

November 25, 1994

Barefoot in the Snow

Whenever the children got sick, Grandpa Winder would become their nursemaid. He would sit up with them and sleep on the bottom of their beds during the nights. He was a very concerned and loving father. One time, Delsie had a very bad cough. During the night, while Grandpa Winder was checking on her, he found that she was covered in blood. Somehow, her coughing had been so bad that her nose had started to bleed and wouldn't stop. Her face, blond hair and pillow were deep red with blood. Grandpa called to Grandma and they got Delsie out of bed and stood her up. They couldn't get the bleeding to stop. It was winter time, and Grandpa ran out to the barn and brought into the house a large washing tub which he filled with snow. They stood Delsie, barefoot, in the snow. No good.

Grandma Winder had a sister who was a midwife, and she was often also called for to help when people were sick. Grandpa went out and hitched up the horse to the buggy and went to get the Aunt. She lived several miles away, and it took awhile before they returned. The first thing she said when she came through the door was to get the child out of the snow-filled tub, else her feet would be frozen. She worked with Delsie and gave her some black olive oil. Before long, the bleeding stopped and Delsie was able to go back to bed; with some sore, cold feet but able to breath once again.