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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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Danville, IN 46122
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Guilford Twp. Historical Collection
1120 Stafford Road
Plainfield, IN 46168
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Tel. 839-6602

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Margaret Baker
(Mrs. C. Rawleigh Baker)
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"If we give time to studying how men and women of the past have dwelt with life's enduring problems, then we will be better prepared when these same problems come our way. We may be less surprised to find treachery at work in the world about us, as little less startled by unselfish devotion, a little readier to believe in the capacity of the human mind."

Education Secretary William J. Bennett

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT:

The movie, "HOOSIERS", which is the subject of the next meeting, was recently previewed for an audience in California. Comments about the movie were very favorable. The only complaint that some had was about the title--they didn't know what a "hoosier" was!

The word, "hoosier" may have obscure origins, but we all know what it means because we grew up hearing it. But what about the people who have lived in Hendricks County and don't know its history? Hopefully, more people will find out about "Hoosiers" when the film is released. And hopefully, more people will find out about "Hendricks" through our Society and its members.

Betty

THE MAY MEETING

Members and guests gathered at the Avon United Methodist Church on May 4. Mrs. Lorrie Bohlen and members of the 3rd grade class at the Avon Upper Elementary School presented a program on the history of Avon. Mrs. Bohlen has prepared a study course on local history for use at the school. The presentation included slides, paintings, and a time-line history quilt, made by the students. The students assisting in the program were Christy Aranjo, Corbin Braeger, Jennifer Lombardo, Andy Pitcher, and Kyle Vandegrift. After the program, refreshments were provided by the ladies of Washington and Middle townships.

OUR NEXT MEETING

What's it like to spend eight and a half years restoring a Victorian house, then have all your work transformed in a matter of weeks? We'll find out at our next meeting, August 3, 2 P.M., at the Brownsburg Public Library.

Debbie Burns, owner of the Downard house, a mile north of Hadley, will relate her experiences with the cast and crew of the movie "HOOSIERS" when her house became one of the filming sites for the movie, which will be released this fall.

Debbie will talk about her experiences before, during, and after her house became a movie star. She will also tell about the other sites in the county that were used in the film. Don't miss this meeting for a behind-the-scenes look at the filming of "HOOSIERS".

WILLARD HEISS RETIRES

In May of this year, Willard Heiss announced his retirement as chairman of the Indiana Historical Society's Family History Section.

For more than 50 years Mr. Heiss has helped people work their way through the genealogical forest. Many travellers on the trail of an elusive ancestor have had their paths made easier by advice from Willard. Those of us with Quaker ancestors

continue to reap the benefits of his years of work compiling, editing, and publishing his ABSTRACTS OF THE RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN INDIANA.

Mr. Heiss has given his help generously to our Society and to its members. When early transcripts of cemetery records were compiled, he furnished photocopies for our files. He arranged for the microfilming of the applications for ancestors certificates compiled during the Sesquicentennial, and recently microfilmed the records for Abner's Creek Baptist Church.

His appearance at genealogy workshops in this county always drew many researchers with many, many, many questions. Mr. Heiss would always try to find an answer each question that was put to him, in person, or by mail.

Retirement from IHS does not mean an end to Mr. Heiss' contributions to the field of genealogy. He has announced plans to publish THE HOOSIER HANDBOOK OF GENEALOGY, and a HANDBOOK FOR HISTORIANS AND GENEALOGISTS FOR QUAKER RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, among other projects.

The members of HCHS extend their heartfelt thanks to Willard Heiss for his work with the Indiana Historical Society, and wish him well in his future endeavors.

MATTIE A. KEENEY

Is there any occupation that has a more widespread effect on our civilization than that of teacher? The teacher who instills a love of learning in a single child influences all those whose lives are touched by that child. A teacher who inspires a classroom full of children, year after year, will inspire generations to come through each pupil.

One such teacher was Mattie A. Keeney, whose 45 years as a teacher in Danville Schools helped to shape the lives of hundreds of pupils. Born in 1849, the daughter of Rev. Nelson Green, she began her career in private schools. She taught in the Danville public schools in the 1870's. In 1872 she married John W. Keeney.

The building she taught in was located north of where the present South Elementary School is today. The school was erected in 1873. In 1879 it was damaged by fire and rebuilt.

In 1904, Lannes McPhetridge, a reporter for the Indianapolis News and former pupil of Mattie Keeney, organized a reunion of her pupils. A petition was circulated and presented to the School Board, asking that the name of the South building be changed to "The M. A. Keeney School". The petition was accepted and passed.

Nearly 200 former pupils gathered at the old school to honor their beloved teacher. Contributions from 302 graduates were gathered for a gift to present to Mrs. Keeney. She received a silk sack embroidered with forget-me-nots, containing \$130 in gold, along with a roll of ribbon 4 yards long with the names of the donors inscribed.

In 1913, a bronze tablet was placed in the Mattie A. Keeney building that read:

"This building was dedicated to Mrs. M. A. Keeney
by her loving pupils scattered o'er land and sea"

Mattie A. Keeney retired from teaching in 1923. In 1933 the Danville Commercial Club honored her as one of five outstanding women of the community. She died at the age of 90, in December of 1939. Her career might well be summed up in the words of Harry Scearce who spoke at the unveiling of the bronze tablet. He said that though the tablet might withstand the ravages of time for years, or perhaps centuries, it could never last as long as the good effects of her splendid teachings.

The bronze tablet honoring Mrs. Keeney was removed when the old school building was torn down in 1929, after the present South Elementary was completed. The tablet was recently re-discovered and cleaned. The Superintendent of Danville Community Schools, Henry Cox, says that plans are being made to find a suitable location for it. We hope to have further news about this in our November Bulletin.

The two documents that follow show the range of affection of Mattie Keeney's pupils. The first is a copy of the petition circulated to have the old school named in her honor. The 57 signatures contain the names of some of Danville's most prominent citizens of that era.

The second document is a letter written by Mrs. Keeney to Floy Underwood, one of her pupils. This short note of encouragement was found by Mrs. Virginia Reklis among papers belonging to her mother, Floy Underwood Modesitt. The fact that her pupil kept this note for more than 80 years indicates the feeling of admiration for Mrs. Keeney.

PETITION

Danville, IN 1904

To the Danville School Board--

We, the undersigned citizens, taxpayers and patrons of the Danville Public Schools hereby petition your honorable Board to name the South school in Danville "The M. A. Keeney School." We make this petition in view of the long and faithful service of Mrs. M. A. Keeney not only during the administration of this Board, but during that of many former Boards, both as a teacher and as an uplifting force in bettering the influences of this community.

Signed

- Charles A. White
- J. M. Jeffers
- A. L. Marsh
- B. F. Howell
- O. T. Spenser
- A. G. Thompson
- Geo. C. Harvey
- C. L. McCoun
- Jas. McCoun
- Raleigh McCoun
- Jos. W. Ferree
- E. M. Wilhite

- C. E. Farabee
- F. P. Reichard
- C. L. Thompson
- E. W. Homan
- John Fitzgerald
- L. B. Baughman
- Horace C. McVey
- J. N. Dempsey
- Simon Hadley
- A. H. Kennedy
- D. A. Higgins
- E. D. Nichols

Geo. W. Reichard
Guy Kelleher
T. Cope
C. W. Stewart
F. H. Huron
Alfred Welshans
J. T. Barker
Thad S. Adams
W. L. Wilson
Fred E. Warner
Julian D. Hogate
Mord. Carter
W. C. Osbourne
Chas Z. Cook
J. A. Showalter
Wilbur Masten
A. N. Bell

H. L. Parker
E. C. Pennington
W. L. Underwood
B. F. Noble
C. E. Edwards
R. D. Snyder
C. O. Haines
E. P. Thompson
J. H. Wilson
W. W. Leachman
R. Middleton
L. M. Christie
Grow Bros.
J. K. Little
Henry Hadley
Geo. D. Foote

Danville, Ind.
January 20, 1900

Dear Floy:

Thanks for your promptness in responding to my request. Your efforts to be prompt and to be up with all the work I assign you is a great comfort to me.

Thanks, too, for your kind words; a kind word helps very often to smooth down the rough places in life's journey.

I am sorry you dislike Grammar for it is so important a study--but do not neglect it. Perhaps you will learn to like it better sometime.

To be honest with you, I have thought, myself, there was just a little tendency backward lately--especially in perfect orderly application to study. You have a little more temptation since you have someone right opposite you than when it was a vacant seat. Are you strong enough to resist the temptation, or not? It is only when temptation comes to us that we are able to tell how strong we are. Any one can be good if he has no temptation to be any thing else. Do not allow any yielding in this line spoil your many good school qualities.

Lovingly,

M.A.K.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!!

Montgomery County Genealogy Society
c/o Crawfordsville Library
222 S. Washington
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Ruth Scott
344 School Rd.
Plainfield, IN 46168

New Members (Continued)

Irvin H. Keeler
3710 Avon Rd.
Plainfield, IN 46168

Mary Smith
85 S. Washington
Danville, IN 46122

Archives
DePauw University
Greencastle, IN 46135-0037

Mrs. Frances R. Johnson
1419 Sherwood Lane
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Robert Peterman
P. O. Box 74
Danville, IN 46122

NOTICE

Any members who formerly had Danville Rural Route addresses and do not have their corrected address on the label of this Bulletin, please inform the Secretary of your "new" address.

MUSEUM MUSINGS

The Hendricks County Historical Museum is usually a busy place. Generally we will find people coming on Tuesdays, although we are there on Saturdays too.

People have been coming in from out-of-state to check on Hendricks County ancestors. Some are quite pleased with their finding while others will have to pursue their efforts elsewhere.

School groups enjoy visiting the museum. We hear that a visit to the museum is a "must" for third graders of a certain school in the county.

Every so often we will receive books.

During June the models got together and decided to really show off the bridal gowns. The gowns, while ever new, date back a long way into the past. Some have lots of hand embroidery. And that was done on net! It took a long time to make. The dates included 1876, 1914, 1920, 1939, and 1942. Dorothy Kelley and Mary Ann Moore assisted.

The Hendricks County Garden Club planted the flower bed with scarlet sage and marigolds both orange and pale yellow. They are really showy.

It's so nice when a note is enclosed with a contribution to the museum. For example, a fine black dress of peau de soie was received and an accompanying note told that the material was so nice that the family felt that only a professional dressmaker should make it. The dress, incidently, was probably made before 1900. Notes like that adds so much.

Back Porches

There have been lots of stories about front porches and how folks sat and watched the world go by. A friend told of passing through an area while on vacation. She said it was six-thirty a.m. and folks were already sitting on the front porch! She wondered when they ever got their work done.

But what about the back porches? For lots of families it was the center of activity. It was a good place to get in out of the sun. It was a good place to come out of the rain unless the wind blew from the wrong direction. Some were open, others screened and others were glassed in.

But, whatever, it caught everything! Maybe a new stove was installed. Where did the old one go? On the back porch "for now". The furniture wasn't the last word in perfectly matched porch furniture. Usually it consisted of chairs that had seen better days.

The back porch in summer was where the beans got fixed, corn shucked, etc. Meal preparation in summer really began there. In the fall if a killer frost seemed imminent, the pole beans, and all other garden sass that could be accomodated were tucked under the table to be used as long as they lasted. Lots of lively conversation could be heard.

The back porch caught the dirty boots first. We might have to unload all the cats before we could use the mat. This mat might be a proper "store bought" one, or maybe it was a piece of an old rug. Most likely it was an old gunny sack that had been chewed beyond redemption by the mice.

We'd find nails, hefty ones too, driven into the walls and some in the rafters. Hats hung there in summer. In pre-electricity days there was a place for the lantern. Long red peppers hung there til dry. Flowers were hung out in summer. There might be a clothes line where a few pieces could be hung to dry.

The museum has a screened and glassed-in back porch. It is now fixed with jalousies that can be opened and closed as needed. From the information we've received, that porch was used like all back porches--as a catch-all. There are nails conventiently placed and there is a clothes line too.

The back porch is certainly a handy item!

Jewell

JOHN CRAIG --- THE HEAVIEST MAN ALIVE

"A prosperous farmer, a popular citizen, and a sight to behold is John Hanson Craig, the mastadon man, from Danville, Indiana."

For a quarter of a century, John Hanson Craig, "the heaviest man alive", was a part of the scene in Danville. Born in Iowa in 1847, the son of John and Helen Craig, he weighed 11 pounds at birth. At the age of 11 months he weighed 77 pounds. At the age of two, he was taken to P. T. Barnum's Baby Show at New York City, where he won \$1,000 for being the world's heaviest baby: little Johnnie tipped the baby scales at 206 pounds!

During the 1890's, it could be said that John Hanson Craig was in "top form". He stood 6 feet 5 inches tall, and weighed 907 pounds. He measured 8 feet 4 inches around his hips, 60 inches around his thighs, and 65 inches around his chest. Harry McPhetridge, a local tailor, once put one of Craig's suits in his display window. Three local men borrowed the coat, buttoned themselves inside it, and took a stroll around the square.

Craig's career as a showman started in his teens, when he weighed a mere 500 or so pounds. He began touring with P. T. Barnum's circus. During his travels he became acquainted with Mary Jane Kesler, daughter of Lewis Kesler of Hendricks County. She was known as "Barnum's Fat Lady", and at over 700 pounds, she was one of the attractions at Barnum's Great American Museum in New York. She was appearing there at the time the building was destroyed by fire in 1868, narrowly escaping with her life, and losing her wardrobe and a large sum of cash in the blaze.

On March 30, 1869, John Hanson Craig and Mary Jane Kesler were married in Hendricks County. Using their show names, Powers and French, they started their own travelling circus. They toured throughout the Southern, Middle and Eastern States, returning to a home on North Washington Street in Danville to rest between tours.

At one point, Craig tried to retire from show business. He opened a candy and lunch room on the east side of the square in Danville. The venture was not successful, so he moved the business to his home. As an added attraction he featured the animals he had used in his circus: 2 monkeys, a young gorilla, 2 macaws, and a 10 foot snake, all of which could be seen by the public for 25¢. A fire in 1874 destroyed his "zoo" and he and Mary soon began to take their show back on the road.

The strain of travel and poor health eventually took a toll on Mary Craig. She died on October 4, 1881. Her coffin had to be made to order in Indianapolis. It measured 6 feet in length and was 2½ feet wide. It was too large to be taken through the doorway of the house, so carpenters removed the window casing and the coffin was passed through the window to a wagon. It was her request to be buried at the Mt. Pleasant cemetery, north of Danville.

John Craig returned to touring, as it was his only means of making a living. On one of his tours he met and married Jennie Ryan, a native of Tippecanoe county, Indiana. How Jennie became connected with the circus is unknown. Photos of her show a rather petite, dark-haired woman of normal weight. She would not appear different from other women of the period were she not dressed in leotards with a boa constrictor wrapped around her neck!

Jennie Craig's demeanor also differed from that of most Victorian women. A newspaper report in 1887 stated that she came to her husband's rescue during an argument between John and a fellow showman. The other fellow was ready to take a swing at Mr. Craig's nose, when Mrs. Craig rushed in and received the force of the blow. The article continued: "She fell, but was up again in a second, and the way she went for that fellow was a caution. She kicked him one in the abdomen, which downed him. Then she literally walked all over him. He was carried off the field on a canvas."

In October of 1890, Jennie gave birth to the Craig's only child, Helen. John Craig was touring in Spencer at the time and was summoned home by a telegram. "Mr. Craig treads on air now, so to speak," the local paper reported. "and thinks the best show on earth is now at his own house."

The Craig family continued to tour together. The beginning of the tour was usually in Danville. An issue of the local paper reported that "Craig's Congress of Wonders" would be appearing soon. Mr. Craig proposes to give a refined entertainment with nothing to mar the feelings of the most fastidious. Ladies and children can attend without an escort." An example of such entertainment might have included a Female Brass Band, a trapeze performance, or a Punch and Judy puppet show. On one occasion, Prof. Francisco was to make a tight rope ascension

from the highest houses in Danville.

Marital problems entered the Craig home. Jennie filed for divorce in December of 1892, charging cruel and inhuman treatment. She asked for \$1,500 in alimony and child custody. The divorce was granted in January of 1893.

By April of the same year, things had changed and the local newspaper had the following story: "SWEET BELLS IN TUNE -- John Hanson Craig, heaviest man alive or that ever did live, and Mrs. Jennie Craig were married last evening by Rev. Brewer. The couple were divorced at the January term of court, but single life was not endurable and fate drew them together again." At the time of their second marriage, Mr. Craig was 47 and his wife was 27.

The couple separated again in the spring of 1894. Jennie left the child with her husband and returned to her family's home in Tippecanoe county. John Craig's health, which had been failing, took a turn for the worst. On June 25, 1894, he died at his home in Danville. As was the case with his first wife, a custom-made coffin was constructed, 6 feet 9 inches in length, and 34 inches wide. Again, the window casing had to be removed to bring the coffin out of the house to the waiting wagon. Again, the procession led to the Mt. Pleasant cemetery. The K. of P. Lodge of which Craig was a member, was in charge of the services. William Roddy, Craig's manager, held 3-year-old Helen during the ceremony. Craig had arranged for Roddy to care for the child until such time as the mother returned for her.

Jennie Craig returned to Danville to settle the estate. The home on North Washington was sold. In January of 1895, she and William Roddy were married in Danville. What happened to her after that date is unknown. In 1943 she had become Mrs. F. O. Markle, and was residing in San Diego, California. She made a short visit to Danville that year, and for a time, brought back to many of the citizens, memories of the days when "the heaviest man alive" made Danville his home.

IN MEMORIUM

Our society has lost two faithful members since our last publication. Claire Sellars, a charter member, passed away after having spent the past few years in Miller's Merry Manor, Inc. in Mooresville. A former teacher for many years, he, as well as his late wife, were interested and active members as long as health permitted.

William E. Hopkins maintained his interest in things historical as a member not only of our society but of the Guilford Township Historical Society. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of these two faithfuls.

HOOSIER CELEBRATION '88

Plainfield, which recently was named an official "Hoosier Celebration '88" community, has initiated its program with the release of the book, "Plainfield, Indiana, A Pictorial History."

According to Susan Miller Carter, chairperson for the Heritage Phase of Plainfield's program, the local history book is one of the first contributions to the celebration which is sponsored by Indiana Governors Robert Orr, Otis R. Bowen and Matthew Welsh.

"Hoosier Celebration '88" is a program for communities throughout Indiana to share tradition, history, values and civic pride while preparing for an equally glorious future.

The Plainfield book, written by Margaret Moore Post, who grew up on the National Road, is receiving accolades in editorials and letters to the editor. The Indianapolis News, in an editorial, said the book "may set a pattern for other distinctive Hoosier communities to take similar steps to preserve their colorful past."

Mary Lee and Betty M. Cull of North Vernon, writing to the Indianapolis Star, said "As Hoosier Celebration '88 approaches, we think this Plainfield Book would be a fine model for those who are planning to write of their towns and cities."

Noting that the Governors are asking for such documents, the women said: "This book could make the task easier for the writers, as Mrs. Post has written about subjects they shall need to search out in each community."

The 224-page hardback book, printed by Allan Rivers, Starken Printing Company, and sponsored by Joe Lease through the First American National Bank of Plainfield, has a beautifully designed cover featuring James W. Wilson's drawing of the Van Buren Elm.

Pictures for the book were gathered by Lease whose hobby for 26 years was the collecting of historical photographs. About 400 photos are in the book. Lease has made arrangements to deposit his collection in the Guilford Township Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library.

Mrs. Post has documented in prose and photo artlines the rich history of Plainfield as it emerged from a wilderness, witnessed the building of the National Road, and became a thriving industrial, business and educational community.

Many stories are included in the book. Among these are the upsetting of Martin Van Buren from a stagecoach, treatment of alcoholics at the Keeley Institute, the state's first bookmobile, Indiana's first and largest nursery, chautauquas, circuses and the town's noted photographer, Moses Tomlinson.

Featured in the book is the history of Plainfield's churches which have contributed to spiritual and cultural life, as well as schools, libraries, elections, postal service, rich farmlands, financial institutions, organizations and many other subjects. One section, "They Achieve," tells of residents known nationally or statewide. Newspaper history plays a vital role.

Mrs. Post spent more than a year doing research and writing the book. She was assisted by many Plainfield residents and by librarians. The author retired three years ago after 30 years as a reporter for The Indianapolis News. Her book, "First Ladies of Indiana and the Governors," has recorded nearly 5000 sales. It now has been made into cassette tapes for the blind and other physically handicapped.

The Plainfield history is available at the First American National Bank, 101 West Main Street, Plainfield, IN 46168. The price is \$21 over the counter and \$22.50 by mail.

Herb Thibo is chairperson of the Steering Committee for Plainfield's Hoosier Celebration '88. He will be overseeing subsequent celebration activities, including the Vision, Project, and Celebration phases.

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

BUILDING PROGRAM

The Plainfield Public Library's building program is progressing on schedule. The tentative date for the move from the present building into the addition is late August. At that time, work will begin on the renovation of the original building to make ready expanded meeting room facilities, larger circulation work area, and technical processing and audio-visual sections.

The furnishings committee, Kay Goff, Chair, assisted by Mary McMillan, Nancy Newlin, and Susan Carter, have been meeting with the architect, J. Parke Randall, to plan the myriad details which are necessary for the new building.

Although parking will not be back to normal for some time, plans call for a much larger parking facility when the project is completed.

Of special interest to the county's local history enthusiasts will be the new, large quarters for the Guilford Township Historical Collection for county history. The Plainfield Library Board, which has been most supportive of the local history collection since its inception in the 1960's, has provided for a separate, secured, climate-controlled room for the storage of historical materials relating to the county.

The Board felt that materials donated by county residents should be preserved for the future under the best conditions possible. A separate heating, ventilating and air conditioning unit will serve the room where local history materials are stored, to keep the environment as nearly stable as feasible, around the clock.

A vastly expanded seating area for local history researchers will be provided, with seating in the immediate area for 16 persons. Microfilm sources will be adjacent with a reader/printer available.

The November meeting of the HCHS is scheduled for Sunday the 2nd at the Plainfield Public Library. Whether the meeting room is finished at that time or not, we will welcome HCHS members to our new facility, as we all learn from the speaker, Ida Mae Miller, about the Plainfield and Cartersburg Gravel Road Company. We'll see you then!

Susan Miller Carter

SAVE TIME - SAVE MONEY - AND MAKE PROFITS

IN FARMING AND HOMEMAKING

These tips were collected and published by the editors of SUCCESSFUL FARMING during the years of 1931, 1932 and 1933:

Uses of Salt

There are many uses for table salt besides seasoning foods. If a carpet or rug looks dull and old, sprinkle with salt and sweep with a dampened broom. You

find that it looks considerably brighter.

After having hands in dishwater or scrubwater for a length of time, try using salt to keep them smooth and white. First wash with soap and water. While wet, rub them well with a handful of dry salt. Rinse with clear water. Do it constantly, and the result will be pleasing.

Sometimes when milk utensils are put into soapy dishwater, the cloth becomes slick and hard to handle. In such a case throw in a generous handful of salt, and your trouble is ended.

Any housewife knows the terrible odor which comes from scorched milk. If milk should boil onto the stove, sprinkle with salt and the burning will cease.

Picking Ducks

The job of picking ducks is always unpleasant because of the down left after the heavy feathers have been removed. I sprinkle melted paraffin over the down. As soon as the paraffin hardens, the feathers stick to it and are easily removed.

Potato Water for Silver

My tableware is polished by allowing it to stand one hour in potato water. When it is removed and dried it shines like new.

How to Destroy Lice

A few banana stems hung in the poultry house will attract lice and prove an aid in eradicating them. They will attract ants in places where they become bothersome.

How to Wean Colts

To wean a colt smear the teats of the mare with grease.

Heat Clothespins

Heat clothespins before using in cold weather. They will keep your hands warm while hanging up the clothes, will not split, and are much easier to handle.

A Clear Windshield

I learned that by placing a small piece of wood under the hood of my car down in front of the windshield the heat of the motor would keep the ice off the glass. This plan has doubtless saved me many accidents.

A Good Hitch

When a team will not pull together cross the inside traces, hitching each to the inside of the opposite singletree.

To Avoid Burned Milk

Milk can be prevented from burning or sticking to the bottom of kettle when boiling or scalding for any purpose by first putting a small amount of water in the kettle to be used and heat it before adding the milk.

Mixing Pigs

When it is found advisable to transfer small pigs from one sow to another, but the sow refuses to accept the strange pigs, try sprinkling both the pigs and the sow's nose with a milk disinfectant. Then the sow will not know the pigs apart.

Removing Chiggers

This may sound simple but it works for us. Instead of attempting to dig out chiggers with a needle, take a little piece of adhesive tape, press over the chigger tightly, and then pull off. The chigger will stick to the tape.

(Contributed by Lucille Stamper)

The Modern Good Old Days

Solar heat - soaking up sunshine while hanging laundry to dry on an outdoor clothesline.

Physical education - doing chores like chopping wood (and watching out for the toes), milking a kicking cow and remaining unscathed.

Going organic-- eating raw vegetables right out of the garden and apples off the trees.

Theology class - Dad reading aloud from the Bible with the family gathered 'round.

A course in biology - an all-night session in the hog-house at farrowing time.

Athletics - walking to and from school,
playing one-o-cat in the pasture
and on the way home, don't forget to bring the cows!

Physical examination - Mom seating us on a high stool and saying sternly, "Hold out your tongue; hmmm, nothing wrong that a good dose of castor oil can't cure."

Lesson in discipline - a flying trip to the woodshed with Dad.

A practical home economics course - buying groceries for the whole family with 30¢ oats.

Sedatives - hard work - the only kind we ever knew or needed.

Uppers - a "kitchen sweat", a barn dance, and - false teeth?!

Tranquility - a clear conscience and a heart at peace.

Margaret Brekke

