

Legends of Freeborn County
Take a Trip Down Memory Lane at the
Freeborn County Museum

Sixteenth in a monthly series of Freeborn County Legends - July, 2001

By Bev Jackson

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If you wanted a doll for a five-year old, would you (A) buy one at Wal Mart? or (B) carefully cut pieces of leather, stitch them together, stuff this shaped piece with fur and then embroider a face and sew some clothing?

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If you wanted some cream, would you (A) run down to the nearest supermarket? or (B) milk a cow (being careful to keep its wet and yucky tail away from your head) and then pour the fresh milk into the separator and start turning the crank?

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If you needed another blanket for your bed, would you (A) buy one at the nearest woolen mills? or (B) carefully cut fabric and outgrown clothing pieces, sew them together, stuff them with a worn blanket, and then quilt them with thousands of tiny stitches?

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If your clothes were dirty, would you (A) toss them into the washer and push the appropriate button? or (B) haul water from the pump in the back yard, fill the wooden washing machine, and then spend the day pushing and pulling the handle that operates the agitator?

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Do you (A) buy your farm implements at the nearest dealer? or (B) hitch up a horse to the plow with the wooden handles that you carved during the winter?

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Do you (A) get on the school bus at the nearest corner? or (B) walk across fields to get to school early enough to help the teacher haul in wood for the stove? During the day do you listen to the younger kids recite as you study your lessons?

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Is your Church (A) trying to raise thousands of dollars to resurface the parking lot? or (B) is the congregation starting a building fund with a donation of 68 cents?

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Did you (A) contact a real estate agent when you bought your home? or (B) cut down trees in the nearest grove and build a cabin?

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When you needed a basket for storage, did you (A) buy one with a tag marked "made in Hong Kong"? or (B) weave it from willows?

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In the year 2001, the correct answer to all of the above questions, is "A". However, in the year 1900, the correct answer was "B". How did you do on our little quiz. We hope our quiz, will help you to see how good those "Good old Days" really were.