

BETSY McCALL GOES TO A COUNTRY AUCTION

Last week, we were driving along on an old back road when Daddy pointed to a sign: "Auction Today." Mommy adores country auctions. The sale had already started, but we found three seats. Mommy raised her hand ever so many times; but when the price got too high, she stopped bidding. She did buy a lovely china pitcher and a stone pickle jar. Daddy bought some old phonograph records, and he gave me a dollar so I could buy something, too. But everything went for more, until the man held up a shabby little trunk.

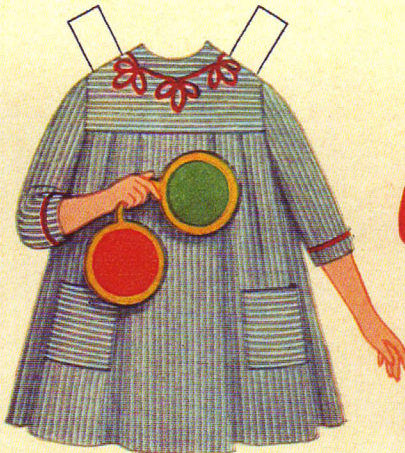
"Ten dollars, who'll bid ten dollars?" he asked. "Five dollars? Three? Two? One? Please say one, somebody."

And then I heard myself saying, "ONE DOLLAR."

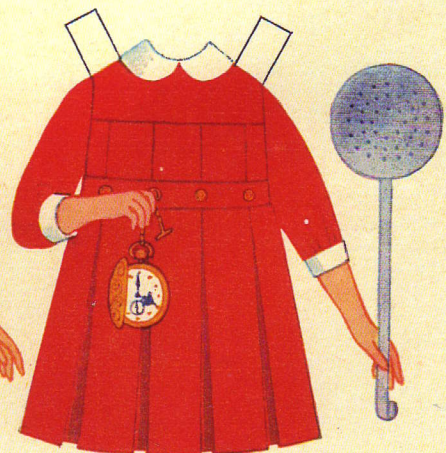
"Sold to the little lady in front," he said. "You can change your mind, young lady. It's just an empty old trunk, you know." I was too embarrassed, and I shook my head no. Daddy sort of smiled at me as he carried it out to the

car. And Mommy said, "Never mind. Lots of grown people bid much more than that for things they don't really want to own!" When we got home, Daddy took it up to my room and set it on the floor. I was so angry at the silly old thing that I kicked it hard. Suddenly I heard a popping noise inside the trunk. I raised the lid, and GUESS WHAT!

There was a false bottom, and when I lifted it out, I found an old, old doll—Mommy says nearly a hundred years old—and the dearest old-fashioned dresses with the teeniest buttons, and pantaloons, and funny shoes, and a copy of *Little Women*, with Louisa May Alcott's autograph. Daddy says the book is terribly valuable; but I'll never, never sell it my whole life long. Would you?



Betsy's clan-plaid cotton dress, about \$11, will be just right for school, too. Her striped dress has scroll trimming and nice big patch pockets. About \$8



How pretty this red dress is with its crisp piqué collar and cuffs! About \$9. These "transition" cotton dresses by Joan Bellew for Kate Greenaway

Please turn to page 126 for stores where Betsy's new wardrobe may be seen

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