

# Prairie Yields

*by Gary Hardaway*

Where I'm from  
is hard to love.

It's business friendly  
but not very kind.  
There isn't land  
but real estate.  
There isn't work  
but productivity.  
There's not a city  
but a Standard  
Metropolitan  
Statistical  
Area.  
The river's not  
a river but  
a FEMA map  
of flooding probabilities.  
Levies neatly  
wall the hidden,  
channeled water.  
You'll find little  
God but a bunch  
of big churches.  
You'll find little  
Art but some grand  
arts facilities.  
I'd leave but I've  
been taught quite well:  
the opportunities away  
will never measure

up to home.

Our towers sparkle  
with merciless sun.

