

# A Halloween Father's Day Story

## (by Pat Oaks)

It was a windy, eerie Halloween night. It was the type of wind that makes old-timers and children of old-timers say, "It's blowin' up somethin' out there!" but it never did. It almost seemed as if it just blew in to add to the spookiness of the night. As the evening progressed, there was a feeling in the air of impending doom, but I shook it off and attributed my feeling to the fact that it was Halloween. I was talking on the phone when it happened.

My son and the little girl next door came running in with horrified expressions on their faces. Someone had slit our puppy Tiffany's leg from top to bottom! I ran outside. The cut was huge and deep, but not bleeding very much. Tiffany was crying and so were the children. I was about to, also!

But this story is not about Halloween or the tragedy of our puppy, but about the great love of a daddy for his children and their beloved pet.

The boys' daddy very tenderly picked up Tiffany and put her in the truck and drove to the vet twenty-five miles away. About midnight, he returned carrying a sleepy puppy full of stitches. She also had a huge bandage on her leg. My husband did not go to bed. "Our" daddy got a hammer and nails, two pieces of lumber and a tarpaulin and proceeded to make a lean-to on the front porch. Under it, he made a soft bed for Tiffany. The wind was blowing so hard he had to nail the tarp to the front porch. Then, very carefully, he carried Tiffy to her bed and placed a bowl of water at her head. Only then did we go to bed.

After we were in bed, I thought to myself, *How many daddies would have done that?* Some would have left her in the yard and said, "It's only a dog." Many years after this incident, she literally saved Jason, our youngest son, from being bitten by a copperhead by jumping on it and taking three bites to her leg. We thought she would lose the leg, but the Lord saw fit to heal her completely!

In a world of uncaring, too-busy daddies, it's a joy to find a daddy who goes the extra mile. It's a joy to have a daddy who makes every day a happy, special day for his two boys and wife.