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All-Purpose Facility

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Catharsis, school style

All-Purpose Facility

By Mona Jean Taff Suter

North Pleasant Valley*

A place of learning for students aged five to sixteen
Some who rode horses but many who walked to school
Some who had a single desk of their own;
But I was lucky; I shared a desk with a best friend.
I was lucky; I got to dust the erasers sometimes
and I won the ciphering match once or twice too.
I was lucky; I got my own nail in the cloakroom
and I escaped without head lice or the itch!

North Pleasant Valley

A place of employment for one teacher only
She who swept the floor, unlocked and locked the door
She who built the fire and carried out the ashes.
But she was smart too; she taught all eight grades.
She was also spunky; even the bullies liked her
and their parents did too.
She was lucky; she made almost \$70 a month!

North Pleasant Valley

A place the whole community gathered
Those who came to see the Christmas programs and collect
the annual sacks of treats.
Those who worshipped on Sundays and Wednesdays without
need of a particular denomination.
Some were lucky; they had 50 cents to pay for the
prettiest box at the box supper.
They were lucky; they had community spirit.
They were lucky; they painted a scene of country history.

*North Pleasant Valley: a one-room country school that was located one mile off Highway 58 approximately halfway between Hydro and Eakly.