



7-15-1986

## Western Oklahoma Red / Western Oklahoma August

Billie Marsh

Dona Maddux Cooper

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Marsh, Billie and Cooper, Dona Maddux (1986) "Western Oklahoma Red / Western Oklahoma August," *Westview*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 4 , Article 13.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol5/iss4/13>

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](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).



*A controlling metaphor*

## Western Oklahoma Red

By Billie Marsh

Writing a poem about Western Oklahoma,  
metaphor fails.  
Western Oklahoma red clay  
is like nothing else.  
Not rose red. Not blood red.  
Not scarlet letter red.  
Just Western Oklahoma red clay,  
slashed by bitter winds which leave  
raw cuts by the roadside,  
gaping wounds that hurt the eye.  
Even the ponds and streams are red,  
clotted with dust.  
The cattle must choke.  
Puny things don't last here.  
Harsh winds blow away all dry husks,  
leave only rawboned people,  
scrub oak, skeleton earth.  
Green fields of winter wheat, rooted deep,  
bow before the wind's ominous roar,  
a sound like grinding bones  
for giants' bread.

## Western Oklahoma August

By Dona Maddux Cooper

The hot winds  
of the late  
summer afternoon  
stirred  
the red soil  
out of its  
complacent furrows,  
turning  
sun-paled images  
into  
faded tintypes.



**FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
AND TRUST COMPANY  
IN CLINTON**

Fifth and Frisco • Clinton Oklahoma • Member FDIC

## PATRONS

Hydro Dry Goods, Hydro  
Northside Drug, Hydro  
Somewhere Else, Hydro  
Kelley Jewelers, Weatherford  
Driscoll Ford, Inc., Thomas  
Joe McMillin, Attorney at Law, Weatherford  
Weatherly RCA, Elk City  
United Community Bank, Weatherford, F.D.I.C.  
Bank of Hydro, Hydro, F.D.I.C.  
Weatherford New Car Auto Dealers Association