

History Question of the Month

Early farmers in our city sometimes had to be creative in disposing of the crops that they grew. How did one family sell their water melon crop?

Answer

The Walter Lorenzo Berrett family grew a huge crop of water melons each summer. Trying to get rid of them became a problem. While Mr. Berrett didn't believe in working on the Sabbath, he did sell water melons on Sundays. The family lived off of 70th South and east of 1300 East. Because there was a lot of traffic on 70th South on Sunday (maybe 10 cars) with people going up 70th South to get to the Canyon, he decided this would be a good way to get rid of his crop. On Saturday night Mr. Berrett, along with his children would go down to the watermelon field with a stone boat. A stone boat was about four or five feet wide and maybe eight feet long, made of rail road ties that had been joined together and placed on metal runners that could run over the stones. After the stone boat was heaped with watermelons it was drug up to the house and placed in the yard. After Church services on Sunday morning, Mr. Berrett would pull the load of watermelons up to 70th south and park it there. The children would then sit there and sell watermelons to those passing by. The big watermelons went for 25cents and the small ones for ten cents. Of course no one would buy one without first plugging it. People would cut a little square into the melon then pull it out and taste it. If it was green they wouldn't buy it. Those melons were given to the pigs to eat. The pigs ended up eating all the melons that couldn't be sold or the family couldn't eat.

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