

AN INTERVIEW WITH ELI ROHNER

I can remember candle days and how we made them using a box with inch wood siding and 1 inch ends. Men all wore boots and us(sic) & all the neighbors, got one of these boxes boots came in and kept it for years to mold candles. Box was about 10 inches wide, 14 inches high & 4 feet long. The interior was fitted using the lid and a few other pieces, tapering holes bored and the tallow poured in around boughten (sic) wicks. Then they were lifted out by slides 12 at a time. The wicks were tied and looped to center of each hole. The candles were about 10 inches long.

Our first oil lamp, first two in our section, had a low round base with handle. The neighbors all came to see it and what a sensation it was to read by this compared to candle light. You could not appreciate this unless you lived by both as I done (sic)...

FROM: American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 –

1940. www.memory.loc.gov/ammem Accessed: 12/17/2013

Person Interviewed: Eli Rohner, Hastings, NE

Interviewer: L.A. Rollins Date: January, 1939