

"Not Much To Tell"

(By Ruth Elizabeth Rhinesmith) Miss Julia Monahan, known by all as "Auntie Cox," is one of my best beloved friends. She does not act as you would expect one of eighty-three to act, but she is decidedly young in ideas and actions. When I went to her to ask her for some information concerning her life she said, "why, there's nothing to tell." After a good deal of persuasion she finally gave in. Sitting there in the growing dusk, looking at the snow the color of her over-white hair, she began her story.

"I was born in 1849. That's the way most people start, isn't it? I lived in Everett until I was about five years old. It was about this time that the cholera epidemic broke out. A girl from Chicago came to Port Clinton to live. Her uncle and aunt in Chicago had died of cholera, and she spread it here. The people grew frightened and took their oxen teams and all their belongings and traveled half a day west. The place where they stopped was called Half Day. I can remember Ma warning us not to eat haws, because she said that was what caused cholera. We then moved to Port Clinton because Pa was appointed lighthouse-keeper there. Here is the original letter of appointment:

Many of them got the ague from the poor water. "I went to school in the parlor of this house. At that time there was only that one room, and it was used for a church and school. Since then the two ends have been added on. That cupboard was where the teacher kept his books. This room seems so small now, but then it seemed awfully large. I can remember some of the games we played at recess. We played ring-around-a-rosie, drop the handkerchief, and ball."

"But, Auntie," I said in a shocked tone, "wasn't it considered improper for girls to play ball in your day?" "No indeed," she replied good naturedly. "We thought it quite proper."

"Yes, some of the students had a hard time getting here. Sometimes they didn't get here until nine or ten o'clock. The roads were terrible then. The winters were worse then, too. We had much deeper snows and worse storms. Once we were snowed in; the snow was higher than our heads and we had to dig our way out."

"I remember one thing that happened when I first started school. Pa bought me a Primer. It was one that had the alphabet and a few pictures in it. I soon learned the alphabet, and then I said to Pa, 'Now that I'm educated I guess I won't need these,' and I tore the alphabet from the book. You want to know what books I read when I was a girl? I read a good many, but I can think of only one right now. That is 'The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte'. It was a great seller in those days."

"How did the women dress then?" I ventured to ask, after suppressing my curiosity for sometime. "They wore wire-hoop skirts; that is, the ones who could afford them did. The rest, that includes my family, wore what we called 'grape-vine' hoop skirts. The skirt was plaited, and a real heavy grape-vine was stuck through it to make it stand out. Heavy rope was used, too. They were built like balloons, and the bigger they were the better they liked them. I never could figure out how they got through a narrow door with them."

"Auntie," I queried, "did you see many Indians?"

"Well, we saw quite a few."

"Were they what you call civilized?"

"I don't know whether they were civilized or not. I only know that they went along the Green Bay Trail with their packs on their back, minding their own business."

"The travel to Chicago? Well, it usually took a week to make a round trip to Chicago. We had the oxen teams, and it took a long time. If the oxen saw a pool of water and wanted a drink, there was no stopping them. Anyone owning a horse in those days was considered well-to-do. When we went to Chicago we'd have to mark the trees so we could find our way back. Many times when Pa would go to Chicago he'd not show up home on time, so my sister and I would start walking to meet him. More than once we walked as far as Wilmette through the pitch dark. Chicago was mostly swamp then. You know that it has been filled in a lot. The wooden sidewalks were put on posts three and four feet from the ground."

"When we came to Port Clinton the North Western had just gone through. It went as far as Waukegan, and it operated two trains a day, also they ran a switch line from Highwood, through the government reservation, to the St. John's brickyard. The old embankments can still be seen in certain places. The first time I rode to Chicago on a train was right after the Civil War. It took close to two hours to get in. There were only two stations beginning with Highland Park. The second one was Evanston. There were no houses between Highland Park and Chicago. It was all woods or plains. When we went in by wagon there were three or four taverns between Highland Park and Chicago. One of them was on the Green Bay Trail where St. Peter's laundry now stands."

"Oh, the industries around Port Clinton were lumbering, brickmaking, and some fishing. There was a saw mill close to us where the lumber was taken. "What? Oh, the Chicago fire. It started on a Saturday and burned for a week. Of course it smoked much longer than that. A man on a farm west of here said he could hob potatoes by the light of it. People went as far as Lincoln Park, and some even farther back than that. People would be going along with packs on their backs. A spark from the fire would land on their packs, and their belongings would go up in smoke. This small vase that I have here came from the fire. See how it is all blackened and how one side of it melted and bent in. Here are two more relics that I have to show you. This lamp was used in the lighthouse, and this is a deed to some property signed by Andrew Jackson. It reads: 'Presented to my friend Wm. Cox of Fort Sheridan, Ill., as a token of friendship. W. D. Dean."

"Notice this is written on pig-skin, too." "By the way, Auntie, when was the lighthouse discontinued?" "The lighthouse was discontinued before 1861. The lights were shut off just as the Lady Elgin went down. Pa tried to get the government to turn on the lights again. He said the Lady Elgin went down because the lights weren't on. The boats came into a pier just below the lighthouse. They were lumber vessels and carried no passengers. It usually took three or four days to load them, and then they took the lumber to Michigan."

"Port Clinton had about twelve houses. Most of it was deep woods. Highland Park had a railroad station and a hotel. There was a town of St. John's a short distance north of Port Clinton. The Fort Sheridan rifle range is in that place now. The houses were built on the edge of the bluff and the bluff gave way so that the town was demolished. The brickyards were just south of there. A man by the name of Bloom owned it. That is where Bloom street got its name. "After the lighthouse was discontinued the government wanted Pa to stay in it and pay rent. He refused to pay rent when they gave him no work. He said he would stay there and keep it up but he would not pay rent. Here is the letter he wrote to the officials: 'I beg to inform you that I wish to leave the lighthouse which has been in my custody since the lighthouse has been discontinued. I will thank you to instruct me at your earliest convenience to whom I shall give up the possession of its premises. I will also wish to have some person inspect the premises to see if I have taken proper care of the public property, yours very respectfully, Owen Monahan.'

"We got a paper once a week. It was published in Chicago. We had no publisher here at that time. Later there was one up in Highwood. He was a publisher, grave mover, and a maker of headstones all in one."

"Were you bothered with many peddlers?" "Not very many. When they did come we didn't consider them a bother. They were a way of getting news. Also there were no barbers around here; so Pa let his hair grow until a peddler came along who was in need of a haircut, then they exchanged haircuts."

"Do you remember much about the Civil War?" "Not much. I remember hearing Pa speak of the great numbers who were dying, and I remember seeing the men go and the ones returning. There was no standing army before the Civil War. When men had disagreements they'd simply roll up their sleeves and go at it."

"Well, I've run out of questions, and you must be getting tired." "I'm afraid I can't help you think of any questions because I'm too busy answering the ones you've already asked."

"Well, goodnight, Auntie. Sorry that you didn't have much to tell me." "Comerous nitt you before I hunt you home!" "Translated: 'Get along with you before I chase you home.' (Dedicated to Miss Julia Monahan [Auntie Cox] by Ruth Elizabeth Rhinesmith, Jan. 26, 1933.)"

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HOLD LAST MEETING

Many of the troops have had their last meeting for the season, and are now looking forward to summer camp, the summer program. Miss Elizabeth Flinn has worked out as well.

Troop Two, whose day of meeting is Tuesday, on account of Decoration Day, met on Wednesday and at their usual meeting place was in use, met in the home of their leader and later went down to the beach. Miss Flinn, leader of this troop, had an interesting program planned. The girls organized games, and built fires for first class, built castles, had marshmallow roasts, and for the hottest part, wrote invitations for a tea for the mothers which is to be given at the home of Mrs. Byron Howe on Friday of this week at 4 p.m.

Troop Five will close their year with an overnight hike, weather permitting, next week Wednesday. Troop Three had its final meeting last week and had a sad affair. There were about 30 badges given out, and many were gold and silver stars for attendance. Miss Groben was present and talked about the summer camp, and Miss Flinn was also there to tell about the summer program.

DEERFIELD TROOP ONE

The hike planned for last Monday was called off because of rain and a picnic supper was held in the Presbyterian church. Girl Scouts of Deerfield Troop One met June 6th and said their scout laws and promises. This is the last regular meeting. In the summer they will meet once a month for hikes and outdoor meetings. Mary Main of the DeWitt Home was voted the best all-around Girl Scout. The meeting closed with the singing of songs. Lenore Belski, scribe.

Deerfield Issues 5 1933 Building Permits

Only five building permits have been issued in Deerfield since the beginning of 1933, and none of these for very large amounts—three were remodeling, one was a new gas station, and the fifth was more chicken coops on the Weigel property. Jan. 14—M. A. Franz, rebuilding of burned house. Jan. 20—Sol Shapiro, Fehr building made into flats. April 17—Raymond Meyer, filling station. April 20—Loretta Heman, kitchen for restaurant. April 27—Edwin F. Weigel, chicken coops.

WANT-ADS BRING RESULTS

HOW DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP VOTED IN MONDAY'S ELECTION

Table with columns: Precinct, Party, Prohibition, Sheriff, Carpenter, Wet, Dry. Totals: 1417, 1088, 666, 1077, 1897, 278.

DRESS UP for the World's Fair

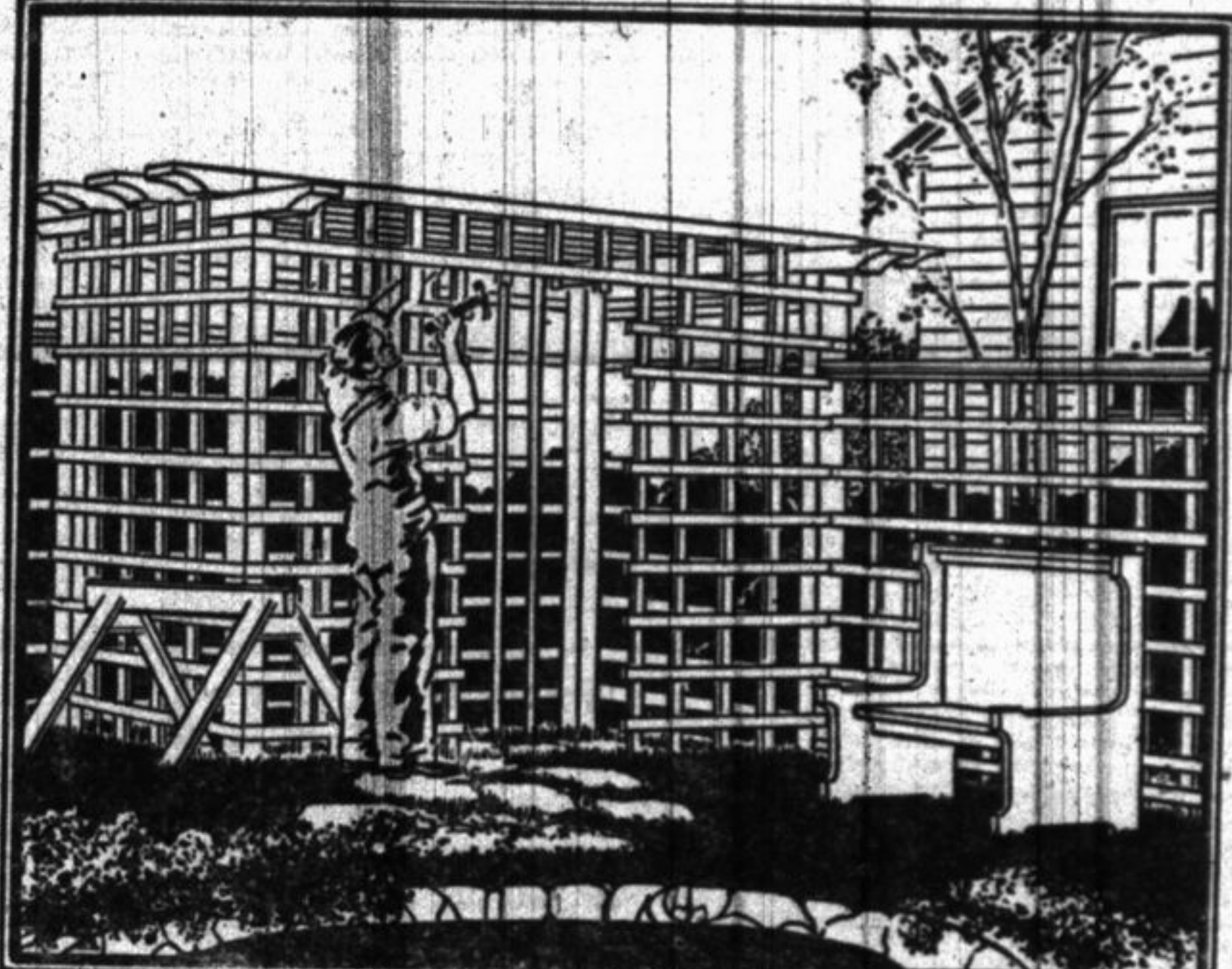
By combining their purchases and buying before inflation started costs going up, your neighborhood lumber dealers are able to give you prices you perhaps will never get again. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SHOP AROUND, BUY HERE AT HOME.

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Red Cedar Wood Shingles, best 100% vertical grain, per bundle (25 sq. ft.) \$1.13



They have already started coming. Perhaps never again will we have so many visitors; let us be ready for them. We want to look our best because we are advertising the "North Shore" to the world. That extra room in the garden will give many hours of joy to the whole family, besides adding beauty to any garden. Ask your Lumber Dealer listed below how you can have this lovely Garden Living Room.

invest your dollar NOW at its present value DON'T WAIT 'til it can buy only HALF as much Standard Size Fence Posts No. 1 Northern White Cedar. 7-foot. 25c to 49c Grade No. 1, 2"x4" yellow pine, surfaced 4 sides, lengths 4' to 6', per lineal foot 2c Other lengths per lineal ft. 2 1/2c Standard Brand Wallboards 4'x6' .60c 4'x7' .70c 4'x8' .80c 4'x9' .90c 4'x10' \$1.00 4'x12' \$1.20 Best Quality Plaster Board Size 32"x48", per sq. ft. 3c

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THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1933 H... LOC Mr. and Mrs. Arthur... the graduation exer... field Academy, of w... Arthur H. Emerson,... ber of the graduating... will bring their son h... The Misses Viola... Shields are in New... at the New Weston h... Mrs. Sherwood and... Kerfoot of Minneap... guests of Miss Mary... Little Judy Tower... Avenue entertained... young friends at a p... day afternoon. She... to make her home in... Miss Myra Thomas... Ohio, is a member of... class of Western Res... in Cleveland, whose... exercises will be h... June 14th. Miss T... daughter of Mr. and... Thomas, former res... city. Francis W. Parker... Road and Abbott By... bers of the gradu... North Shore Countr... The commencement... held Friday. Mrs. Arthur John... Stelstrup of Benton... are visiting Mrs. Jo... Mr. and Mrs. G. L... coin Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Rayn... motored to Lake Beu... the week-end. Mr. and Mrs. E. C... daughter Lucile of... Minn. were the week... Mr. and Mrs. George... Deerfield Road. Mrs... Patterson's sister. Mrs. S. Porges, mot... L. Canmann has arri... land Park from Los A... and will remain with... for an indefinite stay. Mrs. Helen Abercre... associate conductress... chapter, Evanston on... ning and was guest of... mette chapter of the... Monday evening. The Philomathean B... met Tuesday evening... of Mrs. Julius Laegel... E. R. Baum as hostess... ton presented a pag... Drama." This was the... of the year until fall. Mrs. Charles Gemit... Edward Eichler will... Ladies Aid Society t... day) in the assembly... Redeemer Lutheran c... Nancy Sterns of S... entertained seventeen... friends at a birthday... day afternoon. Rena Matson and W... of Waukegan recentl... marriage license in W... A number of Highlan... people enjoyed a picn... on Sunday. Mrs. John Fay atte... ing of her bridge club... of Mrs. Donald Clay... brook yesterday. Dick Martin, son of... Samuel Martin will g... Law School at the Un... nois on Monday. Mr... tin will attend the exe... Miss Dorothea Hin... coming home today (T... Maryville College, b... bringing with her Mi... enough of New York. Lieutenant and Mrs... bins of Fort Sheridan... approaching marriage... Miss Elizabeth Wri... tenant Dwight B. Joh... Sheridan on Wednesd... the Post Chapel at 8... Robert A. Johnston... return home tomorrow... spend the summer wit... Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Jo... A New Se... for Owne... ELECTR... We r... GREY... for a... HAAK'S... 25 South Seco...