Does Anyone Remember?

MY MOTHER, Carrie Stelzer, grew up in Jenera, Ohio and once wrote about making Easter nests. The first step was taking a basket and gathering differently colored mosses from the woods.

Arriving home, and having accumulated a pile of red bricks, Mom and two of her brothers would begin to construct their nests for the Eas-ter bunny to fill.

On the porch, bricks were placed against the house and then used to build the sides and top of the nest. The bricks were covered with moss, which was also used to line the nest. If there was enough moss, it was laid out as a path from the "front door" of the nest to the porch steps.

"On Easter morning," my mother wrote, "what a thrill to see the many pretty, colored eggs in the nest and perhaps some strung along the path. We'd enjoy our nests and eggs and then go to the neighbors to see how they'd made their nests.

"…Our neighbors across the street had only one little boy, so they spent a lot of time on his nest…that boy had several bunny figurines along the path of his nest. There were also beautiful ceramic eggs that had flowers hand-painted on their sides, and I had several of those that were given to me on several Easters."

My mother, who is gone now, wondered at the time whether children in Jenera still made Easter nests.

—Merle Stelzer, Celina, Ohio

FROM LIFE on the farm, Ed and Helen Zaugg from West Bend, Iowa remember…

• Putting fresh straw in the hens' nests for cleaner eggs and less breakage

- When most families had a summer kitchen for canning and baking so the house wouldn’t get so hot

- Burying a crock jar out in the fruit grove to keep butter in

- Plucking the geese every 6 weeks for feathers to fill bed mattresses and pillows

- Filling lamps with kerosene and washing the lamp chimneys each evening before dark

- Grocery purchases that were mostly of sugar, flour, salt and coffee.