

# Cash and Carry Rare for Pioneers

Dollars in the territories had many times the buying power of today's dollars but there were not nearly as many of them in circulation. Sometimes, to pioneers, it seemed like there were hardly any, so they bartered what they had for what they needed.

An early day Oklahoma newspaperman described his method of collecting for subscriptions. Because he had a policy of not sending papers to people who didn't



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pay, readers found ways to pay and keep up with what was going on.

"It was not unusual for our friends to present us with a half load of pie pumpkins, a gallon of fine country sausage, or a sack of oversized eggs," the editor wrote.

"We bought fine country butter for 25 cents a pound."

Salaries paid school teachers were notoriously low and these also were paid partially in products of the farms. Preachers frequently carried home more veg-

etables than cash.

Robert C. Roland, who later became an Ada attorney, told of how he taught two terms of school at Conway, I.T. after graduating from North Texas Baptist Academy at Westminister. The terms lasted six months each and the total amount of cash he took in was \$6.

One pioneer doctor took in calves, pigs and other livestock in payment of debts, making it necessary for him to provide facilities for their care. He declared that his accumulation of animals almost drove him involuntarily from his profession into the livestock business.