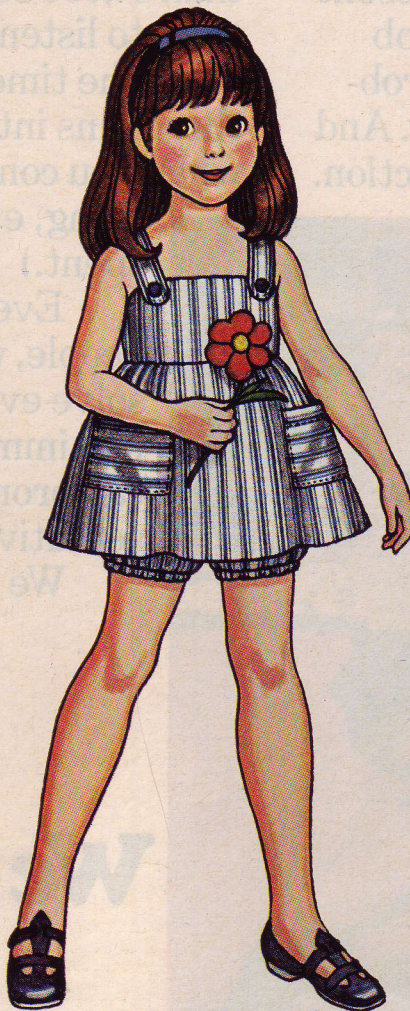


THE HAUNTED HOUSE IN BETSY McCALL'S TOWN

Does your town have a haunted house too? Ours is the Ward place, nicknamed the *Weird* place, and people said it would suddenly vanish one day. Well, last month it *did*. A big storm came and blew down huge trees and put out our power plant, leaving everything dark. The next day the sun was out, lights were on and everything seemed the same as ever. EXCEPT! The *Weird* place was GONE! The old elm next to it had been uprooted and had crashed over, turning the house to *splinters*. The whole town went out to have a look. All at once a project was formed. The bank, which owned the property, gave it to the town. Bricklayers, carpenters, Boy Scouts, Girl

Scouts, parents, EVERYBODY got together. The old elm was sawed up and carted away, along with what was left of the old house. We were helping clean up when we discovered a lovely, tangled old garden and a broken fountain at the rear that had been hidden by vines and tall weeds. The bricklayers put up a wall and mended the brick walk and the fountain. Tree nurseries donated maple and dogwood trees, and we kids dug the holes for them. Everything's growing like mad, and everybody comes there now—including bees, butterflies and more birds than I've ever seen before! And you know what? *It has renamed itself*—once more it's the Ward Place, just as it was long ago.



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