

BACK A FIGHTER WITH EASTER SEALS.

The Easter Seal Society, ONTARIO



Poets corner

The End of a Perfect Day

Grandmother on a winter's day milked the cows and fed them hay. Slopped the hogs and saddled the mules and got the children off to school. Did the washing, mopped the floors washed the windows, and did some chores, cooked a dish of home-dried fruit pressed her husband's Sunday suit. Swept the parlour, made the beds, baked a dozen loaves of bread, split some firewood, lugged it in - enough to fill the bin. Cleaned the lamps and put in oil, stewed some apples she thought would spoil. Churned the butter and made a cake, then exclaimed "for heaven's sake" - the calves got out of the pen and went and chased them in again. Gathered the eggs and locked the stable and back in the house to set the table. Cooked a supper that was delicious and afterwards, washed the dishes. Fed the cat, sprinkled the clothes, mended a basketful of hose. Then opened the organ and began to play, "When you come to the end of a perfect day."

When the Children are Away

Myself drawing water, my old man out at the plough
No grown-up son or daughter, that's the way we're farming now.
No work, and little pleasure was the cry before they went
Well they've plenty in full measure, so I ought to be content.
Great wages men is given in that land beyond the sea,
But 'tis lonely, lonely livin' when the children are away.

To see a baby in the cradle with blue eyes and curly hair
God knows I'd give a great deal to see little Peter there.
No doubt he'd find it funny, lyin' here upon me arm
Him that's makin' the "big money" on a California farm.
Six pounds, it was, or seven, he sent last quarter day,
But 'tis lonely, lonely living' when the children are away.

God is good, none better, and the devil might be worse
Each month there comes a letter, bringing something for the purse.
And me old man's heart rejoices when I read they're doin' fine,
But it's oh, to hear their voices, and to feel their hand in mine.
To see the cattle grazing', the young ones makin' hay,
'tis a lonely land to live in, when the children are away.

When the shadows do be fallin' on the old man there, and me
'Tis hard to keep from callin', "come in children to your tea".
I can almost hear them comin', Mary, Kate, and little Sean
Ah, but I'm the foolish woman, sure they've all grown up and gone.
That our sins may be forgiven, and not one go astray,
Do you know? - I doubt I'd stay in heaven, if the children were away.

*As performed by Carmel Quinn
Recited by the Irish Rovers.*

Stille Sutton

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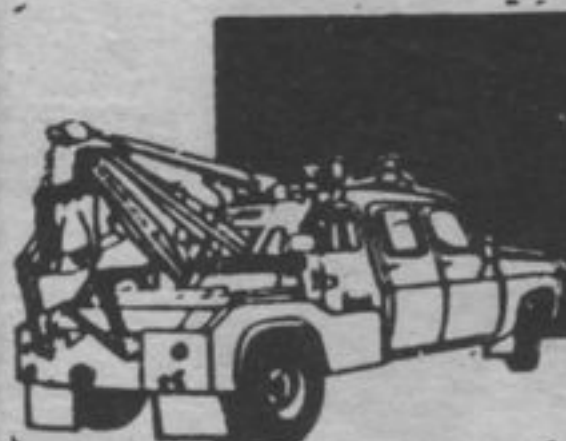
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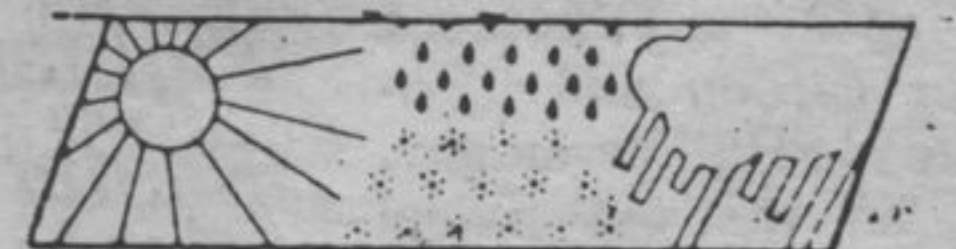
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