

A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA  
WESTVIEW



---

Volume 9  
Issue 3 Spring

Article 16

---

3-15-1990

## Peeling Memories

Michelle Russell

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Russell, Michelle (1990) "Peeling Memories," *Westview*: Vol. 9 : Iss. 3 , Article 16.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol9/iss3/16>

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).



# BASTIONS

They sit  
rocking,  
thinking,  
silently  
on the front porch.

The wood floor beneath them  
creaks  
with each rock back they make.

"Hand me my specs, dear,"  
says Grandma.  
"I wanna finish my embroidrian."

The fall leaves rustle crisply in the wind  
that blows back the air on my face.

"Gonna be bad weather,"  
says Grandpa,  
"The cows' hair thick, thickest I've ever seen it in a long while.  
The corn, it's got heavy silks. Yup, it's gonna be a bad one."

We smile  
thinking  
they are so content in their old ways.  
I wish I could stay forever.  
I'd stay forever.  
Everything is so peaceful,  
so calm,  
so quiet.  
The farm is wonderful.  
The old rusted tractor sits in the field  
over there.  
It's hard to see with all the weeds around it.  
But I know where it is--  
Grandpa showed me.

The white, cracked, peeling fence that guards the house that is in  
the same condition gives you a sense of security.  
It all fits, though.  
It's just right.  
Grandma and Grandpa's is--  
just right.

We leave.

Next week I call.  
I have to thank Grandpa for the sled.  
I played all day,  
in the worst snowstorm ever.

*(MICHELLE RUSSELL of Cordell is a senior at SOSU majoring in  
Elementary Education. "Peeling Memories" is her first published work. Her  
grandparents' farm is located just west of Bessie, Oklahoma.)*

# PEELING MEMORIES

*By Michelle Russell*