

### *Were there special jobs for boys and girls?*

Yes. Boys watched the cornfields. One or two boys sat on the corn-watching stand. They took along a pile of stones to throw at any bird or dog or wolf who might get into the cornfield. Boys took turns watching the field until the corn began to grow.

Boys and girls both shelled corn. The kernels of corn were scraped off the cob along the edge of a shovel or against the long handle of a pan.

Cooking a turkey was an all-day job for a boy or a girl. An iron rod called a *spit* went all the way through the turkey. The handle of the spit had to be turned until the turkey was cooked on all sides. It was hot work. And it took from nine in the morning till four in the afternoon.

Another job was mattress making. Boys and girls

put pine needles or corn husks or feathers into linen bags.

Boys and girls gathered special grasses to make thatch for the roofs of the houses. They had to walk miles to the banks of the creek where these grasses grew.

They picked mussels from the rocks in the water. They dug for clams in the mud.

Boys helped build houses. They helped hunt for food. They made wooden pegs that were used instead of nails.

Girls helped cook and serve the meals. They helped with the washing.

Boys and girls were as busy as the grown-ups. There wasn't much time for fun.

