

IN THE OLD DAYS, PEOPLE WERE CRAZY

MYSTERY 1

In 1810, a farmer in eastern Ohio who wanted to sell what he grew to the people of densely populated New York City would grind his wheat into flour, then build a boat or barge and pole it down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. There he would sell his flour, and the boat would be broken up and sold for lumber and firewood, leaving the farmer to get home the best way he could. Meanwhile, the flour would be loaded on an oceangoing ship which would sail east around the Florida peninsula and then north up the Atlantic Coast to New York City harbor. Why?

MYSTERY 2

Another farmer from the Ohio area might walk a thousand miles to bring a herd of pigs or cattle to New York. Why?

MYSTERY 3

A family in Philadelphia was willing to pay \$4.50 a pound for coal, while the same kind of coal sold for \$1.35 in western Pennsylvania. Why?

From *United States History: Eyes on the Economy*, ©National Council on Economic Education, New York, N. Y.