



7-15-1987

The Mitchell Tree

Katherine Dickey

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

Recommended Citation

Dickey, Katherine (1987) "The Mitchell Tree," *Westview*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 4 , Article 15.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol6/iss4/15>

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.



The Mitchell Tree

a favorite Weatherford sight--now gone

By Katherine Dickey

The last day
of July, 1986--"the
eighth day of 100-degree
weather!" Tom Brokaw said so on the evening
news; he said there was no relief in sight. But people in
Weatherford knew better because as Mr. Brokaw spoke, the
temperature was 68 degrees here. It had been 102 degrees earlier
in the day, but an unexpected rain and wind storm hit Weatherford
about three o'clock that afternoon, and the temperature dropped
30 degrees. Sixty-five-miles-an-hour winds ripped a seventy-five-year-old maple
tree out of the ground at Sixth and Huber streets. Many memories were uprooted
with that tree. Mrs. Mitchell, owner, who remembers back before I can, recalls that
her father-in-law, Brother Mitchell, "sat under that tree with me for many an hour forty-five
years ago." Ross Flood, former Southwestern coach, rented the home and would
remember his preschool children entertaining their neighborhood friends in the shade of the old maple.
Several years later, Joe Bailey Metcalf, former Southwestern football coach, lived there with his
family. His daughter Meredith enjoyed good times with friends under that tree. The past twenty-
five years, as I have visited my parents, Claude and Ann Foreman, on Sixth Street, I have loved
that tree. In the Fall, its leaves covered the yard, and the neighbors'
yard, even the street. Its bare branches in the winter were beautiful. The sentiment
of the block was: "The neighborhood just won't be the same." I wonder if Walter and
Opal Crouch (both of whom died recently) would know their house
without that maple
hanging over their
drive? How did
Mrs. Mitchell feel about
her beautiful tree?? "I'm
thankful that it didn't fall on someone,
or the car, or the house...but why that tree!" How much we take for granted until it's taken from us!

Katherine Dickey, formerly a teacher in the SOSU School of Business, now spends a great deal of her spare time on free-lance photography and writing. WESTVIEW is one of her favorite "charities," and WESTVIEW considers her a favorite benefactress.