

Do you remember these articles of necessity several decades ago which kids of today only see when they visit Upper Canada Village or perhaps in the Victoria County Museum,

A wooden cradle, to gather up grain in the field or hay in the field, a large piece of wood which was shaped to cross the back and shoulders of men and women on which could be attached two buckets of water, pieces of harness known as the hames and the crooper, an ash sifter, a seed drill and a fanning mill, a horse propelled power mower, a grind stone used to sharpen many farm gadgets including the large scythe, soap made from lye, the arge bell to call farm hands to the kitchen table, a pail of cold water carried out to the men working out in the harvest field, home made applie cider, dried apples, the large open topped cister in the cellar for soft water?

Do you remember the old time threshing bees and the barn raisings and the long tables on the lawn groaning with all kinds of homemade victuals.

Do you remember the Sunday night gatherings when the family and neighbours met in the large dining room or the front parlour to sing the oldtime Gospel hymns when the tenors, sopranos, altos and bases harmonized? Do you remember the old horse-hair sofas and chairs and the front bedroom was used especially for visiting relatives from a distance?

Do you remember other old time tools and utensils and any particular historic mementos?

It is no secret that students today are under great stress and strain and that parents and particularly mothers, have been driving their offspring almost to the point of distraction and mental breakdown in an effort to have them pass their examinations. In a recent examination room in Toronto it is reported that twelve students walked out of the room because they were unable to stand up to the nervous tension and strain. Is that good?

How about the stress and strain of a few decades ago? At that time it was just the same as today. Boys and girls were confronted with that dreadful examination known as the Entrance. Pass the Entrance and Jack was a bright boy, fail and he was labelled a dunce. Schools were far from being luxurious — no

window blinds, no stream lined one student desks, no non-glaze blackboards, no polished enamel flush toilets, no stacks of books, no car or bus for transportation, no fussy frills — but lots of education.

These were the days when one teacher taught fifteen or double the number of boys and girls, when one teacher taught every subject — reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, physiology, grammer, spelling, history poetry and penmanship.

Remember the teacher's desk and the hard hickory pointer which was sometimes used as a whipping weapon. It was always visible. The other article of torture, was the one inch thick piece of leather harness which was generally hidden in the desk but it was often brought forth, especially when the teacher had a bad temper. Ten strikes on the bare hand and perhaps on some other fundamental part of the anatomy was considered punishment and for good measure the boy was often told to write one words two hundred times on the blackboard before the class, or for further humiliation he stood in a corner with his face to the wall and wore a dunce's cap. What is the punishment today?

Education was secured the hard way away back, but boys and girls were well educated and were able in after life to take top executive positions all over the hemisphere. Many had to walk one, two and four miles to school even in the winter months, and winter then was complete with severe winds and lots of blinding snow and sleet. If he was a lone son on the farm he had to do the chores around and in the barn, eat a fast supper and generally do his homework by the coal oil lamp. Mother and Dad were probably more help to the boy with his homework than they are today because of the scientific methods used today to secure an education.

Remember the old school room? It would be considered dingy and perhaps unsanitary today, but as far as is known the boys of that generation lived just as long as the boys of today who have resorted to all kinds of pep pills and the latest ideas in nutritious foods.

Remember the old map of the world ( a large globe) and the maps of various foreign countries which hung at the top of the blackboards or stood standing up in rolls in the corner of the building? Remember the old slates and hard slate pencils and the scribblers where one could really scribble and the little love lines which were written on the inside covers of text books such as "I Love Sally" and " walked Sally home from the Sunday School concert"?

Remember the four foot long box stove which was filled with hardwood and was often red hot around which boys and girls stood before school and during recess in winter months? Remember the short pants the boys wore, the long homemade stockings, the real heavy yarn mitts, the big thick muffler and the heavy wool toque as well as a heavy homemade suit of underwear and when moccasins were the popular footwear?

Perhaps there is too much education today of a kind — perhaps in the final analysis boys and girls did all right in the old days in the old school, and many thousands of them rose to heights of glory in the business and professional world.