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In Dustbowl Days

Elva Howard Deeds

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IN DUSTBOWL DAYS

by *Elva Howard Deeds*

**My experience with the dust-storm diversity
And others while studying at Panhandle University
Planted within my inexperienced heart
An appreciation for people somehow set apart
From others I had known while I was growing up.**

**Their acceptance of household chores with cheerful mood,
Their patience with cooking (despite the dust) the daily food,
While living in an environment lacking greenery and beauty,
They deemed "doing without" a temporary duty.
These generous women influenced my developing philosophy.**

**Faith that these dustbowl days would eventually stop
And Panhandle folk would come out on top:
This belief rubbed off on me, and I could see for these folk
A new future in agriculture—belying as a cruel joke
THE GRAPES OF WRATH.□**

ELVA HOWARD DEEDS, formerly Washita County Teacher of the Year, is now retired and living on a farm near Sentinel.