

**Ida's
Notebook**
by
Ida Rissér



In 1919, the year that my parents started farming, my father kept very meticulous records of every penny that he spent. During those 79 years things have changed a lot as his

book shows.

They traveled by horse and buggy so the horses had to be shod by the blacksmith for 75 cents each. Going away from

home meant paying at the toll-houses depending on the mileage driven - 4 cents, 6 cents or 11 cents. He even bought a lock for the horse stable for the big price of \$1.65.

Some items mentioned no longer would be on our list of needed purchases; such as a pint of tar 12 cents, whitewash brush 20 cents, 100 lb. of oyster shells \$1.25; and epsom salt 8 cents. A pound of nails cost 9 cents and a cow was \$95.

When they went to Lancaster the hosteler got 15 cents as someone had to care for the horse while they shopped. If

they bought overalls the cost was 60 cents and a suit of clothes for the hired boy was \$8.50. Stockings cost 39 cents while a toothbrush was 10 cents and gloves 50 cents.

Mill prices were listed separately and included: 20 lb. millet seed 96 cents, bushel of salt 75 cents, 100 lb. cottonseed \$3.50, 100 lb. dairy feed \$4 and 50 lb. bran \$1.50.

Coal for the kitchen stove in winter was \$8 per ton and he paid the thresher \$34 for doing 340 bushel of wheat. A haircut was 10 cents - imagine that!

There were two entries for candy during the year, one was 5 cents and one was 15 cents.

A bigger item was county and road tax for \$42.55. The doctor was paid \$5 for several visits. My father bought two hives of bees for \$2 and 10 bushel of seed potatoes for \$15.

It was a different time. Things did not cost as much, but then they did not have as big an income. Men who helped to put up fences and blast rocks (10 pound of dynamite costs \$3) only got one dollar for a day's work. I guess that things evened out.

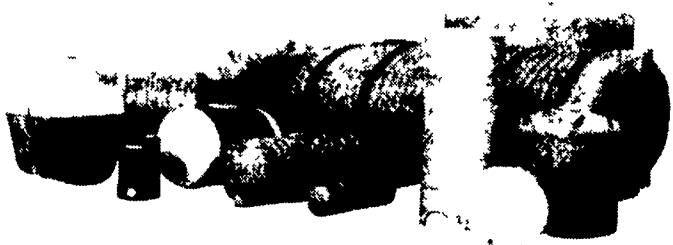
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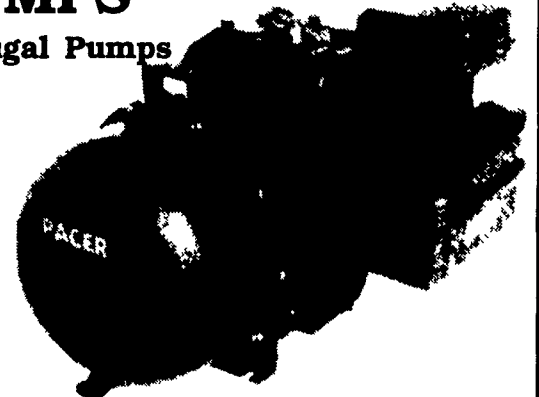
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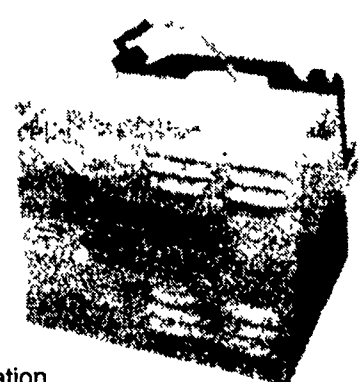
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