

# The Flour Sack

By Colleen B. Hubert

In that long ago time when things were saved,  
When roads were graveled and barrels were staved,  
When worn-out clothing was used as rags,  
And there were no plastic wrap or bags,  
And the well and the pump were way out back,  
A versatile item, was the flour sack.

Pillsbury's Best, Mother's and Gold Medal, too  
Stamped their names proudly in purple and blue  
The string sewn on top was pulled and kept;  
The flour emptied and spills were swept.  
The bag was folded and stored in a sack  
That durable, practical flour sack.

The sack could be filled with feather and down,  
For a pillow, or 't would make a sleeping gown.  
It could carry a book and be a school bag,  
Or become a mail sack slung over a nag.  
It made a very convenient pack,  
That adaptable, cotton flour sack.

Bleached and sewn, it was dutifully worn  
As bibs, diapers, or kerchief adorned  
It was made into skirts, blouses and slips  
And mom braided rugs from one hundred strips  
She made ruffled curtains for the house or shack,  
From that humble but treasured flour sack!

As a strainer for milk or apple juice,  
To wave men in, it was a very good use,  
As a sling for a sprained wrist or a break,  
To help mother roll up a jelly cake,  
As a window shade or to stuff a crack,  
We used a sturdy, common flour sack!

As dish towels, embroidered or not,  
They covered up dough, helped pass pans so hot,  
Tied up dishes for neighbors in need,  
And for men out in the field to seed.  
They dried dishes from pan, not rack  
That absorbent, handy flour sack!

We polished and cleaned stove and table,  
Scoured and scrubbed from cellar to gable,  
We dusted the bureau and oak bed post,  
Made costumes for October (a scary ghost)  
And a parachute for a cat named Jack.  
From that lowly, useful old flour sack!

So now my friends, when they ask you  
As curious youngsters often do,  
"Before plastic wrap, Elmer's Glue  
And paper towels, what did you do?"  
Tell them loudly and with pride don't lack,  
"Grandmother had that wonderful flour sack!"