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IN THE COTTON PATCH

–By Pat Kourt

Cotton-country friends depend on each other to . . .
swap stories about spring plantin'
chop weeds under the swelterin' July sun
pull crisp, white bolls on frosty fall days
wish for spring plantin' days in snow-packed December.

Cotton-country friends are easily recognized by . . .
faded, striped overalls with worn knees
smooth, pale foreheads above sun-browned cheeks
old Ford pickups pullin' wobbly, wooden trailers
rag-wrapped jars of water to guzzle in the shade.

Cotton-country friends have the same daily schedules as . . .
an early Monday start a sackful at a time
a daily trip down 152 to the gin yard
a Saturday night Western movie in town
a Sunday rest and renewal for another week
among friends —
in the cotton patch. 🌸

(PAT KOURT, a SOSU alumna and faithful contributor to WESTVIEW, teaches and writes in Thomas, where her husband, Randall, owns and operates Thomas Drug and Variety.)

Illustration by Tommy Campbell