

Kuses as Bee Keepers

The Kuses had bees. We still have some bee boxes around. Did Uncle Herman get Papa interested? He kept bees.

Grandmother knew that honey was part of a healthy diet. She noted that in her 1935 diary. Her German diary also provided references to events and people related to the bees owned by the family.

On July 22, 1940, a swarm flew over the yard. On July 23, the swarm went away.

Later in 1940, the family must have decided to keep bees. On September 1, 1940, the bees were all dead because it had been cool and rainy. On May 18, 1941, Walter received a bee swarm as a present from Herman Michler. As a return favor, Herman and his daughter came to get strawberries.

On December 5, 1941, Walter put the bees in the cellar. On April 16, 1942, the bees were getting active and Walter put them outside. On June 3, 1942, the bees swarmed. On June 18, 1942, a swarm of bees from somewhere else came and hung in the hemlock tree. Later on June 21, they swarmed. On July 13, the first young swarm of our bees left and went toward Billings' house. On August 17, 1942, the bees swarmed.

On August 25, 1942, Mr. Mattson and his daughter from Holway came to do an inspection for the State of our bees. On August 27, 29, and 30, the bees swarmed again.

On November 9, 1942, Walter put the bees in the cellar again and on April 7, 1943, he put the bees out again. There were no further references to bee keeping in Grandma's diary after that. Caring for the bees had been a lot of work!

Hildegard and Loretta had an observation hive in the Iowa City Lab School classroom. They taught students many things about honeybees and in the process learned a lot themselves.