

Carrie Ingalls Diary 1920-1929

Two previous summaries, 1886-1893 and 1913-1919, have already been published, and many of the same caveats should be noted (punctuation idiosyncrasies, checking with Leona Rundell, word for word transcription, judging a family or persons by the contents of a diary, etc.). Many of you reading this know of these caveats.

The one caveat that bears repeating is distinguishing **between the original and this summary**. A different summarizer than I could arrive at different conclusions or emphasize details differently than I have done. To the best of my ability, I have tried to be fair to Carrie. I have the disadvantage of not knowing her or her tendencies, and thus she will be judged (by this summary's readers) by a 1990's filter I bring to this text. I trust she would not be disappointed.

Another spin-off of the caveat has to do with length. Although I call this a summary (some of you will snicker), I found my desire to summarize and provide enough detail produces a document that, to some, bears little resemblance to a "summary". The best I can say is to curl up in a comfortable chair or couch, let your mind go back a century, and allow yourself a couple hours to wade through this portrait of area local history as shown by the diary of Carrie Ingalls.

Although life rarely ever changes from one day to the next (although there is one such day in the 1920s for the Ingalls), **the conglomeration of these incremental changes is only noticeable** when one steps back and views the distance traveled.

Although 1920 is little different from 1919, no one would confuse the 1920s with the nineteen-teens, just as no one can confuse the 1886-1893 period with the 1913-1919 period. The main forces at work in the 1920's are technology, specialization, and growth of family, interspersed with the details that make up life.

The family structure for Truman and Carrie Ingalls should be noted at this point. At the beginning of the last summary, in 1913, Truman

(48) and Carrie (49) Ingalls lived in the Old Plank Road homestead with his parents. Warren, Ransom, and Carrie, the three oldest children, are married and out on their own, while Stanley, Clarence, Elgirtha, Ruth, Dorothy and Leona are still living home. Warren's son Gerald is the only grandchild at that time.

Seven years of small changes later, in 1920, one can see the bigger picture. Truman (55) and Carrie (56) still live in the same house. Trum's father Ransom died in 1916, leaving Trum's mother Adaline (79) on her own. Actually, Nellie (53) Trum's younger sister lived with the mother even though she is rarely mentioned in the diary. Trum's older brother Edgar still lives across the street, has children who have children and we occasionally hear about them.

In 1920, Trum and Carrie's children are in various states of independence. Oldest son Warren has built a resort on Ingalside Road with his wife Margaret. Their only son Gerald (7) is the oldest of the grandchildren.

Second oldest son Ransom and his wife Ethel had moved to Ravena and will soon move to a longer term residence in Albany. They have one daughter, Thelma (2).

Third born and oldest daughter Carrie lives with her husband Ed Ingalls in South Westerlo.

Fourth born Stanley married Eleanor Goff in 1914 and lives in Norton Hill. By 1920, Stanley and Eleanor have two children, Edna (5) and Randall (1).

Clarence married Alliene Beers in 1917, and they have two children - Kenneth (1) and Ellen (infant) - by 1920. Clarence seems to have some wanderlust since he rarely resides in any one place for more than a year, at least, so far.

Elgirtha married Scott Ellis in 1917 and will soon move to Sunside for Scott's first teaching job.

Ruth married Merritt Elliott in 1918, and they have one child - Edith Irene (infant) - and live in or near Norton Hill.

The two youngest girls, Dorothy, 15, and Leona, 13, live home, and when Carrie refers to the girls, in 1920, she usually means these two.

Diary writer Carrie Spalding Ingalls has reached an age many would consider past prime

and, noting the people who die, she is of an age that the specter of death, while rarely mentioned, must be a consideration at times.

A review of the 1886-1893 and 1913-1919 summaries shows life revolves around farming and the cycle of nature, with teamstering and lumbering also shaping their lives. And although 1920 is not much different from 1919 in the day-to-day details, the **farming details become less dominant**, if in fact they are dominant at all.

Still, farming is one of the big brush strokes of the Ingalls' lives in the 1920s. The seasonal progression of tasks still are the same, and one wanting to review them should refer to an earlier summary. Suffice it to say that crops (oats, wheat, hay, corn), fruit (apples & pears), animals (horses, cows, pigs, chickens), and chores are the palette of this life.

The **details of lumbering and milling are becoming dominant** in the Ingalls family, a clear specialization of labor and equipment, for which this Ingalls family is regionally known, receiving customers from Columbia County to Schenevus, Saranac to Saugerties, while most of their business is done through Catskill, Athens, Coxsackie, Jefferson Heights and New Baltimore. Of course, a substantial business is done locally and through some of the descriptions, one recognizes a building still standing that was built with Ingalls lumber. At the same time, other lumber men, using the portable saw mill as do the Ingalls, are part of this business (Ernest Slater is the one most mentioned in the diary).

Other duties for the men abound -- getting in wood, sawing wood, setting up and taking down the coal stove, fixing fence, butchering, farming chores and duties, clearing dead trees, etc. Many of the chores that once needed horses are gradually being replaced with the new movers - automobiles and trucks. And although motorized vehicles are now dominant, horses and automobiles are utilized side by side for a while. But, the men more often fix flats, replace an engine, dig out of mud, find a new spring, etc.

The duties for the women are ones proscribed by 1920's society -- cooking, washing, ironing, sewing, cleaning and dusting, canning, tending to children, etc. It is rare that this line is

crossed.

The children, depending on their age, will accept more responsibility until they are ready for the adult world. The young children's main responsibility seems to be to bring joy to Grandma. The school age children are attending school and going to clubs. The high school age children may be on a sports team or in a church group.

And so 1920 starts another ten year period, even though it will be not much different from the year before, just as one's birthday usually does not mark any great change in one's life.

In the previous summary, 1913 was used as a base year, without having to repeat the common strands each year. Similarly, more time will be spent on 1920 and 1921 and then fill in the other details for the rest of the years.

In January 1920, **influenza is widespread**, with many people suffering from its symptoms, and a number of people are dying. The weather is snowy and cold, more so than usual. Carrie notes on January 10 that it is "10° below zero & "some Vint". It's a cold winter and the Ingalls are "hovering around stoves & keeping fires a whooping." The new year starts with sausage and lard being prepared, and the deed to the upper place is being transferred to Sam McCulloch for \$1300. "So it is good bye to the old farm but we dont want it any longer. (It will be a bright spot in our memory we have owned it 9 years & have had a lot of good times there.)", Carrie writes on January 1st.

Other events in January include:

- the safety plug to the mill blows out
- the lumber truck goes to Albany
- no school on the 8th because of physical culture day
- prayer meeting
- Norton Hill beats Catskill in basketball
- Carrie has a headache, and a fever over 102
- a wood trip above Schenevus
- Irene laughs
- school exams start & Leone gets a 92% in arithmetic
- Warren & Margaret go to Coxsackie to look at a new house, preparing for a wood job
- Clarence buys his mother a new diary on the

23rd

- it's 18° below zero on the 31st

February is not much better for weather . On the 5th, two feet of snow, sleet, and hail dump on the farm. The roads are so bad that the mail does not get delivered for several days. And almost everyone seems to be sick, hardest hit being the grandchildren. Even grandma is boarding on Trum's side of the house. Mrs. McAvoy, the nurse from the Albany area, is sent for and "comes to the rescue." Carrie especially worries over Elgirtha, about whom Roy Ellis will phone with a report or two, and Clarence, who is staying in the Coxsackie area on a wood job. A reading of February's diary sounds like the sick ward. Finally, some recovery is better and Carrie notes that even if the grandchildren are a bit active, "we are mighty glad to walk Spanish for them now." The influenza must still be very active, judging the frequency of deaths. The St. John family, particularly, seems hard hit, with at least three deaths.

Then, another 8-10 inches of snow falls on the 15th, causing one of Warren's sheds to collapse. The snow is so bad that Carrie notes that they have to ride through the lots at times. Even Cunningham's hearse cannot make it through and the funeral procession turns back until an easier time. The month ends with below zero weather again.

A reader looking back upon the few prices mentioned has seen a **relatively swift rise in prices**. This is helpful when the Ingalls are selling their farm goods and lumber. The flip side is the cost of items they must buy. On the 20th, Carrie buys "a suit... for \$25.00 which we think a bargain now a few years ago would have thought great extravagance." Carrie will note that "Pop went to the landing got a pair of pants for \$4.50 used to get for \$1.25."

Other February events include preparing brine for hams, and packing the pork, taking the wash to Greenville, and Stanley was running limp and a little pleurisy trouble.

March continues cold for the first half of the month. Carrie notes that the snow banks are almost as bad as they were in 1888. In the meanwhile, Trum is traveling back and forth to Coxsackie for a wood job, the same one that Clarence

is helping with. On one of their trips back, they get stuck at Climax and Carrie will take Craw's stage back home the next day. The horses seem to be making most of these trips, with three teams going on the 3rd.

It should also be noted, something that is a constant almost every single day, that the Ingalls are **a family given to visiting each other**. Trum and/or Carrie can stop at any of the kids' houses, or the children come over for a visit, many times for dinner or supper, sometimes staying overnight. Carrie frequently mentions the grandchildren staying for part of the day and sometimes overnight. The only one of her children that Carrie has to plan to see is Ransom since he lives in Ravenna but otherwise a short, probably unannounced, stop at any of the others seems to be the norm. And because the children have helped out in the business at some time, this visiting is just another way of keeping the business in the family. One should assume that this visiting, whether for business, for a meal, or for just a visit, occurs all the time.

Other March tidbits are:

- pressed hay
- saws filed
- canned 3 cans of spare ribs
- the thermometer broke
- got linoleum at the Landing
- fumigated the Coxsackie house
- made a pulley card of cardboard & water glass
- the girls go to club at the schoolhouse
- Some of the Automobile Specialists got as far as Surprise by shoveling & pushing along.
- Trum with Maud horse and cutter to Coxsackie
- Great display of Northern lights
- sew on Leona's dress
- Steve Joy's house burned

April, and spring weather, finally roll around. But it is still snowing all day on April 4th. Carrie notes a Daily Mail article that Catskill had received 81 inches of snow that winter. Flooding rain comes on the 5th and Raymond Ingalls almost loses a pig in the rushing waters. On the 11th, Carrie notes that the snow banks by the Arnold place (the corner by the junction with Johnnycake Lane) are still 8-10 feet high.

Prices deserve more note. On the 13th,

“Trum. called up wants Stanley to hurry some of our hay on the market quoted as high as \$61.00 per ton Never heard of such prices.” On the 16th, “I went to the store & to Stanleys got ½ bu potatoes he brought up from Cocksackie \$1.75 for a half bu.”

Other April items include:

- Ed Ingalls is loading moving goods for Charles Palmers
- Ernest is smoking hams
- Easter concert at South Westerlo
- up at 4 am for breakfast one morning
- “Leone rode Maud to school she is delighted with her new adventure.”
- threshed oats
- pressing hay on lower place
- Leona’s swollen tooth will get lanced
- the first peepers on the 16th
- Trum to Catskill for Grand Jury duty
- Morris chair repaired at Cunningham’s
- made silk petticoat for Dorothy
- American Legion ball
- setting hen has 9 chicks
- Trum has a terrible cough.

By May, winter is just a memory and the weather seems normal enough to not warrant any special mention.

Prices again garner Carrie’s attention.

“We (Carrie & Dorothy) came back went to Catskill had her eyes examined ordered glasses paid \$11.00 for them.” The telephone tax is \$1.15. “We got returns for some hay sold for \$58.00 per ton greatest price we ever got for hay. Stanley brought us two bbls. of flour all in paper sacks. \$17.00 per bbl.”

When Carrie goes to Catskill with Dorothy, they go by train from Cocksackie. Apparently, Carrie was going by fast time and the train by slow time. Stanley, who was to pick them up, didn’t know where they were, and finally everyone gets home by 9 pm. Carrie jokes about her blunders.

Emphasized again is the family visiting, this time by the grandchildren. Gerald makes many trips to his grandparents. On the 8th, he bicycles over and Carrie notes “he seems so little to be riding a wheel.” And of course, the smaller grandchildren make many an appearance, all of

which a proud grandmother notes.

The lumber business takes a wider range. On May 1, Trum, Carrie, Clarence and Alliene start for Schenevus and have lunch under a mountain out of the wind. They stop at Simpkinsville to look over some timber but were not impressed. They ride back home by Cobleskill and Berne, driving about 60 miles (one way?).

Sometimes **we wonder what size farm they did have**. The May 13th entry gives us some clue. “Turned the cows to pasture in the swamp lot we have one cow to milk a dry cow a bull & a bull calf.” A modern reader familiar with the larger farms of mid/late century is often surprised at the size of a typical farm.

Although Carrie does not use the word “date”, it appears to the modern eye that Dorothy is dating. Carrie will often note who Dorothy is out with. A few names will show up regularly but more on that later.

Other May events include:

- 16 in for dinner
- total eclipse of the moon
- Horace Hunt breaks leg in the woods
- work on oat ground
- Leona’s first music lesson at Lucy Gardner’s
- Having hard time finding a hired man
- scraping paper off dining room wall
- cleaning & varnishing kitchen
- moved Grandma up stairs
- at Phinney mill yard
- at Catskill Supply and Lenahan (Athens)

The weather in June displays its normal range. The farm work still must be going on but Carrie notes little of it. In fact, of June’s 30 days, Carrie makes note of the men at the mill fourteen times, work at the farm no times, and work in the yard by hired man George Bryant three times. One should be cautious, though, in reaching judgment about any unimportance about the farming activities.

Prices are still a noticeable topic. Shelled corn is sold at Deans for \$2.25 per bushel. On a trip to Catskill, Carrie sees strawberries for 43¢ per basket.

June is also school exams and graduation. Carrie notes that Leone gets good standings in English and history and will be ready for the high

school. Dorothy passes all her courses except for French. On June 22nd, "The girls & I went to the Commencement exercises at Greenville large Crowd."

The age of the automobile means that one of life's pleasures can be a ride for the day or afternoon. On the 14th, Carrie and Trum ride with Stanley to Athens, Catskill, Kiskatom and Palenville, pausing to see the Otis Railroad and the Mountain House. Carrie notes they are something to remember. On the 6th, Carrie is in Ravenna. On the 27th, they ride around to Chesterville and Dormansville after a funeral. In between these rides are trips by Carrie or the children to Medusa or Cocksackie and so on.

June 1920 also brings a new piece of technology. On June 2nd, Carrie notes that she **saw an airplane go over** to the south and that she saw it very plainly. On the 22nd, an airplane passed directly over the house. Carrie opines that it is a wonderful thing and perhaps they will be common soon.

Other June happenings are:

- "largest load of grains ever taken to mill by a farmer" (8400 lbs.)
- Lon (her brother) gives bond and mortgage on upper place to Carrie
- black & white cow has a calf
- Warren is making a new cow stable and hen house
- Merritt & Ruth go fishing at Rensselaerville
- a shower is held for Ariel Smith who will wed Clinton Weeks
- George Bryant mows the lawn with scythe and lawn mower
- picking strawberries in the orchard
- Carrie makes a waist for Alliene
- chain falls to bottom of well

July finds the men to the mill most working days (Sunday is always a non-working day), and farming is not mentioned much. The Ingalls family constantly visit each other. The weather is typical July. A reader can see a routine that, although different from seven years earlier, is one that fits Trum and Carrie quite well.

Other July events:

- Trum lost his gold watch and hunts for it until dark

- Scott and Elgirtha go to Albany for summer school
- a few trips to Norton Hill for ice cream
- Warren helps out sowing buckwheat
- Reed & Powell storehouse burned
- Barnum Circus in Albany
- Dorothy went to Warner's Lake with Gerald Palmer
- made gingham dress for Leona
- Clarence moves to Freehold in the Eugene Scutt house
- sugar costs 25-29¢ per pound
- Stanley moves up sleighs, cutters and bunks
- Dorothy went to Saratoga and Lake George
- Graham Stock Company show
- a Larkin order of soap taken
- finished haying on Hunt place

August is more of the same - mill, some farm, house chores, family visits and rides.

- Trum's mother is sick in bed
- logs moved to Swartout's mill in South Westerlo
- visit Ransom in Ravenna
- cutting oats
- Helen Squier at Ed's
- Trum checking about insurance on the men
- Dorothy is out with Gerald Palmer several times
- canning "plumbs"
- sold a small barn on Hunt place
- Steiner going to buy Frank Arnold place
- car balked by Howard Shaw's, borrowed his horse to get home
- finished threshing, 115 bushels
- girls go to the falls
- tramp arrested in neighborhood
- go to Cairo fair
- everyone at Lambs Corners picnic except Ransom's family
- pigs in garden
- made walnut cake
- bought belt for engine

September is almost the same. The girls start for school, the weather is fine for September, and life continues on.

- Carrie has dinner at her sister Min's

- Carrie is glad to see granddaughter Edna
- Adiance towed Scott's car to Freehold
- girls doing housework
- Trum buys a new wagon for \$40, a good deal
- a rainbow and Northern Lights on the 8th
- Dorothy with Clifford Hunt to pictures at Catskill
- Trum and Carrie take a ride to Silver Lake and East Windham
- Warren helping cutting buckwheat
- drove one of Stanton's boarders out of the orchard
- Clarence moving to Allen's in Freehold
- Warren is putting corn in his silo
- ride to Omar Losee's to see new house
- took wash to Mrs. Cornell
- Stanley drawing coal in Cocksackie from railroad to boat - "rather a peculiar transaction"
- canned elderberries and tomatoes
- whooping cough is around
- picked 3 barrels of Sickie pears
- "ironed, baked bread, etc."
- put new tire on car
- went to Cobleskill fair and saw aeroplanes
- Clarence cut foot
- went to Catskill and got 200 clams for clam-bake

October is a warm month with an unusually late first frost on the farm on the 30th. The beehive of activity continues. Of note is the Ingalls clambake on the 2nd, with 31 present. Ernest dug the pit, and Carrie and Stanley help with the preparations.

On the 3rd, Trum, Ransom and Clarence and spouses go with Mr. & Mrs. Galatian to Indian Ladder and Carrie wonders at the "great & gorgeous ravine up near New Salem We took the walk around under the rocks and up the ladder great trip".

On the 5th, Carrie notes she washes alone, something she hasn't done "in a good many years." Other activities include:

- heavy rain raises creeks and washes out a road
- girls are back in school after a week off for teachers' conference
- the hired men are cutting corn and wood

- Steve Hallenbeck's barn burns, started from a neighbor's brush fire
- "had a carnival with the four children"
- Stanley's truck to be traded in for a Mack
- miserable buckwheat crop - 64 bushels
- Carrie is "sick as a dog"
- Daisy horse cut herself on barbed wire
- went to moving pictures "Shepard of the Hills"
- Trum fixed the wringer
- went to clam chowder supper at Norton Hill with Edgar's folks
- contract with Niles and Will Mackey

November is acting like November, getting darker like November can, and with a few snow flurries later in the month. Carrie notes the girls are sick, especially Leone who is vomiting on the 6th. Carrie notes she (Carrie) is "trying to play Polly Anna looking on the bright side glad it is no worse with us than it is." A few days clear that up but on the 23rd Leone is kept in Grandma's room while Edgar's family is over because it is feared that Leone might be coming down with the whooping cough, and on the 29th confirms that Leone does indeed have it. In fact, on Thanksgiving, the 25th, Leone, along with Edna and Randall, are kept away from the others.

Election Day sees "The greatest Republican Land Slide in our recollection. Harding & Coolidge won over Cox & Rosevelt over a million majority" and of course the Ingalls are happy about those results. On the way home from elections, Trum and Carrie get stuck in a soft ditch but get out OK. "Glad to get home. Simple life for us. Trum is 56 years old to-day."

In family news, Ransom moves to Albany on the 24th, according to the 25th's entry. On the 16th, "Little Irene was with her (Ruth) she is walking alone now & is a little Dear." And the cow has a calf. On the 24th, Carrie notes it is their 35th anniversary, with the weather similar to their wedding day, with some bad roads. "Some changes since then", she notes.

The mill work continues as usual. On the 11th, Trum is tearing down the mill, ready to move it to the next wood job. On the 12th, the men got the Helping Henry and attached it to

their Ford to saw some wood. On the 22nd, complications on the Mackey lot arise when it's discovered that there is already a mortgage on the property; satisfactory arrangements are close at hand.

Other November notes:

- Warren finishes threshing - 200 bu. oats, 125 each of wheat & rye
- get lumber for the Lambs Corner shed
- Stanley goes to reception and horning for Harold Bell

December ends the year with a hard rain and rainbow on the 14th and an ice storm on the 22nd. Clarence moves once again, this time to Medusa, at the old Zebulon Delamater place. Carrie nicknames the area the West Hills.

Work at the mill continues. Trum sold chestnut lumber to Phelps of Cairo for \$50 per thousand. On the 9th, Trum and Carrie make a bill collecting trip to Cairo, Catskill, Athens, Hudson and Coxsackie. They "didn't get a very big lot of cash but very well satisfied." On the 18th, one of the hired men "quit the job I guess they are glad of it. If they are I am. No comments needed. he is not a very bright lad."

On the 21st, while five men are pressing hay, Carrie must have received a call, the kind of call that in retrospect indicates another grandchild is on the way. She gets Fred Lampman to take her down to Scott's, where "a nice little boy born at 8-30. Mrs. Hallock there taking care of her. I stay all night." It's not until the 28th that we find out his name is Philip T. However, on the 27th, Carrie gets a call that Elgirtha is very sick and stays at the house through New Year's Eve.

For **Christmas**, "All met here ... except Scott & family Leona & Randall. We missed them very much. but are thankful to be as fortunate as this. Our tree was as bountiful as ever for all of high prices etc. Very cold to-night we are keeping 4 fires. to try & keep the house hold warm. Ransom & family & Clarence's family stay all night."

Other December notes:

- Carrie still refers to Westerlo as Chesterville
- church supper at South Westerlo
- Stanley butchered 4 pigs, one the size of a squirrel, Carrie jokes

- Christmas shopping at Catskill

Finally, Carrie notes that "this is the last day of 1920. Each year is shorter than the one before." And so ends 1920. Although the patterns are not as dramatic as those of the nineteen-teens, there is a flow of activity that guarantees that life will be busy.

1921

The rhythms of 1921, not surprisingly, are similar to those of 1920.

The weather, by and large, shows its usual range, as well as its extremes. A reading of -10° is given for January 18th. One foot snow fell on February 11, as did another foot a week later. Only three cars go by, and Carrie notes "All doing nothing much but eat". The Ingalls did not take the car out for a week in late February, and the rain and terrible mud make traveling miserable in early March. Temperatures of 85° on April 6, and 101° on July 8 are noted. A frost on June 2 gave farmers an anxious time. The first half of July was very hot, and a terrible hard shower, thunder and lightning made August 30 memorable because one of Roy Ellis' cows was struck and killed. Autumn that year shows beautiful foliage, and is relatively warm with no frost by October 9th. Just before Christmas, -6° reminds the Ingalls that winter is on them.

The men's world, as seen by diary, is dominated by the mill, not the farm. It is obvious at this point that a family can make a good living at something else other than farming or being a storekeeper in a village. Whether Truman Ingalls realizes it or not, all the details that make for a growing business are upon him, and he embraces the specialization that is now required for the milling business.

One of the first steps in the lumber business is supply. Every few months, it seems that Trum is looking over a wood lot. It seems there are few viable wood lots close by, other than the big woods area (Big Woods Road), probably because the area around has already been cleared for agriculture. Much of the time, we see Trum scouring the countryside, more often than not in the Medusa, Livingstonville, Pres-

ton Hollow, East Durham and Potter Hollow areas.

What the **business details of the procurement of these wood lots is not clear**. It could be that Trum buys them but if so, there is no mention of what happens to them later. It is more likely that he buys the wood off the lot, much as is the custom locally today. A third possibility is the leasing of land but that idea never is mentioned in the diary. No matter which way it happens, Trum often has Harrison Gardner drawing up a contract, with a rare problem or two mentioned.

Once the wood lot is secured, Trum needs to find a way to get to the wood. Even though trucks are available, the ground is so rough that horses are the only way to get wood out, even at the end of this decade. Thus, trees are sawed by hand, trimmed, sawed by hand into lengths, and dragged by horse to a piling place, preferably by the portable mill. Carrie will note the steepness of some of these sites, and the traveler who knows the area where Albany, Schoharie and Greene Counties meet know the difficulty these men must have encountered.

Although Carrie does not emphasize the making of the mill, this process was a daunting one. Based on the diary, the men would have moved the mill from another site, itself a big task. All the metal would have to be taken apart in pieces to fit on the horse drawn wagons (and by truck by mid-decade), and transported on less than smooth roads and over the rough wood lots to its site. And then the men would reassemble all the machinery.

Water was a key ingredient, and siting a mill by a stream was an advantage for its supply. One entry notes that 200 pails of water were needed for the steam engine that drove the sawing apparatus. Of course, some of these hill tops had no water and often Trum was building a dam. Dry weather conditions made for especially difficult times. If water could be found, they might try to pump it but the early 1920's was the beginning of this technology. The downside to being next to the stream is flooding, and more than once Trum has his bridge to a wood lot or out to the road ruined. He'll try a few tricks to minimize this, like cabling all the bridge timber together

and securing it away from the stream.

Some mechanism was needed for keeping the boards straight into the saw. Sawdust would accumulate and need to be taken away. In fact, during dry and hot weather, the fear of the sawdust catching fire kept Trum overnight at the mill to watch for fire.

And then there was the mechanics of the mill. Carrie will note a gauge going bad, a plug blowing, cold temperatures threatening to freeze the water, flues blocking, and a host of other things that could go wrong.

Labor was another major consideration. No one man could do this by himself, and Trum often has two or three men, sometimes as many as six to eight, working on a site. Carrie often notes when he has trouble getting someone to work. Over the course of 1915-1929, I would estimate that fifty different men worked for Truman Ingalls.

Moving the timber and lumber posed its own dangers. Carrie notes Trum strengthening or repairing a bridge. Uneven terrain could mean a spill and hours of wasted effort. Spring time was notorious for roads so bad that no transporting was possible.

The horsepower needed to move goods meant the caring of horses, strong horses. The horses were needed, as mentioned before, in the woods during the 1920's. **The actual moving of the lumber from mill site to customer, once done only by horse, was quickly assumed by truck**. And when road became paved, Trum could greatly increase the amount of lumber he could sell.

Of course, **there had to be a market for lumber**. At first, Trum sold most of his lumber to the river ports, according to the diary. As the 1920's progress, Carrie makes much more note of business that is done within twenty miles of home. And the long trips, that once meant going to the river, could just as easily mean any of the other directions, once the truck and improvement of roads came along. In fact, East Windham is a common destination. No matter the economy, the need to build and repair practically guaranteed the Ingalls a living, as long as they stayed healthy, avoided injuries, found enough men to work, etc.

A side part of this business is **bill collecting**. It seems that as many as a dozen rides a year were made in a big circle - Greenville to Cox-sackie to Athens to Catskill to Leeds to East Durham and back. Some days were good days but just as likely no money was to be collected. Money was never mailed, at least not mentioned in the diary. The face-to-face dealing was a matter of day-to-day life.

And so, **although this sounds like a neat cycle of business, all of these parts could inter-mix**. Trum, I think, was always looking for new wood lots for a good price. He always needed customers. And he was always involved in most of the steps in the process, so much so that Carrie will occasionally worry about Trum's health.

In January 1921, Trum and Steiner are loading railroad ties from Sunside, looking at five bridges for the Town of Durham and getting a check of \$1555 for bridge plank. Carrie and Aliene are up to the Medusa woods where Carrie notes the great scenery. Slater's mill, another saw mill, burned. In February, Trum, Clarence and Steiner are drawing and cutting wood with the horses. The end of the month sees Trum worrying about high water and the safety of the bridge by Clarence's. On the way home, one sleigh broke, and Carrie, who was following Trum home in the car, blows a tire. In March, their favorite horse Maud is being used to ride to the mill site, and Carrie notes that Steiner is on the Hunt place, one of the few nearby woodlots mentioned. She also notes that there is 200,000 feet of lumber on one site and "not a great deal of it sold yet."

While the mill work is going on, **mixed in with all this is the teamstering business**, with an even split of horse power and truck power in the very early 1920's. And so one reads about both at the same time. Clarence helps Stanley unload coal at Coxsackie in early April. The fear of fire in mid-April necessitates Trum staying at the "shaack" because the night before, Charles Hoose's saw mill had burned; the conditions are very dry. Carrie worries about Trum's coughing and tiredness. Meanwhile, Clarence and Trum are looking at a boiler for the East Durham creamery. In late April, a hard rain raises the creek by a mill site, the bridge across the

creek is gone, and planks are strewn all down the creek. In May, Carrie notes that old Harry horse is pitching logs off a precipice. Trum gets 10,000 feet for Whitmore, while making a rigging for a wagon and going to South Westerlo to file a saw.

During the summer, Trum goes to Result after a big cart wheel, and sells a truck load of lumber to East Windham's Grand View house of Mr. Whitbeck. Carrie goes to the mill, staying with a Mrs. Mackey, while the men are wetting the mill site. Stanley takes a load to Hudson. A cloudburst at Preston Hollow worries them about the bridge to the wood lot but the bridge withstands the downpour. In August, Trum signs a contract for Herb Utter's wood lot. Trum takes Warren's lumber wagon wheels to Grapeville to have a tire set. Three teams move the mill in late August, and Trum makes one of his bill collecting rides to Cairo and Catskill.

In the early fall, Clarence sees a fire toward East Durham, gets a little worried and goes to see where it is; it is not the Ingalls site. Carrie notes that a lot of telephone calls are asking about lumber and business looks very good. Trum takes a load of lumber to old County Farm and another to Four Mile Point.

In early winter 1921, Trum takes more lumber to Athens, and to George Williams in East Durham who is building a new house.

On to the farming. One gets the feeling that Trum's heart is not in the farm. The work gets done but the hired men are doing it, and it appears that Warren is doing some of it. It should not be surprising that some decision about the farm will be made in the near future.

So, in addition to the usual cycle that has meant farming in Norton Hill (which can be read in the past summary), some of the details of farm life are noted. In the early part of the year, **five men are pressing hay and husking corn**, and a horse is shod for \$4, which "Steiner thinks is some price." Steiner gets the sawdust out of ice house in late January, and Warren fills the ice house the next day. After Albert Palmer butchered two pigs and a calf, Carrie tries out the lard. Steiner hangs the hams and dried beef in the smoke house, and Joe Smith and his boys butcher the bull.

In early April, old Harry & Maud are tied

next to each other, and Maud was bit and barked herself, requiring a flaxseed poultice for the leg. Trum plowed and harrowed the garden. In May, the State tested their cow, and a week later, comes back and announces the cow is all right. For some reason, Carrie writes, "Wish we knew whether it was so or not." Seven acres are sowed with oats, five loads of hay are drawn in one day by Clarence and six more two days later. Leone led the horse on hoist to get the hay in the barn.

Summertime, the buckwheat is sowed, Warren brought over stock to change pasture, and haying is done on the farm and on the Hunt place by the end of July. A hen is set, Clarence is reaping the oats, work is done on whiffle trees and shafts, a second growth of clover is cut, and the Elliotts have finished filling their silo.

In the autumn, **buckwheat is cut** on the lower place, Clarence is digging potatoes, and one of Edgar's cows got into the spring and died. Baldwin apples are getting \$4.00 per barrel, Clark Bryant is threshing buckwheat, and the sausage and the lard is ready. Finally, the men get the Helping Henry from the mill and finish the buckwheat.

With Carrie being the writer, family life will be amply represented. The social web of the Ingalls family is a strong one, with visits at the house or at her children's' houses. A limitless variety of company fills the year. Sometimes, one of the children come by, sometimes it is all, sometimes it is a few, sometimes it is one grandchild, sometimes it is a few. Sometimes, Trum and Carrie go to Warren's, sometimes to Stanley's, sometimes to Carrie's, sometimes to Clarence's. Sometimes, one of the children have all the others over. Sometimes..., well, you get the idea. Hardly a day goes by without some contact by at least one other family member, and a reader of this summary should keep that foremost in mind, even though much of it is left out here because a writer could write a whole account about who visits whom.

A few other family-type notes taken from the diary go as follows.

Early in January, Carrie goes back over to care for Elgirtha and worries as a mother can. Baby Philip slept grandly, Scott is helping out, and Ruth comes on January 9 to help. Carrie goes

home soon, and Roy and Dell Ellis come down to help Elgirtha on January 16th.

Dorothy takes school exams, passing Algebra and American History. Carrie's brother Jerome visits. Dorothy goes to church with Gerald Palmer. Gerald has whooping cough. The girls go to a party at Thayer's Corners, and Edna arrives for a visit, something Carrie notes hasn't happened in a while.

Ed and Min bring 64 pounds of shoulders. On March 13, Carrie notes grandson Gerald saying that it was a good thing there was 25 in the family so he could have a place to go. Carrie and the girls go to a Ladies Aid Society meeting, a group they regularly attend in the 1920's. At this meeting, they are sewing carpet rags. Dorothy is out with Hayward to oyster supper at Charles Rugg's.

In late March, we learn that Clarence will soon be moving to the lower place and is cleaning it. Paper is coming off the walls, the cleaning continues through April, and Clarence's family finally moves. The girls attend club at Jerry Rundles. On March 30, Carrie's nephew Raymond and his wife Carrie bought the Reuben Palmer home. In mid-April Carrie is watching the grandkids, as usual, but this time she claims to be "tussling it to-gether again."

Dorothy is out with Raymond Losee in May, and Randall has the German measles a month later. Henry OKeefe takes Carrie down to Stanley's to help with the new baby girl, Claribel Eleanor. Ten days later, Merritt and Ruth have a new baby boy, weighing 9¼ lbs. About three weeks pass before the reader finds out the baby's name is Adrian Merle.

It's mid-summer and Trum gets a fork tine stuck in his foot, troubling him badly. The chain to the well has broken. Trum and Warren and families go to Catskill to hear the great Sousa Band play. In mid-August, Adaline is sick. On August 26, Carrie takes a chicken pie dinner to the annual Lambs Corners. In late September, the annual Ingalls clambake means a trip to Catskill to get clams, fish and sweet potatoes. Thirty-three finish off the repast.

In late September, Trum, Clarence and Warren go to Catskill to buy a second-hand Ford for \$210; we never do find out who actually

owns the car. A month later, Trum and Clarence go to Cossackie to buy a Ford Truck off Claude DeFrate. Grandma is having a hard time with gas on her stomach. Ransom, who drives a Standard Oil truck, makes a surprise visit from Liberty; he had started for Norton Hill at sundown and gets there before bedtime. Carrie goes to a Norton Hill Donation with Merritt & Ruth. The last addition to the family this year is announced in a call from Ed Ingalls at 9-30. Daughter Carrie had a little baby boy, and Mother Carrie was "So glad it is over and all right." Of course, mother was helping her daughter the next day. Just before Christmas, Trum, Leone (Carrie irregularly alternates with the name-ending e and a) and Carrie go to Clarence's to a card party, an activity that is enjoyed with some regularity during the winter. Christmas 1921 is spent at the homestead on the farm.

In addition to these family events, there are the home, or lifestyle, events that interest the reader. During the winter, Carrie canned 6½ quarts of beef and she hopes it keeps. She puts new celluloid windows in the side curtains of old Lizzie. The winter blues must have hit because in early February, Carrie admits, "I dont know what is the matter but I dont like to dress make any more." She continues to do the Saturday work -- baking, cleaning, etc. Dorothy is out with Clifford to moving pictures in Catskill.

The hens are laying up to four eggs some days. On February 9, Carrie burned her hand quite badly while taking a pie out of the oven. The hand is never mentioned again. All go sleigh riding in mid-February, and Trum goes to Catskill for jury duty for a few days.

In late February, Carrie is baking and cleaning for a party of 18 girls from the club. Dorothy is sewing on Leona's gingham dress, and in early May Mother's stove is blacked.

On May 6, Kenneth scares his mother Aliene royally. Carrie notes that Alliene came over, "some scared girl", because Kenneth had run away. But since he had run away to his grandmother's, everything ended happily. A week later, Kenneth runs away again to Carrie's, who never notes if there was any punishment.

In mid-May, the Ingalls bought a rug and an oil cloth for \$47, prompting Carrie to think

she might be getting extravagant. The girls, Laura Barker, and Clifford go to Windham to a Christian Endeavor Convention.

Carrie is cleaning rooms in late May, and has the company of Fradelia Vaughn, Mary Vanderbilt, Lillie Thompson, and Marion Stevens for the girls. In June, Pierce Stevens and Orson Hallenbeck come after the girls (Dorothy and Leone, I assume). Z.A. Pratt tuned the piano, and the strawberry season is upon them. The last shortcake of season is June 18th. A month later, Carrie is making jelly and canning currants. She gets two five pound pails full with blackberries.

In mid-summer, Carrie is working on her black silk dress. In August, the grandchildren seem to be visiting even more than usual. The girls are at another LAS social. There are "plumbs" and pears to be picked and canned, windows to be washed, red raspberries for supper. In late October, Adaline has a chimney fire which "gave us quite a scare." Carrie is working on Leone's Halloween dress, followed soon by the first mention of basketball for the winter, the first game at Catskill. In mid-November, they blacked the coal stove and put up pipe. In December, Margaret Boomhower comes home with Leone.

Carrie offers very few glimpses at her diary writing schedule or techniques. However, she "is pleased with the new diary that Ethel sent from Albany on January 1." On February 25, she writes, "Nothing much to write about when there is no business going on." On September 5, she has taken her diary to the mill and is writing in it while watching three of the grandchildren. Past entries indicate that she is a fairly regular writer, although it is clear that she will go back and fill in some dates if she hasn't written for a few days. Just as she took her diary to the mill, she apparently takes her diary with her on many of her trips.

Another side topic for the year is schooling and Dorothy, who will graduate in June. On March 11, there is no school because Professor Cook is sick, and on May 14, school is canceled until further notice, which turns out to be a week later. There is a Graduation Ball on April 19, and school is let out early on May 2 because of the plumbing. On May 4, Scott is hired to teach at

Norton Hill (Ray Hunt is a trustee) for \$25 per week; Scott has been teaching at Sunside.

June exams come and go for Dorothy and Leona, with Commencement exercises at Greenville on June 21. **Dorothy's graduating class stays a week at Mrs. Vanderbilt's cottage at Crystal Lake**, with Dorothy going with Marion & Ralph. In mid-August, Scott is taking exams in Albany.

The big news is Dorothy going to teacher training school at Delhi. The September 26 entry reads: "A beautiful clear day. We started at 7-30 for Delhi went by Oak Hill Potters Hollow Gilboa etc through mountain Towns all the way. Saw Dorothy in the school she expects to attend for the school year. We started back home about 1 o'clock got home about 6 came by Prattsville Detour to East Windham to Cairo & so home. It seemed pretty lonesome to leave Dot behind in the Blue Mountains. But she is pretty plucky. & wanted to go 'And so it is'." Carrie gets a letter from Dot a few days later, and Carrie thinks Dot is lonesome. There is no letter on October 1 and Carrie is disappointed. A week later, Leone goes with Clifford to visit Dot at Delhi, surprising Dorothy.

Meanwhile, back at home, it is Columbus Day, and no school. On October 23, Stanley and Eleanor take Trum and Carrie "to Delhi to-day beautiful drive Ransom & family were there. to spend Sund. with Dorothy. All had a fine dinner at the Hotel 9 in our party went up to the school building after dinner & looked around find Dot quite nicely situated seems contented. Home about 7 o'clock went out in 2 hrs & 55 min."

November 11 was a half day for the local students for Armistice Day and exercises. On November 23, "Trum Leone Gerald and I started 7-15 for Delhi, brought Dorothy out for Thanksgiving vacation." Just before Christmas, they go to pick up Dorothy, but the radiator leaked and they had to leave the car on a hill above East Durham, where they phoned Stanley who drives out to get Dorothy. More on Dorothy and schooling in next year's entries.

Another aspect of their life is, for lack of a better word, the rides. In the first summary, I indicated that Carrie rarely left a five mile radius circle around the homestead. In the second

summary, I think some of the excitement of Cheese Hill, despite the hard work, was the ability to get out of that circle, away from home, even if it was only ten miles.

But the car changes that circle. Henry OKeefe's car is rented a few times in the late teens but the acquiring of a car by different family members widens Carrie's circle greatly. This trend is a microcosm of the story that is America's 20th century. Before, a ride would be to Norton Hill, Greenville, and Lambs Corners. A bigger ride might be to Coxsackie, Catskill, Chesterville (Westerlo), and Livingstonville.

By 1921, with a car in the family, a twenty mile radius circle can be drawn, with a northern bulge toward Albany. Trips outside the circle can be planned for any time, restrictions coming only from the work week, farm, and other social commitments. These rides are duly noted by Carrie, and she occasionally notes the changes she has seen in her life.

Even in poor weather, they can travel, and because Ransom lives in Albany, Trum and Carrie have a reason to go, which they do on January 25, attending entertainment at Proctors. In February, they go to Catskill, stay at the Smith House, and attend moving pictures at the new Community Theater. They often have a meal in the New York Restaurant. In April, she goes to Catskill to get paper and a conglomium rug for Clarence's house. She goes to Urlton (Earlton) to see a drama given by Norton Hill people. At the end of May she and Trum go to Greenville, Medway, Coxsackie, Athens and Catskill, stopping for dinner in Athens. Another ride at the end of May finds them in Ravena, Coxsackie, Athens and Catskill. In July, they go up Maple Ave by Uncle George's place to Chesterville and back to Medusa. Another July ride is to Medway, Coxsackie, Athens, Hudson, Catskill, Cairo and East Durham.

It can be noted that many of the same day pleasure rides happen Sundays, while the bill collecting trips could be any of the week days. They go bill collecting in mid-August to Catskill, Cairo, South Durham, East Windham, Windham, Ashland, and Cairo where they go to the fair and see a good horse race. In September, Stanley, Eleanor and Claribel go to NYC with the car to

“bring back Joe Goffs little boy for a home somewhere around here.” It appears that Joe Goff had died, with no one watching after the boy. A week later, Stanley borrowed the car “to go to Altamont to take little Joseph Goff to Leslie for a home for the present.” In early September, “Trum and I went to Athens Hudson Catskill and Cairo sold some lumber and collected a little.” In mid-September, Clarence and Alliene arrive back from the State Fair at Syracuse.

There are other details, hard to categorize. One winter day, the car axle breaks and Trum has to be towed to Stanley’s. During the winter of 1921, Trum and other Greenville area men are lobbying for an improved state road and they go to the Capitol in Albany.

The girls go to Bible study. Winter means basketball games, with a seemingly important game on February 19 when Catskill played Ogdensburg. Carrie notes that February 2 was a great Candlemas Day. Trum goes to Catskill as a Grand Juror in early February. Herb Jennings dies in mid-February and Carrie, with a rare negative insight, writes, “The man has made a lot of trouble for Medusa creamery patrons.”

In early March, Frank Vemilyea’s barn burned. They also received orange blossoms from an longtime family friend, Helen Squier, from Florida - “dry but fragrant.” Politics makes its appearance on March 4 because it is a “grand day for Inauguration Warren G. Harding is the new President and a Republican. Vice President Calvin Coolidge.”

The Ford needs a new spring. April 9 must have been a stressful day because Carrie notes “something all the time makes life a war fare all the time”. They go to Tom Simpson’s sale, Stanley goes to a Boy Scout drama at Greenville, and they stop at the Surprise store for ice cream.

In July, the Ingalls attend another moving picture (a regular entertainment for them) at Greenville, and to a Graham Stock show also at Greenville. Carrie thought that the moving picture, Black Beauty, at Norton Hill was very good. Ransom brings peaches and muskmelons back to his parents.

In early September, Gerald Palmer is home from Defiance, Ohio for a vacation. On

September 6, the Ingalls see a big fire in the east and later find out that “the Urlton Hotel and all that went with it burned last night. also 3 horses and cow.” On September 16, “Scott drove Maud over to Greenville for a hair cut”, arousing a reader’s chuckle although we know what was meant. On September 18, there is a reopening service at the church; it had been under repair all summer. Carrie paid \$4.00 for a one year subscription for the Knickerbocker Press and \$1.00 for the Rural New Yorker.

Wilbur Cornell’s folks move from Edgar’s (Edgar Ingalls lived across the road) over to Charlie Palmer’s house. Trum and Carrie pay the school tax of \$56. Carrie notes the election winners and basketball scores galore. In the November 8 election, Harrison Gardner wins, a few basketball scores are told in late November. Finally, on December 31, Carrie closes the year with, “Another year gone. This little History tells for its’ self what the year has been. We have no fault to find.”

1922

The world changes for Carrie Ingalls in 1922. By now the reader knows the farm is too much for Trum and Carrie. Our first hint that something definite is happening is on January 21 when “Merritt came over this morning. They have been drawing ice this P.M. **I guess they are going to buy the place.**” On February 6, “Harrison & Merritt came. the Deed is passed over to Merritt & the old farm is sold.” The reader keeps looking for more of an explanation but there are none until February 13 when “Trum & I drove up to Norton Hill to see Clarence Garrett again want to know where we are going.” Apparently, a deal was struck because on April 3, all “help pack & move things up to Norton Hill. We kept house with a very few things & stayed our last night in the old home.” The next day, “**We have moved to Norton hill in part of Clarence Garretts house. Known years ago as the Myer Ramsdell house.** Warren brought Mother Nellie & I up in his car. We stay here for our first night.” This is followed by rare diary blanks for April 6 and 7. On April 8, “Frank and Mary Sanford came put our paper on over head in front room Leone & I settled it as good as we could.” The next day is

Sunday and Carrie notes it is their first Sunday in Norton Hill. On April 12, they "went down to Merritts cleared out a lot of tins & stored a lot in one room. On April 16, "A regular swarm of us, in our new home."

Thus, Trum, Carrie, Leone, and Dot, whenever she is home, along with Trum's mother Adaline and Trum's sister Nellie, move from a big, boarding house style house that had housed two families, up to fourteen family members, down to six at the end and into a modest size, Main Street house. The house, now a rose color, still stands, albeit in poor repair currently, situated between Yeoman's garage and the former Chatterbox. The only other mention of the house is on December 8 when Harrison Gardner draws a contract for another year in Garrett's house. One of the downsides of renting is somewhat humorously put on December 11 when Carrie notes she "couldnt wash today because I had to heat water so Mr Garrett could butcher his pig so much for neighborliness."

We watch the end of an era. Carrie, who has been in the eye of a beehive of activity, lets it go. How did she feel? We don't know whether she is relieved, regretful, accepting, or some other emotion. Now, they will put up with the Garretts, although that is a story that is never fully explained. Mr. Garrett appears to be in somewhat poor health; Mrs. Garrett appears to not live with him but the reader never knows where she is. More on that later.

The other big story is Dorothy. One reason for the scope of attention could be that Dot is doing something not many women in the community do -- go to teacher training school. Carrie's January 2 entry notes that Dorothy is "back to school in Delhi. Not trying to do much but keep fires & eat." Later that month, Carrie gets a letter from Dot saying that she has passed her exams. Carrie is very pleased with her success.

Dorothy must have come out to visit because on April 17, "Dorothy starts back for Delhi, Leone goes with her to Albany with Henry's bus. Seems lonesome when she first goes but get used to it again after a while." Dorothy makes a surprise visit home in mid-May. Mr & Mrs Lewis & Mrs. Smith her teacher brought her over in the interest of their school at Delhi.

On June 23, "Stanley Eleanor Trum. Leone & I started for Delhi in Stanleys Car. Took our lunch ate it beyond Hunter had chicken pie cake etc. Went on to Delhi Had supper at the Hotel went up to the School building to the Commencement exercises where Dorothy graduates from the training class Had reception & cream very nice time. Leone stays up with Dorothy." The next day, "Dorothy & Leone came down to the Hotel to breakfast with us. We started out for home about 10 oclock. Came back by Oneonta. Trum. called on the Townsend Bros. there. Through Schenevus to Worcester stopped there to dinner. came through the Berne's & so home called at So. Westerlo. Another Commencement over. Elgirtha stayed with Mother while we were gone."

So, the Ingalls have a post-high school graduate in the family. On June 30, "Dorothy Dottie Boyes & Bill Gay came home from Delhi. I expect she is through with school out there now Mr Ed. Muller came to-night. he is Dotties company." The next day, they go to Indian Ladder.

Dorothy turns 18 on July 5. At the end of July, Bill Gay came to dinner, suggesting a serious relationship. Dot is home for the summer, is sick in early August, and goes to the doctor on the 8th. On September 1, "Bill & Florence Gay came to pick up Dot to go back to school." The next day, "Dot expects to commence her teaching. Some experience for her." Within a few days, Carrie gets a letter from Dot which probably described her first teaching day.

On November 28, Trum and Carrie travel to Merridale to get Dorothy for Thanksgiving, stay next day, Wednesday, November 29, for Thanksgiving at Mr. Gays before returning to Norton Hill. On December 3, Dorothy goes to Albany to take the 3-30 for Oneonta where Bill meets her. Three weeks later, Trum and Carrie meet Dorothy at the station at Albany for Christmas break.

Meanwhile, on the farm, the Ingalls have not totally cut their strings. They continue to help Merritt, doing chores, drawing ice, build a silo, drawing in hay, helping out when Merritt is sick, and taking down the "ensilage cutter down to Ray Hunt's." The farm work continues but Carrie no longer has to live in that world. I sense the move away from the farm was a good one for her

and for Trum.

Of course, the mill is Trum's work world. Assume that everything said before about the mill is true. Following are a few details from Carrie's entries.

Trum is using two teams of horses to go to Coxsackie; trucks are not practical when it's too muddy or too snowy. In late February, Warren, Trum and Clarence are moving a house, have moved one-half, but when they go back a couple days later to move the other half, they find the "other half blown to jibbets. Well it is up to the old nigger now." What Carrie is referring to is explained no further.

In early April, "Trum paid Clarence \$3000 in settlement for lumber work in partnership." That business arrangement is not fully explained. Still, in early May, the roads are so bad that the men had to leave part of a load. In mid-May, Carrie goes with Trum to Coxsackie to deliver lumber and she notes they are gone two hours and twenty minutes (quite a difference from earlier years). The diary mentions the Jennings lumber yard, frequent flat tires, broken springs, lumber stolen from the Medusa yard, and breaking through a Livingstonville bridge.

Depending on what's going on at the house, Carrie will take time to go to the mill. In mid-July, Carrie goes with Trum to Livingstonville, noting a great lumber yard and a beautiful drive. Many trips are made to the Cold Spring House (East Windham?), and lumber is being delivered to the Catholic Church in East Durham. Work in East Durham often involves a Mr. Payne, as is the case here. Lumber is moving out in all directions, except, as Carrie notes, north. An insurance man called in August; Carrie will mention Trum's consideration of buying different kinds of insurance. In mid-November, the men had "bad luck run the saw on an offset no one hurt but cant run the mill until they fix it up." Within a week, they're finished sawing at the East Durham mill site and start moving it behind the Norton Hill church sheds.

The weather in 1922, as indicated in the diary, seems rather ordinary. Carrie notes a very windy -12° on January 2nd, eight inches of snow on the 11th, -14° on the 17th, and a cold snap in the mid-twenties of January, reaching near -20°

on the 24th. In mid-February, it is so cold that they heated water all fore-noon to get the car started, cranking and cranking until it started. Late March sees some thunder and lightning and peepers, an unusually early start for them. Summer seems rather ordinary. And the first snowfall of the following winter is six inches on December 17th. All in all, 1922 is a rather tame year for weather.

So, what's happening with the family. Again assume that everything said about family comings and goings still runs true. A few selected details go as follows.

In early January, Carrie is with grandchildren Kenneth, Ellen, and Philip and "had a good time with the little sweethearts." Stanley is keeping Clarence's cow for the winter. Philip is feverish, with oil and aspirin being the medication. Le-one goes out with Ralph a few times during the winter. Clarence and Ed go in together in the milling and truck business on April 2nd.

On a trip back from Albany, Carrie stops in to her cousin Attie Vandyck's place (near Mead's corners), Carrie noting she looks much changed. Ransom has a new Reo. A lady missionary is at the church in early June, and Warren's boarding house is full.

One trip to Albany to see Ransom didn't happen because Ransom had gone to Norton Hill to see his parents. It took the Ingalls three hours to get to the Cobleskill Fair, where they stayed for three days, watching heats of a car race, enjoying the Band concert, traveling to Central Bridge, and noting that a "girl parachute jumps from plane 3000 feet up."

On September 6, the men (Warren, Ransom, Trum, Stanley, Clarence, Ed, and Harrison Gardner) go to New York City for the World Series, which the Giants win. Meanwhile, "We 'Janes' all home most of us at moving pictures."

The **annual family clam pit and bake** is held October 13, 35 in all attending. A fine Thanksgiving at Stanleys is noted, with dinners brought down to Grandma and Nellie. For Christmas, 31 are all home, with the children making a present to Trum and Carrie of "a very nice library table. Gerald got a drum."

A few home life details include mention

of a variety of card club meetings during the winter. Also, one winter morning, Carrie notes that "I strung my breakfast along to suit my patrons until 9-30." In mid-January, before the move, Clarence and family spend a week at the farm house.

At January's end, Leone has gone to Norton Hill to get feed for the horse, and oysters for the family. A sleigh ride marks mid-February, and the card clubs continue with fifteen to thirty playing 500, pinochle, and bridge at different houses.

Winter's end sees a creamery dance at East Durham, the card club at Carrie's, and Leone and Ralph at a St. Patrick's social. Merritt fixed the cement block in the kitchen corner for the (milk) separator, Frank Sanford and Eugene Sisson put paper on Mother's room, and a Cairo man came with fish on April 26. Carrie is not feeling well for a few days in later April, makes "hard sugar cookies and ginger snaps and various things rather small business but helps a little to keep things to eat", and has 17 callers to the house on May 7.

In late May, Leone goes to the big woods to get pinksters, and a couple weeks later goes to club at Hayward Morrison's. On June 11, Carrie and Trum go "to Merritts to Sunday dinner had a grand dinner of chicken everything that goes with it & ice cream & strawberries. storm at dinner's end, broke over three old elms, orchard."

Also in June, Leone goes with the VIS group on a ride and picnic to Catskill, catching a picture in the evening. Carrie and Leone sing to Mrs. Whyte, a feeble TB patient who has five little children.

Carrie is canning three quarts of cherries in late June, and cans three more the following day. Carrie watches Adrian while his parents go to a Graham Stock show at Greenville. Carrie makes apple jelly, Leone goes to a sewing circle, and Trum takes some of Warren's boarders to the Catholic Church in East Durham.

On July 22, "Mr. Steadman came with a new Ford Car & we exchanged our old Ford for the new. Consideration \$375 boot money." The Lambs Corner picnic is canceled for bad weather but is held a week later.

In September, Carrie is hoping for warm

weather because coal seems to be in short supply. And the grandchildren are over regularly, both for visits and so that the parents can spend the evening out.

Carrie notes her 59th birthday on November 14. "Time & tide waits for no man." Later in the month, Trum and Carrie go to Freehold to listen to the glee club.

The **start of another age**, whether Carrie realized it or not, happens on November 29 when "Stanley installed a little electric bulb in cellar way. a fine light." Later in the month, Carrie listens to radio music, apparently for the first time, at Tubbs Store in East Durham.

Leone is sick for an extended time in December, prompting a doctor's visit. Carrie notes "How I dread sickness. I guess I'm getting old & dread to tackle the care of it." Carrie is making fruitcake for Christmas, dresses six roosters for the big dinner, Aunt Min left some little gifts for the grandchildren, and the Christmas tree is cut from the timber lot the day before Christmas. Finally, they get their license plates for the truck and car.

A few drives stand out as one reads the diary. These are in addition to the ones commonly taken, as described before. At the end of July, Trum and Carrie ride to East Durham, Acra, East Windham, Windham, Mitchell Hollow, Durham, Cooksburg, and Livingstonville. A week later, again on a Sunday, they drive to Cairo, Palenville, up the new road now called the Rip Van Winkle Trail, old Beach Mountain House, the Kaaterskill and Laurel Houses, down the same Trail, to Catskill, Athens, Coxsackie and home. On August 20, they ride to Warner's Lake, one of the popular destinations for the Ingalls. On August 28, Trum, Carrie and the girls ride to Grand Gorge to meet Dot's friend, Ella Shaw, who goes home with them through Prattsville, Hunter, Tannersville, Beach's Mt. House, and down the Clove Road. On October 15, they ride up the new concrete road from Coxsackie to New Baltimore, and back home on the river road. On October 28, Carrie goes without "Pop" to moving pictures at Catskill, saw a "great picture", Old Homestead, "got home late, worried Grandma & pop crazy. Always some thing to take the joy out of life." On November 5, Merritt

and his family go to East Windham, and see the finished road for the first time.

School is often mentioned, most of the time mentioning that the girls went to school. Entries beyond that included the April 13 entry which tells of Scott, Elgirtha and Leone going to a song concert at the high school. In June, Carrie takes care of Philip so Scott and Elgirtha could go to Greenville to the reunion and commencement. School starts again on September 5, and Leone starts for school with Scott; Scott is teaching at Greenville, and Leone is starting her third year. In September, Carrie is watching Philip so Scott and Elgirtha can go to Windham to a conference. In November, there is a high school entertainment, and in December, Leone drives the car to school.

The 1922 diary includes other information placed in my "other" category. On January 4, "Sam McCulloch left a note of \$285 against one, Mr. Williamson to pay if we get it, his own note for \$60 interest." Sam had bought the upper place a few years back. In February, "two boys got hurt on a steep hill in Greenville coasting (sledding). One died the next day." In March, Trum and Carrie "drove over to VanAukens to see Mr. Schmelzer about his phone we are going to have his priveledge for year." In April, there's a rag bee at the Hall. In May, Trum returns to the Capitol to argue for a road. In July, Sam McCulloch is paying \$285 on the mortgage.

They attend the Cairo Fair on August 22. Carrie notes that she "saw a couple of cars that had colided pretty well smashed up no one hurt." Many baseball games are reported in August and September. Henry Hunt fell and broke his hip. In October, they travel "to Catskill with Henry & Nina to hear Speech by Senator Calder, fine speech." In late October, "Halloween here in earnest. quite a lot gathered here & went out to cut up in general got in late Mr Garretts arbor gone to bad." State elections sees a Smith landslide but Carrie takes pride that Greenville went Republican in all three districts. One soon learns that the Ingalls are staunch Republicans.

A Hall Donation sees a large crowd and takes in \$152, one of the larger amounts Carrie ever mentions. Their landlord, Mr. Garrett has a niece and nephew from Norway to come and

visit. In December, Carrie is fighting a headache, something that used to happen with frequent regularity but in the past few years had decreased to a rare mention. Trum attends the annual meeting of Greene County Supervisors and ex-Supervisors, and nearly 100 show up this year. And Jerome, Carrie's brother, called, selling "Radio heaters."

1923

The only mention about their new home is in November when "Mrs. Garrett called in we can stay here another year." Despite a few grumbles, I sense Carrie likes the location of her move. Meanwhile, Merritt pays the interest money in March -- \$250. Not related to this is a talk with Aunt Min who "says Lon has sold the old farm. Well it is nothing but ground but it was our old Homestead of the Spauldings. He being the third Generation & his son Howard the fourth who lived there some years with his father." This homestead is the much-unchanged house standing in the dip of the small valley just below the junction of Sunset Road and County Route 403, less than a mile west of Lambs Corners.

The mill is the same routine. Additional notes include "bad luck with bulb had to go to Freehold to have it brazed." When things are slow, Trum goes to the mill to look things over and is hoping to do something before long. On March 13, he starts the fire in the boiler and finds a leaky flue. Six days later, a plug melted because something was wrong with the crown sheet.

Trum is hauling corn with a sleigh in February. By May, he's delivering guard rails for the state road. Wood is planed at Smith's and at Surprise. In June, Trum hurt his neck and back and needs to take an afternoon off. Joseph Wood's barn burned, meaning more business for the Ingalls. A sizable amount of lumber is going to American Valve in Cocksackie. In August, Trum goes to Surprise to collect on a bill, but the debtor has lost the key to the trunk and couldn't pay. A large order comes in September from the Weldon House. Carrie notes that October 2 is a banner day, with several loads of lumber being delivered. And in October, Carrie mentions the use of horses in the woods.

As for family matters, **Bill Gay and Dot are obviously seeing each other a great deal.**

They both go to Albany to leave for school. In February, a Knights of Pythias doing finds 14 of the Ingalls attending, all them taken there by Stanley's old team of horses. On a February visit to Ransom, Trum and Carrie go to Harmanus Hall, eventually go back to Cossackie and find their horse Maud fine for all the waiting. Letters from Dorothy keep arriving, and at a dinner at Scott's, Philip "showed off in fine shape."

At the end of March, the family drives out to see Dorothy, has dinner at Davenport Centre, and call at Mr. Sanderson's where she boards. On April 9, the Spalding siblings meet, and "gave over our share in the half of Pa's lot in cemetery to Lon so he has the deed of it now." Trum and Carrie take Adaline for a car ride which she stood well. Nellie is mentioned a couple of times, which is more than usual. Carrie Goff dies on May 11, and Warren, Clarence, Ed, and Wendell, Harrison and Raymond (are) bearers."

A big wedding is shaping up. On June 22, "I made two brides cakes this fore noon We are trying to complete all arrangements for the wedding. Bill & Florence & Dottie Boyes. came about 4 oclock. Bill Dorothy Pop & I went to Greenville got license & on to Cossackie got the Biscuit strawberries etc. came back by So. Westerlo got the ham. The men sawed on the mill all day. Exams are finished but Leone had to go to Greenville." The next day, "A little cloudy. & a very few drops of rain. Our fourth Daughter. Dorothy & William Gay. were married at 11 oclock here in our home. at Norton Hill had quite a large wedding the children & 6 grand-children babies stayed home. The six posed as flower bearers formed an Aisle. very pretty. Mr. Gays family Dottie Boyes & Mr. Youngs & Helen Squier were here beside the family. boys went to Berne to a ball game after the party left." On the 29th, "Bill & Dorothy came home to-night. Boys serenaded them Got up & treated them to cigars & cake." The following day, "Bill & Dorothy packed up her goods and chattels & started after dinner for their new home near Oneonta. All gone but one. Pop Leone & I went as far as Grand Gorge with them. had ice cream to gether. Then they went their way. we swallow our lump

in our throat & go our way. On way back saw construction work on Gilboa Dam."

July 4th is celebrated with a trip to a ball game at Preston Hollow against Greenville, with Preston Hollow winning 6-5. Fireworks at Stanley's came later. Later that month, they went "over to Scotts got some tonic for Mother she is not feeling as well as usual."

On August 18, the Ingalls make one of what would be many trips to Oneonta to see Dorothy and Bill, starting at 1:30 p.m. and getting there at 7 p.m. while Leone drove the whole way. Stanley's folks go to the Altamont Fair in September. The annual clambake is at Ed and Carrie's. The buckwheat crop at Merritt's farm (the homestead) is a good crop, and Leona celebrates her 17th birthday on October 24. Three days later, the Ingalls make another trip to Oneonta, see the Gilboa dam, head back the next day and see the building where Dorothy is teaching.

In November, Merritt has a "bad sore face from having teeth pulled, afraid of blood poison." November is Trum and Carrie's 38th anniversary, which Carrie calls "on the Shady Side now." Thanksgiving, the fifth Thursday of the month, is at Clarence's. Grandma (Adaline) receives several callers, leading me to believe she is in poor health. Bill and Dorothy come home for Christmas at the new house, 30 in all attending. The children's gift to Trum and Carrie was a "banner present - kitchen cabinet, Trum got smoking set."

Home life continues as usual. Other details include a night when the girls find out that club is canceled but "Jessie, Tryon girls etc. all came in late & had a general jubilee." Carrie goes to John I's for a lamp chimney, and Alton Gibson calls about insurance on household goods. Merritt and Ruth are looking for a hired girl, something they will be doing the rest of the decade, with varied results. This trip went to Lambs Corners. Trum went to Greenville for a hair cut and shave.

On Mother's Day, Ransom brings carnations for Carrie. Leona is out with Lewis Rundell a few times. The strawberries are ready for picking in early June, as usual. The men help the women by shaking the rug and varnishing the sitting room floor.

In June, Stanley's family goes to a circus in Albany. Later in June, Trum took his four men to Albany to a ball game, Brooklyn & Albany, and Babe Ruth played. There's a surprise bride's shower at P.R. Stevens.

Carrie goes down to the lower place to pick currants, raspberries and cherries, and Trum is helping Merritt reap wheat. "Leone to practice again, I will be so glad when this everlasting practicing is done." Two days later, "all to drama at Hall, by the T.B. club, have practiced four weeks & I guess it is over." In mid-August, Edna stays with Leone because her parents have five boarders. Carrie cans peaches with Ruth on shares, subscribes to the Daily Mail for \$4, and goes to Cossackie with Leone -- Carrie to have an impression for a plate made, and Leone to have five fillings, costing \$6.50.

In September, Leone is out with Ralph a few times, and the Ingalls are serenading at Morrison's because "Hayward married last July, just brot his wife home." Carrie and Leone head back to the dentist in Cossackie, with Carrie getting two sets but afraid she will wish she didn't have any. Carrie notes all her children's birthdays and grandchildren's birthdays and most anniversaries.

Halloween is quite active but not too troublesome around home although the toilets are upset at other places. Mr. Garrett had a Pollyanna sign that disappeared that night and then reappeared. Stella came over and helped paper Grandma's room. The roosters are getting dressed for Christmas -- six of them weighing 42 pounds before picking. And Leona goes with Ralph to Cossackie to pick up his sister Marion.

The extremes of 1923's weather happened mostly in the first half. It rained hard all day on New Year's Day. By the 8th, Stanley is out scraping snow with the tractor, and Carrie thinks it works very well. The mail stage from Medusa went with horses despite the snow. In mid-January, the stage had to leave the horses at Peter's barn. On the 21st, 35 men from Norton Hill and Greenville in Henry's bus and Trum's truck went to shovel snow where necessary. It turns cold in late January and early February. When Trum and Carrie get stuck in snow at Kelsey's, Elmer Gransbuy helps get them out. Carrie notes on February 15 that with the snow and high

wind, the stage can't get through. "It is hard work to keep warm in the old Myer Ramsdell house," Carrie writes. That night, they have a "chimney fire that night. played solitair with oven coat & cap on ears." In early March, most of the men in the village have gone out with the tractor and Stanley's truck to help clear snow. The wind is bad enough that Trum's toilet blew down. Carrie notes that two sun dogs are seen on March 14. Four days later, a force of men are shoveling snow at King Hill. It is far below zero in late March and ice freezes in the kitchen.

During the summer, Carrie notes a couple smoky (hazy) days, a day when high wind twisted the telephone wires, and a heat wave in the late teens of July.

School goes on in the background. On January 19, Leone is at school for the first time since Christmas, just in time to take exams she probably isn't ready for. In late February, Trum settled with Ralph for all the rides he has given Leone to school.

In May, the juniors give the seniors a party, and the commencement drama happens on June 25th. When September rolls around, Leone starts her last year of high school.

The usual short and business drives fill the calendar. Carrie seems to fondly refer to their car as Lizzie, although probably not on those times when they get a flat tire. On May 30 (Decoration Day), they drive to Catskill, Preston Hollow, Durham, and Windham. On July 6, Trum and Carrie "drive in Catskills, never saw more beautiful cenery in my life, Rip Van Winkle Trail, Ashokan Dam, Kingston, Saugerties, and Palenville. On the 25th, they "rode with boarders from Warrens to Athens, saw Howland's fire, stopped at Stewart house, had cream, grand car Locomobile." A few days later, Trum and Carrie are "with Helen Squier to Athens, Catskill, Rip Van Winkle trail, Beeches, Helen had never been there, she raved. Trum got held up for speeding up Bridge St, pretty mad but got his money back by seeing his old friend Wm. Thorpe.

On July 30, there was a fracas with the horses, threw Ruth and all out, but no one was hurt seriously, just some barked shins on the

horses. In late August, Trum and Carrie go to Albany to see Ransom, and ride in Mr. Crounse's car to Troy and back to Albany. The next day, Ruth and Merritt start for the State Fair. Trum tips the car over on September 8, and hurts only his shoulder. The annual clambake prompts Leone and Carrie to go to Coxsackie "to get clams & fish for bake, spindle bolt broke, front wheel down, phone to Wessel, fixed up." In December, Trum, Eleanor, Carrie, and Stanley go to Catskill, Stanley for jury duty, and Trum to the ex-Super-visors Clam bake. Carrie notes they had a "fine time, saw the two women who are being tried for killing a little boy."

And then there are the uncategorized, interesting details. In late January, "Trum & Wilbur to Athens, got coal, we are very thankful, some chore for people to get coal on account of strikes in mining. It is a struggle to remain an American Citizen. Some World." In March, Carrie goes to the Hall to "a Radio concert given by Prof Patchin. for the VIS (Valiant in Service)."

In April, Trum helps Wilbur (Cornell, I think) "move to the West End in the house they bought of Fred Lampman. Arch Matthews moves over old store to keep the meat market. Central Telephone office goes over to Wilburs." Later in the month, "Stanley helped Joe Ennis out of the ditch, three tier of bales on." On May 19, the Weldon House burned, prompting the lumber order mentioned previously. On one of their drives, Trum and Carrie are driving toward East Windham when they espy a "car accident on So. Durham Ford Truck came down mountain too fast took back end right out from under a Franklin Sedan."

In late July, "Howlands Lumber & Coal yard burned - great loss. President Harding's death from apoplexy, is noted. In the local elections, Harrison is defeated and Carrie feels badly, Thorpe and Bentley are in for Judge and Assemblyman, and Arthur Evans gets Town Superintendent. Finally, Carrie is 60 years old on November 14 and she quips that she doesn't "know as I feel any older than yesterday."

1924

Mid-decade is upon the Ingalls. The mill

routine is nearly the same, for all practical purposes, with more and more local jobs and mill sites. A flue will burst, trucks are getting repaired at Harry Yeoman's garage, a valve thread gets stripped, the oiler needs filling, an inspector comes down and pronounces the new boiler is satisfactory, many trips are made to Mr. Payne in East Durham, and Trum will make a few visits to Athens to see Mayone, the brick man.

Home life, with all the socializing and visiting amongst immediate family and the rest of town, two-thirds of whom seem to be related to an Ingalls somehow, continues in all its ripeness. In winter, Edna goes skating with Leona, high school basketball scores are announced here and there, Ruth goes to Thayer's Corner to look for a hired girl, Mrs. McAvoy who has nursed the Ingalls family in previous times is at it again, first with Claribel and then with Edna.

Grandma (Adaline) is getting weaker and spends a day in bed, the first time that has happened in the two years they have lived in the new house. May 12 is the last day for the coal stove.

In summer, **the Ingalls are going to moving pictures regularly**. Pears are being washed and canned, and pickles made. Carrie goes down to wash Merritt's separator and milk things once. Carrie and Leone ready for club, with 15 there, and they have prepared shrimp, salad, cake, cookies, grape juice, and sandwiches. Trum and Carrie's celebrate their "39th anniversary. We still have our mind & fair health."

Family matters are, of course, noted on many fronts, with all the children in different directions. Leone is still going out with Ralph in early 1924. A party at Stanley's shows 33 people there. Ruth has quite a scare when Adrian takes a strychnine pill, is taken to Dr. Simmons' at Oak Hill, and everything turns out all right.

On February 17, **Trum and Carrie go to Oneonta to see Dorothy**, and all go the next day to Franklin to see the District Superintendent to get a substitute teacher for Dorothy who is planning to move to New Jersey. Trum and Carrie bid Dorothy good-bye on the 19th.

Trum and Carrie get home just in time to for Merritt and Ruth's baby who is born on February 20th. Mother (Adaline) is weakening in April, and the flow of callers to Mother, of whom

Obadiah and Ella King are two, based on past deaths, seems to indicate that death could be near. On May 24, Adaline takes a turn for the worse, and her "mind has gone bad" Finally, on June 1, "Grandma grew worse & died this morning at 8 o'clock, age 84. A long life well spent. We shall all miss her. The boys came also Cunningham. Warren telegraphed Dorothy." Three days later, "the funeral is in house, two families filled the sitting room. Our four boys Raymond & John Smith were the bearers." And thus ends an era.

During the summer, "**Stanleys children & some other came near getting drowned in pond above school house.** Mr. Riley came to rescue." Trum is helping Merritt with the reaper and binder, Carrie is blackberrying with Ruth, and Trum and Carrie go to the "Cobelskill fair." Upon going to the Lambs Corners picnic, Carrie observes that "Things are so very much changed seems very different than it used to."

The family clam bake takes place on October 4, 33 present, and Carrie dressed three chickens and cleaned the fish. Later in the month, Trum and Carrie go up to Warren's to listen on the radio. And a grand Thanksgiving is held, "turkey dinner, all there except Bill & Dorothy Philip & Adrian, Leone day before helped with ice cream." Thelma has her tonsils out. And Trum, Carrie, Leone, Stanley, and Eleanor have supper at H. Lambs who owns what was the Spalding "old home stead."

Christmas of 1924 will not be forgotten in Ingalls history. A big dinner has been served for the 31 present. The children give Trum and Carrie a radio set as a gift. They are interrupted by a "phone call of Warrens house afire, all rushed to save house but couldnt. saved a good many things. We cant describe the confusion & horror." Carrie's general use of understatement gives testimony to the enormity of this disaster. She notes that "nobody slept scarcely a wink. Warren stays at So. Westerlo." More details come in the following year's diary. On the last day of the year, Carrie has "been listening on Radio hearing a sermon watch night."

The weather is quite typical, save for a few details. Carrie notes that a January 11 rain has wiped out the snow and the creeks are high.

Ten days later, a high "wind blew blinds shut in Leone's room, broke out 3 window lights (panes), had to cover it up & shut up the room. Aladdin lamp ran up some smoke, general grand time." Mid-January runs quite cold. On February 2, Carrie "thinks the bear could'nt see his shadow." Later in the month, the roads are so bad that they have to leave their car below Greenville. A foot of snow falls on April 2, and in late November, a wind driven rain causes water to run down the interior walls.

The rides and drives the family takes are the usual ones. **One big exception are the drives to see Dorothy who first is teaching school near Delhi and then is living in Sussex, New Jersey.** Trum and Carrie take a winter trip on March 20. "Trum. & I started for Delhi & Mr Gays. to get Bill & Dots moving goods. Got to Grand Gorge for dinner. Had to detour by Margaretville & Andes on account of snow banks. Encountered plenty of them 6 ft. & more deep. finally got to Delhi & up to Gays about 8 o'clock. some roads & snow banks." The next day, "We got goods loaded at 11-30 started for Delhi got stuck twice but managed to get out. Snow banks for a mile & a half no place to turn out. But thankful to get down to Delhi at 3 o'clock had lunch at Restaurant. went on to Walton stayed all night & we were about all in." The next day, March 22, they "Started on our journey again about 8. went to Rock Rift. went up the worst & longest mountain road. narrow road & icy. deep prespice on one side & no place to turn out. Thanked God when we got to the top. there met a car. got to Hancock went to Rosco had lunch at 1 o'clock & drove on 100 mi to Sussex got there about 7-30. stayed at Hotel Sussex & rested until morning." The 24th, a Sunday, was spent visiting. The next day was "Very pleasant. & mild. Dorothy & I settled some things. Bill & pop went to Newton got their Davenport they had sent for. Bill Dot & I went for a ride in P.M. Bill on business. Went to Lafayette & to Franklin furnace where there is Zinc mines. Went to bed good season tired getting rested for the drive home tomorrow." On the 25th, it was "Pleasant & mild. We started from Sussex at 7-45 came along good until we got up above Wurtsboro Then got stuck in wet sand. A man came along got stuck also, but

he was good enough to help us out. We certainly was thankful to him. Had dinner at Ellenville fine dinner for .50¢ pretty waiter so pop tipped her. Had a little more trouble big tire went flat just below Catskill fixed it up & got home about 7-30 glad to get here.”

The next big ride is to take Dorothy, who had been visiting her parents, home. On June 7, they “Went to So. Westerlo got Alliene & children they go with us to stay a week. Had dinner in Ellenville Detoured over a Mountain got in Sussex about 6. Went to pictures in the eve. The next day, “Loury & rainy. Most of the day. We all went for a ride this A.M. to the creamery where Bill tests. Went again for ride in P.M. Alliene & Kenneth stayed home we went to Lafayette & Newton had a nice ride but rained quite hard part of the way.” On the 9th, “We started about 9 o'clock from Sussex got home about 6. stopped at a little lunch room just out of Ellenville for lunch & had a flat tire but got fixed up at a Garage close at hand. Name of the place I think was Napanoch.”

On June 15, they drove to “Medusa Rensselaerville, out State Rd to Fords Corners to Westerlo, Dormansville.” On June 26, they drive to Sussex, NJ again, and have a flat tire. While they are there, they visit the Delaware Water Gap, start back two days later, and need another flat tire fixed at Haines Garage in Catskill. They need to drive south again to pick up Leone who had stayed down in New Jersey on the last trip. Bill and Dot drive Leone up to Ellenville, have lunch with Trum and Carrie who bring Leone on home.

In August, Leone, Ralph, Marion and friends travel to the old Mt. House. Over Labor Day weekend, Stanley takes his family and boarders to Crystal Lake. Bill and Dorothy visit the next week and they travel “the Rip Van Winkle Trail, Beaches Mountain House, Tannersville, Lanesville, Phoenicia, Ashokan Dam Kingston, left Bill to go home, Dorothy came back to Norton Hill.”

On September 10, Merritt starts to New Jersey for Ruth who is still there but he forgets his pocket book, and calls Trum and Carrie who get it and meet him in Freehold.

A nostalgic trip takes place on October 19

when Trum and Carrie travel “to top of Mt Pisgah, drove by Windham & East Windham, the old rout we drove when we were young people, 41 yrs since been to top of Pisgah. end of perfect day.”

On October 28, Trum and Carrie travel “to Sussex again. started at 7-45, lunch just below Ellenville, Sussex at 4-15” They start back on October 31 by “Franklyn Furnace to Storm King Road between West Point & Newburg, we cant describe the granduer awe beauty & wonder of the great workmanship of man making a road in such an impossible place.”

The last trip to be noted is Stanley’s trip, with his family and Leone, to Sussex, with a return the following day.

In school events, Leone passes her exams except for English. A school party is held for “60 scholars and about 60 parents.” In April, Leone did well in the speaking contest but it is Margaret Boomhower who wins first place and the prize of \$10 while Alice Chesbro takes second place and the prize of \$5. In May, Leone and Ralph attend the Senior reception at Arthur Hoose’s. In June, the Senior Drama is held, Carrie thinks she has finished the commencement shopping, and attends the intermediate class commencement exercise (because Scott is their teacher), and the Baccalaureate sermon given by Dr. Hazzard of Catskill. On June 24, Leone graduates and Carrie writes, “Guess she is a fairly smart kid.”

The following day, Leone goes with Ralph to the alumni banquet; Ralph leaves for Union College on September 12.

Sports is mentioned enough to deserve its own section. Basketball is often mentioned. In January, West Greenville beat Medusa 38-12 and in the second game, Norton Hill beat Cornwallville 65-12. In March, they attend a basketball game between Catskill and Glens Fall. Local baseball is often noted, with a September 1 game in Preston Hollow’s favor against Greenville, 11-1. In October, Stanley, Eleanor and Jerry go to NY to the World Series, and someone calls Carrie on the 10th to say that Washington won, causing great excitement for many people.

And then there are the other details. The end of January sees a dinner party at Antoinette’s with 17 ladies in attendance. In July, the Ingalls

are trying to sell Maud who is lame from caulking herself. In August, Carrie is helping Ruth with rooms for some people boarding at Stantons. Also, Stanley has eight boarders in early August. Carrie does not attend the fair this year. Thompson Losee is moving to Coxsackie and has a sale that the Ingalls attend.

In October, Trum and Carrie go to Catskill to hear Theodore Roosevelt speak from the Court House steps. The election in November sees a big Coolidge victory and Carrie considers it a pity that Smith beat Roosevelt (state elections, I believe). The evaporator in South Westerlo burns, a great loss to the owner as well as to the village, and also burning is the Hallenbeck Brothers' barn.

1925

1925 should start off with the update on Warren whose house burned on Christmas Day. On the first day of the new year, Warren readies the Annex to live in. Carrie believes he is just beginning to feel the shock. A week later, Jerry Goff is drawing plans for the new house. Meanwhile, the Greenville Ladies Aid brought "them a lot of very nice things." Trum is making some figures and estimates on the rebuilding.

In April, Warren goes to his parents to pick up the beds, chairs, and other goods that had been stored there since the fire. In May, their piano, which had been kept at Frank Sanford's, is moved back to the house.

On Decoration Day, 22 people are staying there and an opening dance is held, although the opening could have been the opening of the season. By August, 90 guests are recorded. Over Labor Day weekend, Warren gets Leona who had been helping out Eleanor to work at the resort because two of Warren's hired girls are sick, one of whom was feared to have diphtheria but was found not to.

Trum semi-regularly helps out by taking boarders to the Catholic Church at East Durham. During that same Labor Day, Leone worked five days, was paid \$10 and got tips of \$6. The new house is finally finished and on September 27, Trum and Ransom's families have the first meal in the new house. In early November, Warren returns from a successful Ingalside Reunion in

New York City; 300 boarders attended.

Other family matters are important and noted. **Alliene gives Carrie the diary as a gift.** In early January, Dorothy goes home after staying at her parents for two weeks. The radio, probably the gift from Christmas, is mentioned several times. In mid-January, Muriel is sick and Mrs. McAvoy is once again called upon. The Doctors McCabe and Wasson are both there the next day and slowly Muriel gains.

In early February, Dorothy returns to substitute at Norton Hill for four weeks, filling in for Virginia. Carrie notes that Dorothy went over to school to get some starting points. Trum is taking care of Warren's pork and put the hams and pork in the cellar. In March, Merritt is paying the interest payment on the mortgage. Claribel has a high fever of 105 1/5.

Bill Gay and his friend Mr. Comstock pay a visit in late March, and finally a new teacher starts on March 30. Leone is still seeing Ralph. And the wagon house of Herb Lamb's, the old Spalding homestead, burns on May 6.

A somewhat cryptic entry is made for July 30 when Carrie records that "cousins of my mother Rachel Gage & Euphime Rowe visit, I guess they never will come again by their looks. pleasant visit." In September, Elgirtha is moving to the Episcopal Rectory, and Leone goes to the Altamont Fair with John Verplanck and his mother.

Stanley is candidate for Town Superintendent again.

October 10 is a milestone for the Ingalls family. Carrie notes that a new organization, the Ingalls Reunion, is held at Charles Rugg's. Despite bad weather, about 90 come out. A week later, the Ingalls clambake is held at Stanley's. Dorothy stays in Norton Hill while Bill goes back to Sussex and on to Rutgers College to study for two weeks.

Trum and Carrie's 40th anniversary is celebrated on November 24th. Carrie thinks "It looks like a long time in figures." Thanksgiving is held at the old homestead, only now it is Merritt and Ruth's. Izora Spalding is reported sick, seriously ill with adhesions on the bowels. For Christmas, there were "presents great and small, gift of chair, We thot there was'nt going to be a

big present for us this year, but they was to smart for us. lots of gifts on tree, Margaret with an original poem.”

Home details follow the general pattern described in previous years. Otherwise, in January, Norman Sanford called about subscriptions to American Magazine and Woman's Home Companion. In February, Leona joins Eastern Stars, an organization mentioned frequently from hereon. A month later, Leona has the chicken pox.

The renters do the landlord a big favor, for on March 17, “Trum had to get up in the night to look after Garrett he didnt want to die alone, he didnt.” Trum was up the next three nights looking after Mr. Garrett. On March 21, Ida Miller calls on Carrie because she can't find Oscar (her husband, I assume); Trum went out looking and found him up above Will Bell's. In early April, Carrie buys three herring fish for 35 cents but she notes they used to be a penny apiece.

The home front continues as usual. A big detail is the lower place burning on April 27. “Mr Moore & family living, got most of things out. think it was chimney.” Coincidentally, or not, two weeks later, Trum and Carrie buy a fire extinguisher.

In late May, Garrett rents the half of the house to state road tenants, and Carrie thinks the wife is a pleasant little woman who “comes in often.” Carrie gets a pail of strawberries in mid-June and she notes it is a great year for berries.

In August, Leone has her hair bobbed. Carrie seems a bit nostalgic, for on August 17, she writes, “first day of Cairo fair, no thrills, old four seater & golden rod are things of the past.” Later in the month, Trum and Carrie go with Harrison and Lucy Gardner to the Republican Town Clambake near Coxsackie.

A chilly fall meant an earlier than usual coal fire being started on October 12. There's a party of school kids, 25 of them. And everybody going their own way is beginning to take its toll, for on November 12, Carrie notes “I guess I'm the nearest alone I have ever been to stay all night. only Muriel.” A few days later, the “clothes line broke ‘Oh, Min!’”. Oh, Min must have been an old family expression of a small trouble. In December, she's Christmas shopping

in Catskill, staying for dinner at the Saulpaugh. And Ralph is still calling on Leone.

Weather is fairly typical, with only a few events drawing attention. On January 24, there's a total eclipse of the sun. “It was a wonderful sight, the light was rather wierd very much like moonlight & saw three stars. It has been over a 100 yrs since there was a thing like this.” It's off and on cold in January with -18° later in the month. Also at the end of the month was blowing snow so bad that Carrie sees no one stirring. A slight earthquake is felt in Albany on February 28. In August, the Northern Lights can be seen. Frost is nipping a few places in late August, and October 10 was a nasty day -- 28°, high wind, and snow. The ground is white with snow again on October 23 and eight days later, 9° shows on the thermometer.

The usual car rides occur, meaning that Carrie is on the road three or four days a week, if not more, most of them being the short drives or an occasional business ride with Trum, or the summer Sunday drive. One of their rides to East Durham was one in which Trum had to clean the spark plugs four times and change one flat tire.

On June 5, they go to Sussex, New Jersey to see Dorothy in New Jersey on a hot day that produced three flat tires by the time they got there. In June, Leone and Ralph goes to Union College's graduation exercises with Harrison and Lucy. In July, Stanley and Gerald go to NYC. Leone who has driven quite a few times already takes her driver's test and gets her license.

July 31 means a trip to East Windham and Silver Lake, Prattsville, a stop to visit, and Gilboa. A few days later, they go with Leone and Ralph to Crystal Lake and Livingstonville. The following week, Trum and Carrie travel to Middleburgh, the Old Fort, lunch, North Blenheim, Grand Gorge, and Windham. On August 23, Trum, Carrie and Scott's family go up the Clove Road and to East Windham. The following Sunday, Trum and Carrie drive to Gilboa, Grand Gorge, Hunter, East Windham, and to the new hot dog stand just below East Windham.

On September 9, Ralph, Leone, Alfred Hunt and his wife, and Antoinette drive 200 miles to the North Woods. Ten days later, Trum and Carrie go to Albany for mill fixtures, come

back by New Salem and Clarksville, and call on Attie VanDyck at Indian Fields. On September 20, Leone takes Ralph to school at Schenectady. In October, Stanley's and Clarence's families start for Niagara Falls. The last big drive of the year starts on November 14 when Trum and Carrie "start for Sussex, fierce wind, swayed car, surprise birthday cake from Dot & Bill, 62 candles." The next day, upon their return, "Ruth had oyster stew all ready."

The mill enterprise is still running at top speed. A few events include Stanley moving goods to Hartford CT in February. In March, Clarence's and Ed's teams ran away at the mill but caused no harm. In May, Stanley starts with his first load of milk for Post & Co. to Catskill, with a second hand truck to use. Business customers frequently mentioned are Payne and Weldon, both of East Durham. On June 10, Trum cuts a flag pole for \$1.50 and resells for \$10; Carrie notes, "Now dont tell every body you see about it."

In July, Stanley is trying to get Clarence to drive the milk route, and Stanley's truck breaks down in Ticonderoga. Also in July, Scripture (Scriptor is how Carrie often spells it) Bridge is getting new lumber. The new mill site, one that John Hull of Durham helps out with, on a Potter Hollow hillside has no water and bad roads.

Details of note about school include Gerald winning the freshman class speaking prize of \$10, and the District Superintendent visits the Norton Hill school house when Dorothy is subbing.

Enough details about the state road deserve their own paragraph. The main street in Norton Hill must have been approved to undergo its first paving. In April, the contractors have begun to store some things under the church sheds. A steam shovel is set on Edgar's lot and in early May, the road crew is putting culverts through the street. In June, the crew is setting up the stone crusher by the sand bank north of the cemetery and Carrie notes the steam shovel is working through the street. In July, the road men are drilling and blasting very near Carrie's house but everything is OK. The grading of the road continues and in October, the road crew is leveling the

street a little. Carrie announces the pouring of the concrete is getting closer and is finally up to John Miller's (according to Leone, that is the farm on the junction of 81 and Old Plank). In November, Carrie notes, the "Italians are working along the street filling in by the concrete."

Other details from the year go as follows. In February, for Pearl's wedding, Leone and Mary Roe trim her car and give her a send off with rice. March 4 is the second inauguration of Coolidge. One night, Carrie listens to a "very good darkie program on the radio." In April, Merritt is fixing the milk room to send milk to Catskill.

In July, "Dean Davis brot our new Ford down & took the old one back. We paid \$285.50 difference." Later in the month, they go to a Graham Stock show in Oak Hill. In October, the family listens to the World Series on the radio and later Pittsburgh wins the Series in seven games. In late October, Ruth calls that "old Prince horse died yesterday."

In the local elections, Stanley wins his post but Henry OKeefe is defeated for Supervisor. November 11 is Armistice Day but Carrie notes "not much demonstrations, except a few flags." On the last day of 1925, Carrie lets the reader know that she has "No fault to find."

1926

At the beginning of this summary, a philosophical note was made that quick changes are very rare, that it is the passage of time that allows us to notice the way we used to be. However, the Ingalls do have a day that changes their life. And that day is January 31, 1926.

The year had started so well. Carrie must have been excited to be a grandmother twice more. On January 14th, Scott and Elgirtha have a son, and eleven days later, Dorothy and Bill have their first child.

Somehow, Carrie has a led a charmed life. With all the chances for disaster and tragedy, all of it has passed her family by, with the exception of the death of her sister during Carrie's early years of marriage. Carrie notes the tragedy of neighbors who die untimely deaths. Her own children get seriously sick, and Carrie worries as if they could die, but everything turns out OK.

Although the parents die, they die in due time. Although I know Carrie Ingalls is not immune to these events, **it is with some shock that January 31 is the beginning of a sad time for Carrie Spalding Ingalls.** Her diary as usual is understated but the strength of some of the statements, compared with what we are used to, best tells this story.

Jan 27, 1926

Cold & windy. We had phone message from Sussex that Dorothy was bad wanted us to come. Stanley took us down stayed all night with us. Found Dorothy very very bad. Pop & I stayed in the Hospital all night. I slept in the room with here on a cot she rested fairly well. Bill & Stanley drove over a 100 miles to get a nurse

Jan 28, 1926

Fairly pleasant but a terrible high wind. Some times we think Dorothy a very little better & again is worse has delirious spells & some chills. We slept down at the home to-night.

Jan 29, 1926

I guess the wind didn't blow quite so hard. At the Hospital most of the time. Dot very bad at times. a little better at times. In Hospital all night had a private room rested some but no sleep.

Jan 30, 1926

Fairly pleasant I guess. We thot Dot a little better. But toward night grew rapidly worse cant see any thing can be done had 3 Drs' in again & good nurses. Bill went to Middletown to get Mrs. Gay she came All went to the Hospital stayed all night. We had a private room.

Jan 31, 1926 Sunday

Cloudy. & Such a day. We cant describe it. We all came down from the Hospital had a little breakfast in our home. Pop & I phoned home to have Warren & Leone come. Dorothy died abut 1-30 We all stayed at the Hospital last night none of us slept. Warren & Leone came about 3 oclock. Undertaker brot Dear Dorothys body down to their home. Poor Bill & the baby. Draw the curtain.

Feb 1, 1926

Rain & sleet. Every thing a glare of ice in Sussex. came a little bit of snow. so it was possible to drive. Had a little service here at Bills & Dots' home The Sussex Undertaker took the body to Middletown Met Cunningham there transfered

there & came on. Got home at 7-30. found all the boys & most of the girls here. Mrs. Gay & Dorothys' dear little baby boy William Ingalls Gay came with Warren pop & I. Bill drove his car & Leone came with him. Pearl Matthews Hand has a baby born to day

Feb 2, 1926

Sun shines a very little. Boys & girls first one & another coming & going. Some of them here to-dinner. I'm writing up my diary fro a week back. Wish I could skip them. We have got to meet it. Home again.

Feb 3, 1926

Weather very good. Ransom met Mr Gay & Florence at Albany got here in time for the funeral at 2 oclock. Had a very large funeral. 21 pieces of beautiful flowers. Some of their friends from the Delhi School were here Dottie Boyes & Durwood Youngs among the out of town. Rev. Hulst & Locett were the ministers. Snowing to night Ralph came home from school.

Feb 4, 1926

About a foot of snow & still snowing. Stanley went to Greenville to commence work with the Tractor. Pop & Bill started out to take Mr Gay & Florence to Cocksackie. they got down there & are back to Greenville but hav'ent got home yet about 8 oclock. They came at 10-10 A foot of snow they think.

Feb 5, 1926

Wind blowing some yet. Stanley gone back with the scraper again. Our folks around home. Bill shoveling some paths Pop went over & milked Stanleys cow. Mrs. Gay taking care of little William. Ralph in this eve. I'm not doing much

Feb 6, 1926

Fairly pleasant. had phone from Scotts their baby very sick. Bill took me over. Cant any body understand what is his trouble. Died at 12-30 Double trouble for us all. We drove to Albany to see Bill & his Mother & little William off for their home at Oneonta. Leone drove Bills car home. Edna with her Pop & I came with the Ford. commenced to snow as we left Albany snowed all the way home very hard driving. Called at Scotts when we came thro Greenville. Road had been scraped from here to Albany by way of Cocksackie.

Feb 7, 1926 Sunday

Snow blowing some. but the roads are not blocked. Roy Dell & Philip came down to dinner Leone took them over to Scotts. Ralph went with them. Ralph was here to dinner. Philip here to-night. Warren & Margaret here in the after-noon.

Feb 8, 1926

A pleasant day for winter but cold to-night. We went to Greenville. to our little Grand son's funeral. Scott & Elgirthas' little boy. Our experience for the past few weeks has been well -- terrible. I cant write much about it. Read between the lines. Bill came out with Ransom & Ethel to the funeral. The babys name was Walter LeRoy Ellis. 3 weeks old.

These deaths flavor the whole year, and references to Dorothy's death will happen for years. On February 10, Bill starts back home to his "lonely home in Sussex." On the 24th, Carrie gets a box from Bill of Dorothy's possessions. "We unpacked box & put things away. It seems like sweeping up the last of a happy family. Why? We have to cry."

Bill Gay comes to Norton Hill on the 26th, and leaves on the 28th. Sometime in the next two months, it has been decided that the baby will be cared for by Bill's parents who live near Oneonta. On April 24, Trum, Carrie, Elgirtha, Philip and Leona go to Oneonta to see the baby. On May 8, they again go to "Oneonta or near there for Gays, to see Dear Dorothys' baby boy William Ingalls Gay." The next day, they leave. "Seems so sad to leave the dear little boy behind but he is getting the very best of care." Any discussion of who got custody of the baby is not referred to in the diary, but Carrie's pain is accentuated even more by the baby being so far away.

On May 13, Carrie and Leona "cleaned Leonas clothesroom. Seemed liked a funeral found so many of Dorothys old letters and cards." On the 28th, she goes to Catskill for potted plants for Dorothy's grave, and Bill visits Norton Hill. On the 30th, the flowers are planted at the cemetery. On June 6, "Pop & I to cemetery, watered plants on Dear Dorothys grave. why did she have to go."

On June 18, the Ingalls travel to Oneonta again, the baby is grand, and they see Dorothy's

good friend, Dottie Boyes. On June 23, Carrie notes that it is "three years today since Bill & Dorothy were married."

On October 9, during the clambake, Carrie writes that it is the "first family gathering since Dear Dorothys death, hard so hard for Bill as well as the rest of us." On November 6, the Ingalls travel to "Oneonta. good dinner at Davenport Center, baby William well & happy. He certain is a grand baby & is taken care of splendid." And Christmas is another sad memory of a holiday that is the first one without Dorothy.

This traveling to the Gays will continue for years, and even today, I am told, that William Ingalls Gay, or Bill Gay as he is more commonly called, still keeps in touch with the family, and particularly Leona.

But there's more death or shadows of death. In September, Trum and Carrie will travel to Cornwallville to visit the cemetery and see the graves of old relatives, "Smiths mostly."

On September 24, death stalks the Spalding family, taking oldest brother Lon who died at 6 o'clock. Carrie has spent the whole day there and had spent parts of the few days leading up to this day. The funeral is on the 27th, and Carrie notes Lon was 55 years old, and that there was a large crowd.

And although I skip part of the story now, on December 2, Trum and Carrie get a call from Westkill where they have boarded Trum's sister Nellie. A Mrs. Clawson reports that Nellie is very low, and Carrie plans to go the next morning but she gets another call that Nellie has died. They bring her body back the next day, and the funeral is on the 4th at two o'clock.

Thus ends a year of death, one that Carrie has never experienced during her marriage years. The innocence is lost, and Carrie's suffering is shared by the reader, even if vicariously, during 1926 and the diary's years to come.

There are the usual family events, even if they are overshadowed by death. On March 11, Merritt and Ruth have a baby girl, whose name, Clarice Lucille, we learn six days later, a little sooner than for most of the grandchildren. It takes more than a month for Ruth to make her first visit to Carrie's house, a not surprising

amount of time for that era. (Consider today's debate of two days or three in the hospital, or even one day!)

In early April, Dr. Wasson comes to see the Elliots, and Claribel has the German measles. On May 12, Muriel breaks her collarbone but no one knows when she did it, and Claribel falls from the upper part of the barn. Muriel and Adrian are taken to Albany, where Muriel has her arm strapped back, Adrian has his eyes checked.

Nellie's death was reported before, but after Adaline's death, Nellie must have become more of a burden than Trum and Carrie could bear. They scout around and go to Westkill to see Mrs. Clawson. Carrie notes that Leona drove, and that it was "some experience for us all. Hope it turns out all right." On May 15th, they go to "Westkill to see Nellie, found her all right, seems to be contented, paid \$26, paid up until May 27." They go again on July 25 and find she is doing well. The next mention of Nellie is of her death. I wonder how much unease Trum and Carrie felt about sending Nellie to a "nursing home" but one can imagine they had already done all they felt they could.

The Ingalls Reunion is indeed a permanent organization and the 1926 version is held at Antoinette Gardner's, with about 120 descendants of Jacob Ingalls having a "very nice dinner. Everything went off very nice. Henry Ingalls gave quite nice little History of the family."

The Ingalls family goes to the Altamont fair but changes are coming. The racing is auto instead of horse. In October, Warren, Stanley, Merritt and Gerald go by boat to NYC to see the World Series, the results of which (St. Louis won) we hear about most of the days.

Thanksgiving is at Warrens, "a grand dinner & royally entertained. All there but Bill baby William & Clarice. Heart aches. but all try to keep it covered." And of course, Christmas is at Trum and Carrie's house.

Home life details show the usual energy. A few other details include March 5, when Carrie notes they "have been very lucky have only had to burn a little coke as sub, first hard cold day since the long strike." Trum has a "creek" in his back. Mr. Garrett has another poor spell and

comes into Carrie's part of the house to recuperate on their lounge and get warm. Carrie writes that "Pop officiated as Dr. as I was away."

In April, Trum goes to Miles Sisson's place in Medusa to press hay. In May, some men are setting an electric light pole in front of the house. I wonder if Carrie realizes what changes this will bring.

In June, a "stranger stops, about 9 o'clock, inquired way to Ravena & got a drink of water. Didn't like his looks very well." Leona is still seeing Ralph. Sharing living quarters must be getting to Carrie because she notes that "Garrett is rather troublesome so also his sister Ida." Garrett must be declining in health enough that by the end of June, Garrett's two daughters pay a visit and travel with Trum and Carrie to Westkill to find a place for him. A month later, it doesn't matter because Garrett dies at Clark Bryant's house, buried from Wessel's, and Carrie writes that no one wanted him. "Now he has a place to stay."

Carrie is pitting and canning cherries, seven quarts of them on August 3. The Ingalls attend a masquerade at Warren's. In late August, "some one or something stole our meat we were going to have for supper." And Carrie notes a clam chowder supper at the Greenville Church.

The mill work continues as it has before but a few details warrant some attention. Sales must be slow at times because Carrie seems uncharacteristically impatient on March 17 when she and Trum "drove over to see Payne. doesn't do a great deal of good to just look at him."

On May 4, she and Trum go "out to Scotts Patent, stay all night, rather unassuming quarters, a very grand view of the old Catskills although we wouldn't like to live this way it makes another experience to look back on." Clarence and Stanley are mentioned frequently in working with Trum. More plank is heading for "Scriptor Bridge". In early June, Trum goes to Shady Glen (today's site of the Zoom Flume) with John Hull about selling lumber.

The **road construction** does not garner as much attention as I thought it might. **On May 18, Carrie notes that the concrete is near the house.** On August 7, they ride on the concrete af-

ter supper, and the mixer is nearly to Jerry Rundell's. A paved road, as those who witnessed the first ones tell it, made a big difference in year long travel and certainly must have made pleasure travel as well as business travel much more convenient.

The rides follow the usual pattern. Note is made here of the ones different from the rest. In late May, Trum and Carrie are "in Saugerties, visit cousin C.A. Spaulding on Barclay Heights, we suppose he is a millionaire, makes no difference to us, he used us very nice, asked us to call again." On July 5, they go to see the Cocksackie Reservoir and proceed to the village to watch the fireworks. A day later, they ride over the stone road from Greenville through Newry and on to Indian Fields.

A bit of whimsy must have hit on July 15 because they "went to mill for work, changed mind, back for clothes for ride, back to Broome Center & Gilboas, ice cream & bananas."

In late September, Trum and Carrie drive to "Chesterville, Riedsville, letter s down by Clarksville, Tarrytown to Lawsons Lake." A month later, on a ride on the State Road camp below Ashland, Carrie is "taken suddenly sick, could go no farther, carried me in Shack where Tom & Maud Simpson are, had Dr from Prattsville, Phoned for Warren & Dr. Wasson, came over, got well enough to be brot home at night. Boys & girls had coal stove up & warm house. Thanks., better in couple days."

The weather is typical eastern NY weather but a few details stand out. Nine inches of snow fall on January 9, and two days later Carrie goes out to see how the snow scraper works. Nine more inches fall in mid-February while the girls are in Sussex. On March 12, cabin fever must be setting in because Carrie notes that it is "12° above. When will we ever get any spring weather."

July is getting hot, with a reading of 80° at 6:30 a.m on July 10, and 96° later in the day. On November 16, a "hard rain form SE rain leaked through kitchen wall" as well as the rooms upstairs.

To finish off 1926, here are some other details. On January 25, there was a "little fire under church shed, put it out, don't know what

started it." The stage, something I would have thought would have disappeared by now, is mentioned going past in mid-February. Peter and Gertrude are home from a four week vacation down south.

In May, Carrie notes a new minister, a Mr. Lakeberg. In mid-May, Trum is helping Warren on the new golf course, and Leona works on the Alumni Banquet Committee.

For the Fourth of July, the Ingalls go to Warren's (60 guests) for fireworks and a ball game. In mid-July, the house on the Goff place burned. A week later, Warren had a weenie roast at Flat Rocks for 72 people. Late in the month, Merritt's Kitt horse is sick.

The Cairo Fair is held in August as usual, but a week later, Carrie notes that "times have changed. They are having the Lambs Corners picnic today & we didnt know about it until some one called us up." School commences and Hattie Spalding is the Norton Hill teacher. In early September, Trum and Carrie are "Ingleside presiders as care takers for day" because Warren has taken his guests on a trip to Indian Ladder and Warner's Lake.

One final piece worth noting is found in the Memoranda section of the diary, in which Carrie gives the ingredients of this year's clam-bake.

recipe: Clam Bake Menu - 1926 -

- Clams - 500
 - Chicken - 6 or 7
 - Fish - Medium Fish
 - Sweet Potatoes - 1 Pk.
 - Rolls - 6 doz.
 - Coffee - 1 lb. - Best -
- Clam pit**
- 4 ft across
 - 2½ ft deep

1927

Although the major strands of family, home and mill continue as they have before, the one event that shades the year somewhat differently is Dorothy's death. Carrie gets a letter from Bill Gay, and she notes that William Jr. is one year old. In March, the Ingalls ride to Oneonta, have "dinner at Davenport Center, Wm a grand

sweet baby, Looks a big bit like his Mother.” In April, Trum is grading the cemetery lot and setting shrubs, going back to trim the shrubs. As Memorial Day approaches, Carrie and Trum put pansies and plants in the cemetery.

In June, they pull up the shrubbery that didn’t grow. On June 10, the Gays and William come to Norton Hill to visit, and the whole family calls to see the “Dear little William”; the next day, 19 more come to see the baby. A week later, Trum and Carrie go to the cemetery to pick pansies.

In July, the Ingalls drive to Oneonta again on the concrete road. While there, they make a trip to Cooperstown, noting that the “little fellow was just as good as could be, walked all around, threw pebbles in the lake.” In November, a group of 17 Ingalls go to Oneonta, and in December, Trum and Carrie make the trip again. The only trace left of Dorothy is miles away, and this distance, I think, lies heavy on Carrie’s heart and mind.

Otherwise, family matters, visiting, etc., continue as usual. Some details from the year go as follows. In January, Trum and Carrie sell the lower place for \$1,000 to Mr. Schider. Leona goes regularly to Eastern Stars. Carrie goes to a party without Trum and she notes that it “seemed queer to me to go with out Pop.”

Nearing March, measles hits the family. First, Eleanor comes down with them, then Clifford, Edna and Randall all at once, then Claribel, and finally Scott. Wilbur Cornell has scarlet fever and Carrie expresses her worry.

In May, “Leona drove Scotts car to Albany with Elgirtha & Philip, Pop & I, to Dr. Beddells to consult about Philips eyes.” Mother’s Day is a busy day for the callers upon their mother. We finally know Ruth’s baby’s name, Elizabeth; it’s been over two weeks since her birth.

In May, 62 people are staying at Warren’s. In June, Ed has “quinzy”. In August, a baby girl is born to Clarence and Alliene, and Carrie takes the children up to see the baby.

In August, Trum and Carrie take a “ride by old Homestead, by old cemetery where my grandparents on Spaldng side were buried.” Over Labor Day, Warren has 105 people.

In October, Warren bought six cows, and Leona makes an appearance with a William Kingsley. She had been working for Warren over the previous nineteen weeks. Ruth is still looking for a hired girl, and Warren goes to a Knights of Pythias party.

In November, Stanley takes Gerald to Albany to go to Rochester where his parents are already visiting Jack Henry’s (Margaret’s brother-in-law, I believe). Thanksgiving 1927 is at Stanley’s and Carrie admires the grand time and good dinner. Christmas, as usual, is at Trum and Carrie’s, with “all there except Bill & William Jr & Janice. kids gave us electric appliance, iron, toaster, lamp, nice tree, kiddies gave entertainment.” Actually, Christmas is celebrated on the 24th since the 25th is a Sunday. On the 26th, Carrie and Trum are to a “Spalding Christmas, at Eds, Jerome there, George there.”

A few of the home details include the following. In January, there’s a Knights of Pythias party, and a week later, there’s a “colonial tea at Gertrudes, they sure look ancient.” In February, Leona is at Eleanor’s to see how an electric ironer works.

July 2 finds the “Ingalls Reunion at Addison Smiths at Cornwallville 108 took dinner, pleasant time. Stanley & Eds families all of our children that could go. up to Warrens, fireworks, 90 people there.”

A small change of landlord happens when Mrs. Garrett shows up on July 31 with her “new Husband Mr. Dillon.” In August, Carrie goes to moving pictures at Greenville and sees a picture she doesn’t like, even though it stars Lillian Gish.

It’s fair season, and Trum and Carrie go to Altamont on September 16 and to Cobleskill on the 28th. The family clambake has 38 at Clarence’s.

On October 7 and 8, **technology makes a big jump when Harold Bell wires the house.** In Albany, Trum and Carrie go to pick up Leona at the boat but don’t realize she is getting there on the train. After a nervous hour or two, they find each other and have two flat tires on the way home. The coal fire is started.

In November, election day sees Leona voting for the first time. And technology really “powers” a new era when the electric light men

put the meter in, and **the Ingalls turn on the lights for the first time.** For Christmas, Carrie dressed five chickens for the holiday dinner.

The mill continues as usual with a few details noted below. In May, Trum "bot a truck of Harry Yeomans for \$250, think it a good bargain" and later in the month, Trum and Carrie stay at the Kline house up at the Scotts Patent mill site.

In June, Trum goes to Leeds to see the old German (or just as often called the old Dutchman) Shuster who pays \$240 on lumber. In August, Trum is at the Omar Tallman wood lot, and is setting up a contract on the Whitbeck place.

Trum branches out a little when he does concrete work at Cunningham's. In October, we read the first of a series of contacts with Mr. Shepard who will order lumber for a barn.

Weather again is not much out of the ordinary except for a few details. In January, blowing snow causes "several cars (to be) stuck above So Westerlo near Stantons, men not home, stuck on Stellas hill." February 2 is "very bright & pleasant Not a very promising Bear day." February 20 snows six inches, and six days later sees ten more. The 50° mark is hit on March 13 and 14, with the snow nearly gone.

Late summer and most of the fall see very high water, the most in years, Carrie notes. The water is even up in the old meadows, and on one trip, the water on the Leeds flats blocks the way so they retrace their way back to Cocksackie.

The news about the roads is skimpy but Carrie notes the new concrete road to Cooksburg in April. In September, Trum and Carrie went to Potter Hollow Creamery with lumber and were "gone an hour & 20 min, times have changed since we were kids."

The rides and drives of 1927 see the usual, but the big drives seem much changed from the previous two years. In April, Trum and Carrie drove with Ransom to Castleton to see the "big bridge." In May, they "stopped at County Farm saw some old acquaintances," and a week and a half later go to the Ashokan Reservoir. On May 22, they ride to "East Windham to see Butts Hotel burn site." In late July, they drive "to Westkill called on Mrs. Clawson got the old clock finished settling with her."

A few other details of general category bear some notice. In January, Shirley Hunt is taken to Childs Hospital for a mastoids operation. In February, Trum and Carrie go "to Everett Palmers card party their 20th anniversary." Later in the spring, the "old Gideon Roe place, Mr. Rodgers house, part of barns burned."

In July, Trum and Carrie go "to Lambs Corners church, up to old Kate Smith & John Rundell place for old time sake. looks like a wilderness." In August, Clarence Jennings has a car accident on the main street with a Mr. Howard. Also, there is horse racing and motorcycle racing at the Elks Field Day at Cairo. The Lambs Corner picnic is finally held on September 10. In sports, the Yankees win in four straight, and Mr. Smelzer's house burns. In the elections, Stanley wins Superintendent of Highways by a big majority.

1928

In the mill world, Trum is selling "joice" (joists?) to the old German, drawing sawdust from South Westerlo to cover Warren's ice, and looking for a water gauge for the engine. There's a new mill site at Henry Whitbeck's, and Trum is cutting lumber for McNaughton's.

The labor force is getting skimpy, for on June 23, only the fireman shows and Trum has to stop for that day. In August, Trum buys a big pile of logs from Henry Niles for \$200.

Stanley's Reo truck burns in September and even though it is insured, it is quite a loss. The McNaughtons pay \$347 for lumber later that month. The following month, a man from the insurance building calls for lumber (the Pioneer Insurance?). In November, the Brockett job calls for 120,000 feet of lumber. In December, Trum moves Hattie's piano to the Durham Center school house.

The weather is spectacularly unspectacular. The first peepers are noticed on April 5, and an early July heat wave tests everyone's endurance and patience.

In the sports world, Greenville beat Catskill in May baseball, the Yankees win in four straight again, and Trum and Carrie go to Warrens to listen to the Tunney and Hennery bout which Tunney won.

No matter what we talk about, it is still Dorothy's death that flavors the diary. In late April, despite five inches of snow in the valley, Trum and Carrie make up their mind to go to Gays, have to put chains on at East Windham and get to Oneonta in four hours. Two days later, on their way home they "drove to Delhi up to old school building for old times sake."

In May, Leona and Carrie put "pansys on Dear Dorothy's grave." On the 30th, they go to the cemetery to sow grass seed on the lot. They also get a letter from Bill, with money for flowers for the grave.

Bittersweet flows from the June 18 entry when Carrie receives the "announcement of Bills marriage. We all know it is all right. But brings tears to our eyes." Late in June, the Gays visit, and the "little sweet heart has grown in size & talking." The July 5 entry notes that Dorothy would have been 24 years old. In August, Trum and Carrie go to the cemetery, mow the lot where two nice roses bloom. In November, Mrs. Gay sends a picture of William Ingalls Gay, and on the 18th, almost the whole family, four cars, go to Oneonta and have a "grand time".

Other family matters must go on. There are lots of card parties to attend, especially during the winter months; on March 2, they go first to a bridge party at Mrs. Kerney's and later to a pinochle party at Jerry Rundell's, which 34 people attend. In late February, Merritt and Ruth take Adrian to Albany to consult about Adrian's eyes.

In March, Trum is over to Stanley's listening to a fight. Leona is in and out, and Ruth is in Albany again for Adrian's eyes. Merritt pays \$150 in mid-April, probably for the mortgage, and in early May, Ruth is looking for a hired girl in Broome Center.

May 12 is Mother's Day, and "I had Mothers Day cards from a lot of the children & two boxes of candy. Tis sweet to be Remembered." June 3 is children's day at church and Bill Gedney calls, Carrie noting that he has been around the world.

Edgar's health is failing, first noted on June 19 when he goes to the hospital, followed by a June 22 operation which brings no good news. Carrie notes that the doctors don't think there is any help for him. Edgar dies on July 12,

Carrie writing that Edgar was not very young but his death was untimely. The funeral is two days later, and Carrie notes that "When one drops out the world moves just the same." Trum is now the surviving sibling, and Carrie notes his aches and lame back.

June 30 is the Ingalls Reunion at Henry Ingalls, with 108 attending. In August, Merritt is having trouble losing sheep and lambs. Trum and Carrie go to a corn and weenie roast at Warren's in mid-month, and again the Ingalls do not go to the Cairo Fair.

In October, Scott and family go to NYC to consult for Philip's eyes. Leone returns home, having been at Warren's for 18 weeks. October 20 is the clambake, this year at Warren's, and the recipe for this year's version goes as follows:

Clam-bake

- 650 clams
- 10 lb. fish
- 1 pk Sweet potatoes
- 6 chickens were very heavy
- 7 doz biscuit
- 2 lb. butter
- 1 lb coffee.
- 3 pumpkin pies
- Apple sauce cake
- 3 doz. crullers
- 35 people there
- Had quite a lot of most every thing left.
- The bake was on 2½ hrs.
- & every thing done just right.

In November, Leona goes to the Ingalside Reunion in NYC, ready to play her piece to sing. Later in the month, Stanley takes Merritt's family to Albany just in case Irene needs an appendectomy; she does not. Three weeks later, Leona goes with Ruth to Childs Hospital so that Muriel can have her "tonsils & Adenoids out." Christmas arrives with the family at Trum and Carrie's, 31 present. One of the children's gift to Trum and Carrie is \$25 in gold. On the 29th, they meet William Kingsley at the train.

The home details are not much different. A few drawing some attention go as follows. The new year starts out differently this year. "Happy New Year. We were home all day all alone No one called at here unusual. Nothing to write

about.” On the 25th, Carrie gets her diary and has to copy the entries she put elsewhere.

April 8 finds the Ingalls at Easter sunrise service. Later in the month, Carrie and Leona are tying off a quilt, and Trum and Carrie go to East Durham to get three nine-pound hams from Hallock at 25 cents a pound. Also in April, they go to the Hall to watch a drama put on with Athens talent which she thinks is very good, Leone is out with Connie Baumann.

Mrs. Dillon (the landlady) is in and out in early May, the coal fire is let to go out on May 16, and Carrie is down in the big woods and gets dogwood blossoms and pinksters.

In July, they pay Mrs. Dillon \$34 for two months rent. New tenants move into the other part of the house on August 1, Carrie noting they “seem very pleasant but they have a white dog & I’m sorry.” A month later, they’re gone.

The school year starts on September 4, Miss Thorpe is the teacher, and the grandkids - Randall and Clarabel (Carrie makes that second vowel an a or an i) - stop in from school.

The women often get their haircuts at the barbers. Carrie is sick in bed in early December, and Cornelia Yeomans has diphtheria and some are worried but hope it doesn’t spread.

The rides and drives are the usual with these few that stand out. In mid-February, Trum and Carrie drive to “Acra, site of barn burn, from explosion from still they think, two men burned in barn.” A week later, they go to Albany to Ransom’s, drive down Manning Boulevard, and see a show, My Maryland, which Carrie thinks is grand. Leona goes to church at Greenville with Stanley’s folks because it is “Mr Van Dycks last sermon here, been there 35 years.”

In August, Trum and Carrie go to Indian Ladder with Stanley’s family. Later in the month, they start for Scott’s but run out of gas. On August 27, they drive on the new State Road from Greenville to Cairo. And on October 4, “Warren Gerald & party of boys go to NY to see a ball game.”

Details of a general category for 1928 are as follows. The creek by Hamburg (I believe this is the corner of 81 and Saybrook Rd by Ten Mile Creek) is being banked. Harry Yeomans has \$100 stolen from his garage. In April, “Leona to Oak

Hill with Hattie & Co & got a chair for Clifford and Margarets wedding present from CE Society.”

On May 6, the Ingalls drive to Catskill to see the ruins of the Catskill fire. Two days later, Carrie notes “Mrs. Dillon had bad luck & spoiled Leones pen. I’m writing with what I can find.” June 22 and 23 each sees an accident in town, one day involving Potter Cameron, the other Charles Simpson.

Graduating this year were Katherine Gardner and Irwin Yeomas. In August, Peter Stevens’ dog Diana got killed by an automobile. In September, “Pierce Stevens & Ford Rundell buy threshing machine, drove to see buck wheat on Sherrill farm.” In the election, Carrie celebrates Hoover’s “greatest majority against Al Smith since the Civil War. Warren Stanley Scott us & family here for Jubilee.”

1929

The final year of the 1920s presents itself, and the effect of Dorothy’s death should be noted first. On March 23, Trum, Carrie and Leona go “to Oneonta, little William called us Grandpa & Grandma Ingalls, Aunt Leona, improved very fast.” In May, they visit the cemetery and mow the lots. The Grandparents Gay and William visit on the 24th, a letter from Bill with money for flowers for Memorial Day comes on the 29th, and Warren brought flowers -- beautiful yellow tulips and a rose bush -- for the grave on the 31st.

On June 1, they set out the bush and tulips, and mowed the lot. On June 23, Carrie notes that it was “Six yrs ago today Dorothy & Bill were married. It was a beautiful day then & is today. Roses then & now.”

In August, the Ingalls travel out to the Gays, calling on Oscar and Eleanor Lockett at Harpersfield. “Little Williiam is more friendly to us than he used to be, he came up & knocked on our door to call us.” They come back two days to find “everyone home ok except boarder lady form Horace Hunts, killed yesterday pm on corner by Ren Layman got hit by car as she ran across the road to get her dog, dog wasnt hurt.” In October, they get a letter from Mrs. Gay, saying the Gays would not be able to visit Norton Hill in the fall.

The pain appears to be softening a bit but not being able to have this grandson is a constant reminder of their personal tragedy.

The mill continues to go through its cycles. Oak and pine are the woods most mentioned but a rare entry about chestnut occurs. In March, Trum gets a rusty nail in the hand, and later in the month goes to Leeds and Mr. Bartke for business.

Very high April water would have washed away a mill bridge if they had not fastened it with cable. In late April, Trum goes bill collecting at Schuster's, Walser's and Howland's. In May, Trum sells 1,000 feet of pine boards to George Vanderbilt.

In June, Trum sells some 4x4's for a tunnel, probably the Basic Reservoir tunnel. Some Athens men call for boat building lumber.

July is hot and Carrie worries that Trum "isn't standing the heat very well but thinks he must work." Later in July, "Mr. Gardner the man from Basic Tunnel called, engaged some more lumber." Late in the month, Trum "saw old Dutchman, renewed his Bank Note." In October, Trum is selling lumber for Armstrong's barn. Late in November, Trum and Carrie "saw old Dutchman Shuster, very hard work to understand anything they say." In December, a pipe bursts but gets fixed quickly.

Family details abound as usual. Warren joins the Masons in January and takes Third Degree two months later. Trum was helping Merritt on the farm pressing hay when a rod broke again causing some trouble.

In April, **Stanley's children are baptized at church.** Elgirtha is rushed to the hospital on May 2 and Carrie reassures the reader that she is out of her trouble. We find out the next day that "Elgirtha lost baby girl premature birth so sorry for her." Carrie stays and visits Libbie Searles in Hospital. A few days later, Carrie is visiting Elgirtha and "studying human nature a little, talked with a few people in the Sun Parlor. World about the same all over."

May 11 is Mother's Day and Carrie gently protests that "I'm afraid us Mothers are noticed to much. 'But tis sweet to be remembered'." On May 12, Elgirtha finally sat up for a half hour and seems to return home sometime during the next week.

In June, Warren is making a baseball diamond, gets the seats and back stop ready, and celebrates with a game between Norton Hill and Ingalside, ending in a tie. William and Leona go to commencement exercises for Gerald.

The **Ingalls Reunion** is held June 29 at Trum and Carrie's with dinner at the Hall, with 114 attending, the **big news being that a Leonard Ingalls branch which had never attended came.**

July Fourth is spent at Warren's, with a "ball game, some stunts, and fireworks - a nice time." In August, Warren is building a larger ice house.

Domestic troubles give a rare appearance with Carrie's note that "Uncle George & Frank called, they have troubles of their own, Miller's (their son) wife is leaving." In late August, Carrie takes a cot down to Ruth for more boarders. On Labor Day weekend, Warren has 118 people.

Leona makes news in September. She "brings present friends have given her, talking over a wedding in near future." A bridal shower for Leona is given by Margaret at Everett Palmers with 25 ladies present. On September 26, Carrie and Leone go to Albany to get dresses, and to Greenville to get a marriage license.

The big day arrives October 1. "Leona the last & youngest of our family of nine was married today to William Kingsley of New York. Had a wedding of the family & five of Williams friends from NY 34 guests in all. Merritt & Ruth stayed to supper & the eve. We are alone now. The guests gave the Bride & Groom a good send off with rice etc." The next day, Carrie receives a telegram from William and Leone at Lake George. The newlyweds return on the 4th, and start packing for NYC for the winter. They leave for Brooklyn on the 5th, and with Leona's absence, Carrie has no children left at home anymore. It is indeed a departure from the days when ten for dinner was typical.

October 18 is the Ingalls clambake at Merritt's, although at the end of the diary, in the memorandum section, Carrie says it is the 19th. This year's recipe goes as follows:

- 700 clams
- 7 lbs. fish
- 6 chickens 25 lbs.

- 1 pk. sweet potatoes
- 4 pumpkin pies
- 1 apple sauce cake
- 3 doz. crullers
- 7 doz. biscuit
- 2 lb. butter

Had about 50 clams left. more fish than was eaten. Chickens about right. If the stone are good & hot 2½ hrs. is plenty long enough to leave the bake on.

On November 14, Carrie is 66 years old and opines that she is in “pretty fair shape for my years.” In late November, Carrie is planning out the names for Christmas presents.

November 24th is Trum and Carrie’s 44th anniversary. “Been a long journey but seems short.” Thanksgiving is at Stanley’s, “chicken & everything that goes with it. Merritts folks at Elliotts, letter from Leona, first year in some time our family havent been together on Thanksgiving Day.”

December 5 is Ed and Min Rivenburg’s 40th anniversary. On December 23, Clarence is celebrating Christmas with the Beers family, comes home, learns that Olin Beers has just died, and had to go back. Thus, Christmas dinner at Carries is “somewhat broken up, Beers funeral at 1, Masonic funeral, dinner at three, lunch after the tree, Merritts children & Claribel didnt come, whooping cough, only 8 grandchildren, nice tree.”

Home details are the usual with some others noted here. In January, ice is cut, and card games is a popular social activity. On January 23, “William Kingsley sent me this diary to-day. very glad to get it.” A card club at Stanley’s in February attracts 39 people. Trum goes to Dean’s to get 25 pounds of buckwheat flour, and Leona goes to Greenville to get her hair “waived” with Bertie and Eleanor. In mid-February, Leona goes to Albany “with Mina & Virginia Lampman on LAS business.”

Later in February, Trum and Carrie attend an “entertainment at Greenville for the Library Fund”, and played pinochle and listened “on radio to a fight in Florida.” In March, Trum buys meat from Uncle Ed, this time getting a smoked shoulder.

May means the Senior Play at Greenville. The coal fire has been out for a while but on May 23 Carrie notes it is “too cold to sit up until bed time.”

They plant the garden on June 8 -- sweet corn and beans. In July, Carrie extends her subscription to the Catskill Examiner, and helps sew a little on the Church carpet. Also, the chain to the barn breaks and must be fished out of the well. The Dillons make a short appearance.

Mrs. Dillon has a boarder in the other side in early to mid-August who uses Carrie’s phone for long distance calls. Carrie notes the boarder paid \$1.60 for a call to NYC and \$.90 to Stamford. In mid-August, Carrie has a dry spell noting that “I guess I dont do any thing worth writing down.” (Hard to tell by this summary.)

In the sports world, Greenville beats Cairo 31-1 in May, and in October, Carrie listens to the World Series from Chicago.

The building of the Alcove Reservoir is happening. On April 3, Trum and Carrie “went to Alcove, look over new construction, making dam to supply Albany with water.” Two days later, Trum and Clarence go to the Tunnel and Alcove. In early September, Carrie and Trum drive to Alcove, the Basic and Indian Fields where the workers are wrecking all the buildings. On November 1, they drive in their Coupe to Indian Fields and Carrie notes the houses are nearly all torn down and all the rubbish is burned.

The weather is fairly normal, although a little more different than the quiet year before. A February 22 storm dumps 12 inches of snow. In early March, 8 inches of snow fall in 2½ hours.

April 8 sees an 86° reading. On June 21, “terrible heavy thunder struck large locust tree near Burt Griffins, also some at Greenville, put Warrens phone out of order.” Late July sees an extended hot spell, as does early September. One day, it is 88° in the shade at 1 p.m. and Carrie fears for the buckwheat. On September 4, it is 97° in the shade. The fall turns out to be beautiful that year.

The rides and drives of 1929 are more noticeable than the previous year. In February, Leona goes to NYC by train. In April, Trum and Carrie go “with Stanley & Eleanor to Gilboa Dam, grand sight, water running over, 2 feet

snow in mts. Freehold, up new State road to Greenville. All the roads are a great improvement on the old ones. Stanleys folks to new Montgomery Ward store in Albany.”

In May, Trum and Carrie drive to Tivoli and call on Florence Gay Moore. In August, they go to the “old Cairo Fair, down new state road from Greenville to Cairo, not quite finished. small crowd.”

The first of two long rides starts on October 26. I'll let the diary entries tell this story.

Oct 26, 1929

Fairly pleasant. Sun shines part of the time. Warren Margaret & Gerald Stanley & Eleanor (Trum & I) start 8-30 for our trip north. Went to Albany Saratoga Glens Falls ate dinner here. through several small places to Ticonderoga stopped there awhile looked around the Fort. Then to Port Henry where we ate supper & are staying all night. Stan & Eleanor Warren & Gerald gone to pictures. We went to Lake George from Glens Falls. Drove about 150 miles.

Oct 27, 1929 Sunday

Drove about 150 miles to-day. Fairly pleasant until nearly night when we had a thunder shower. We started good season from Port Henry. Went to West Port, drove up thro' the Street & saw the place where John VanDycks people used to live & where we visited them 28 or 29 yrs. ago. From here went to Ausable Chasm & on to Ausable Forks to dinner & a grand chicken dinner. Then drove to Tupper Lake where we stay all night. We went thro Lake Placid Ray Brook & Saranac Lake. I havent put this in where it belongs.

Oct 28, 1929

We start about 7-30 from Tupper Lake. go thro' several small places to Ogdensburg. The Phythian Home where we stopped & went thro'. Then we went to Alexandar Bay & Thousand Islands had dinner there. Then we went by Motor boat thro' the Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence river. It was a beautiful sail. Came on to Watertown where we are staying at the Woodruff house. Supper at a Restaurant. Stanley is'nt feeling good. Drove about 200 miles to-day.

Oct 29, 1929

Cloudy morning in Watertown. Start about 8 oclock on the home stretch. Got to Johnstown to dinner to Amsterdam Schenectady Altamont &

home about 4 Made 200 miles to-day. Had a grand trip. Sun shone this P.M. Found every thing all right. Lots of mail to look over & some callers. Mr. Hart came in to order lumber. Mr. Brown to settle a small account for Cora Winne. Traveled about 700 miles on our trip.

The second long trip starts a week later, and again the entries tell this story.

Nov 7, 1929

Very pleasant. Trum. is'nt working to-day. Just making it pleasant for me to start for New York. Ruf. here to dinner & taking lumber to Surprise then to Woodstock. We get ready after dinner & go to Warrens Ed. takes us to Albany. Say good bye to Pop. he & Ed go home. Warren Margaret & I went to pictures have supper & go on boat we are now sailing down the Hudson & I'm getting ready to rest. Margurite Snyder & Nora Carlson are sharing my State Room.

Nov 8, 1929

Cloudy & lousy all day & a few sprinkles of rain. Warren gets his party together & Taxies us from the boat to the Hotel Herald Square. We had breakfast on the boat. Dinner at Childs Restaurant. Lounged around & went to Macys' big store. Got ready & went to the big party we have been thinking about so long. It was a great success. nearly 400 people there. Saw a lot I knew & a lot I did'nt know. I came home with William & Leona stay in their house in Brooklyn.

Nov 9, 1929

Cloudy morning. Sun shone in afternoon. William went to work. Leone & I breakfast late. Went down town in Brooklyn. had lunch in a Chinese Restaurant. Did some shopping mostly things to eat for over Sunday. Williams father came over for the evening.

Nov 10, 1929

Very pleasant morning. Got up very late. Leona & I walked out around & little I mailed a lot of cards to the Grandchildren. Warren & Margaret came over to dinner. We all went out in the Eve awhile had sodas etc. Warren & Marg. went back to Harveys.

Nov 11, 1929

Cloudy & rains a little. William & Leona gone to work. Mrs. Kingsley called. Mrs. Tysons friend Mrs. Paula - with car & took me to Mrs. Tysons took her & went for a ride around the City. We

went to pictures in the eve.

Nov 12, 1929

Beautiful morning. Leona starts at 9 for her work. I went out to lunch with Mrs. Kingsley Sr. down town to a Chinese Restaurant. Leona got home about 4 She came over to new York to the night boat with me. Warren & Margaret were there. William came over to see us off. & went home with Leona. We are now above Newburg & I'm ready to retire. We ate supper on the boat.

Nov 13, 1929

Some cloudy & a little fog in Albany. This morning. They had to drop Anchor on the boat near Kingston & stand still for about four hours. I slept very well not knowing just what was going on but knew there was no excitement so that where ignorance is bliss tis folly to be wise. Ed Cornell & Trum. was in Albany to meet us was very glad to see them & to get home. We went to Stanleys to dinner & drove up to So Westerlo to see Clarence & Allienes new baby girl born last night the 12th.

Rounding out the year is a November 16 drive to Oneonta. "William sure seemed to be glad to see us" and they drive back on 18th. The last noted ride of the year is on December 10 when Trum and Carrie go to Catskill to the Ex-Supervisors meeting, to supper and pictures, and are home about 11-30.

Some of the other details of 1929 go as follows. In February, "Harry Yeomans talking of building a garage", Linda Gordon lost her DAR breast pin, and 30 men singers of the Glee Club give a concert at the church.

On March 4, it was a "Very pleasant morning for the Inauguration of our new President Herbert Hoover while the retiring Calvin Coolidge steps very quietly out to his old home in Northampton Mass. We went to Stanleys to listen on Radio to the Inauguration heard the Oath taken by Hoover & all the Cabinet etc. also his Address." Carrie thinks it is "Wonderful".

In April, Trum and Clifford go to Treadwell to exchange the Greenville minister's goods for the Treadwell minister's goods. They pass within sight of the Gay house but have no time to stop. In late April, Trum and Carrie go to Ed's "to clam pie supper in honor of Helen Squier, she was there for visit."

In June, five planes fly overhead in the morning, and Roy Barnes' place, the old Israel Utter place, burns. In July, the community celebrates the "Reopening of church, been about 3 months fixing it. quite a turnout."

In August, "one of Stanleys road men, Butler, got piece of stone in eye, to hospital." In October, Gene Howe's horse is stuck in the swamp and Trum takes tackles up to free it. In September, Carrie notes that there are 66 inmates in the County Farm, headed by Mr. Barker.

Election time in 1929 draws some unusual comment from Carrie. "Clarence lost as Town Superintendent, Howard for Supervisor. Politics are peculiar, Rob VanHouten won out over Ford Rundell in our Town. It pays to be a grafter. Stanley was indorsed on both Tickets so he won for Town Super. It pays to be honest."

In December, Trum and Carrie are driving and "ran out of gas by Merritt Mabeys hill, started to walk to Husted's, Evans Griffin came along & brot us home. Good boy." Arch Matthews garage burned, and the Ingalls slept through all the noise close by because Trum had kept them up late with his coughing. Arch's Jewitt car burned." The toilet that burned was rebuilt on the 17th. The last day of the year, and of the 1920's, warrants Carrie's note that "we are end of another year gone very quietly. everything is beginning & ending."

So, the 1920s end. Even though I have the sense that the end of the nineteen-teens meant a slowing down of life, as it well should, the 1920's gradually continues that trend, although one could argue that based on all the activity described in this summary.

The move off the farm allows Trum and Carrie to rid themselves of one giant source of concern and work. Trum can concentrate on the mill, while Carrie can live life at a slower pace. Nine children and an increasing number of grandchildren give Trum and Carrie numerous chances to enjoy the fruit of almost 45 years of marriage.

The wealth of detail obtained from the vibrancy of their 20s, 30s and 40s is missing but the reader does not begrudge these two people slowing down a little. They still have relatively

excellent health, something that people living to their 60s should have been grateful for. They have witnessed a number of changes that have altered their life together in ways neither one could possibly have imagined at the beginning of their marriage.

The automobile has changed their lifestyle in a ten year period, as it did most Americans. The radio and electricity have made the world smaller in ways unimaginable before the decade. Despite this, the bonds of family and community are two very strong elements of their life, and people like Trum and Carrie, of which every successful town needs a core to keep it going, add stability to the long range growth of the town.

Although the stereotypical glitter of the 1920's and the grayness of the Depression onset, as often portrayed in national histories, is not clearly seen in the diary, some of these national trends must have been experienced. **The Greenville area was reaching its historic population low**, but for the Ingalls, it is a good time to watch the next generation live their primes.

That being said, the death of Dorothy Ingalls Gay during childbirth in 1926 is a sobering blanket on the rest of the decade. Although Carrie knows that life needs to be lived, the memory of Dorothy shows in many aspects of this tightly-knit family.

The end of this decade makes it clear that the torch of strength and vitality has been passed on to Trum and Carrie's children. Maybe for Warren and Carrie, the torch had been theirs the decade earlier. Ransom's, Elgirtha's, Clarence's and Stanley's families are clearly settled and come of age in this decade, as does Ruth's, now the caretaker of the homestead. Leona, being the youngest, is just undergoing what her oldest brother had gone through nearly two decades earlier.

Although I wish them well, I sense that Trum and Carrie will do well to have one more active and healthy decade. A bit of nostalgia, bittersweet, and longing creep over the reader, knowing the inexorable cycle of life must soon close on this chapter. Yet, these two people have lived a life that many would call the American dream.

On to the 1930's.

(A thank you goes to **Harriet Rasmussen** for her proofreading)