

one has said "It beats H—L, How we loved our neighbors from Forksville and Proctor back in the gay nineties". The wealth of good fellowship and genuine respect for each other that prevails at the Home Comings forty years later is convincing proof that our little world has grown better, if less exciting with the passing years.

STORES

Shopping in the old day was never heard of but the ancient and honorable custom of trading was much in vogue.

Farmers wives traded their butter and eggs for the necessities and a few luxuries that the general store offered.

The styles were by necessity standardized by the line of goods offered and their being no competition, profits were large. Unpaid charge accounts absorbed in a large measure the money, merchants should have made.

Pay-Day occurred on the tenth of each month and every one traded on the book and credit was measured on the approximate income of a family. The life of a Hillsgrove merchant, in spite of its many handicaps had its joys and sizeable fortunes were made and lost.

The first store was established by August Lippincott in the fifties and was located on the Huckell farm near the old flat road which later became the bed of the Cenral Pennsylvania Lumber Company's Railroad. This store was continued for several years by Aaron Lewis. It was closed in 1885 and the tannery company built the present store in 1878 and had a monopoly on the merchantile business for several years. This store is now conducted by Robert Brong's heirs.

Thrall and Hoffman built and established a general store which W. L. Hoffman successfully and profitably conducted for many years.

Vernon Hull bought the tannery company's store when the U. S. Leather Trust purchased the tannery in 1892. Mr. Hull conducted the store for six years, then Robert

Brong purchased his interest and took over the management.

Novelty stores were established by Chas. Sadler, John Gordon, C. R. Richart and others but were of short duration. Jess Low had a store in his shop on Main street in the seventies.

Sam Galough conducted a successful store from 1912 to 1920 in the old building known as Odd Fellows Hall.

Peter Huffsmith and John Darby, two butchers were successful in their line for a time both quitting business for less risky enterprises and the handling of meats devolved upon the general store as did the duties of the Post Office in later years.

A business that was surrounded with glamour and glory was the carrying of the mail. The first stage route was from Muncy via the Genesee Road over rough hill and the mail was carried on horse back, any passengers who accompanied the mail carrier rode the horse and he walked.

The daily mail to Glen Mawr was carried for many years by the Harrison family.

The first telephone in Hillsgrove was installed in 1890 by Walt Hoffman, needless to say that it was a real curiosity at the time.

THE HILLSGROVE BAND

By
S. T. Galough

Never strong on date, I do not remember just when in the seventies or eighties, the band was organized, neither do I remember the purchase of the original instruments, nor can I tell the exact date when the band dissolved, as an organization, but I do know that under the leadership of Chas. R. Sadler and T. B. Barrett, it did much to add to the rhythm of life in the old town and the strenuous requirements of its practice sessions kept a lot of us out of mischief.

Its service to the community was gratis, no one ever thought to pay the band for anything and its visits to outlying towns were seldom productive of expenses. The length of its life as an organization was