

we used them to warm the beds. Many mornings we would awaken to find a snow blanket across the bed.

In the winter we also drew blocks of ice to fill our ice house. This was an insulated lean-to built on the north side of some other building. The blocks of ice were placed in the building and covered on all sides with sawdust. The ice would keep all summer. Nearly everyone had an ice house. The ice was drawn from the pond at Otterville or Tillsonburg.

On winter evening we would take turns taking a hammer and a brick and going to the cellar where we would crack a large bowl of walnuts, hickory nuts, and butternuts which we had gathered in the fall. We would each get a darning needle and pick out the meats. They were really good.

On summer evenings we usually had ice-cream. We had a young man working for us who really liked ice-cream. He told my sister if she would fix up a freezer of ice-cream each day, he would freeze it in the evening. She would usually get a few cups of cream off the milk in the morning and have the mixture ready to freeze by evening. The boy would take a bag, go to the ice house and get a cake of ice, break it into small pieces with the axe, get a pail of salt, and he was ready to start. We had a gallon freezer which we would fill with the mixture, pack ice and salt around it (it would not freeze unless salt was mixed with the ice) and he would turn the handle. He told us that if he turned the crank one way it would freeze, but if he turned handle the other way it would boil. We did not know whether to believe him or not, but did not try it to find out. As the mix began to freeze the crank would turn harder. We would turn as long as we could and then it was ready to open. We would eat all we could and pack ice around the rest and eat it the next day.

We did not have much money, but we did not need much. We grew our own vegetables, had all kinds of fruit, and anything we needed that we could not grow, we traded eggs for. We did not go away much but usually our parents took us on one excursion each year. There were special trains put on by the railways- sometimes to Port Stanley, sometimes to Niagara, and once to Belle Isle, Detroit. It was here that I saw my first automobile. A man was taking people for rides, charging five dollars to ride around the block. Needless to say, we didn't go. It was about two years later that I had my first car ride. Ross Newton and his brother took us to the corner and back.

One of the highlights of my life was going to Toronto Exhibition. My father and I would take the four o'clock train at Springford and arrive in Toronto late in the evening. We spent the night in the cattle barns where my uncle was showing cattle, and saw what we could of the Ex. the next day. The following day we arrived home on the noon train.

We also spent many enjoyable evenings at the old town hall at Springford. It was situated directly across from the Baptist Church. The young people used to put on plays, debates, Christmas entertainments, etc. Sometimes the St.

Charles AYPa would put on a play in the hall. During intermissions between acts they sometimes would ask our Grandfather Haley to bring his phonograph over and play it. The phonographs were just coming in then and for many it was the first time they had heard one. It was an Edison which played three minute cylinders, had a large horn and could be heard all over the hall. Our father bought one about the same time. It was also an Edison, but had a smaller "Morning Glory" horn. He used to get great pleasure playing it for friends and neighbours who would drop in every few nights to hear it.

My older sister would quite often have parties for the young people. They would play all kinds of games, but never any dancing as this was not allowed. Our Grandfather Wilson who lived with us was very strict about playing cards, dancing, drinking, smoking, etc. If he found a euchre deck he would burn it.

I would sometimes go hunting with my grandfather's old muzzle loading shotgun. It was made about the year 1800. He used to tell us of shooting fish at night on the Coolley Pond near Burford with this gun. He had a home-made boat and used a pine knot light to attract the fish. If he could not afford shot he would use dried peas. Murray and David still have this old gun.

We bought our first car in 1915. It was a Studebaker six cylinder which held seven passengers. It has 34 x 4 tires and carried 80 lbs. pressure of air. The first people I know to drive to Toronto were Willard Smith's father and mother. They took my mother and aunt to the graduation of my sister at Moulton College. They had 32 blowouts on the way and the trip took from 4 o'clock in the morning till late at night to get there. He had a Russell car.

I was about twelve years old when we got our telephone. It was a party line and we could call about ten people without ringing Central. My father could not get used to it. He thought that the farther away the person was the louder he had to talk. I was sixteen when we got hydro. This put an end to cleaning lamp chimneys. Before hydro, each person had his own lamp, and in the morning each chimney had to be cleaned, the wicks trimmed, and the lamps filled with oil. The men also had their lanterns to clean. Each man had his own lantern so that he could go where he wanted about the barn and not leave someone else in the dark. For many years the hydro was only used for lighting.

The first tractors began to appear about the country in 1918. My grandfather Wilson bought one for me in 1919. It was a Fordson and did a lot of work much faster than we could do it with horses. It was very hard to start- especially in cold weather. Tractors became popular very quickly and in a few years nearly everyone had one. My grandfather also bought a Model T Ford car for my cousin Lloyd Wilcox. The price was \$495.00.

The first radio was heard in our area about 1923. It was