

This article was written approximately 15 years ago by a well-known historian, Rev. John Schildt, who was born and raised in Walkersville, MD

"The Little Town"

YESTERDAY there was a little town in the hills of Western Maryland. It was a farming village, nestled in the shadow of the mountains. The soil was fertile and helped to make the area one of the best agricultural communities in the nation.

Seven hundred and fifty individuals resided in the "little town". They shopped at five general stores, worshipped at four churches, and were served by one town doctor.

Most of the social life revolved around the school where all eleven grades were housed in one building. There was also the fireman's carnival in the summer, baseball, and the traveling circus which came to town periodically.

Everyone knew everyone else. Neighbors worked, played, and worshipped together. They also took the time to visit. It was not a mobile society. When people moved into the "little town", they came to stay. And stayed they did. Many lived in the same house, on the same street for forty or fifty years. They knew where their roots were. Perhaps the best description of YESTERDAY is found in Thornton Wilder's "Our Town". The book should be required reading for every family.

But that was YESTERDAY. Things are different now. The old town is gone, and the people are mostly gone. The streets and houses are still there, but life is different now. "The Little Town" is surrounded by housing developments. Where cattle and horses once grazed, town houses and condominiums rise from the ground, and children play where horses once pulled plows. There's a new school with a modern swimming pool, and just one store.

The old and the new exist side by side. But when day is done and shadows fall, "we dream and remember the way it was, YESTERDAY".

The above article was submitted by Charles Nicodemus, Walkersville Historical Society Member.