

UHLMANN

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A snapshot in history

In the meantime, Mrs. Cropper continued writing the column and running the store until her death in 1987. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Uhlmann began writing the column, and she’s been doing it ever since.

In the past, Mrs. Uhlmann wrote for both the *West Plains Daily Quill* and the aforementioned *Ozark County Times*. Today, she just writes for the *Times*, and her daughter sends the column electronically to the paper after it’s written.

“Used to, I would write it by hand and then mail it to them,” Mrs. Uhlmann says.

Regardless of how they are sent, each of these columns is a snapshot in history from a particular time. They serve to remind us about an Ozarks past, pieces that are kept alive by each of these columns.

Here are a few of the things they said:

“It’s now Monday morning, and I donned my coat and

went to the garden to gather the last of the tomatoes, green beans and horticulture beans. Seems everything tastes better when you know it is the last. My back will tell me about it tomorrow.”

“Several are sick in this area at this time.”

“The Dora PTO still has cookbooks for sale at the local stores and from members. They are a nice gift for brides. Nearly everyone in our family has received one.”

“On Sunday, Hollis Cropper went over to the farm, went in the barn that has latches on the door that fall down when closed. The bull in the lot pushed the door closed, and down went the latch. No way to get out. He tried everything and nothing to work with. Late in the evening he finally got a window out. He began to think if no one came to see about him he might have to stay in the barn all night. He likely will see that bull is not in the lot next time.”

The mishap between the bull and Hollis Cropper, Mrs.

Uhlmann’s brother, is a memorable moment for her, as it was ultimately printed by a Springfield newspaper after it appeared locally. But another moment of note came when, at one point, she realized that she was also a celebrity.

“One day I went to the civic center in West Plains for something,” she says. “And this lady kept looking at me and said, ‘Seems like I know you.’ I told her who I was, and I said, ‘What’s your name?’ and she lived in Mountain Home.

And I said, ‘Do you take the *West Plains Quill*?’ and she said yes,” recounts Mrs. Uhlmann. The woman had recognized her because of the photo that ran with her column in the paper.

“When they started putting your picture in, people knew you even though they didn’t know you,” she says with a laugh.

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