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attic when she materialized in front of him. The repairman stood on a ladder a few feet from the floor. He dove head first off his perch and broke a window pane.

That night, while the Tam-mans sat in their bed, something swished in the attic above them. The repairman returned and found the

broken glass swept into a tidy pile. Neither Ann or Harry did the sweeping.

Ann speculates that Rue may be a Mrs. Derooy who lived there at the turn of the century. Apparently Derooy redecorated the house. A fastidious, "strong-willed" woman, she was the first to paint over the "drab white

walls," Ann says.

The Tam-mans haven't seen Rue for about two years.

"She seems like she's disappeared," Ann says.

This could be connected to the house's recent refurbishing. Throughout the past year, workers have rebuilt, according to the original

plans, the house's front porch and roof. Maybe Rue rests now.

"Her" house that was once falling apart has been resurrected, thanks to state funds and its place in the National Registry of Historic Places.

Maybe that was all she wanted," Ann says.

Rue may not haunt the Tam-mans anymore, but one phantom still pesters them: the press. Every year, around this time, some reporter calls on the Tam-mans for the story. Ann tires of telling the tale.

"Let sleeping ghosts lie," she says.



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