


the DUST BOWL




Oklahoma
Historical
Society®




Causes:

- ❖ Farmers plowed up much of the native prairie grasses, which kept the soil of the Great Plains from blowing away, to plant wheat
- ❖ Farmers' cattle over-grazed the land leaving little grasses that held the soil in place
- ❖ Cooler than normal tropical Pacific Ocean surface temperatures combined with warmer tropical Atlantic Ocean temperatures to create conditions in the atmosphere that turned America's breadbasket into a dust bowl from 1931 to 1939.



Effects:

- ❖ Streams dried up and rivers got smaller
- ❖ Wells were empty and full of dirt
- ❖ Houses were full of dust
- ❖ Black blizzards
- ❖ 100° + temperatures
- ❖ Cattle died from lack of food and water
- ❖ Grasshoppers thrived and ate remaining grass



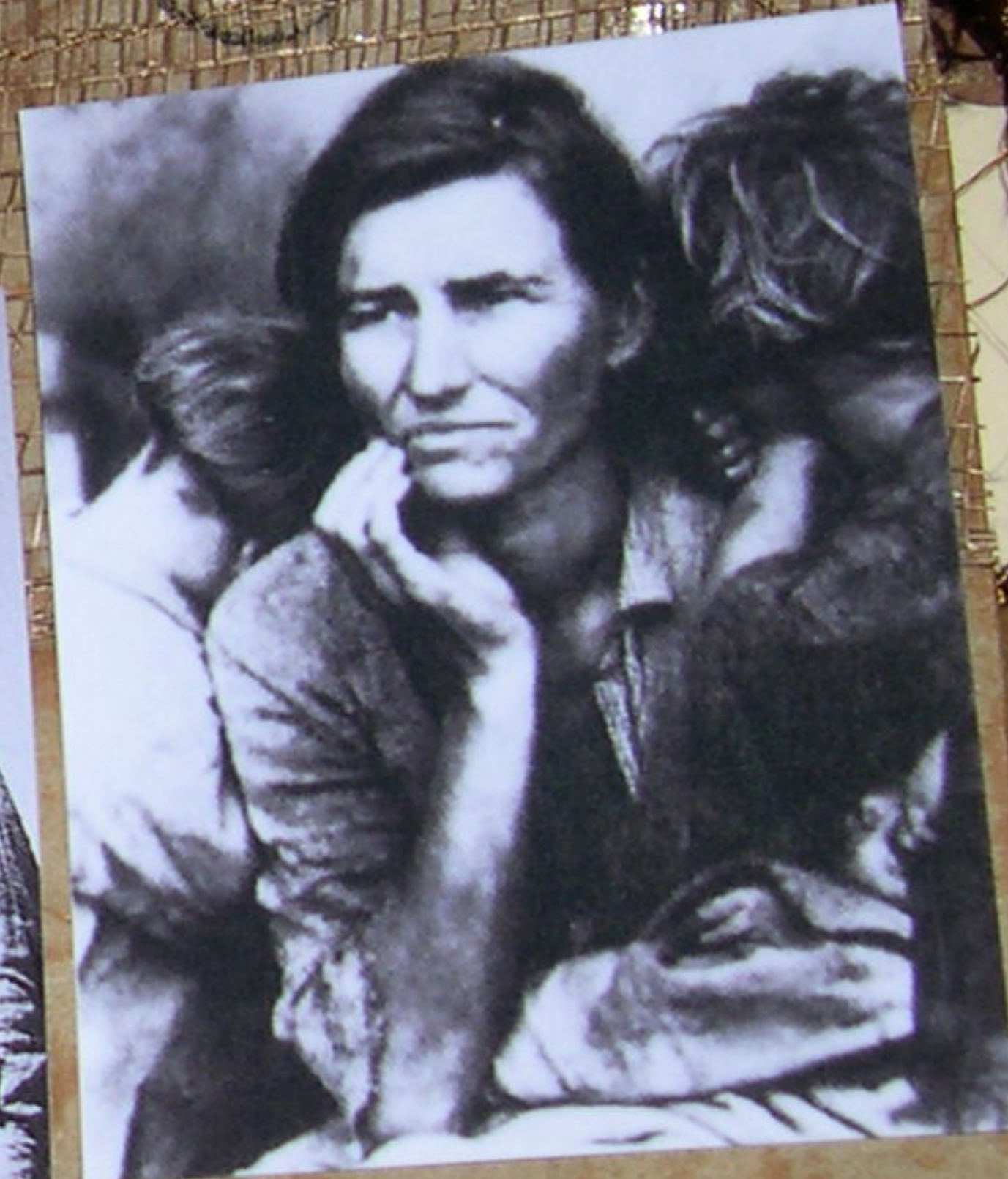
Changes:

- ❖ President Roosevelt signed a law to protect natural resources
- ❖ Hugh Bennett, a leading agricultural expert, taught farmers new farming techniques and how to conserve valuable topsoil
- ❖ Almost 25% of the farmers migrated to California looking for work

Black Sunday



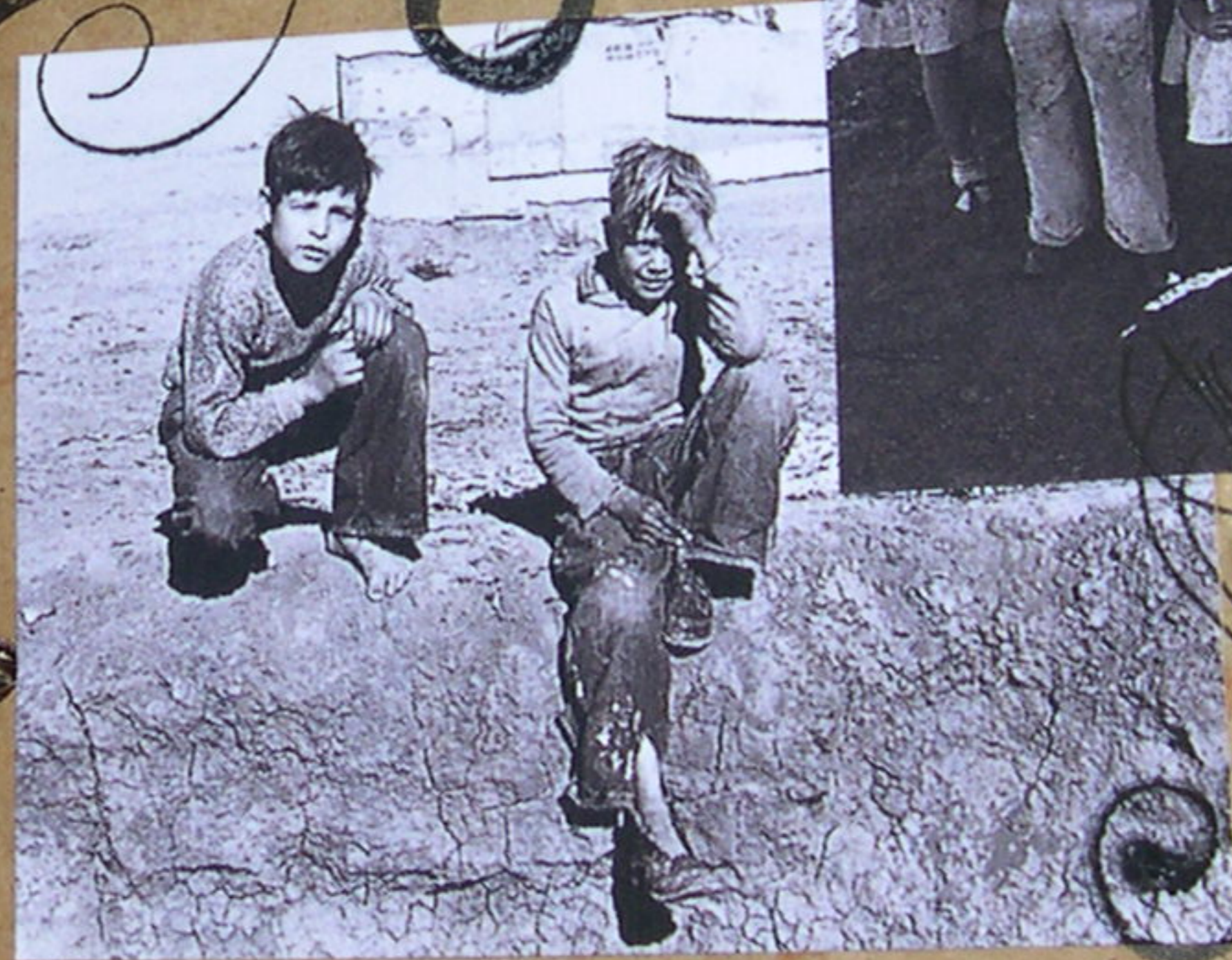
April 14, 1935



family



Children of the Dust Bowl





Starving



CATTLE



<http://www.cccok.org/museum/dustbowl.html>

<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/lange/index.html>

<http://www.altereddimensions.net/earth/DustBowlAndBlackSunday.aspx>

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/topstory/2004/0319dustbowl.html>