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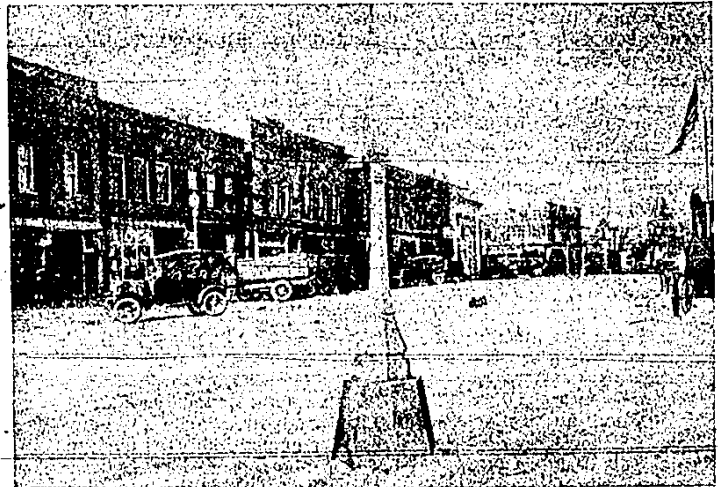
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DAYS OF YORE in Observerland as exemplified by this old illustration of Ann Arbor Street in Plymouth.

# Long, Long Ago...

By CAROL KATZ

Where oh where have the old days gone?

At first glance, it may seem that they are buried forever, under concrete and rows of look alike subdivisions.

With a little bit of extra looking and digging they can still be uncovered, however, within a number of old buildings in Observerland and within the memories of certain old time residents.

**MRS. GLADYS RYDER**, who has lived a long life in the Livonia area, remembers when horse and buggy and the streetcar were the main forms of transportation in the quiet farming community. She remembers when gypsies camped in open fields, and when people of all ages would get together for spirited sleighing parties in the middle of winter.

Arising at 5 a.m. and retiring at 9 at night was the general rule in an area where most people grew nearly everything they ate. It was not unusual, at about the turn of the century, for a farm wife's account book to show a monthly expenditure of \$5.

People made their own lard, butter and cheese and canned between 200 and 300 jars of fruits and vegetables each year. Meat was provided by the chickens, pigs and steers that were part of the livestock supply.

Bread baking was a daily part of the housewife's ritual and Johnny Cake, now called corn bread, was a popular dish dating back to early pioneer times.

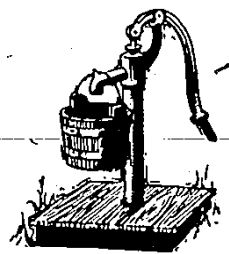
Sunday was the day for making your own ice cream and many a child, in the early days of the century, was assigned the arduous task of hand cranking a gallon or so for Sunday dinners.

Mush and milk, a cereal dish, was often served for Sunday night suppers.

**BECAUSE LIVONIA** was a farming community, residents had to go

into Plymouth and Wayne for their dry goods materials. Here they purchased such household items as thread, kerosene, sugar, tea and coffee. Mrs. Ryder remembers old time peddlers who made their rounds periodically, stopping at the doorsteps of customers they grew to know personally.

Fabric for clothing was a household expense, but wardrobes were limited. Women had very few dresses, according to Mrs. Ryder, and these were usually of dark fabrics which didn't easily show dirt. Back in those days, dry cleaning was unheard of.



On Saturday many people rode into Detroit on the streetcar for a day of shopping in the big city. A Saturday night date might involve a streetcar trip into Detroit for an evening at the theatre.

The streetcar, which had a regular network throughout the area, was established in 1898. In 1916, because of the coming of the automobile, the streetcar was eliminated. Roads, however, were still rough and many people chose to travel by horse and buggy rather than get stuck in a muddy ditch.

**MRS. RYDER REMEMBERS** taking horse and buggy trips to the old Penniman-Allen Theatre in Plymouth for such post World War I movie classics as "Birth of a Nation."

An area of one room schoolhouses, Livonia had no high school in the early days of this century. Thus, Mrs. Ryder attended Wayne

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