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Chelf / Frontier Fashion

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Pat Kourt

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Chelf

By Diane Glancy

The mincemeat pie in the oven rises
and falls like the ocean
only the pie from heat
and the steam of it blows from the south
like sails.
Flat tables on the ship unsteady as
seats of covered wagons,
sisters who do not like the others' children,
unsteady when they visit.
All of it we take with us:
a path we assume is ours, but the itinerary
made long ago
ripples like the heat-convulsing pie.

a familiar object

Frontier Fashion

By Pat Kourt

Cotton protector,
Plain but durable,
Stiff against dry prairie winds.
Sweat-stained with hours of toil--
Granny's worn slat-bonnet.

