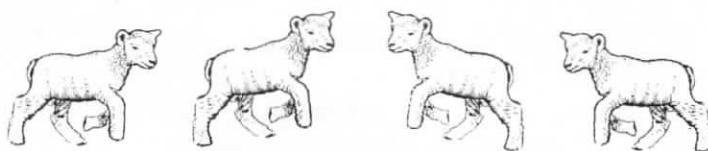As dipping took over salving declined, but some farmers still wanted its weatherproofing properties, and so they added melted grease to the warm water in the dipper. It was all finally discontinued when supplementary feeds began to be used during the winter, which kept the sheep in better condition, and more able to cope with the bad weather. Even when salving finally ceased and dipping took over, sheep washing in early June continued for several decades, the extra money paid for the wool and the easier clipping with the better rise making it still worthwhile in many farmers' opinions, but often the dipper or the trough in the yard was used instead of the dammed up stream.

Photo from Brian Rhodes.

This picture taken between 1935 and 1937 shows Mr. Wilfred James Rhodes, farmer of Seed Fold, Goosnargh, washing or dipping sheep in the farmyard, using an early wooden dip tub. On the left, lending a hand is Richard Lancaster, his neighbour and friend. On the right are Tommy Parsons and Billy Blackburn, ready waiting with the next sheep. Both Tommy and Billy worked for Mr. Rhodes.

All this has now almost faded from memory. We have gathered information from local farmers in an attempt to record it. Many had no knowledge of it at all. Some could remember their fathers washing when they were boys, and had heard if salving, but hardly any had seen it done. Alwyne Wallbank, who farmed at Halsteads Farm at Dalehead, has supplied much information from his own personal experience, and here are some of the comments of local farmers. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who can add more information, particularly on the locations of the washing dubs and who used them.

John France. *As a boy he lived on a farm at Quernmore, where he remembers a variation of salving done at the same time as dipping in the dip bath. Warm water was used, and boiled grease was added to the rate of one cupful per sheep. This floated as a film on top of the dip and stuck to the fleece when the sheep was in. It made the fleece very hard, and was still there*