



3-15-1984

Powell Boyd In Altus

Idena McFadin Clark

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Recommended Citation

Clark, Idena McFadin (1984) "Powell Boyd In Altus," *Westview*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 3 , Article 24.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol3/iss3/24>

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Powell Boyd was in Altus from 1928 - 1933. He taught Latin in high school and French and English Composition in Altus Junior College, which was at that time located in the High School Building. He was also for a time Dean of the present Western Oklahoma State College.

Powell Boyd In Altus

by Idena McFadin Clark

The windows of your highschool-college classroom
Wore wine-red velvet draperies.
The low black book shelves underneath
Were crammed with colorful and exciting books.
In those dark Depression times of little hope
You brought us joy. You gave us beauty, too.
In your classes, we discovered the best
Of music, poetry, drama, and art.

Spellbound, we sat, six or eight to a table,
While you strode around the room
Throwing knowledge and ideas at us.
We held up our hearts and minds to you
And tried our best to learn.

Sometimes you were rattling off French conversation.
Other times, it was Latin. Or the best of English poets.
In your room, even in those poor days,
There were magazines and newspapers to read
(Some of them from across the sea,
And all of them paid for by you).
You made us welcome to read them,
Or any of the books, whenever we wished.
Your room was an oasis for us
Of all that was true and beautiful and good.

For a moment, sometimes, our eyes would stray past
Those wine velvet draperies, and we saw
More than the pink and blue mountains
At the edge of the plain. We saw the world.
We saw all the places we wanted someday to go.
We saw the people we hoped to meet.
And forever after, all our lives through,
You have been with us.