

Florida

A glowing star winged to earth one night
And found a haven from her long flight
With a warm gulf and a blue sea bright
While Venus kept watch and marked the site.

Coral built the star a cloister grand
And the gulf sealed it with golden sand.
Birds bearing flowers from a far strand
Made a garden of the virgin land.

Ancient red men found her lush, green shore
And settled along streams and grassy floor.
Hunger taught them to track deer by their spoon
And crickets taught them nature's wiles and lore.

A Spaniard heard a secret the west wind told;
The fair land held captive man's wish of old;
A magic fountain, crystal clear and cold
Gave man back his youth and made him bold.

With God on their lips the white men came
Like savage hordes sans pity or shame,
Laid waste to dorps and to land made claim
And called it Florida for season's name.

Florida lured men but promised naught.
Undaunted they came and freedom sought;
Others with evil intent and thought
Lusted after gold and for it fought.

Florida gold in deep holes is not found;
All be it treasures of grandeur abound
In sunshine, beaches and sports renowned
While her wealth in history is profound.

On sand where de Leon stood supreme
Man achieved his impossible dream;
To the moon he flew, walked in her gleam
And staked the Stars and Stripes to henceforth stream.