

**RECOLLECTIONS** By Edna Connors McLaughlin

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*The* Connors farm was originally owned by my great grandfather, who came from Ireland in the 1850's. It was located where the police station is today. The farm then moved up to Locust St (the Valley Road where it is today) In my youth, farms were spread all over Danvers including four or five along route 114.

During the war years, because so many young men were off on military service, the farmers would frequently come to the high school at the end of the day to pick up girls who would do the weeding of the crops. This arrangement was beneficial to the farmers who were able to better care for their fields and for the girls who made some scarce extra funds.

In addition to farming, there were thriving businesses such as the crayon factory on Maple St., Crease and Cook Leather manufacturing on Water St. in Danvers Port, and Mrs. Day's Ideal Baby Shoe on Locust St.

There was also an indoor skating rink in Danvers during the mid 1850's.

Things have changed in Town. Today, Danvers has to a large extent, become a suburban community with homes dotting the landscape. Most of the farms are gone, and those that remain have had to broaden their services to keep going. Indeed, the Connors Farm has gone on to what is termed an "agriertainment venture" with amusements, a corn maze and other activities that make it somewhat of a destination for families.

Though changes have come, Danvers remains a very nice Town.