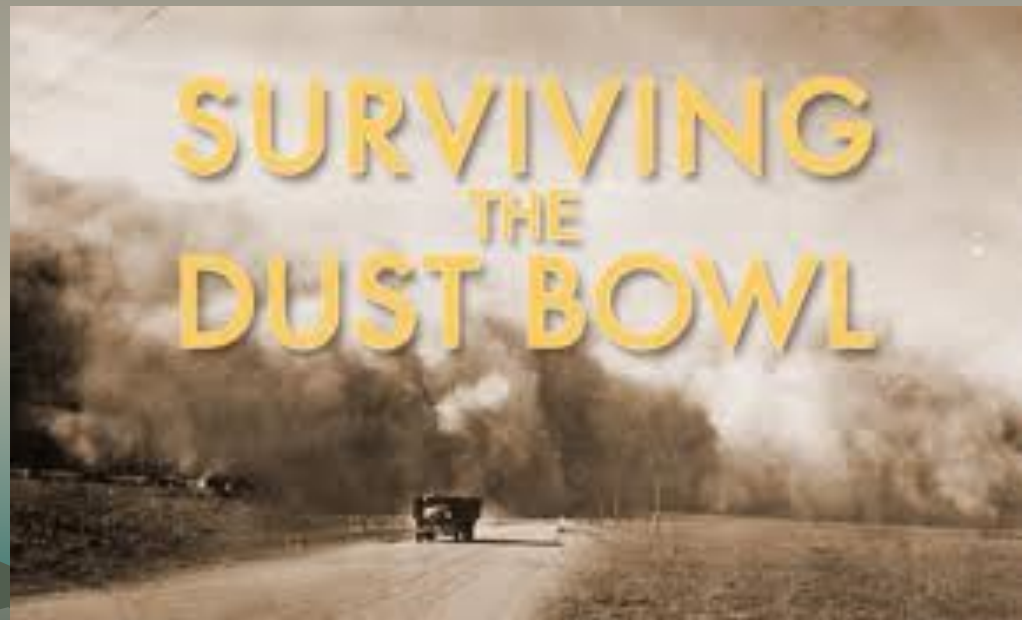


The Dust Bowl



Poverty Spreads

- People of all levels of society faced hardships during the Great Depression.
- Unemployed laborers, unable to pay their rent, became homeless.



Poverty Spreads

- Sometimes the homeless built shacks of tar paper or scrap material. These shanty town settlements came to be called **Hoovervilles**.





Hooverville Today



Poverty Spreads

- Farm families suffered from **low crop prices.**



Poverty Spreads

- As a result of a **severe drought** and **farming practices** that removed protective prairie grasses, dust storms **ravaged the central and southern Great Plains region**. This area, stripped of its natural soil, was reduced to dust and became known as the **Dust Bowl**.



The Dust Bowl



Poverty Spreads



- The combination of the terrible weather and low prices caused about 60 percent of Dust Bowl families to lose their farms.

- When banks foreclosed on a farm, neighboring farmers would bid pennies on land and machines, which they would then return to the original owners. These sales became known as **penny auctions**.



Farmers crowd around the auctioneer at the Von Bonn family auction intimidating real bidders.
This was the first Penny Auction.

Impact on Health

Some people starved and thousands went hungry. Children suffered long-term effects from poor diet and inadequate medical care.



Stresses on Families

Living conditions declined as families crowded into small houses or apartments.

Men felt like failures because they couldn't provide for their families.

Working women were accused of taking jobs away from men.



Discrimination Increases

Competition for jobs produced a rise in hostilities against African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans. Lynchings increased. Aid programs discriminated against African Americans.



Natural Causes

- Type of Soil
 - Chernozem
 - Southern dark brown soils
 - Brown soils
- Climate
- 1930s Drought



Man-Made Causes

- Northeastern Farmers
- Soil Conservation
- Wheat, Cotton and Corn
- Cash Crops
- 1890 - 1910
- Farm Equipment



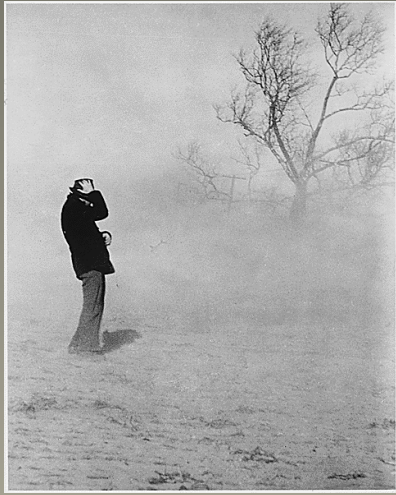
- **1931 drought hits the Midwestern and Southern plains.**



1935 April 14 **Black Sunday**



May 1934 The great dust storms spread from the Dust Bowl area.



How Families dealt with dust storms.

“wearing our shade hats,
with handkerchiefs tied
over our faces and
vaseline in our nostrils,
we have been trying to
rescue our home from the
wind-blown dust which
penetrates wherever air
can go.”



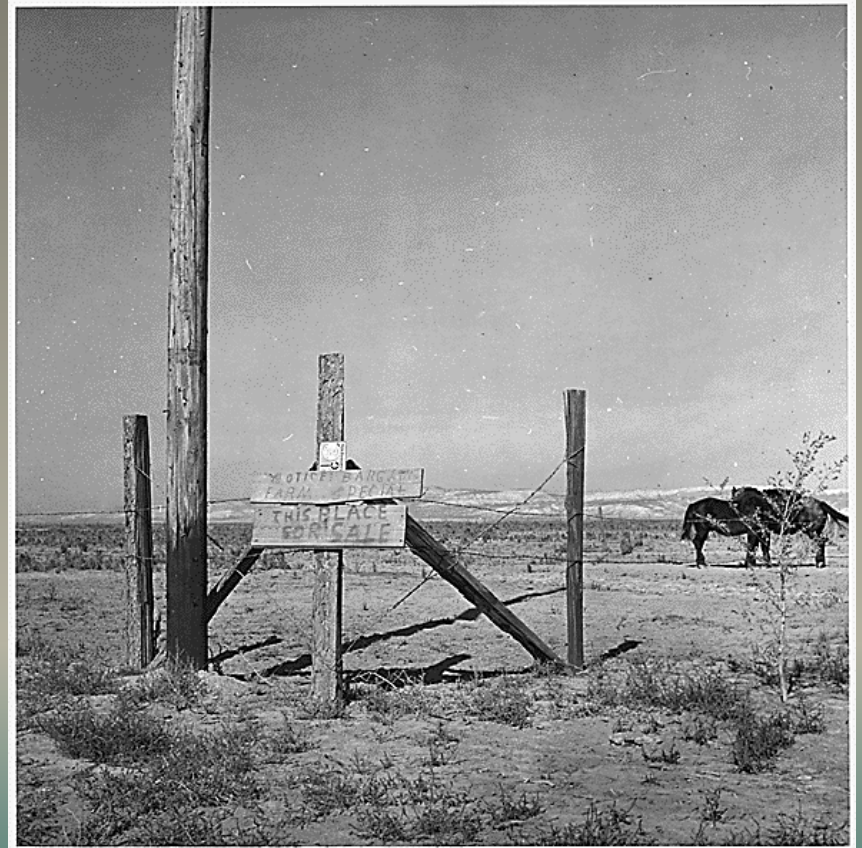
Christmas Dinner



**“My head ached, my stomach was upset,
and my lungs were oppressed and felt as if
they must contain a ton a fine dirt.”**



1933 The Emergency Farm Mortgage Act allots \$200 million for refinancing mortgages.

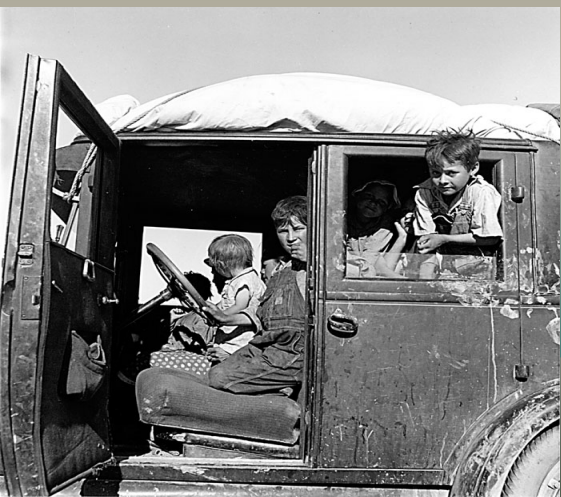


Tenant Farmers “Tractored Out”



The Hankel cousins with a more technologically advanced tractor than the one that Elroy experimented with in the 1930s.
[Click to hear LeRoy talk about Elroy's surprise.](#)

• **"...With my financial resources at last exhausted and my health seriously, if not permanently impaired, I am at last ready to admit defeat and leave the Dust Bowl forever. With youth and ambition ground into the very dust itself, I can only drift with the tide."**



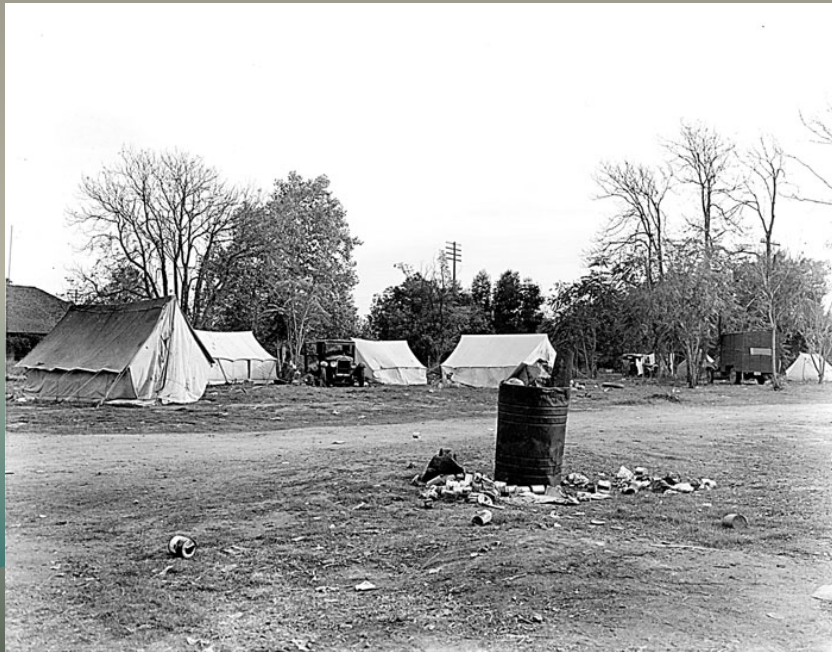
**"The land just blew away; we had to go
somewhere."**

**-- Kansas preacher, June, 1936
"Okies" Moving West**

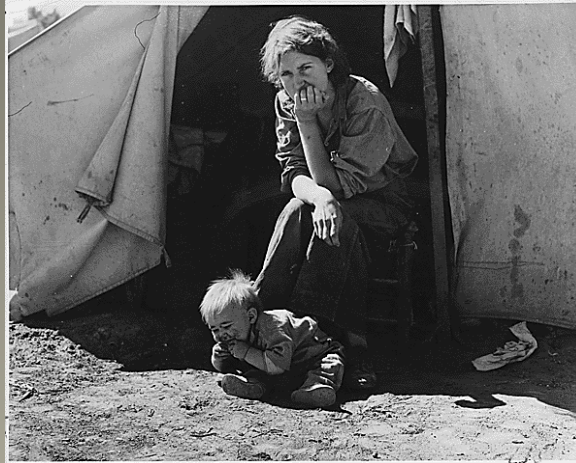


Jalopy- OLD
unreliable
car Referred
to as cars
used during
the exodus
out of the
dust bowl
region

Little Oklahomas or Okieville



1936 February: Borders were patrolled to keep "undesirables" out.

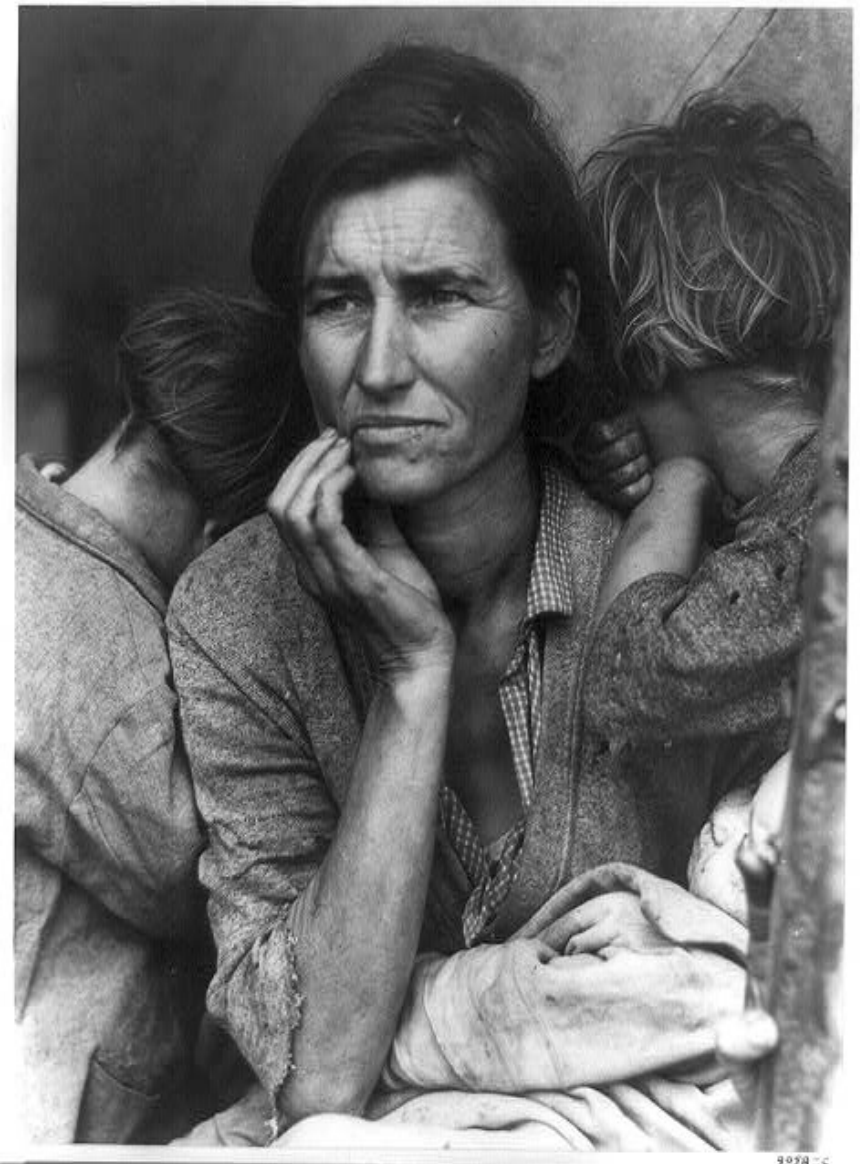




Dorothea Lange



Migrant Mother



Florence Thompson



Arizona





Woodrow Wilson Guthrie



Woody Guthrie

Dust Storm Disaster (The Great Dust Storm)



On the 14th day of April of 1935,
There struck the worst of dust storms that ever filled the sky.
You could see that dust storm comin', the cloud looked deathlike
black,
And through our mighty nation, it left a dreadful track.
From Oklahoma City to the Arizona line,
Dakota and Nebraska to the lazy Rio Grande,
It fell across our city like a curtain of black rolled down,
We thought it was our judgment, we thought it was our doom.
The radio reported, we listened with alarm,
The wild and windy actions of this great mysterious storm;
From Albuquerque and Clovis, and all New Mexico,
They said it was the blackest that ever they had saw. From old
Dodge City, Kansas, the dust had rung their knell, And a few more
comrades sleeping on top of old Boot Hill. From Denver, Colorado, they
said it blew so strong, They thought that they could hold out, but they
didn't know how long.

Our relatives were huddled into their oil
boom shacks, And the children they
was cryin' as it whistled through the
cracks.

And the family it was crowded into
their little room, They thought the
world had ended, and they thought it
was their doom.

The storm took place at sundown, it
lasted through the night, When we
looked out next morning, we saw a
terrible sight. We saw outside our
window where wheat fields they had
grown Was now a rippling ocean of
dust the wind had blown.

It covered up our fences, it covered up
our barns,
It covered up our tractors in this wild
and dusty storm. We loaded our
jalopies and piled our families in, We
rattled down that highway to never
come back again.



Fall 1939 the rain comes



"...Then, at last, the rain came, with a precipitation of five inches during the ensuing two days and nights, which effectively put an end to the blowing of the land for that season. With the coming of rain the whole aspect of the country changed, and I felt again the buoyancy of young manhood."