



12-15-1988

Up and Away

Aaron A. Baker

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

Recommended Citation

Baker, Aaron A. (1988) "Up and Away," *Westview*: Vol. 8 : Iss. 2 , Article 31.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol8/iss2/31>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



Up And Away

By Aaron A. Baker

IN THE PHOTOGRAPH, YOU AND I STAND TOGETHER WITH PUZZLED SMILES, PROUD-LIKE, EACH HOLDING SOMETHING — YOU AN OLD BEAT-UP SADDLE, AND I A COIL OF ROPE; THE BACKDROP, A SUBSTITUTE TREE, FOR THEY HAD CUT DOWN THE LANDMARK TO MAKE WAY FOR THE INTERSTATE.

THEY SAID IT HAD TO GIVE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY IN SPIKE OF ANY HISTORIC INTEREST SUCH AS A TREATY BEING SIGNED WITH THE INDIANS OR HOW TREES DON'T USUALLY GET SO LARGE IN CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO COUNTRY.

THE PHOTOGRAPH OF US AND THE FAKE BACKDROP WAS PROBABLY TAKEN BY ONE OF THOSE CITY NEWSPAPER REPORTERS SOMETIME LATER, AFTER YOU HAD SAT IN THE TOP OF THE OAK FOR NEARLY THREE DAYS; SAT IN THAT OLD SADDLE RIGGED UP ON ONE OF THE TOP BRANCHES LIKE THOSE FLAGPOLE SITTERS SO NUMEROUS IN THE 1920'S.

AND I HOISTED WATER AND OTHER LIQUIDS TO YOU BY ROPE AND PULLEY SO THAT YOU COULD STAY UP THERE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE OR UNTIL THEY BUILT THE HIGHWAY AROUND THE GREAT OLD TREE. NEWSPAPERS THAT RAN THE STORY ABOUT YOU CALLED YOUR PERCH A "SKY SADDLE," TRYING TO MAKE A LITTLE HUMOR.

I FOUND THE OLD PHOTOGRAPH IN A BATTERED HISTORY BOOK ABOUT OKLAHOMA WHILE RUMMAGING AROUND IN THE ATTIC TODAY. YOUR PROUD SMILE IN DEFEAT MADE ME FEEL STRANGE AND MAYBE A LITTLE ANGRY. BUT WHAT CAN WE BELIEVE IF NOT ON OUR OWN FACES IN PHOTOGRAPHS? YOU GAINED SOME KIND OF VICTORY ALMOST WITHOUT THINKING. AND PEOPLE ON THE INTERSTATE DRIVE OVER THE SPOT WITHOUT EVER KNOWING ABOUT YOUR LONG NIGHTS UP AND AWAY IN SOME OLD RUGGED, DAG-BLASTED HISTORIC TREE. ■

AARON A. BAKER, A RETIRED TEACHER, LIVES IN BURNS FLAT.

"Your Community Owned Bank"



FIRST

**NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
OF WEATHERFORD**

772-5575

1100 E. Main

