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## Shade

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*respite from misery*

Oklahoma sun  
beams from a white-hot sky,  
unmerciful, insistent,  
pushing its way through 1 x 12 walls  
covered with tarpaper  
until we who are inside  
are sweat-streaked, miserable.

Papa studies deeply  
then goes out and hacks and chops and sweats  
some more in the torturing sun,  
plants posts, stretches wire, lays branches.  
We kids help,  
intrigued by growing shadows  
along the house-front,  
looking up into green leaves  
and shade and protection from burning rays.  
Marveling because Papa always had answers.

Finally Papa stands, leaning on his ax,  
face and shirt damp,  
smiling a little to himself  
in the tranquillity and cool  
of what could well have been  
the only porch arbor shade  
ever made.



# SHADE

By Margie Snowden North

*Illustration by Kevin Bay*

*MARGIE SNOWDEN NORTH has been a free-lance writer for over two decades. A regular WESTVIEW contributor, she is joined in this issue by her sister, Ava Snowden Sailors.*