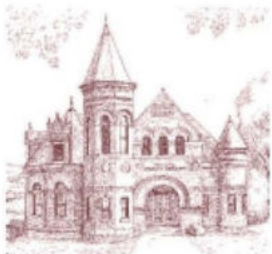




### NAKED TREE

Come walk with me  
Down a plowed country road  
Covered with sand and salt  
Spread by the town road crew  
A tall and lonely maple tree  
Beside the road, covered with  
Snow all sparkly and white  
Stopped me in my tracks.  
Its dimension so great  
It must of seen many winters pass by.  
The leafless branches reached  
Toward the cold blue sky.  
The leaves stripped off by the wind  
Part of the artistry of mother  
Nature's pure magic.  
Chipmunks raced about the scarred tree trunk  
Bearing many sugaring drills  
Like it was the Indianapolis motor speedway.  
A chickadee sat with fluffed feathers  
on a high branch, its lookout tower  
Looking down on me,  
singing it's heart out  
As we exchanged secret glances.  
Cupped tracks in the rug of snow  
Showed a passing deer stopped under the tree  
Nibbled on the fallen tender twigs  
For nourishment and disappeared.  
Hearing dripping sap echoing from a hanging bucket,  
I knew the old tree was alive and well.

**GERTRUDE SAVAGE**  
Etna, NH



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