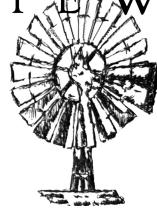


A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA
W E S T V I E W



Volume 18
Issue 1 *Fall/Winter*

Article 15

11-15-1998

Class Picture First Grade 1958

Devorah Namm

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

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Namm, Devorah (1998) "Class Picture First Grade 1958," *Westview*: Vol. 18 : Iss. 1 , Article 15.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol18/iss1/15>

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.





Photograph courtesy Ann Cates

Class Picture First Grade 1958

by Devorah Namm

No one looks happy except for Jimmie
Whose coonskin cap hangs low over wooly eyebrows.
Otherwise, four rows of children
Stand like notes on sheet music
Cacophony of striped shirts, bow ties,
Poodle skirts turned partly round
Unruly mass of arms mid air.
In the back row, a halo of cowlicks
Imprisoned with Brylcreme and water
Scalps glistening on top.

The shortest of us, including me
Sit on wooden chairs
Ten pairs of knees press together
Socks creeping down over untied shoes
Ankles cross in salute
To Miss Crain who stands
Erect as a soldier
All starch and patent leather.

Sometimes I stare at the faces of children
As they pass by my window
Transfixed by the wings of a butterfly
Or the armies of ants under foot
And I wonder what happened to Jimmie
And the girl, front row center
Eyes open wide
Toward the light and the moment.