

## The Sky Is Falling

*By Donna Bishop*

There was something going on at the house. I couldn't put my finger on it exactly but something was amiss. My father was a traveling salesman in the oil business. To us it meant he was only home on weekends. This particular week he appeared home on a Wednesday which certainly upset the regular rhythm of our life. I felt there was something else about to happen. Mother hurriedly changed dinner plans to satisfy Dad's meat, potato and salad request. Dad seemed a bit restless and Mother had a concerned look on her face but there was no change in the conversations or early evening activities. My two sisters and I headed for bed at our regular hour.

I was uneasy about my father's unexpected arrival and felt sure he and mother would be having a conversation in the kitchen at the other end of the house. I knew better than to invade their privacy but my curiosity egged me on. I opened the bedroom door hoping their voices would reach me but I needed to get closer to the kitchen. I heard my father say, "The new job starts next week and I need to leave tomorrow for Denver but I will be back this weekend to discuss the move with the kids."

I stood there frozen with the knowledge that my whole life was about to be ruined! Tears flooded my eyes as I silently returned to my room. Didn't he understand what moving again would do to me? I was a senior in high school with less than five months till graduation. I already had college plans in place and a summer job lined up. I spent a sleepless night digging up all the horrible memories of starting a new school and trying to make new friends.

Daddy was gone by the time we got up and Mother did not say a word about the sky falling. I could not let on that I had eavesdropped so I suffered in silence. That is till I got to school bemoaning my cruel fate to my friends. That was good for one big pity party.

Saturday morning Dad explained that he had received an unexpected promotion which meant a move to Denver, CO. However he and mother had decided that it would be better for all of us girls to finish out the school year in Billings. He'd move to Denver and come back on weekends. Had I eavesdropped a bit longer I could have kept the sky from falling on me.