

Our Family's Rucker Air Forcer Pump

By Doris Leprieve Rucker

Wasden

Edited by Michael P. Rucker

cherries and Mother would boil the apple peelings to get pectin to thicken the chokecherry jelly. Eventually, Dad built a reservoir on top of the hill above the spring. The reservoir was about 10 to 12 feet square and lined with concrete with a wooden roof and a hatch through which to reach the mechanism that brought in the water. He built a box around the spring and attached the Ram Pump in the spring. This ram operated by air and water pressure to pump the water up the hill - which I thought was quite a climb.

I suppose that Dad ordered the

pump from the Montgomery

Ward catalog, but he could have

known about it while he lived in

Amherst, Virginia**. Whenever

the water would stop flowing in

the kitchen it was time for

someone to go down to and fix

the ram. It was a very noisy

device while it was pumping,

but it saved Henry and me from

carrying water home every day.

Once we had running water to

the house Dad built a plain sink

built-in cabinet and the stove.

He also put a small basin in the

corner with a shelf up above,

which held Vaseline and such,

and on the side a medicine

cabinet with a mirror on it. Dad

Ram Pump*.”
Until I was 10 or 12 years old
my brother Henry [William
Henry Rucker] and I had to go
every day with buckets to bring
water home. We worried about
skunks, porcupines and coyotes.
There were also rats, rabbits,
squirrels, birds, ducks and
pheasants. Dad would get angry
at the men coming over from
Logan and killing the pheasants
he felt he had raised on our
farm. There were also many
wild flowers along the banks of
the hollow, including wild iris
which we called “flags.” We
picked them for Decoration Day
to decorate the graves at the
Beaver Dam Cemetery. Later
toward fall we picked choke-

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