

## WINTER IS PEACEFUL WITH MEMORIES

THE HECKMAN HOMESTEAD

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Winter is peaceful with memories. In every family, sometime the only things we have is the memories of a loved one. It is difficult to face the loss of family members. It is painful to deal with what they leave behind. I know this because of a recent death in our family.

A t life's end all that remains are the most important visual clues to the memorable experiences of a person's life. We reluctantly dispose of these items because we understand the value of these objects to someone we hold dear. As physical objects, they are not worth much. But the memories unlocked by these objects are priceless. The contradiction is these seemingly unimportant things unlock the gate to the riches of a whole life's experiences. They take on an almost sacramental importance because of their power to restore the memories and feelings of days gone by. I am humbled by the power of these few simple things.

We keep these hallowed objects longer than we have to because giving them away removes the power of memories and reduces them to yard sale trinkets. We feel traitorous because no amount of money can replace the loss of memories. I look at all that is left and ask, "I don't know why she kept that thing all these years." After an awkward silence, I hear the answer, "Well, let me tell you about the time..."

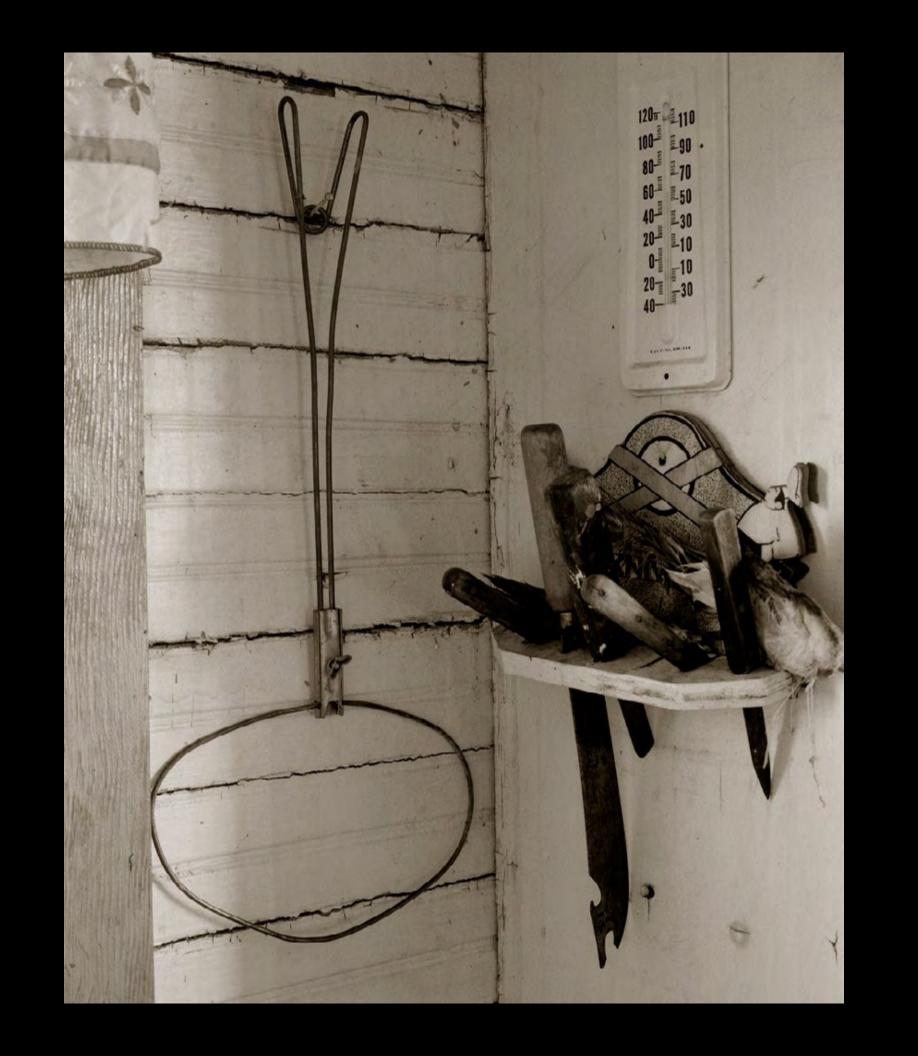




































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