Vorest vrosty marnin'

by true-born Forester
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I WUZ barn in the Vorest and lived over Colefud way 'till I wuz eleven. We muved ta Bream in 1946, just a'ter the Zecond World War, and lived in a cottage tha bottom end of Bream.

The cottage wuz right nex' ta tha Pargutter and ya could 'ear the owld dram a windin' is woy up the tip an' then drapping 'is load at tha top.

Just avore it tipped 'is load a ziren wen' off an I remember tha vust night we spent in thic there cottage. I wuz vrightened ta juth by thic awvul zound. It zounded as if zomeone 'ad put tha cat droo the mangle.

Tha cottage wuz a bit basic — it 'ad no runnin' water or electric light. We 'ad ta use oil lamps and candles and ya 'ad ta get thee 'at an' coat on ta goo dawn tha garden ta an owld shed with a bard zeat over tha top of an owld buckut.

I can tell tha that on a vrosty marnin' it took all tha grit thause ad ta zit on thic vrosty owld zeat and thau disn't 'ang around too long ta try too 'ard.

We 'ad ta vetch all our water vram a nat'ral spring down on tha edge of Knockley 'ood an' it wuz tha most awkud place in tha 'ole world ta get a buckut villed.

Tha spring wuz down a 'ole with steep zides an' if it 'ad bin a ranin'tha zides wuz zo zlippery, kippin' the vit wuz a miracle. I'd of'en land up on me backzide.

Gettin' two buckuts back ta tha 'ouse with any water left in um wuz a real veat, an' I con tell tha that thouse disn't waste it once thouse got it back.

It 'ood make tha sweat carryin' it and thouse larn ta use water very sparin'ly.

'Avin a bath in about dree inches of water wuz no vun. Thouse get tha owld tin bath in vront of the vire and try ta wash every bit with them there dree inches of water. Thee'd burn on one zide an' vreeze on tha tother.

That water 'ood ave ta do vor dree on ya an last in 'ood ave very little water, an it 'ood be very dirty by then. Thouse 'oodn't bath very often if thouse 'ad ta vetch tha water.