

The Birthday Present

Everyone has a birthday. The stars come up over the tree tops at the same place at the very same time only once a year. And when the same star comes up in the same place that it came up the moment you were born it is your birthday. There was a funny thing about Rip and Sally. They were born in the same hour, So they had the same birthday.

Every year on their birthday their Mother and Father gave them a birthday present that was for both of them. This year they were eight years old.

"You are eight years old," said their mother.

"You are old enough to think whatever you want to think."

"I have always been old enough to think whatever I want to think," said Rip.

"I can't remember ever not thinking," said Sally.

"But now," said their father, "you can can do some of the things you think about. You can think about things you can never do. Eight years old is a wonderful age to be."

So they gave them a day to think about what they really wanted for a birthday Present. They said: 'Here is a lunch. Go away all day and think hard and then tell us what you really want.'

So Sally and Rip went up the brook to where they kept the shining stones, They saw three new stones on their way up. And Rip almost caught a baby green snake. They forgot about the birthday present until they were lying on the rocks in the sun getting their cold feet warm.

"What do you really want now that you are eight, Rip?"

"I don't know. I want lots of things, but

I would not be sad if I didn't have them.'

"What do you want?"

"I want the sun and the moon and the stars and the fish in the brook and all the tin that tin cans are made of and everything that shines in the sun," said Sally.

"I want to be just as warm as I am now forever," said Rip. "I want a ship at sea, and a lion in the woods and an airplane to fly and a steam engine to drive and to be king of the country. And I want someone to answer all my questions."

"I want to have this stream and find shining stones in it forever."

"That is what I really want," said Sally. "I want to have this stream forever."

And that is what they told their mother and father that they wanted. The stream that flowed down from the mountain forever.

Their mother and father laughed. 'You want the brook that comes down from the mountain, forever?'

"Then," said their father, "you shall have it for it is on my land and I can give it to you." ms

The next day their father came home from the town with a big piece of blue paper. It had a gold star on it. And he gave it to Sally and Rip.

"What is it?" asked Rip.

Sally was looking at the star that was as gold as the stone they found in the brook.

"It is a piece of paper that says that you and Sally can have the brook that comes down out of the mountains, forever and ever for your own."

Words of a Deed

This indenture, made the 10th day of July, 1941, between John MacDonald and Sally MacDonald and Rip MacDonald. Witnesseth: John MacDonald.

In consideration of love, affection, good deeds, and sunny dispositions, does hereby grant and release unto Sally MacDonald and Rip MacDonald forever all that property enclosed within the bonds of a stream running at high-water mark from Blue Mountain Ledge to Apple Valley and all the minerals, ores, and deposits that within it lie.

To have and to hold this piece of land granted unto Rip MacDonald and Sally MacDonald forever.

In witness whereof, John H. MacDonald, has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year above written,

Next week you may read the last story about Sally and Rip.