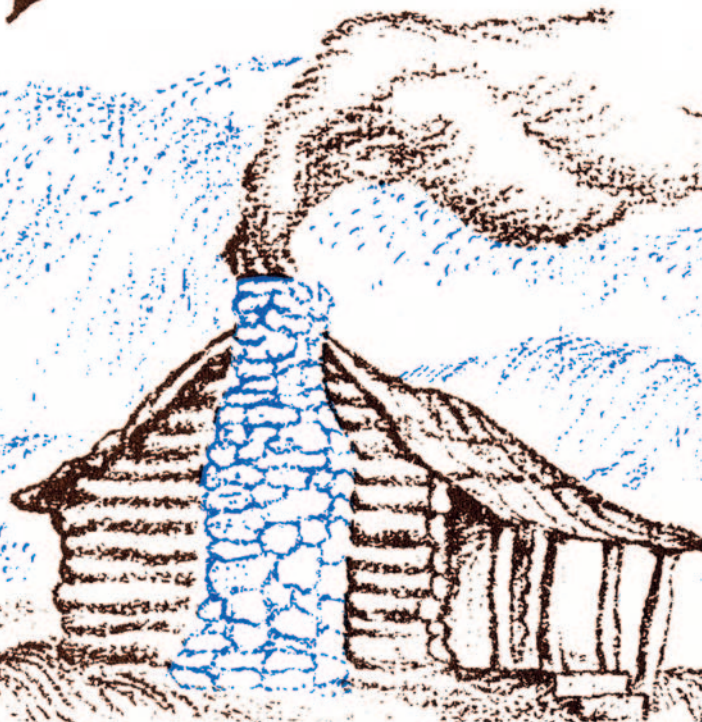


DOWN DOWN THE MOUNTAIN



BY ELLIS CREDLE

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Summary: Hetty and her brother Hank want creaky, squeaky new shoes. In the Blue Ridge Mountains where they live there were no shoes of any kind, nor did they have any money. To earn money their grandmother suggests planting and raising turnips to sell. Their adventures to, in, and from town and the things they bring home show what's really important.





DOWN DOWN THE MOUNTAIN

Once upon a time, in a little log cabin
away up in the Blue Ridge Mountains,
there lived a little girl named Hetty and
her brother Hank.



Although their home was a small one, it was a cozy place to live. There was a big stone fireplace at one end. That was where Mammy cooked beans and cornmeal mush and fried pork in a big, black, frying pan.

There was a big bed in one corner and a little bed in the other corner, and in the middle of the room there was a long table made of planks. That was where Mammy and Pappy and Hetty and Hank ate their dinner every day.

All kinds of things hung from the rafters, strings of shucky beans, bunches of bright red peppers, ears of popcorn all tied together, hams, and sausages, and baskets full of this and that.



Never in all their lives had Hetty or Hank had a pair of shoes. In the summer it was fun to run around barefoot, but when winter came, and the snow lay on the mountains like a chilly white blanket, their little feet were blue with cold and they longed for a pair of shoes.



They each wanted a beautiful shining pair that sang, “Creaky—squeaky—creaky—squeaky,” every time they walked.