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THE COVER

A sod house near Coldwater in the early 1880’s. The man is not identified,
but it is said that he was a bachelor! Which is remindful of the jingle going
the rounds of western Kansas newspapers in the 1880’s, “The Little Old Sod
Shanty on the Claim,” two stanzas of which are as follows:

I am looking rather seedy now, while holding down my claim,
And my victuals are not always served the best;
And the mice play shilly ‘round me as I nestle down to sleep,
In my little old sod shanty on the claim. . . .

But when I left my Eastern home, a bachelor so gay,
To try to win my way to wealth and fame,
I little thought that I’d come down to burning twisted hay,
In my little old sod shanty on the claim. . . .

[The photograph, lent by Mrs. J. W. Bosley of Coldwater, was brought in
by Mrs. Benj. O. Weaver of Mullinville.]