

Who Owns the Land?

The Indian tribes felt the land was theirs
If they had the strength to maintain it,
So they fought the tribes that contested them,
And the strongest tribe would retain it.

Then the white men came with their deadly guns,
And the Indians fought to repel them,
But they took the land that the Indians claimed
'Cause they had the power to expel them.

Next the ranchers gobbled up all the range
That the guns of their men could order,
And they drove the settlers with weaker claims
Away from their empire's border.

But the government of the U.S.A.
Claimed the land was its territory,
And it sold the land to its citizens
While retaining the inventory.

Now the land's divided in legal plots
That belong to specific donors
Who are charged each year by the government
For the privilege of being owners.

And a man can lose what he thought was his
If a squatter contrives to possess it
For a squatter's rights are a legal claim
If the courts decide to assess it.

