry,  
Taken to the grader to be packed  
And shipped all over this great land.  
Some to be exported to other lands.  
Seems strange when you plant  
The onion seed in prepared land and  
Do all the things it takes to produce a good crop.  
The market you have is always depending on  
Some poor devil doing the same thing.  
One of you must fall on evil luck for the others to survive  
or thrive.  
You know we all live in a land or world of hit or miss.  
Each producer has grown a crop  
Only with the smiles of Nature.  
Then there are the pinto beans that are finicky as all get out.  
Too much moisture in growing season and  
Rust will strike once they are cut  
You pray for dry weather so the beans will grade.  
For moisture at the wrong time spoils the beans in the pod.  
When you draw beautiful weather, a fine crop you will Harvest.  
Now beans have to be one of nature's marvels,  
And have always been the grub of the poor.  
Then comes the harvest of  
One of the World's Great Blessings,  
The beautiful crop of corn.  
The ear grows on a stock about mid way  
Between the tassel and root,  
Consumed by man and animal.  
Now this crop, it's yield has increased four fold or more  
Since the time when I was a boy,  
Can be used in countless ways.  
So too is this crop like others.  
Some have to have bad luck for others to survive.  
You know in this Great Land of ours  
The farm population has shrunk  
To a percent of less than two.
It might be a good idea to look and see who is filling your belly
With the food we all need to thrive.
And if you can't produce the crops we all need,
You ought to be blessing those who can.
And others who have made it possible.
For all the food that is grown it takes
Someone with much "Know How", with finance to do the job,
With great machinery of today.
Some who Mother Nature has smiled upon,
And have Strong Backs and Good Minds,
To stick in there thru thick and thin,
Who are willing to try it once again.