

Story Time

by *Delores Campbell*

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Rat Tails



Billy Wayne and Penny went to a meeting at Tom and Jo Nell Harrison's house one evening, and Penny came back home telling me a story I couldn't hardly believe.

She said Tom told them that, when he was a boy, there were so many rats in Granite Falls, that if anyone caught them and cut off their tails, they could get a free ticket at the theater to see a movie for so many tails. All you had to do was bring the tails to the theater to get your ticket. Tom said that Boyd Fairchild would catch a rat and cut its tail into two pieces, and that is how he got the nickname, Mousie. Jo Nell said you could take the rat tails to school and get a free lunch, too; but she never would take any tails to school. If this story isn't true, they told it well and Penny got a big laugh telling it to me.

That was about as bad as the old mama cat a Kirby family had that adopted a litter of baby rats. They killed the cat, saying anything that crazy didn't deserve to live.

My dad set a rat trap one day and it wasn't long before it caught something. He was sitting on the couch and the trap was behind the couch. He reached back and got the trap. Instead of a rat, he had caught a black snake. That was when we were still living in the log cabin.

I came home one night after working in the Dudley cotton mill and went to bed not knowing that in the night a mouse got into my bed. Somehow, I lay down on it and smothered it to death. I found it the next morning when I got up.

How many of you missed seeing the story on T. V. about the mama cat that adopted a baby squirrel? The kittens didn't seem to mind that the squirrel was different. It sure is a strange world isn't it? Why does a house dog, after getting a bath, go outside and wallow in something rotten? Penny wonders if they think we stink. She said her four dogs smelled worse than a skunk after they had wallowed in rotten chicken that had been left uneaten by some predator.

I thought of Mildred Tolbert and her two black dachshund dogs she use to have. Mildred would wash and powder them up, and they would get under the bed and try to rub the scent of the soap and powder off. The first chance they got to go outside, they came back smelling like they had never had a bath. Penny said her dachshund had her whole house smelling so like a rotten chicken that she was about to gag. Since dogs don't like the soap and perfume that people put on them, maybe they do think we smell bad. Ha! Ha!