

Written Memories

Ivadel A. Moore

1964

Dearborn Historical Museum

Oral History Program

Topic: Ivadel Moore Remembering Michigan Ave

Michigan Avenue had been a plank road on which a toll was collected. This road was opened through Dearborn in 1850. The plank road did not prove successful because the planks sank in places and repairs were too costly to make the project pay.

After a few years gravel was used to resurface the road and until 1910 this type of road existed through Dearborn. Then paving was started in the eastern part of town and by 1913 concrete had been extended to the western limits of the city.

Topic: Ivadel Moore Remembering The Interurban Street Car

Down the center of the dusty road, known in the 1800s, as Chicago Road, came the interurban car. The tracks were not paved and the wooden ties held the rails in place.

The schedules were set for half hour service, but there were many delays because of the single-track system that demanded the use of switches for passing. We often sat, for what seemed like hours, on a switch waiting for the car from the opposite direction. The trolleys sometimes came off the overhead line and the conductor would have to go out on the platform and adjust the trolley before we had electric power to move.

The fare was only ten cents to Detroit and there were similar rates to other places.

Topic: Ivadel Moore Remembering Playing As A Child

My mother had forbidden my brothers to go to the river but they were drawn to the water, just as most youngsters are today.

We often followed the paths that led us across the river to the old road that is now Cherry Hill. Wintergreen berries grew along the way and when we entered the Sisters' woods, we found beech nuts, in the fall, we rustled the leaves around and picked up the little triangular nuts that had fallen from the trees. Squirrels and other wild animals watched us from a safe distance.

The boys in the neighborhood built a club house in one of the large trees at the end of Morley Court. They spent many happy hours spinning yarns, playing games and enjoying the freedom of being on their own in this crude house.