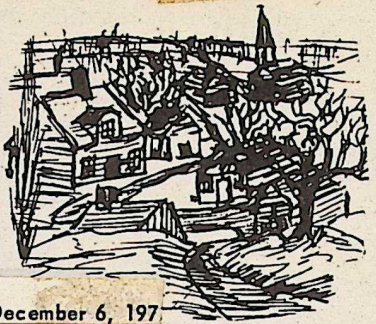


Village View by Andrea Leonard



VILLAGE ADVERTISER December 6, 197

The other day I picked up a carton of milk to pour a glassful for lunch and was struck, quite unexpectedly, with memories of milk as it used to be and is no more.

Probably it's thirty years since any of us has seen milk sold in a glass bottle. Besides out of the cow, that's the only way it used to come.

Before dawn each morning, the milkman used to deliver the four or five quarts that was our family's daily requirement.

If you happened to be awake that early, you'd hear the bottles tinkling as he ran from his wagon to the back doorstep, with his metal basket carrying the bottles.

The first thing Mother did, each day, was bring in the milk, wipe off the bottles, and store them in the icebox.

In winter it was important to bring them in soon because, left out, they'd freeze. Then the liquid swelled, the bottle caps -- small cardboard discs -- rose high above the column of frozen cream always floating to the top of the bottle.

Frozen milk had a different taste. Sometimes we found tiny crystals of ice floating in our breakfast milk. If you let your glass sit a few minutes the crystals melted, but if you drank it immediately, you felt the ice melt on your tongue.

The first milk-shake, perhaps?

The cream at the top of the bottle was carefully poured off for Father's coffee. When homogenized milk began to appear it took us some time to get used to the taste with the cream mixed into it.

We were raised on raw un-Pasteurized milk. It came from Hildy Hurd's dairy over in Marstons Mills. His cows were all tested to be sure they were free from tuberculosis; there was no law then in effect that milk had to be Pasteurized.

We liked raw milk best -- I suppose were just used to its taste -- and found the new flavor unappetising.

Some children were encouraged to drink more milk by mixing it with Ovaltine. A children's radio program, "Little Orphan Annie", sponsored by Ovaltine's makers, touted the chocolate-flavored milk additive supposed to encourage children to drink more milk.

The program was a must on our evening schedule, but Mother scoffed at the notion of trying