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Mending Fence

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Mending Fence

by Christian Knoeller

When his dairy finally failed—
silo dismantled, herd sold off—
the farmer bred horses instead.

Summers they'd graze aimlessly
while he walked property lines
shovel over shoulder, clippers

on his hip. Sometimes an oak
blows over and it's a whole
day's work to drive new posts.

Any scrap of iron could fortify
his corral: an ornate gate
adorned with forged acorns,

the last plow broken down.
By the barn he built a fence
meant to withstand anything:

the colt that kicked
the neighbor's kid witless
or the mare that bore it all.

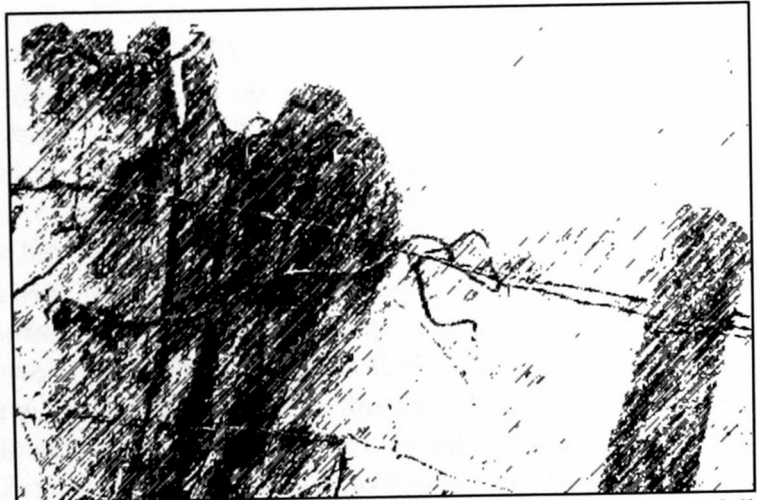


Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

