

FSA Photograph by Arthur Rothstein

Fleeing a dust storm
Cimarron County, Oklahoma
April, 1936





Modern Photo by Bill Ganzel

Darrel Coble – the littlest boy in the Rothstein photo – in his home. On the wall is a painting by a local woman copied from Rothstein’s photo.
Cimarron County, Oklahoma
September, 1977

“All the days was about alike then. For a three-year-old kid, you just go outside and play, dust blows and sand blows, and you don’t know any different. One evening a black duster come in here from the north. We had kerosene lamps. And it got so dark you couldn’t see with derosene lamps.

“Last spring, we had some pretty bad days. They weren’t the old black dusters, but there was plenty of dust in the air.

“I don’t really know why I like living here. I guess it’s just home. Dad always said that if anybody ever come here and wear out two pairs of shoes, they’d never leave. Back in the 30s, my dad had some relatives in California that was fairly wealthy, an aunt and uncle, and they wanted him to get outa here. They said they’d pay his way out to California, the whole family, but he said he wouldn’t go. He was just a hard-headed Coble, I guess. He was pretty independent. I just imagine he thought that if it was going to be somebody else’s money, why he wasn’t gonna go, period.”

– Darrel Coble