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HENDRICKS COUNTY

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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Plainfield, IN 46168
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Open Tues & Sat 1 - 4 P.M.
For further information call
(317) 745-4055 or 852-2810

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Inasmuch as the future is absolutely dark to our eyes and is the abode of charlatans, we have only the past to go to when we seek relief from the frustrations of the present. Not to the past of nostalgics, romantics, and antoquarians, but the past that is a vast theater in time from which to draw inspiration and even role-models.

..... Robert Nisbet CHRONICLES

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Birthdays are a time to remember the past, look to the future, and celebrate the present. In this, Hendricks County Historical Society's 20th year, we can look back on twenty years of progress in preserving our county's past. We can look to the future, to future publications and projects and more members! But most of all, we should make this a year to celebrate. Every member has contributed to the Society's success. Congratulations to each and every member and a happy 20th birthday to all!!

Betty

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NOVEMBER MEETING

Approximately 45 members gathered at the Plainfield Public Library, Nov. 2, drawn there as much by interest in the beautifully expanded building as by the most interesting program promised us.

Betty Bartley, president, welcomed the group with a few remarks about the Library and introduced Cassie Swarm, Plainfield, who gave engaging devotions, using as her subject REMEMBERING.

During the business meeting, Susan Carter, gave the following report of the Nominating Committee which was accepted: Betty Bartley, pres.; Libbe Hughes, vice pres.; Jewell Bell, Sec.; Blanche Wean, treas.; and Janet Woodrum, historian.

Ida Mae Miller didn't disappoint us as she gave a thoroughly researched discussion of the Plainfield-Cartersburg Gravel Road Company. This company built what is now U.S. 40 in their section which extended to Belleville. It opened as a toll road.

Mrs. Miller gave a biographical sketch of Samuel Little who was instrumental in organizing the company. The three of his descendants who were present at the meeting were Miss Grace Cox, Danville, Esther Edmondson Johnson, Plainfield, and Howard Little, Clayton.

The meeting adjourned to sample the refreshments prepared by the ladies of Guilford Township and to tour the building.

OUR NEXT MEETING

We will usher in February, 1987, on the 1st by going back to Court and sitting in front of Judge Jeffrey Boles! This is not as frightening as it may sound. You will remember that in February, 1985, Judge Boles told us the story of the priceless mural on the south side of the circuit court room. Now he has quite a bit of additional information for us. He is very enthusiastic about this project and it is sure to be another outstanding program. In addition, Jewell Bell is preparing some "tid bits" related to the original Hendricks County Society.

This is an important year for our society as it is our 20th anniversary. To mark this occasion refreshments will feature a cake instead of the usual cookie fare. We haven't yet been told if we will have balloons and fire works as we did to celebrate Lady Liberty's birthday (please, committee, no Elvis Presley look-alikes!) but I rather doubt it ... after all, we aren't quite that old.

It is interesting, too, to note that our birthday coincides with the 200th of our Constitution. Two important milestones!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please check to be certain that you have renewed your membership in the Hendricks County Historical Society for 1987. If your membership has lapsed, you will not receive the May Bulletin and we don't want to lose you from our "family". If you are in doubt about your membership, please check with Jewell Bell or any of the society officers at the February meeting. Don't miss out-renew today!!

Hendricks County Historical Society
1987 Program Schedule

LOOK AT WHAT A VARIETY THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE HAS PLANNED FOR US
THIS YEAR! YOU WILL REGRET IT IF YOU MISS A SINGLE MEETING.
GO RIGHT NOW AND MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR.

February 2, 1987

P: Circuit Courtroom Mural: The Continuing Story by Judge Jeffrey Boles
Highlights of the First Hendricks County Historical Society by Jewell Bell

Pl: Hendricks County Courthouse-Circuit courtroom

May 3, 1987

P: Pageant (title to be announced) written and directed by Mary Ann Moore

Pl: The Royal Pictureshow and Playhouse, 59 S. Washington St., Danville

August 2, 1987

P: A Look at the Laughter in Hendricks County Newspapers by Libbe K. Hughes

Pl: Bartlett's Chapel United Methodist Church, 4360 E. Main St., Danville

November 1, 1987

P: Plainfield's W. T. Hornaday: Native Son, American Naturalist by John Miller

Pl: Plainfield Public Library 1120 Stafford Road Plainfield

MUSEUM MUSINGS

The weather man treated us nicely and gave nice weather for the "Christmas at the Museum" Open House. We didn't get any rain or snow and we were grateful.

The house was beautifully decorated by Duane Martin of Martin's Greenhouse in North Salem. Poinsettias were feature. Thanks Duane!

During the holiday season approximately 291 visited. Beside the visitors during "Open House" there were 3 (fourth grade) classes from Danville, 49 students of Mrs. Monts' class, also from Danville. There were two Boy Scout troops. One was from Brownsburg and one from Danville.

The invitation was extended to quilters to come by and try their hand. One lady did and did she ever have a ball!

Docents, we need docents! Some company on Saturday would be welcome.

Recent visitors of the museum were 19 clients from Cummins Mental Health, Danville. There were 9 clients from Opportunity Cottage, and approximately 11 from Nancy Moore's M-1 Class, Brownsburg.

A Tour of the Museum Library

Let's take a tour of the museum's library just for fun. O.K. Here we go upstairs. Whew, we made it! Did we lose anyone? The library is on our right at the head of the stairs.

Over in the corner to our right are saddle bags that saw a lot of use in their day. And we yelp because the car, van or truck won't hold enough! We go on from here to a wall of books, books and more books. All kinds of books including school books dating from way, way back. Look! Here's a "Roger Bean Comic Book", a must with young (and not so young) readers at that time. That column appeared in the Indianapolis Star. We would guess all the activity stopped until "Roger Bean" was read. For the subscribers of the Indianapolis News there was the column "Mutt and Jeff". There is a "Mutt and Jeff Comic Book" around here. Continuing along the same wall is a new census map of Hendricks County dated January 1, 1912. There's a picture of a Great Horned Owl on the south wall, and right beneath it is a large magazine or book rack. Here's a new magazine--or was in the 1950's. There is a book that shows one all the how-to of writing a fine Spencerian script. All are there in that rack.

In the window-well are two slates, an old school desk holding the Danville High School Class of 1908. Right next to that is a school marm all done up in her black skirt and white shirt-waist. On a high stool sits the keg that was fought over so furiously by the county's high school basket-ball teams. The keg was decorated by our own Florence (Griggs) Obenchain, then a Pittsboro High School student. Next is the megaphone used before we had a P.A. system.

Next on the wall we see a collection of school memorabilia and an issue (1944) of the old Brownsburg Record. Then comes the 1876 Atlas on a stand. Turn the corner. In the window-well is a snare drum that the owner played in John Philip Sousa's band. The drum is dated July 24, 1913. We see a child's drum dated Christmas 1908. It wouldn't take much stretch of the imagination to know there were many drum solos. One wonders if some of the older members of the family didn't threaten to have a word with Santa.

Here is a Salvation Army lassie's uniform. This old armchair was brought from the court-house and restored. It's mighty comfortable, just try it and see. Right beside the chair is a lighted display case that houses memorabilia of the Psi Chi Omega Sorority. The sorority is an organization of the old Central Normal College. Right above it is a large picture of the Class of 1923 of the Clayton High School. The class has held a reunion every year since its graduation. Wonderful! Another display case houses memorabilia of old Central Normal College and later Canterbury. Look at the hat rack right over the case! That ought to handle the tallest hat. We missed this one! Right past the doorway is a sectional book-case filled with books and other items. On top is a collection of paddles. Between them is a plaque from the old Brown Township Elementary School.

That about completes the tour. I may have missed a few things but this gives you some idea what it's like. Take it easy going down the stairs for we want you in good shape.

Jewell

THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

(Contributed by Lois Crayton)

This story is about a woman who never lived in Hendricks County, but, we believe, she did walk across it. This was about 1839. It's quite possible that your great grandparents noticed her, perhaps on the dirt path or road that later became US 36. Who was she and where was she going?

Her name was Martha Kennedy. About three years earlier she and her husband had moved from Bourbon County, Kentucky to a location near Bainbridge, Indiana. The husband was a schoolteacher, as were their son and grandson later. The grandson, Millard Fillmore Kennedy, tells their story in a book, "Schoolmasters of Yesterday," published in 1940.

Word came that Martha's father in Kentucky had died, leaving her \$500 in cash, to be delivered only to Martha in person. There was a railroad to Madison, but no farther. They needed the money and felt that they could not afford the fare to Madison. So Martha walked the 250 miles, which took about three weeks, visited with the family a month, and walked back home.

Aware of the dangers and hardships she might encounter, Martha made herself mocassins, a squirrel-skin cap, and a leather pouch for money to be carried next to her body on the return trip. In a holster made into her cloak she carried a long, well sharpened skinning knife. She carried a suede bag containing money for traveling expenses. In her hand she carried a stout stick to ward off savage watchdogs.

At night she usually stopped at private homes, always offering to pay, but never being permitted to do so. Only two or three nights she stayed at hotels, which were renowned for indigestible food, tobacco spitting, and bedbugs. One night on the way back there were three hardfaced, sinister looking men at supper. In the night she heard them talking in low tones in the next room. Were they horse thieves? Were they plotting against her? She stayed awake all night, but nothing happened.

Back home, with the money hidden because there were no banks, there was a little excitement on a night when Martha's husband was on a business trip to

Crawfordsville. Bull, the dog, alerted Martha to the presence of marauders. She stepped outside and said "Take him, Bull." There were sounds of scuffling and cries of pain. Bull had deep cuts on his chest and shoulder. But the money and Martha were safe.

A glimpse of another hardy, strong pioneer woman, Lucinda Shirley Worrell, was told to me by her granddaughter, Helen Worrell Hadley of Clayton.

Lucinda and her husband, James Worrell, had three children: Charles, Albert, and Ella. Lucinda was determined that her children should have a college education. So she took a little apartment in Terre Haute and put all three in Indiana State. Helen's comment: "I don't think George (her husband) would have liked for me to do that."

Later, Lucinda started selling yard goods in the front room of the home in Clayton. Once when she went to the wholesale house in Indianapolis to buy supplies, she was refused. She was sure that her competitor in Clayton, who ran a general store, was responsible. So she boarded the train to Louisville and bought all she needed from the wholesale houses there.

NEWS FROM PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the last quarter of 1986, the construction and physical rearrangement of the Plainfield Public Library made great progress. Most of that time, the library remained open and served library users. At the same time materials were added to the local history collection, both by gift and by purchase.

In October the Plainfield Woman's Club donated three scrapbooks covering the years 1961-1986. The scrapbooks join others which have been given in the past by organizations such as the local Garden Club, PTA and Friends of the Library.

Among books which were purchased in October for the Historical Collection were Roberts' More Than You Promise (concerning the Studebaker Company), Vannest's Lincoln the Hoosier, and Nolan's The Iron Brigade.

Gifts in November included Recollections of Benjamin Franklin McGee by Morgan County Historian Becky Hardin, a Mooresville resident, Celebrating 150 years ... North Salem Christian Church (gift of the church), and Historic East College (D&Paw), gift of Grace Cox.

One very special book on the list of acquisitions in November is a hymnbook published in 1902, "Primitive Baptist Hymn and Tune Book," by John R. Daily and E. W. Thomas. Thomas was from Danville and he and Daily are listed as publishers as well as authors of the 286-page book. The hymnal was one of many books left to the PPL local history collection by Miss Caroline Johnson of Plainfield, in her will.

December, the traditional month for gifts, brought the library a Putnam County, Indiana, 1845 tax list abstract from the Indiana State Library's Genealogy Division; a copy of Corinth Church's commemorative pageant, courtesy of Mary Ann Moore; and The Early Architecture of Madison, Indiana, by John Windle, compliments of the Indiana Historical Society.

Other additions during December were Davies' Street Cars and Interurbans of Yesteryear and Hoover's Magic Middletown, which concerns Muncie, Indiana. A copy

of Those Were the Days: Throught the Seasons, the new book by Wendell Trogdon, Indianapolis NEWS columnist and Morgan County resident, was also purchased.

This is merely a sampling of the new materials which the library has received in recent months. Librarian Susan Carter is always interested in learning of new/ (or old!) books or other printed materials which relate to Hendricks County and Indiana for possible inclusion in the local history collection. Gifts of materials or of money to purchase books are always welcome. Bequests of printed or manuscript Hendricks County materials may be left to the library by an individual.

All too often librarians or local history enthusiasts learn of materials valuable to the history of Hendricks County which were destroyed following the owner's death, because family members simply did not recognize their importance or did not know that they would be welcome gifts to the library's local history collection. By putting his or her wishes in writing in a will, an individual can assure that treasured pieces of Hendricks County's history will be preserved in the Plainfield Public Library rather than destroyed forever in a bonfire or landfill.

Interested persons may contact Susan Carter at 839-6602. The Plainfield Public Library is located at 1120 Stafford Road, the corner of Stafford and Simmons Street.

MARION AND HENDRICKS COUNTIES AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Just when winter seems most dreary, a trip to the mailbox brings that harbinger of spring, the seed catalog! Just the thought of "plantin' time" brings color to the winter complexion, the following transcript of a joint meeting of the Marion County and Hendricks County Agricultural and Horticultural Societies may bring us some relief from the winter blues. It was contributed by Jay Small, of Indianapolis.

Cartersburg July 25, 1884. The Marion Co. A. & H. Society met in joint session with the Hendricks Co. Horticultural & Agricultural Society at the residence of Daniel Cox. The forenoon was pleasantly passed in viewing the premises. The observation showed Mr. Cox to be a progressive farmer, fully abreast of the times. His idea is that the farmer should get as much enjoyment as possible out of his pursuit while he is trying to make it profitable. All the surroundings bespeak thrift and good judgement. The meeting was called to order at 11:00, President Johnson in the chair.

The minutes of the Hendricks County Society were not present. Mr. Kingsbury, Essayist, gave an interesting paper on California, which elicited much interest and led to many inquiries and discussion, after which adjourment was had for dinner which was spread under the trees in a beautiful grove upon the creeks bank.

At 1:25 the exercises were resumed and Dr. Furnas gave one of his characteristic talks--subject: manufacture of can syrups and sugar. He referred to the youthfulness of the business and the lack of definite experimental knowledge as to the best processes. He believed that cane manufacturing was designed in the near future to be a grand success, but would not advise the immediate investment of capital --- thought parties would better wait a year or two when much more will be known concerning the process of manufacture.

Mr. Anderson of Ladoga discussed the subject further---thought any sensible man could make money in the business. A great deal depends upon the purification. He makes a syrup that outsells the famous "silver drips" of the southern states. Lime will make a pure syrup but is dark--Bisulphate of lime will bleach the syrup, making a beautiful golden colored syrup.

Mrs. Adams then read a paper on the Duties of Women as Mistresses of the Household which was ordered published in the Indiana Farmer. Miss Ida Richardson next followed with an able and exhaustive paper on what may be "Done of a Neighborhood". She recommended that the more favored members of the neighborhood should work for the improvement of their neighbors socially and morally. They can do this by 1st, to bring the neighbors together, 2nd, encouraging Literary Societies, tree planting, etc.

Miscellaneous: A member made inquiries as to the "Grape Rot". The discussion brought out the fact that there is no known remedy. Covering vines with boards or muslin, close thinning, sowing oats, hanging vessels of sweetened water in the vines were all recommended by all had been tried and failed. Mr. Cox said a German trained his vines fanned shape on trellis, first the vine ascending then descending. He had never known the grapes to rot on the descending portions. On the table were shown several blackberry vines of the Snyder variety literally loaded with berries. Stones Hardy was also exhibited.

The Hendricks County members nominated Mr. Scarce for State Fish Commissioner.

After some appropriate remarks by the president the society adjourned.

Sylvester Johnson, Pres.

W. B. Flick, Sec.

VANDALISM AT EAST CEMETERY

A neglected gravestone in an abandoned cemetery is a sad sight, but sadder still is the sight of a gravestone that has fallen victim to vandals. Multiply that feeling a hundred times and you will know the emotion felt by those who visited the Danville East Cemetery last October. Stones had been toppled by the score, many broken by the impact. The local newspapers featured the story, with photographs of the fallen stones. Students from the nearby Junior High School volunteered to straighten some of the stones, but most were too heavy to be lifted without the aid of a crane.

Two juveniles were arrested and sentenced for the vandalism. The youths only admitted to damaging about 40 stones, so the court levied an appropriate fine; however, it is doubtful whether the families of the youths will be able to pay the fine. The victims' assistance fund set up by Judge Boles provided a substantial amount of money towards the restoration of the stones by a professional monument dealer. But more money will be needed and the Cemetery's maintenance fund cannot make up the difference. Anyone interested in contributing to the restoration of the tombstones can send their donations to Mrs. Edward Etienne, 197 East Broadway, Danville, IN 46122. Checks should be made payable to: Danville East Cemetery.

Members of the Hendricks County Historical Society were present at the hearing at which the juveniles were sentenced for vandalizing the East Cemetery. At one point, one youth was asked if he knew any of the people whose stones he knocked over. He replied that he did not. Perhaps he should have read the inscription on one particular stone at the East Cemetery. Columbus Bogart was a

native of Tennessee who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. He became ill during the war and came north to recuperate at the home of a relative, Jacob K. Moore, of Danville. He died April 11, 1863, and was buried in the East Cemetery, far from his native home. On his stone is the inscription, "Love ye therefore the stranger".

Mr. Jerry Hankins is undoubtedly one of the finest history teachers around. He has spoken to our society and his enthusiasm for his subject is contagious. This article appeared last week in THE PLAINFIELD MESSENGER:

Hankins' History Students Learn To Wander Indiana

PLAINFIELD - Wandering Indiana is an assignment for the students in Jerry Hankins' Indiana History class at the Plainfield High School, which is one of only three high schools in the state to offer a full semester of history in Indiana.

Having students visit spots around the state, and especially in the county and in Plainfield, is a "good way to bring it (history) home," Hankins, who is the history department chairman, said.

A bulletin board in his class, which is empty at the beginning of the semester, becomes covered with about 350 pictures of his students at locations where history happened in the state, he said.

The students must be in the pictures themselves, he added; otherwise, the same pictures would be passed down in the families from older brothers and sisters who have already taken the class.

History is everywhere, Hankins said. Anything that happened in American history has its counterpart in Indiana. Covered wagons crossed the state's fields; pioneers came and carved out a home from the wilderness and many soldiers from Indiana fought in battles for the War of 1812 and the American Revolution.

The class is a way to "sample American history by sampling Indiana history," he said.

And it is more real to the kids than something just memorized out of a book.

"You can talk about a thing, and the kids can go and see it," Hankins said.

One of the bits of history he tells the students about happened in Stilesville. In 1849, 15 passengers traveling through the town in a wagon train died from bad food. Their bodies are buried in the Stilesville cemetery and headstones still mark the graves today.

Hankins has many pictures of students standing by the stones on his bulletin board, as he has every semester.

And right here in Plainfield, the kids can go to see the plaque that stands where the Van Buren Elm used to be. Under the elm, a former United States President was dumped in the mud in 1842 as a joke by people who didn't like his policy on the National Road.

After his immaculate breeches and broadcloth jacket were covered with slimy

mud, President Martin Van Buren went to an inn to get cleaned up. The inn was at the corner where the police station stands now.

The elm, which was in the Plainfield Friends Church yard, was almost destroyed by a tornado in 1923. It later had to be removed.

Another assignment Hankins gives his students is to visit the Plainfield Public Library and do research on local history.

He takes the class to the library for two reasons, Hankins said. One is to let the students see how much history there is to be learned at the library, and the other is to just get the kids into the library.

Many of them have never been in the library before he takes them.

"Kids need to know that a library is a wonderful place," he said.

Of the 25 students he takes on the field trip, 20 think of the library visit as a way to get out of the classroom; five will go back to the library on their own and three will get something valuable out of it, he estimates.

Hankins "takes the kids up there (to the library) and gets their feet wet and hopes they'll go back and swim," he said.

NOTICE

A newsletter titled NORTHINGTON DESCENDANTS, covering all branches of the NORTHINGTON surname and its allied lineages. The newsletter has a free query column, is published quarterly at a cost of \$12.00 yearly. Contact Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Rd., Baltimore, MD 21220.

HOOSIER BOOK PUBLISHED TO MARK U. S. CONSTITUTION

The INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY will mark the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution with a new book based on significant Indiana legal cases.

The 136-page book, which sells for \$4.00 comprises lectures delivered during the Indiana Association of Historians' observance of the Constitutional bicentennial.

People interested in obtaining a copy can contact the historical society at (317) 232-1882.

We read much recently about U F O's. The most recent sightings occurred over Alaska. It is rumored that many of these happenings are not reported in the news because, for some reason, the U. S. Government has chosen to keep a cap on the reports. We do know, however, that unidentified phenomena are not new, a fact borne out by this "old" document unearthed by the Castletters of Plainfield:

UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT: 1620 VERSION

The following report is taken from a newspaper of 1620, written and edited by the Sioux Nation Wire Service and found in an old General Custer saddlebag:

A huge Unidentified Sea Object (USO) has been sighted off shore in the Big Sea Waters, according to Iroquois reporters, who state that it is shaped like a gigantic birchbark canoe, but moves without the aid of oars.

The Indians in the area believe the object is from another world and is directed by men and women who have been seen rowing back and forth between the USO and shore.

They have shining faces and dress in ornate black and white clothing, according to reports. Their moccasins are shiny black and make a lot of noise when the USO beings walk through the woods.

One Indian, Laughing Boy, even claims to have spoken to the strange beings and says they took him aboard the USO where he was shown complex mechanical devices and weird charts of unknown lands and waters.

Laughing Boy reports that the beings speak a strange corruption of Indian language, formed by adding "um" or "em" to ordinary words. "You-um taken to chief", he quoted one of the beings as saying.

He told reporters that the USO is moved by the wind, a force which modern Indians have not been able to harness. The USO, he added, is made of great pieces of whole trees and shaped by tomahawks constructed of a type of shiny stone which is break-proof and will not chip.

Panic ran through some Indian communities when the USO first was sighted. Some of the elders suggested that the USO might have come merely to make friends, but they were shouted down at council.

The Iroquois Big Sea Council has investigated the matter and examined all reports. Its conclusion is that the USO probably is either a hallucination, or a water spout spotted by untrained observers.

"There are no reports of USOs in our files which cannot be explained by natural phenomenon," the Council said in a statement.

Laughing Boy's family said he had been drinking firewater before he took his alleged trip to the USO. The family then took him into seclusion and refused to allow reporters to interview him.

The big USO report is not the first from the Big Sea Water shores. About 125 years ago there was a report that three USO appeared off the shore and put canoes ashore. They carried the strange markings, Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria, the Indians said. Even before that a USO was reported which contained a man who claimed to have come from the mythical land of Norway.

"We get these reports all the time," said a spokesman for the Big Sea Council. "There's absolutely no foundation in them."

LUCILLE STAMPER IS COMPILING A SCRAP BOOK ON THE OLD BROWN SCHOOL. IF ANY ONE HAS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE OLD ONE-ROOM SCHOOL, PLEASE CONTACT LUCILLE AT 745-2129 OR WRITER HER AT 9 TODD TERRACE, DANVILLE 46122.

Most of us can remember the beloved Wayne Guthrie whose column RINGSIDE IN HOOSIERLAND appeared in THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS for many years. The following article will bring back memories for some of us.

LYE SOAP MAKING WAS SOME JOB

Do you recall ever seeing home-made lye soap being made?

If you do you never could forget it because that process entailed not only careful preparation but diligent, hard work.

And what soap it was! Strong? Folks used to say it would take the hair off any hide or pelt.

"It would strip a feather," is the succinct way Edna Cooper, Clayton, remembered it and reminisced about some old-time customs and practices.

"Who remembers the ash hopper that was used to run off the lye for that soap making?" she asked as she described the huge hogshead or barrel into which the wood ashes from the fireplace and cooking and heating stoves were put.

Nobody wasted a single wood ash then. In fact some of the larger pieces that had not been consumed by fire but remained as charcoal were fed to the hogs. They relished them, too.

Mrs. Cooper recalled the details of the hopper, how the clapboards, 4 to 6 inches high, were placed at an angling position, down into the hopper.

The ashes were poured into the huge hogshead or barrel, preferably until it was full. Then a hole was rounded out in the top of the ashes. Into that hole the folks kept pouring water.

Likewise a similar hole was rounded out at the bottom so that the water which passed down and through the ashes and emerged as lye could be run off into a large kettle by way of a trough.

She said she had helped fill the barrel with ashes many a time and, also, had poured water into the hole at the top.

At times when water or ashes were not being put in the contained it was kept covered by a removable cover.

The emerging lye was dipped into a larger kettle and boiled over an open fire until it was as strong as all get out.

Then meat scraps or cracklings from the home butchering or scraps saved

during the winter were put into the lye and cooked. It was stirred as it cooked until it looked like soap.

"If grease appeared on the top of the boiling contents more lye was needed," she added.

"My mother always made our own soap. She filled small barrels with it. This was used for washing clothes or dishes or almost any way soap was used.

"The last I heard of lye soap in the country was when a doctor bought some for his own use. He was a specialist."

Those girlhood days were the ones where their milk products were cared for in a brick milk house which was just outside the kitchen and was dug out of the ground a foot or two.

By means of a trough that passed through it cold water was circulated around and between the containers that held the perishable produce.

And, of course, there was what was called the apple house in which fruits, both canned or raw, were kept through the winter. Included, also, were potatoes. Who can forget--too frequently for the youngsters--having to climb into the cramped shelves and bins to pull off the sprouts. How children dreaded to "sprout" potatoes.

Her folks also buried apples and other fruits and vegetables in the garden. From these mounds they would fetch forth articles to cook during the winter, always making sure the opening was covered well afterward.

Folks then raised most of their provisions--fruit, vegetables, meat and milk products--and bought only the necessities.

Coffee could be bought for 10 cents a pound.

"We loved to get the cards our grandmother gave us from the Lion coffee."

Incidentally, who remembers when folks cut out the lion heads from packages of that brand and saved them to be redeemed for prizes later? The same went, too, for Arbuckle coffee.

