

DAYS TO REMEMBER AROUND  
HOPKINS CENTER - PEGG'S CORNERS

by Elvena M. (Pegg) Beery 1962-3

Laavern and Alice Parmelee Pegg began living at the Corners in the spring of 1897. Buying the 20 A. on the N.W. corner of George Hendrixson. George Hendrixson and Nancy McBride Hendrixson lived on the southeast corner. He had a threshing machine, threshing at many farms. Engines were steam engines made in Battle Creek. We would hear the threshing machine coming a mile down the road. It had a very shrill whistle. The engine burned wood and each farmer furnished the wood. Later, they burned soft coal. The water wagon pulled by horses kept water for the engine. The big separator tagged along behind the engine with its distributor laid neatly on the top. Two other thresher outfits, Herb Hazen's and Ed Brew<sup>ERs</sup>'s were in the neighborhood.

George Hendrixson owned one of the first Edison phonographs with the morning glory horn. He'd play the Uncle Josh records when we were there for an evening. Nan would pop corn and we'd eat popcorn and apples and laugh at those records.

George owned the N.W. corner land at Hopkins Center and his cousin, Elzina Hendrixson and her parents lived in a little house north of the corner about 50 rods. Elzina Hendrixson Forbes was Mrs. Charles (Blanche) Darrow's mother of Plainwell. This little house stood near where our family later had the "red gate". Then west of the corner was a bigger house, one room and attic. When father bought the 20 acres he and Mother moved there from a log house west of Hilliards. Father built a "lean to" on the north side of the building for a kitchen. Then he built a place for his cow and horse, this was wooden sides and straw covered. A small pig pen was provided and a rail corn-crib.

Later about 1905, Frank Germain bought the 20 acres on the N.E. corner and father bought the north 20 acres of the 40 acres, AND In 1910, the McBride 40 acres, "North 40 we termed it". A house there he rented for a tenant house for Willis Parmelee mother's brother. About 1924 the mid 20 acres between the North Forty and the home 20 acres was bought by father from Edwin Parmelee, mother's father. This made the 100 acres.

My brother, Leonard, was 22 months younger than I. There were not many trees we couldn't climb. The hay mow was a great place to play. We also played tag in the corn rows. Work and play were mixed through the years and memories are vivid. When the rail cornerrib was empty, it was my playhouse. Pond skating was one past time.

The neighborhood had some young boys, nearly men, who enjoyed their Halloween tricks. They traveled all night for pranks. Among them were Oren McBride, Reu McBride, George Crabbe, Harry Hendrixson, Delphia Germain. Toilets were tipped over, carts and parts of wagons or buggies were displaced in queer places. The Pegg horse training cart was once found on top of a telephone pole and its guy wire at the corner. Wagons taken apart and put together on barn roofs were seen sometimes. One Halloween the cheese factory (on S.W. corner) scales were put into the open spring in the cheese factory yard by the Linsley pond. O-O-O-o did they work after that? The boys would go to Hopkinsburg and raise "Ned" there with pranks.

The Linsley Pond, on the S.W. corner, was on the "Billy" Linsley farm. He bought the farm after discharged from the Civil War. The pond was fed by springs at the east end, near the road. The spring on the Mortimer Hicks cheese factory property, had a building built over it and was painted red once. The spring was enclosed with a stone wall. It bubbled up and spilled over through a pipe in the wall and into the pond. Mrs. Pathena Hicks used to put her butter and meat in a pail and hang it in the spring water to keep it cool. Was that cold, clear spring water good! We used to haul water from there in milk cans when more water was needed or the windmill didn't run. The old thresher water <sup>TANK</sup> tak "filled up" at the pond. Another spring was across the road east, in George Hendrixson's door yard. It was used before they had a well or windmill. Harry Hendrixson fell in the spring at the spring house once. His mother fished him out.

Mortimer Hicks, coming from New York state, was cheese-maker at this "Springdale" cheese factory. He followed Delbert Chapman and Charlie Carpenter. Mrs. Hicks was Pathina Kramer, and her sister, Kathrine Kramer lived with them.



George Kramer, a brother, lived a mile east. A brother, Charlie Kramer, was an egg buyer having an egg store at Hopkins. He shipped eggs to eastern markets.

The milk at the cheese factory was "weighed in" on a loading platform on the south end of the building. The huge container holding several milk cans full of milk was weighed and tested and tabulated on the chart for each man's record. A big faucet let it out into a tin trough to the vats where rennet was added to curdle the milk. As it curdled, the whey was let out at the end of the vat and it ran to the outdoor whey tank, a big wooden barrel like <sup>TANK</sup> tank. The curds left in the vat were stirred by sleeveless-shirted workers and salt was then added, also coloring. The curds were transferred to the cheese-hoop presses and placed on ~~the~~ edge. Pressure was applied by a large screw at the end of the long row of cheese hoops. The hoops were of metal. Cheese cloth had lined the hoops and when pressed long enough they were taken to the big north curing room to ripen. The green cheeses were placed on rows of shelves to remain for a month to a year, to suit customer's tastes. They could be tested with a round knife-like tester, that proved the aging process. Some was shipped away, but cheese could be bought by the pound also.

After unloading the whole milk, the customer bringing his milk, would move his horse and wagon on to the back of the factory and fill his empty cans with whey, from the big wooden tank, about 12 feet across. A few planks lay across the tank, and a wooden pump was used manually to pump the whey out into a trough to the cans. Whey went to "slop the pigs". Bran or other ground grain meal could be added. Bertha Linsley, later Mrs. Bill Reynolds, helped <sup>✓FISH</sup> "weigh in" milk, as well as work in the factory. Reu McBride also worked at the factory later. He fell in the whey tank once. The whey was a soured, skummy mess, where flies hovered. Surplus whey run off into the Linsley pond nearby. When Reu married, he and Lena lived in the upper sotry of the factory, while he worked for Mr. Hicks. Their piano was skidded by rope controlled power, up planks, and through a window. It took quite a few husky men, we all watched the process, hoping no one was hurt. Frank O'Brien worked for Mr. Hicks and they lived <sup>in</sup> the apartment awhile, when son, A.O. was small. A Mr. Pennington worked for Mr. Hicks once, also Robert Dornan.

Pennington, Dornan and Mr. Hicks joined the neighborhood skaters on the Linsley pond, the winter skating place of the neighborhood, 19<sup>06</sup>~~10~~ to 1916. Mr. Hicks was a very well liked and respected man. He was jolly and a great story-teller for laughs. Herbert McConnel was a good friend of the Hicks' and worked at the factory some. He helped run the steam engine for power.

The Pegg buggy, wagon or boat-sled was the way we got the milk to the factory, around the corner. The test of our milk, percentage wise, for butter-fat, determined the amount of the milk check received each month. We bought cheese there by the pound and it was billed against us at the end of the month, not free cheese. No cheese ever equaled that "Hicks" cheese.

In 1910 the cheese factory burned, all the neighbors arrived from their fields that day. Dad was working in the East field with his team when he heard the dinner bell. He unhitched and brought the team running to help fight fire. There was no stopping it, the building was old and wood frame. The factory was rebuilt, farmers had to have their milk processed and the cheese making seemed the answer. As Mr. Hicks needed more help, Marvin Keenan became cheesemaker. Soon Mr. Hicks and wife and sister, Katherine, moved to a home in Hopkins about 1914. Miss Kramer was a wonderful old lady and loved children. She was a cultured person. She was a saleslady in a Geoversville, New York store once. She gave Leonard and I many trinkets and gifts we cherished. She died in 1916. The Keenan's had <sup>two</sup>~~two~~ boys and later two more children when they had moved to Hopkins.

The factory closed and was sold <sup>to</sup>~~the~~ Charles Carpenter for Pet Milk Co. in Wayland about 1918 or 1919.

Several runaways occurred when milk was being brought to the factory, the milk or whey was spilled. Mr. Hicks had a light wagon and two black small horses. One day they ran away with him, east of the corners. Trying to rein them down, they vered to the left and into the deep ditch, the wagon tipped on one side and one horse landed on top of the other in that mucky, watery, deep ditch. Mr. Hicks started for help. By that time, the bumble bees were buzzing everywhere (or bees of some sort and sassy ones). The one horses head was in the center of the bees nest. As help came, caps were used by everyone to fight off bees. Finally, the

top horse was removed, and a rope was put around the other horses neck and they pulled him out by the neck, with some power.

When skating was good, the pond had one hundred or more skaters sometimes at night and after school. sleds and chairs were used to give rides to folks. Lanterns were placed at intervals on the pond to mark a stump, a rough spot or an air hole. Lanterns were also used to see, for strapping on skates. Moonlight nights, it was lovely skating there. People came out from Hopkins and near Hopkinsburg. They would drive horses and put them in leas's care for the evening. Leonard Peitz used to skate so fast, bending low, when he'd fall he'd go on tummy and head and heels would pop up so quick. he'd get up and "go it" again. Mother could watch us skate from the front window. Glen McBride was a fast skater, too. He fell through the ice once and walked half a mile north, to his home, clothes frozen and stiff. Brrrrr!! Elvins leg's beery (yours truly) was skating on the pond with Virgil Ingham once, and broke through the ice. Some new ice had frozen that day and it broke as we left the old ice. The boys got a sled and they stood on the old ice and pushed the sled out to be grabbed on to, and we were pulled out by sled rope, on the tummy. Feet and ankles were in deep mud and the water nearly to arm pits. Dry clothes (of a variety) were put on, hot peppermint candy and wrapped up in blankets, kept colds away.

Boys sometimes played hockey on the ice. When snow came, a snow plow was improvised by Leonard Peitz, to make paths all over the pond, to skate in. If a deep snow came, a horse and plow was used. The west end of the pond had a dam to control the height of the water, so we couldn't skate too far west. A fallen log was on the north side of the pond, we sat on that log to have our skates strapped on. Three generations and more have skated on

(that pond.

One spring the dam was washed out. The pond had carp, so the carp were washed all over the flats. Other fish could not survive, because of the carp. Wagon loads of carp were taken with pitch forks. Some people ate them.. some were ten pounds or more.

George Hendrixson had a black raspberry patch, and would hire surrounding neighbors to help pick the berries. He shipped his crates of berries, by train, from Bradley to Indiana. My dresser and camera were earned in that berry patch.

Aunt Kate Parmelee and Nancy Hendrixson were mid-wives for the neighborhood. Then a hired girl could be hired for \$1.50 to \$2.00 a week. Dr. Leighton, Dr. Wicks and Dr. Campbell were the doctors in Hopkins, around the turn of the century.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Parmelee (my grandparents) used to drive black Maud, to the Burg Congregational church, Sundays and special meetings. Grandpa always referred to it as "going to meeting" or going to "Sabbath school." They were charter members. On occasions the Wesleyan Methodist church, near Ohio Corners, had meetings. I can remember riding with them in the one-horse buggy to the meetings. Mrs. Eliphalet Buskirk went there to church. She had a peacock in her yard, just south of the church. I can remember his preening his feathers and opening up that big lovely fan-tail.

About 1910 Halley's comet was seen for a number of weeks. Everyone talked about it, for it was not to be seen for years, again.

Alfred Linsley, son of Billy Linsley, was a baseball player (a pitcher) of note, with the Hopkins team. They were undefeated for so long. They took on teams to play against, and traveled quite widely, for those days.

When our shoes wore then, the shoe last, awl and knife were all brought out and soles were cut from a leather "sheet". Dad did the

mending. Later Chet George, Addie+Elmer and George's father repaired shoes at his shop in Hopkins.

Wild blackberries were gathered in the woods and fence corners. Snakes and mosquitos were there, too. But berries were fine, fresh, canned or in pies.

Leonard Pegg trained a black and white steer to be harnessed and hitched to a two-wheel cart. Many happy hours were spent with Jerry, the tame steer. One day he hitched Jerry to his sled and rode down the road south of the corners. All went fine until he came back, and Hendrixson's dog ran out and "bow-wowed". It scared the steer, and he took off. Leonard "belly-flopped" on the sled to stop him, and it broke apart, and he and the sled was left in the road, and Jerry ran home.

Farmers always went on half hour fast time, for "farmers time". All the dinner bells would toll when dinner was ready. Once in a while one would ring early and the field men became "hungrier". Lydia Linsley had an old fashioned dinner horn.

The Rabbit river, running through the Pegg pasture lot had many bends in it. In one spot was the "ole swimmin' hole". It was deeper than the rest of the river. Old mother nature furnished a swimming suit. In the early spring freshet, the river became a whole lake in the flats, coming up to an ash tree on the side hill. Often it would freeze over and the ice would crackle day and night, as the water lowered. The ice and flood-trash too, were hard on fences. But spring and summer came, fences were fixed and cattle turned in to pasture. Often the water would come over the road. Just east of the west bridge, the water could rush and cut out the road. One time about 1903, it cut a deep bank in the road. A horse and buggy and three people dropped off this bank, and into the water. A father and mother Leweke were coming home, after getting their daughter at her

school. It was dark. The daughter was to marry soon, and had her wedding clothes with her. Her hat was pinned in the top of the buggy. It started to float away, but they grabbed it in time. They came to the nearest house, Pegg's for help. They got warmed up, but had to wait for daylight to go home. Lanterns were taken down to see, and to get the buggy out, then decided to wait for daylight to get the three on their way again.

When the flood waters subsided, the suckers would begin to "run", in the river. Boats would go down the river slowly, with gasoline torch, so they could see to spear the suckers at night. Many were nice suckers.

Company from Ohio would often come to visit near reunion time, in August. A "big Aunt Julia Edgell" used to visit us and a "little Aunt Julia Strossen" used to visit everyone. A small low rocker was little Aunt Julia's favorite to sit in. She was so little and a sweet old lady.

Kalamazoo company, Wilbur Parmelee and family, used to come and visit relatives in the summer. Granddaughter, Gabriella Payne, was about five years old. She would get into the little pig pen, to love the little white pigs. Her little white dress didn't stay white. Edla, her mother, proceeded to get a clean dress for "Gaggs" as she called herself.

Kalamazoo Randall cousins used to "visit around" in the summer, enjoying the rides on the horses. Watching the milking was fun, when they didn't step in the "drop", like one child did one time.

In the late fall the butchering was done. Water was heated in the big out-door kettle, over a wood fire. It hung on wooden tripod support. Bleck and tackle hoisted the pig up and down into the hot water, after it was "stuck" and killed. This loosened the bristles and they were scraped off with hog-scraper. It was



"dressed out" and the carcass hung by tendons in the hind feet, on the barn floor, above reach of cat or dog. The heart and liver was given away to neighbors who had not butchered yet. Butchering process took several men, exchanging work. Fresh pork was eaten soon, but for later use, it was put in a brine or smoked or ground into sausage, fried a little and packed in jars. Pancakes and sausage or pancakes and fried pork were big daily breakfasts. The pancakes were the raised type with buckwheat flour in them. The batter was kept warm on the reservoir in the daytime, and the next morning they went on the long heated griddle-iron, on the wood stove.

Big jars were used to store apple butter and apple jelly, that Ed Brewer made at Hopkinsburg. His steam engine was the power for his press and cooker. During the threshing season his steam engine was used for threshing. We often used jelly or applebutter without the butter, on our home-made bread.

Home-made bread was made about twice a week. "Neighborhood yeast" was used. A little was saved out each time to start the next "batch". If it was lost or spoiled, yeast could be borrowed of a neighbor. Real maple syrup and fresh bread or pancakes was "fit for a king".

Salt <sup>Pork</sup> ~~pan~~ was made at home and hung up, to be cut off for salt pork gravy or to flavor beans.

Horse radish roots were ground fine, to be used on meat. Such a weeping job, but was a good appetizer.

May Lane ( a mile south of the corners) put her mouth over a door knob one time. It was a neat trick to get her loose from that. Then there was the "frosty pump handle time". Hearing that the tongue would stick fast to a frosty pump handle, yours truly had to prove the idea. It did, and a sore tongue was the result.

Leon Mason, from Plainwell, was a friend of our family. He married Lena Tucker, near our neighborhood. He was a jeweler at

Hopkins, but later moved to Wayland, having good jeweler business there. He was in the Spanish American war. His twin sister lived in Otsego.

The old tin pedler used to come through the country in the summer, with his cart of pots, pans, pins, pencils and shoe leaces. Later he had a one horse light wagon. Tramps, too, carried packs on their backs, full of their wares, to sell. We used to call them "pack peddlers". They slept in barns on the hay, were poorly dressed, and begged for food often. Once a tramp shed his heavy dirty shirt in a corner of our basement, when spring weather got warm.

Indians traveled back and forth between Salem and Bradley reservations, past our place. They drove poor horses, a very little "jag" of hay or feed was under the buggy seat, or on their light wagon. One Indian was a preacher, and was always dressed in long black coat. Now and then some would stop to sell their baskets they had made. Some would beg for food, as some were shiftless. They would follow one around stealthily, but were harmless. At grandma Parmelee's they would follow her to the cellar and beg for butter and meat, saying "little papoose sick". She often gave them things.

Everyone around the neighborhood went to Hopkinsburg to the Fourth of July celebrations, for a number of years. Allie Frue, the storekeeper, went ahead with plans. John C. Ketcham of Lansing and Dr. Burnham of Western Michigan Normal in Kalamazoo, spoke at different times. His podium was the porch of a house. It was a typical home town affair. Allie liked fun and jokes. He "headed" up the "line up" for the "Horribles", a parade of funny costumed people, doing clownish antics. A float or two was included. The children were all given flags, umbrellas, paper fans in red, white and blue and paper hats, to deck themselves out. They brought up the rear of the parade. Those hats, fans and flags were cherished and kept

as keepsakes. Firecrackers were sold, torpedos, lemonade and candy. The Burg corners were packed with people all day. Allie Frue dropped some hens off his roof, for people to try to catch, to keep. Such a scramble as it was. A greased pig was let loose, to be caught. Boys ran sack and running races for prizes. At night fire works were set off, back of the Grange Hall. A Bowery was set up for tickling feet. Everyone seemed to have a good time, everyone knew everyone else.

Each winter the Farmer's Institute came to Hopkins. Our neighborhood attended. Good instructive programs, with a state speaker or county speaker, was enjoyed. A quartette of local talent, Charles Iler, Dave Wesley, Herman Smith and Henry Ellinger, sang. Charlie Iler and Herman Smith did a salesman act in song "And lightning rod, too."

Many neighbors belonged to the Legion, but it was a graft, people were supposed to draw money after belonging a while.

Modern Woodman of America was organized at Hopkins. It had insurance benefits. Members were, Lavern Pegg, Truman Baker, A. B. Galkins, Irwin Hendrixson, Olin Atwater, Will Tiefenthal, Archie Hendrxson, Will Dandel, George Yeakey, Fay Yeakey, Leon Mason, Ed Spohn, Orville Gray, Harry Van Orman, Roy Van Orman, John Brinkert, Dud Hendrixson. Rates became quite high, but most continued the insurance.

Hopkinsburg and Bradley held Grange twice a month for years. We went to Bradley, but attended many social affairs and the fall Fair at Hopkinsburg Grange Hall. Our grist was loaded to take to the Bradley Simon Fox grist mill, on Grange day. After grange it was "picked up" on the way home. Sometimes Charlie Ross did a blacksmith job on horse<sup>s</sup>, wagon or farm tool, while we were at Grange. Groceries were bought at the grocery on Grange day. Dan Patch had his "Hay-day"

about 1910, racing in the south. His picture was displayed in the Grange dining room.

All our water was pumped by hand for house and the barn stock. The old reservoir had to be kept full to have any hot water to use. When the wind-mill was bought, it pumped, if there was a wind. It pumped water into a storage tank in the kitchen, the overflow went to the barn yard tank for the stock. We hand pumped, too.

In winter the wood pile was ready to furnish wood for two stoves. A buzz-saw was used to cut up "poles", some was bucked and split by hand and put in the woodshed. Later a hard coal magazine stove furnished heat for the front room, with registers to help warm the upstairs bedrooms.

Ona and Ena McBride and Leonard and I had our good times together. We fished in several places along Rabbit River. Our lunches were taken, so we could eat by the river. We'd fish then eat again.

Charlie Shields and family would visit his sister Laura Parmelee (a mile north) and family and all would go on a picnic. One time we all Parmelee's, Pegg's and Shields went to a spot by the west railroad bridge, a mile and a half west of the Corners, on the river. Charlie and Gertrude had Maxwell and Laura, later other children were born. Laura Parmelee had Ethel, Harold and Morris. Leonard and myself were about nine and eleven then. We fished, spread our picnic lunch out in the shade and had our picture taken, while fishing.

The Ohio Corners school had picnics the last day of school. We got promotions then, had a program and the picnic dinner. We went to the Otis Parmelee woods for flowers some afternoon before school was out. A leek or two was always found to have fun with. The Hopkinsburg Sunday school picnic was held in the Otis Parmelee woods. A ball game was played and a long table was set in the shade for the

picnic dinner. The woods was across from the cemetery.

Four families of Bairds lived north of the Ohio Corners Cemetery, it was known as "Baird street".

One Feb. 23, about 1908, the Parmelee cousins came to surprise Alice Pegg on her birthday. They brought a picnic dinner and a green couch for a gift. Otis Parmelee came to the school-house with a horse and buggy to bring Leonard and myself (Elvena) to join the party.

Lavern Pegg drew milk for himself and others to the Hilliards Creamery before and after 1900. He would bring back the mail from the store, also the Grand Rapids Herald. As soon as a rural route was established, the mail was delivered from Hopkins, by a one-horse mail-wagon, sometimes using two horses. Charlie Hodge was mail carrier for the longest period of time, with his rural mail wagon, horse drawn. In winter the wagon box was mounted on light sleighs, for snow. Two horses were used for muddy or snowy roads.

Carpet rags were sewn in great amounts, to make rugs or long strips of woven carpeting. Strips had to be sewn together and stretched over straw, to the edges of the room, then tacked down with carpet tacks. Crocheted rag rugs and braided rag rugs were made by hand, for throw rugs in kitchen halls or bedrooms. Bedrooms often had woven rag rugs, wall to wall, as well as the living rooms and dining rooms. Later ingrain carpeting could be bought by the yard and sewn into carpets for rooms. It was of wool and a pattern so it was reversible. It was hemmed at the edges. Carpets were taken up in spring cleaning and new straw used under them, and nailed back down or perhaps turned, to wear the other side.

Quilt tops were pieced by hand, a lining of wool or cotton cloth, with cotton batting between them, all was placed on frames and "tied off". Sheetting was often used for the linings of the quilt. It was



of unbleached muslin in early days, with a seam down the center. Sheets and pillow cases were made of unbleached muslin as well. Warm mittens and socks and scarfs were crocheted or knitted for the whole family. Mittens of warm wool cloth were sewn for men's outdoor work mittens. Some were made of heavy bed-ticking with heavy warm linings. Mother had a sewing machine in 1894, it served about fifty-four years.

Honey-bee trees were often located in the woods. The honey, the bees had stored, was put in containers and brought home to eat. It was very good, often a little dark.

When our Otis Parmelee barn was bought and moved to our place in 1906, a stone wall was needed. So Lavern Pegg dynamited the big stones on a farm in Monterey, for the wall. A two-horse team hauled them home on stone-boat-sled which was a hard days work for man and beast. A close call with a so-called dynamite "dud" blew powder into his face and arm, when it did decide to go off. The big square stone in the yard came from Monterey also, as did the white sandstone by the porch. Dan Round was the stone mason hired to build the wall. The barn was built by Uncle James Parmelee at Ohio Corners. The barn was moved the one mile, from Ohio Corners to Peggs place and placed on the wall. Dan also built the stone wall for the bridge way. His stone hammer could be heard far, chipping the stones for the walls. He was an excellent stone mason.

Leonard Pegg "claimed" a little barn over the pig pen for his own. He had hay in the peak loft. He bent a wire and had a little pulley and rope to pull hay from his little wagon, to the loft.

Once he fed Uncle William Parmelee's horse from his hay, when Uncle William and Aunt Clara visited us.

Some winter games indoors were parcheesa, rook, dominoes and checkers. Ring on the string and singing games were played at

parties. Kissing ring-games were played at neighborhood parties.

The old cookstove was used with a slow fire to dry corn, pumpkin or apple slices. When dry enough it was stored in cheese cloth bags, and hung in the store-room or attic.

Indian relics were found on the Pegg east twenty acres, about the turn of the century and later. It was thought it may have been an Indian burying ground. It was thought Indian chiefs were buried there, too, as rare pieces were found. The pieces were sold by Lavern Pegg for a small sum of money.

A little creek ran through the east side of the yard, through a sluice and into Linsley pond. A little bridge over the creek, was used to get to the garden. Leonard liked to dam up the creek near the bridge, to make deep water to play in. He floated home-made boats. He and I played there by the hour and the day. Spear-mint and peppermint grew near and we ate the leaves sometimes. Lady's slipper also grew on the creekbank.

The gypsies troop used to trek through the country-side. They found their campsite many, many times by the river north of the corners. They'd build their camp-fire, tie their tired horses to trees, eat and roll up in blankets or get into their wagons to sleep. Some had quite fancy, heavy wagons, others poor wagons and "bony" horses. They nearly always tied one extra horse behind a wagon, to replace one if it became ill or died. They often had mules. Stealing went on while camping there, yet other campers did not steal, but bought milk of us to use in camp. Some tried to tell fortunes, to get close to a person, to rob. Often the word of warning was passed along, that gypsies were on their way. They were ushered through town and not allowed to camp sometimes.

Elmer Thompson, a cousin of the Pegg's and a minister in the Hopkins and Hilliards Congregational churches for several years,

visited us a great deal. He was a camera fan and took many pictures of places and people. He finished his own pictures in our tiny cellar for his "dark" room. We are glad now that we had those pictures, that we might not have had otherwise. One time he gave Leonard and I a spoon. We would vie for the privilege of using "the spoon that Elmer gave us" at meal times.

We had a pair of Bay driving horses, Prince and Fred, for hitching on to the double surrey (buggy), but not with the "fringe on top". EdrMcBride's buggy did have the "fringe on top". Our buggy was quite a heavy type, with mud splashers and two front lamps, burning kerosene. It had side curtains for rain, wind and snow. It took us to church at Hilliards, in rain or shine and ruts of mud and sand. We used it to go to Grange, Farmer's Institutes, Woodman suppers, Legion meetings (not American Legion), Fairs, circus, to meet trains or get groceries. Prince could be driven on a single buggy too, as a "buggy horse". One buggy horse took us to high school three years. He was afraid of cars and would try to ditch us. We had a "hard" clamp bit on him to hold him and it hurt his mouth.

One horse, Belle, was driven with Kit and Doll as work horses. Belle was very dark brown "line back", and was a professional kicker. She could pull a mountain almost, but surely hated strangers. She would "kick the day lights" out of any stranger, if she could aim right or if dad didn't yell at her quick. She had nice colts, but he could never break her of the kicking habit. She was afraid of dad and only him. She drove Uncle Frank Pegg over a fence quick, one time, in a field. She would run, with mouth open, straight at her "target", then whirl quick and heels in the air, aiming at a victim. Dad had to keep people away from her when he drove the team to Hopkins for feed or coal.



The state school commissioner, was H.R. Pattengill, author of 'Pat's Pick, our country school song book. He would be a visitor of our school now and then, and would get the children to laughing and singing his songs. "Coco cha lunk cha lalie" was one. The County school commissioner was Ira G. Thorpe near 1905 and later. He was followed by C. Lloyd Goodrich and his wife, Rena Gehuman Goodrich. Our Ohio Corners school was visited by all of them.

My grandmother Rebecca Edgell Parmelee taught Ohio Corners school near 1864. She had taught the "White" school in Ohio, near Brecksville, then came to Hopkins and taught "Chamberlin" school, south east of the "Burg". Likely all three schools were of logs in these days. Mary Parmelee, grandpa Parmelee's maiden sister taught the Ohio Corners school in 1864. Other teachers in my memory were Zell Gregory, Louis McCloud, Geta Ward, Ella Russ, Hazel Fuller, Sadie Washburn, Seth Baker, Myrta Carpenter and Mae Shannon Lovall. Geta Ward (Smith later) from near Wayland, was my first teacher in 1904. Hazel Fuller a fourth and fifth gradeteacher, was a girl friend of Uncle Lewis Parmelee. Ed Wheatley had a three month certificate and taught there, but did not pass his examination. Geta Baker taught in my 6th grade, the year the school house was built over from wooden frame to brick structure. I received a prize (hair brush) from Seth N. Baker for keeping my new desk neatest all the year. Our older school seats were double wooden ones, with long stationary wooden recitation benches. After seventh grade teacher, Myrta Carpenter and eighth grade teacher, Mae Shannon, I went into Hopkins to High school. I rode with Ina Grabbe (Richardson) and Minnie Hendrixson (Knuth), when Ina drove a "raring to go" western spotted driving horse. Other later teachers at Ohio Corners school were Maida Miller (Parmelee), Eva Williams (Wearne)

and Viola Pullen (Pegg). Lavern Pegg was the "Santa Claus" at school for years. He joked with the children and they liked that.

Some big rough boys went to Ohio Corners school about 1902 and 1903. They were about 20 years old. They used to go winters and were pranksters, like putting dynamite in the stove, tacks in the teacher's cushion of her chair and a snake in her desk. Leeks from the woods, under a cushion in her chair, gave out an odor of its own. When I was about four, I remember visiting our school with dad. He was on the school board. Minnie Hendrixson treated me with some eats out of her round, gray granite dinner pail. I thought she was "tops".

"Doll day" came once a year, when the girls brought their dolls to school. It kept us busy all the noons and recesses of those special days. One girl had a lovely doll, we got a chance to hold it, as she did not care much about dolls. It had a kid body, pretty hair and nice clothes.

We always went to church and school Christmas exercises. The old "back-board" cutter was used, using lots of wool blankets and "robes" of fur. The one horse cutter had the horse in the left hand cutter track, where there was a better path in the snow. A cutter track was narrower gage than a buggy track. When a cutter tipped over, it was a scramble to get untangled from blankets and get snow out of the faces. I remember pretending to be asleep one time, so dad would carry me into the house, when we got home late. One time a doll, mother had dressed, and a child's doll dresser was on the Christmas tree for me.

Crocheted fascinators were worn by mother and grandmother. They were lined with outing flannel for warmth, yet could look fancy, being in color sometimes. Grandma's was black and a white edge,



mother's was pink with a scalloped white edge. They were tied at the throat, hood like shape, with silk ribbon.

When the hair was to be curled, it was "done up" on kid curlers or on "rags". Flax seed could be boiled in water, making a solution to hold the curl longer, like the ladies of older days used.

The preacher at Hilliards would call now and then and often stay for supper. Once when chore-time came, after supper, I was to help milk and hated to have the preacher see me in my "milking clothes". I slipped out of the house stealthily.

When youngsters were together, "charades" were played a lot. Charades were in pantomime, to be guessed, also "hide the thimble", and "ring on a string". When Ena, Ona, Leonard and I were together we would repeat recitations, songs and parts of plays, making our own programs, while our parents visited.

Dr. Wicks, our family Doctor, lived at Hopkinsburg, the house on the northwest corner, before the turn of the century. He then moved his family to Hopkins, across from the M. E. Church. He drove a long-legged sleek black horse on a single buggy, when he made his house calls. He had one of the first cars in the township. His was a big-wheeled rubber-tired car. He came to our house for mother, once and I remember he put up powdery medicine, measuring it with his pen knife, folding it in white and pink papers. Dr. Campbell drove a dapple-gray horse, race horse type, on his house calls. He was interested in race horses and owned one or two to race at fairs.

William (Billy) Tiefenthal owned the first Brush car, red, without doors, a one seater, and no top. His son Joe used to take Bernice Wicks for rides and later married her.

The Pegg first car was a 1916 Ford touring car. Mother and I each got riding cap with veil. Leonard taught yours truly to drive that summer. That fall Minnie Comans and I started to Allegan County Normal. We had graduated in June, from High school at Hopkins. Leonard graduated in 1917 and went to Berea, Ohio to College.

Leonard and I used to ride our bikes or drive a horse to take our music lessons of Millie (Mrs. Ora) Gordon in Hopkins, in the summers about 1912 to 14. Our first bike was a girl's bike, bought of Ruth Baird Hoffmaster. A second bike was then bought for Leonard, a boy's bike, a second <sup>hand</sup> ~~had~~ one. Our first skates were used ones, bought from Minnie Opperman. Then another used pair was bought for Leonard. Dad had clamp skates for his shoes, he had these for years.

Jessie Pelham used to give music lessons. She drove horse and buggy from Watson. She had music pupils north of us and we used to see her drive past our corners.

Dorothy Herrick (Leighton) was a dressmaker, living west of Hilliards, at Herrick's Corners. She made a gray wool suit one time for mother. She came to our house to sew. The suit had stays in the jacket, the skirt was long, having many gores. All the seams were over-cast fancy. I believe the jacket was lined.

Pearl Simpkins (Hendrixson) lived in the neighborhood. She helped us get ready to go to Uncle Willis Parmelee's wedding at Melvin, Michigan. Grandpa Parmelee and mother and I went to Melvin by train. Leonard was left with grandma Parmelee. It was June of 1903. Uncle Lewis did the chores at grandpas. I had the toothache all the time I was gone, so stayed close to "mama". Uncle Will told me that I said to him, "Do you both



get married at once?"

Uncle Will taught me to whistle. After he and Aunt Lucy came to the homestead, grandpa and grandma moved to the Yeakey place, half a mile west of the corners. Uncle Will made a teeter-totter for us to play on, under the apple tree, in his back yard. Aunt Lucy used to let me putter around in her spices and flour, when she baked.

The Rabbit River was not wide, a log could be placed across it to walk on. One log was placed across the river, in the river bend, by the old hickory nut tree, in the flats west of the barn. A small inlet was near, when there was water for it. We used to jump this little ditch. The log had six inch boards nailed on top to make walking easier. We crossed and recrossed this log, after the cows or for pure fun. There were many river bends in the pasture, one spot was a favorite fishing spot. It was deeper and swift, so the line would often break, when it floated into limbs and branches in the water.

We gathered oat tails, pussy willows, rushes, wild flowers and fragrant Rosemary leaves. The cat loved her catnip. The deadly nightshade had pretty blue flowers, but we were taught to beware of the shiny black berry it bore. It grew near where the grindstone stood, on the south side of the old wagon shed.

When we went after huckleberries, north of Gun Lake, we were gone all day long. We drove two horses on the surrey, with hay for the horses, our dinner, our pails and buckets for berries. It was ten or twelve miles over there, but meant a winter supply of berries. I believe we paid fifty-cents for a privilege of picking there in the swamp. They were high-bush swamp variety, so it was easy to get lost, if we hadn't hung a white cloth high in

a tree, as a marker, to show where the surrey was. We ate our lunch in the woods. Grandpa Parmeles went with us on one occasion. We brought home three bushels of luscious berries. We had to watch out for snakes, saugers were in the bushes sometimes. Their rattle could be a warning. Tired and hungry, we rode the long trek home. The chores were waiting for us.

About 1908, a singing school was started at the Ohio Corners school house, with Herman Smith as the singing teacher. He was a good singing master and was enjoyed by twenty-five or thirty persons we sat in the double, straight schoolseats. The men sat on the east side of the room, singing their bass and tenor, the ladies on the west side of the room, with their soprano and alto voices. A tuning fork was used, but the organ accompanied the singing too, some. I remember Maud Smith helping the alto section. We had a singing book for "part singing". A small fee was charged for Mr. Smith's work. We bought two books for our family.

Attending the circus and its parade through Allegan, was a real treat about 1908 and 1909. It meant an all day trip with horses and surrey, taking our lunches. There wasn't much money then, so we skipped the candy and balloons and just saw the circus. The Allegan Fair was another treat, but a free ticket on children's day and about fifteen cents was our expense of the day. But the "merry-go-round" was a wonder in those days.

Leonard Pegg and Milton Linsley used to catch frogs for a neighbor to fish with. After working hard, the frogs were delivered, but money promised them, was not waiting for them, on delivery.

One time we had a "hatching" of fluffy yellow ducks. They were so tame. A mother hen hatched the eggs and she mothered the ducklings well. As the ducklings got a little larger, they used



to go to the pond across the road, to swim and get bugs. We would call the ducklings from the front yard, "Here ducky ducky"! and they would waddle back and we fed them. After a few trips, one duckling was missing, when they came back. One by one they disappeared, turtles had caught them, one at a time.

Our yard flowers were golden glow, spirea, lilies, daffodils, narcissus, iris, roses and the annuals in the garden were dahlias, petunias, gladiolas, phlox, four o'clocks, nasturtiums and bachelor buttons.

The county paper, Allegan Gazette or News, the Grand Rapids Herald and a few farm papers were about the only reading for outside our neighborhood.

When deaths occurred in a family, neighbors offered to sit all night with the dead person. Help was offered for the family when needed. Sam Lovall was the Hopkins undertaker. His large (to us) black horse-drawn hearse went around our corner in the procession to get to Maplewood Cemetery, half mile east of us. Very early settlers were buried east of Hopkinsburg. Ladies of the family then wore long black mourning veils, sometimes as long as a year after a family death. One lady had a picture of her son on a round pin and wore that pin always. Burdette Linsley, young son of the Alfred Linsley's died of diphtheria and was buried in the night. Quarantine of homes in those days, kept the family from other people. A large red card was placed on the house by the doctor. Milk or food produced was refused delivery.

A fire often occurred in the neighborhood, neighbors were "fire department" in most cases. Help for family or stock was often furnished. Insurance, if any, was in small amount. Larger homes carried some insurance.

Farm houses were mostly built of lumber from the farm. Saw



mills were near and numerous, massive timbers were often supporting houses and barns. Many could build their own homes. James Par-selee was a good carpenter and built his and other buildings. He built the present Pegg barn.

sugaring time in the early spring, was a busy time, for those having sugar bushes. The sugar house, in the woods, was built. Prior to this, the sap was gathered and boiled in open kettle out of doors; sometimes boards were leaned up against a tree for little protection from rain. Flat boat-sled or stone-boat, drawn by a team of horses, gathered the sap, from pails hung on spiles in the maple trees. Taken to the shanty, it was dumped into the sap tank, through a wooden trough, for storage until run into pans to boil over the hot wood fire in the "arch". Four foot wood was previously cut, for the "arch". Lanterns were the only light, besides the fire, in the "shanty". When properly tested, the syrup was siphoned off into a milk can and strained through a filter for the niter. Cans of syrup were taken by wagon to the summer kitchen. Some was boiled down to one pound and two pound sugarcakes. Syrup and sugar was sold, also used for family sweet-tooths. Wax and taffy was often used at parties or family gatherings. Hot wax was poured on snow or in ice water and fished out with a fork, "yummy". stirred sugar came by stirring hot syrup that had come to a determined temperature. Before white or brown sugar was available, syrup and honey was the sweetening for foods.

Grains on the farm became family foods, such as hominy, oatmeal, corn meal, sweet corn and rye for breads. Sorghum was used to make molasses. Sulphur and molasses was the spring tonic and ague remedy for the "shakes".

Hopkins, Hopkinsburg and Hilliards churches were Congregational churches. One pastor served all three at one time. Holiday and

social events were attended by many in the area. Also a Methodist, Free Methodist and German Methodist served the area.

Lavern Pegg was director and sold insurance on farm property, 37 years 1915 to 1952, for "Kent, Allegany, and Ottawa Insurance Company" of Grand Rapids. He also sold windstorm insurance for the "Hastings Mutual Co." of Hastings. He served on the township board and was justice of the peace, both for many years. Was school board member for Dist. No. 2, Ohio Corner school.

Willis Parnell was township supervisor, also Roy Thileop.