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Scattered Mementos of My Life

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Luisa Rodríguez Connal
Workshop for Rex Veeder's
Survive and Thrive

Scattered Mementos of My Life

Photos scattered round the house
Hold memories. Cold memories
Warm me.

Trips to the past teach love and
My core being. Yesterday playful
Surrounded by family and friends.

Mi abuelo con sus brazos al redeador de abuela's sintura.
Possessive of her despite the aging both share.
I remember him differently. Sitting me on his lap
Teaching me to pet a chicken.
Teaching me to feed them.
Photo of me on vacation dressed
In broad straw hat and pants with a hole in knee
Holding a pitch fork
Large flowers in my hair.
Mi *mirada* mimics Abuela's look.

Luisita y Margie, cousins
white stiff wide bows
on their heads. Standing
side by side.
The shorter one *seems* shy.

Rock and roll came along I look at mementos
A hound dog with a big guitar by its side.

Mementos long lost: 45 records and LP at 33/13 and
The Old lost through moves to many new places
Those are scattered with the winds of moves to new places
Only a few remain.
Yet new music forms and much music still abound.

Little owls adorn a shelf—my daughter thinks I'm an owl.
So a big owl recently arrived—it sits away from the originals.

Each night I say goodnight to the surviving mementos.
Goodnight young Luisa

Goodnight Abuelo y Abuela
Goodnight to Mamí y Papí
Loved ones from the past still present in my heart.