

# Farmer's diary reveals details of life in 1800s

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In those days Monroe County citizens paid off part of their taxes by doing work on the roads. Knight was apparently responsible for a particular section of the township. In one notation regarding such work in

June of 1894, he mentioned having attended to repairs on Sexton, Chestnut and Gillman roads.

Knight's two horses were named "Bell" and "Jack." They both were in the diary on the occasions when their owner was obliged to have

them shod at a cost of 20 cents by blacksmith John W. Chandler.

A marksman, Knight frequently went to shooting matches, and the entry fees were duly noted in a year-end summary of expenses. That he enjoyed hunting is

evident from the number of entries about how many squirrels he bagged. On Feb. 15, 1894, Knight wrote in his dairy, "Went fox hunting this morning with Jack Armstrong, John Rogers, Willie Jacobs and Charley Parnell... didn't start any one..." Other recreation included playing "uchre" and evening visits to neighbors' houses for supper.

From reading Knight's diary one also gets a picture of how really hard farm life was in those days. His chores of plowing, fence building, hoeing, sheep shearing, planting, repairing and rebuilding were interspersed with some extra money-making work that included making spokes, ax handles, hoops and fireplace mantels.

Knight was remarkably well, considering how hard he worked. In 1893-94, for example, he reported being sick some nine days (not in succession). In March of 1894 he wrote with some frustration, "Sickes I ever

was in all my life was to night all night." At another place in the diary Knight noted that he delivered a load of firewood to the doctor, presumably in lieu of payment for services rendered. The bill may have been occasioned by the doctor's attendance at the birth of a daughter in the Knight farmhouse. On Feb. 24, 1894, he wrote, "A Frolic here tonight a girl — 10 lbs at nine o'clock came in to the world."

Woven through Knight's diary entries is a largely unexpressed faith in his work and that the land would yield a living for his family. Apart from a reference to doing some volunteer repair work at the "meeting house" and a notation about taking time out for Christmas dinner, there is only one indication of how Knight felt about his creator. The last entry, on Dec. 31, 1898, says, "This ends another year in which we all enjoying tolerable good health and The Good Lord keeping us through another year..."

## y on TV

7:00 **2 3 11 HEE HAW**  
**4 LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE**  
**6 TAKING ADVANTAGE**

**10 ENTERTAINMENT THIS WEEK** Featured: an interview with James Stewart, whose 1954 film "Rear Window" is in re-release; Morgan Fairchild in England for a Robin Hood spoof; a profile of movie mogul Louie B. Mayer.

**13 DANCE FEVER**  
**12 ERNEST ANGLE**  
**33 SOLID GOLD**  
7:30 **6 THE MUPPETS** Guest: Hal Linden.  
**9 SISKEL & EBERT AT THE MOVIES**  
**13 AMERICA'S TOP**

**GRAMMING WILL BE ANNOUNCED.**  
8:00 **2 DIFF'RENT STROKES**

**4 SOLID GOLD**  
**6 38 T.J. HOOKER**  
**8 10 11 HERE COMES GARFIELD** Animated. The slovenly cat feels pangs of guilt after arranging a prank for which the pet dog of his owner's roommate is sent to the local pound. (R)

**9 RAY MEYER: ONE MORE TIME** A tribute to the Depaul basketball coach as he ends his 42 year coaching career.  
**13 COLLEGE BASKETBALL** Kentucky vs. Louisville

**12 LOWELL LUNDSTROM**

10:30 **9 NEWS**  
**12 WORDS OF LIFE**  
**10 THE PLUMBER** A woman (Judy Morris) isolated from her friends and family experiences five days of mental torment that change her life when a plumber (Ivar Kants) comes to her house for a simple maintenance job. Peter Weir directed this psychological thriller.

11:00 **2 6 8 10 11 13 NEWS**  
**12 THE LESSON**  
**13 SALUTE**  
**11 SPORTS**  
11:30 **2 3 SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**