SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are fun to watch at the bird feeder. They are very determined creatures. Oh, how they like those sunflower seeds, and what they won't do to get at them. Thor actually put up a "No Trespassing" sign on the pole of the bird feeder. This was a square metal sign that he had slipped on the pole through a hole in the middle of the sign. He put it there, upside down, so the squirrels could read it; but it appears to me that they don't believe in signs, either. No way would that sign be placed with the words "No Trespassing" up. Who would want the birds to feel unwelcome at their own feeding station?

The squirrels managed to conquer that sign. They pulled themselves up or the sign down and reached beyond its outer limits and climbed up to the bird feeder. There they sit while they feast on off-limits food. I'll tap on the window, talk to them, scold them while they sit and look me right
in the eye. They give me audience for a moment, then it's back to their eating. One day one was eating that way, then he got disgusted with my tapping, so he moved to the other side of the feeder, thinking I couldn't see him there. He looked to see if I was watching, then promptly pulled in his tail so it wouldn't show from my side. How clever! I went down the few steps to the back door and went out. He didn't move. That's being brave! I went over to the pole and gave it a shake. Did he ever scamper! I guess he thought his world was coming to an end. Now, that one squirrel will scamper when I tap on the window. He will try me for a minute as if to say, "Please let me stay." But then on second thought, he scampers. Guess that proves "experience is a good teacher." Some of the others are much more brave.

One day a squirrel tried to conquer that sign, but couldn't. He sat there a minute, then promptly climbed up the birch tree, out on the farthest branch which was the closest to the bird feeder. He sat there a while, and I could almost hear him say, "Can I
make it, or not?" Then, with one long leap he landed on the outer edge of the feeder, catching himself and hanging on for dear life. Then arighting himself, he proceeded to eat, and I didn't have the heart to say, "Can't you read? Don't you see that 'No Trespassing' sign?" This "No Trespassing" sign was a Prairie Farmer sign that we had received to put up on the farm -- good as new, so Thor thought he would put it to use.

Now we are waiting to see if any more squirrels have done their homework and learned to read well enough to know that they should keep out of there. Whoops! There one sits! We missed seeing him conquer, but he didn't stay. He took one look at me and scampered, perhaps thinking, "There she is again, that 'pesky woman.'"

As I pondered this statement, "What's my favorite corner?" I think I would have to come to the conclusion that it is not the money value of things that makes them your favorites, but it is the sentimental reasons that people (or at least I) have attached to them. There are a few things I have put a lot of time into, such as my crocheted bedspread, furniture I have refinished -- perhaps not as valuable as other precious to me.