

friends, and workers. Ma really deserved credit because she peeled apples till they came out of her ears but never complained. She made apple pies all the time, not in small pie dishes but in large aluminum roasting pans--and the family devoured them in no time at all.

Apples were wrapped in paper napkins or pieces of newspaper and stored in the cool wine room for the winter. Many apples were given to children who rang the doorbell on Halloween night.

One year, about a month or two before the apples were ready to be picked and stored for the winter, a heavy wind and rain storm lasted for several days. The ground was soft and wet and Pop noticed the tree was starting to lean over. He called several neighbors to help him up right the tree with heavy ropes. Finally, the tree was straightened but the following year, it lost its strength and slowly died. It was later cut down.

The DeSoto

I will never forget the DeSoto car Pop had. It was black and had a big, round silver grille. I called it the "pig's face" and I was ashamed to ride in it because of its shape. Pop sold it and then bought a beautiful gray DeSoto, and the family rode in first-class style.

Homemade Soap

Making homemade soap for clothes washing was always a big thing in the neighborhood every year. All types of oils and fats were saved, and often extra fats would be given without charge by the local butchers. Pop would build a wood fire and all waste fats were put into a large, heavy tin tube and placed over the fire until the fats melted.

As the fats melted, water and lye were put into a tub of boiling water. This process took about a week--turning and turning till the fats started to harden into a large round piece of soap. It was then cut in pieces, placed in the sun or wherever it was dry (garage, attic). After the drying process, the soap squares were placed on a wooden frame; a heavy wire was at the bottom of the frame. Each piece of soap was grated back and forth by hand which made flakes. Some squares of soap were kept whole so that Ma could use them on heavily soiled clothes on the wooden washboard.

The Coal Furnace

The coal furnace was not only used for heating the house and getting hot water--it had another use. Pop would buy sirloin steaks and put them on a grill with a long handle attached. The