

VIRGINIA JEWELL'S LICK SKILLET & OTHER TALES OF HICKMAN COUNTY

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Although Mrs. Jewell, longtime contributor to the **Hickman County Gazette** and other area newspapers, disclaims any intent of writing a comprehensive "history," **Lick Skillet** is a highly informative, yet thoroughly entertaining and fascinating chronicle of the everyday life and development of Hickman County.

Lick Skillet, we learn, was an early day community northwest of Clinton which thrived, then declined into little more than a memory in the minds of the older people in the area—automobile owners were few in 1915 and, because of bad roads, often put their autos up on concrete blocks for the winter—Moscow students in the mid-thirties arrived in style at the Oakton school aboard the "dinky," which consisted of an engine, baggage car, and a passenger car.

From Mrs. Jewell's accounts, we gain not only knowledge of the history of the county and its present and forgotten communities but also the lives of ordinary people. There are descriptions, many taken from interviews, of infant care at the turn of the century, of the first telephones and that wonderful institution, "central," and of the old ice cream parlor (which had only 28 flavors). The style is fluid, interesting, and sometimes dramatic, and written always with sympathy and humor.

Some of the articles in the book first appeared in the **Gazette** and other newspapers, but readers will appreciate their publication as an anthology which is at once entertaining and a useful source of factual information which cannot be found elsewhere. One could wish for an index where such subjects as "Tennessee valises," "peavine telephones," and "tear blankets" could be looked up readily.

Note: Virginia Jewell: **Lick Skillet & Other Tales of Hickman County.** Union City, Tennessee: Lanzer Printing Company, 1986. pb, 302 pp. can be ordered from Mrs. Jewell, 316 South Washington, Clinton, Kentucky, 42031. The price is \$10.50 including Kentucky tax, plus \$1.50 postage.