

Hop along with me today down the rabbit trail of a pretty old piece of furniture.

August 18, 1943 Gramma Hilka Saaijenga passed away. In 1944 her household was dismantled and a list of each item was made with a selling price. Hilka's family purchased what they wanted, then the money was divided 9 ways. This list shows that Uncle Clarence bought the little desk for \$7.00.

lard press 0
sausage grinder 75¢ Clem
slaw cutter — 1.00 Clem
7qt. canner — 1.50 Clem
wash boiler — .75 Clem
tub 1.00 Dorothy
wash machine — 37.00 Clem
large butcher kettle — 2.25 Harry
crock — 1 each copper boiler .75 Ann
bread mixer — 0
bread raiser Iron 10 Gene
cake pan - container
small rocker up (attic) — 1.00 Rose
aluminum tea kettle 25¢ Ann
desk (roll top) — 11.00 Holbert
desk (small) — 7.00 Clem
buffet — 1.50 Ann
emery — 13.00 Clem
milk cans
gas engine (wash machine)
motor — 39.00

Eventually, my parents bought it from Uncle Clarence and it stood for another 21 years in my parents' home. It was MINE and I loved it. For 9 of those years it sat in the dining room and held my treasures. Those bottom doors were home to my jigsaw puzzles and the deep drawer held all my precious coloring books. The flop-down front opened to reveal a small drawer and lots of interesting cubby holes. I had that puppy chock-full of crayons and pencils and water-paint sets and paper dolls and all the "important stuff" a little kid could amass.

In 1953 the dining room was partitioned off to make a bedroom for me and the little desk was moved into my very own bedroom. Now the desk held tablet paper and notebooks and pens and the tools of homework.

In 1959 it was moved upstairs and it contained more "teen-age stuff" but was loved just as much. Below you can see a part of it.



In 1965 it made the nine-mile-trek to the farm on Florence Road and was placed in a small office. It now was owned by a new generation (Hilka's great grandkids) and it, once again, housed crayons, color books, puzzles, stencils and lots of Magic Markers.

In 1989 it spent some time in storage in Lena, IL but returned to the Florence Road farm, looking pretty ragged.



Lori and Jeff rescued it, had it refinished and in 2013 it now stands guard in the TV room of their Charlotte, NC home, filled mostly with unused picture frames and light bulbs.



I have no idea where its future moves will take it but, one thing I am sure of, it will continue to be cherished. Wouldn't Gramma Hilka be proud?

