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Blowing Across the Skies

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By Teresa Avery

Blowing Across The Skies

amazing in variety

Illustration of the author by Becky Bond

Traveling across Oklahoma, we notice extreme differences between Eastern Oklahoma and Western Oklahoma. In Western Oklahoma, it's noticeable that the land has few trees and that the area is rather flat except for a few hills. Another difference is the weather. At times, it seems that there's some type of storm in Western Oklahoma almost every day; in actuality, there are many storms. Oftentimes a person will notice that the sun is shining beautifully when he gets up in the morning; then by noon the sky is dark and it's beginning to rain. The rain may last all afternoon and then clear up, or it may continue for a day or two. Just when it seems that good weather is coming, the whole process of storms starts again.

Rain and thunderstorms aren't the only type of storms found abundantly in Western Oklahoma. In the winter, many of us find that the snow gets extremely deep for this part of the country. Snowdrifts are very bad because they sometimes can't be seen. A person will go through a drift and suddenly discover that he's up to his waist in snow. Snowstorms are much like the thunderstorms in their deceptiveness: just when a storm seems to be ended, the snow will start again. Also, about the time the snow begins to melt and everyone gets "Spring Fever," spirits are burst by a resurgence of snow and freezing weather.

Bringing in these storms are the exceptionally strong winds found in Western Oklahoma. There's seldom a day that the wind isn't blowing at least hard enough to shake the

tree limbs. The wind blows hard enough some days to make a person feel that he can just pick up his feet and blow to his destination. The wind can be nice in the summer to help cool off the hot, humid atmosphere; however, in the winter, the wind makes the temperature seem even lower. On some days, the real temperature may be fifteen degrees, but the wind chill makes the actual temperature seven degrees.

The strong winds and the many storms found in Western Oklahoma cause the temperature to be changing constantly. A person can go out during the morning and feel as if he's going to freeze, but by afternoon it can be "shorts" weather. No one ever knows how to dress for the weather in Oklahoma. The temperatures change from week to week and day to day. Just as it seems time to put away summer clothes, the weather turns warm again.

Umbrellas, coats, and warm-weather clothes are needed year around in Oklahoma. Knowing the type of clothes to keep available is something no one can ever determine ahead of time. Living in Western Oklahoma, everyone learns to be prepared for anything.

Teresa Avery, daughter of Don and Deloris Avery, is a sophomore Business major from Ponca City. She is a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, and she wrote "Blowing Across the Skies" as an assignment in a SOSU English Composition class.