



9-1-2015

Border Town

Jennifer Soule

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/crsw>



Part of the [Social Work Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Soule, Jennifer (2015) "Border Town," *Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal*: Vol. 7: No. 2, Article 17.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.61611/2165-4611.1095>

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.murraystate.edu/crsw/vol7/iss2/17>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Publications at Murray State's Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Contemporary Rural Social Work Journal by an authorized editor of Murray State's Digital Commons. For more information, please contact msu.digitalcommons@murraystate.edu.

Jennifer Soule

Border Town

Mobridge—like its name—two parts:
 Missouri River and the bridge
 that straddles two countries—
 Indian and White—cut off from the world
 and each other by the Mighty Mo.

On the west side—Standing Rock Reservation:
 Sitting Bull's fenced grave,
 and a monument to Sakakawea
 where wind and horses play.

On the east, deserted
 shutters-banging-in-the-wind parochial
 Central Indian Bible College overlooks
 a riverbank and cottonwoods.
 A second rate motel has million dollar
 views of water and sunset on the Plains.

Residents cross back and forth
 to gambling at the casino
 on reservation dirt-roads or
 shopping and Burger King in town.

City hall—the old high school—
 houses fading murals by Oscar Howe, painted
 during the Depression—public works for artists—
 a treasure in a town where recently

a young Lakota man was found
 stuffed dead in a trash can. Reconciliation groups
 now meet to bring the two sides together—
 with more in common than they will admit:

poverty, joblessness, isolation.
 All who can desert
 this border place
 at the edge of the earth.