

Although these old people have natural gas and electricity available, they prefer the older ways. They still heat and cook with wood in their wood burning stoves. Mrs. Ross talks about the old days when all cooking for Sunday was done on Saturday, as no work was to be done on Sunday.

In the old days she tells that there were no doctors available. The older men and women treated whatever sickness and injuries that came. Rheumatism, lumbago, chills, legripe, flu, or whatever the ailment they had a remedy and treatment. They were well versed in the use of herbs, roots, and other things of nature. She recalls when the terrible flu epidemic raged thru the country during World War I and all of her family was down. She treated them herself with herbs and cured them all, while many others died. The community south of their home place in Big Creek district suffered heavily from that 1917-1918 epidemic, as evidenced by the large number of graves in the Ball Cemetery, who died during that period. She puts much store in old remedies where skunk grease, turpentine, hay piffle, brown sugar, coppers, roots, herbs, and other things of the earth sufficed their needs.

She tells of the knowledge the old midwives had. All nine of her children were delivered by midwife, as they had no doctors in their area then. The Midwives were well versed in their profession. They tended their patients with care probably exceeding that of an M.D. They knew how to turn the baby for proper positioning long before its arrival, they could tell if stillbirths were evident; they knew treatments for infections, and were experts at delivery time and recuperation.

The generation of this old couple are rapidly disappearing. With them also goes a way of life that the younger generations could have profited from. A concept of time, the value of the material, and a concern for others are some of the things passing from the American scene.