

FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH ORIENTAL CHILD

Little Roddy came inside
the tinroofed shack
with three green lemons
and a can of dirt from
the nearby orchard
 and told Aunt Lydia
I've got me a nice little
 crosseyed friend
 he give me these lemons

NO TIME AT ALL

Nona Miller pats her left
hip and laughingly proclaims
 "This here is fried chicken and gravy"
 pats the right hip
 "And this here is peach cobbler."
Her daughter Derlene tells her lovingly,
 "Mama, what do you care about your
 figure?
Daddy loves every pound of you. I've
heard him say so many times."
Nona's face flushes with pleasure. "Yes,
he has told me that he has twice as much
to love
as he did when we were married back
in 1934."
"Why I only weighed 109 pounds on the
scale in front of Woolworth's
when we come into town from Arvin
on Saturday night."
"Does that seem like a long time ago?"
"1934 to 1986? Fifty-two years, ain't it?
No, it don't seem like no time at all, once
it has passed."