

Nancy's Notes of Nostalgia.
By Nancy Horrocks Dec 1997

Skating

As I watched the skaters on the pond near the community gazebo this winter, I recalled a group of old snapshots in our Horrocks family album. You see, ice skating has been happening here as far back as the phrase, "Hey, do you remember.....?" has been around. The snapshots I mentioned were taken in the early 1920's. What has always interested me most about these pictures is the mode of dress for the skating party of that era. The young ladies look very prim and proper: right down to 'Sunday-go-to-meeting' hats. Many of them have added fashionable muffs to their attire. The young men are in three piece suits and formal looking hats: neckties as well.

Although there are fewer and fewer of the old-timers about these days, we will still hear from time to time, when visiting with these special senior- citizens, "Oh yes, I remember the Horrocks' place. We used to have the best 'gal darn' skating parties up there you could imagine!"

David, my husband, when I quiz him about the skating parties of yesteryear, remembers that as a small child, he can recall cars parked everywhere on a weekend. He estimates that on some days there being more than a hundred of them. Large bonfires were built. Refreshments were brought by the skaters.

Winters are recollected to have been more severe back then. And maybe they were. Dave remembers one winter when one of the skaters opted to drive his car right out on the ice! Much to his mother's chagrin.

At that time, the present lake on the community property did not exist. It was one of the many pastures which the herd of dairy cattle called home. Skating and other ice sports, such as hockey, took place on the lake #2.

As I watched my grandchildren out on the ice for the first time this past January, I was struck by the thought that they were the fifth generation of our family to be skating and playing on the ice on 'the old Horrocks' farm. The thought, in spite of the icy temperatures, warmed my heart.