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## The Bishop Place

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# The Bishop Place



BY PAT KOURT

Two hills over. . .

    Stood a special old house

    With a weathered wood front.

Thick kitchen walls of red-clay blocks

    Stifled biting, north winds

    and

    Cooled the piercing, August sun.

Worn, creaking floors of smooth hard wood

    Told of cautious midnight tiptoes

    and

    Echoed quick, impatient pacing.

Shiny, blinding sheets of sloping roof-tin

    Pushed rain and snow away from cozy walls

    and

    Created landmarks for countless miles.

Cool, cistern water in a dented water bucket

    Soothed thirsty mouths with the tip of a dipper

    and

    Warm, kneaded biscuits tempted early-risers.

Front-porch gossip whittled hours from daily boredom

    and

Folks of all ages could lose the time of day.

    A childhood respite

    . . . two hills over. ■