

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



Now that I don't have much outside work to do, I've been sorting through some old papers. And,

I do mean "old" as they date from 1830 to present.

In one of the boxes that I looked

at, I found a small notebook in which my father kept a record of every penny that he spent on his 1918 wedding trip. They traveled by train to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and then Niagara Falls in two weeks.

I found some of the prices very interesting as they were so much lower than today's prices. The hotels cost from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per night. Their suppers ranged from 50 cents to 60 cents for two people. A haircut was 25 cents and a newspaper was only two cents. The price of movies ranged from 10 cents to 40 cents depending on where they were staying.

After they came home from

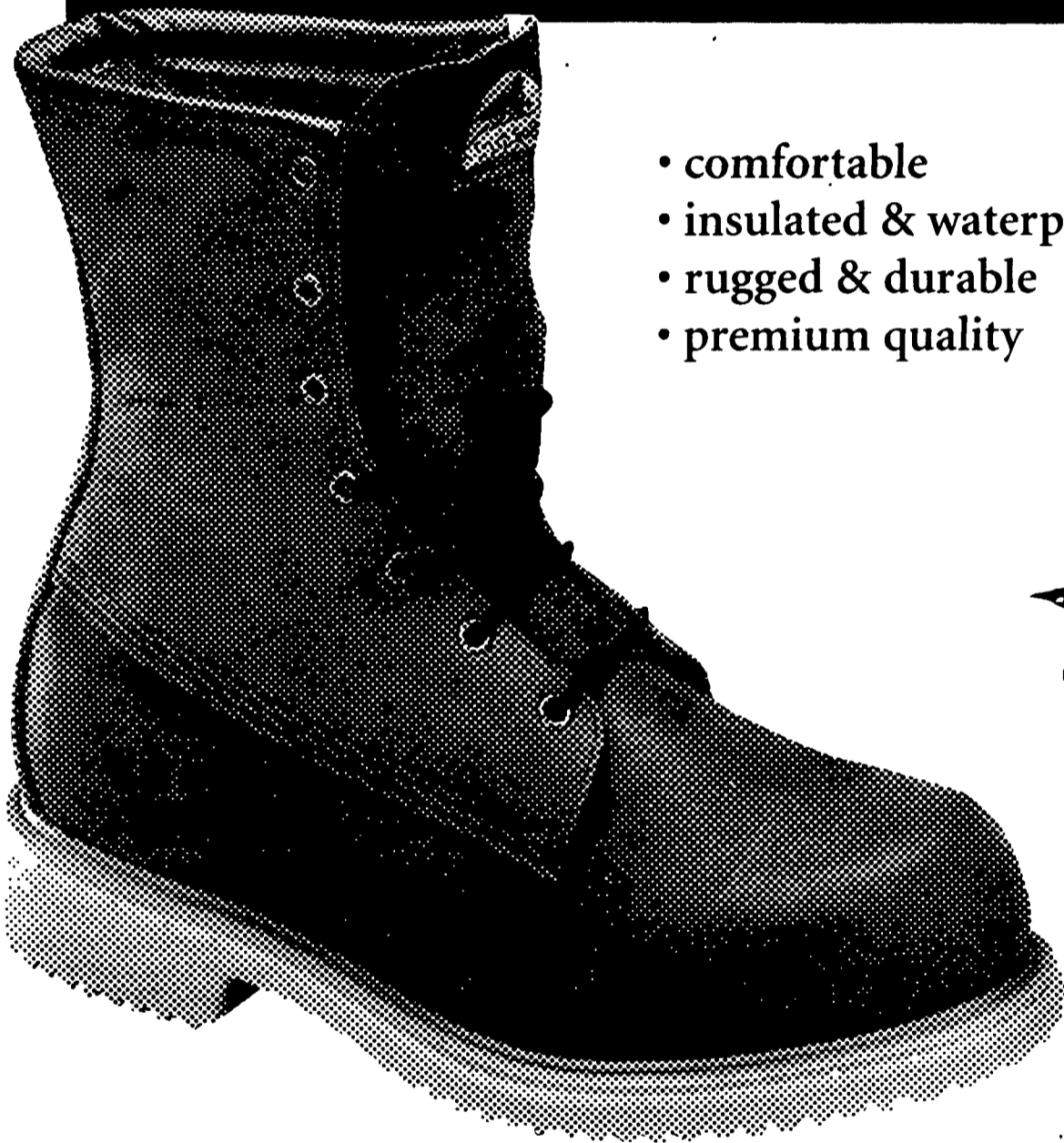
their two-week trip, he continued to keep a record of his money. A strap for his buggy was 20 cents and the dentist charged a whopping one dollar. A hostler, who took care of his horse when he went to town, charged 10 or 15 cents depending on where he went. And, always there was toll to pay as almost every road had a toll house. These prices ranged from seven cents to fourteen cents and so many people drove miles out of their way in order to avoid a

toll.

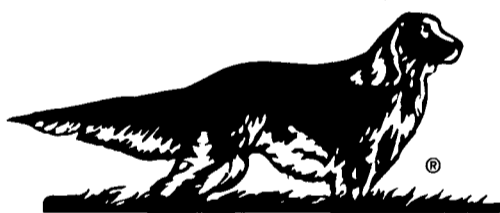
Where did he get his money? His father paid him \$1.50 per week to work on the family farm. He augmented this income by selling honey from his bees - \$4.50, helping the neighbors to thresh - \$3.00 and trapping and skinning skunks - \$5.00.

It certainly was a different time as we can hardly comprehend how much the price of everything has risen.

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