

I interviewed my 85 year old aunt [redacted] She was born to [redacted] and [redacted] at home on the [redacted] She was born [redacted] She was the second of ten children, the first born daughter. Throughout the interview she stressed the most important thing in her life was being a mother. She reflects on many memories starting at the age of four years old.

Let's start with your full name.

It's [redacted] and I was born to [redacted] on the [redacted] county line on [redacted] The earliest time I can remember I was 4 and my sister died. I remember looking at her. They had her little casket sitting between two chairs and I was peeping through the back looking at her and she looked like a little doll. Then I remember going to school. I think mommy started me when I was 5 or 6. The first day of school I'll never forget it I wet and I looked back and every one of the kids were raising their feet to let it flow by. I was so little one of the bigger boys carried me on their back to school. Then we played out on the grapevines and played house with broken dishes. My favorite toy was a little rag doll that the neighbor lady had made me. I think it was my first doll it had an embroidery face and sawdust stuffing. My brother Gene took it and put it in mommy's mop water while she was mopping and I cried and cried. Then for Christmas my daddy got me a little doll and it was a little straight one. It was stiff as a board it would stand straight up daddy said it was looking at him as he walked by the store window. I never did knock it for not being cuddly. Then when we lived down in the little log cabin I had 3 brothers me mommy and daddy lived there. It was a little two room log house and we lived there and daddy worked at the coal mine. He got up at 4 in the morning and didn't even have a coat to wear or hardly nothing to keep him warm and he walked to work and made a dollar a day. Then we had to pay for our cow pasture plus have all us kids and that was during the depression times and mommy we never got anything sweet to eat. Mommy was crying for something sweet to eat and sent me and Glen over to mamma and papaw's house to get something and we went through the woods. To me it seemed like a long ways and now that I've looked it must have been 3 or 4 miles through the woods. As we walked through the woods we met the Jones kid down by the creek with a gunny sack with 3 or 4 kittens in it they said their mommy told them if they drown the kittens they would go to kitty heaven where they could drink all the milk they wanted. So we stood there and watched that for a while then ran over to mammal's house. When we got to mammals, she was sick in bed with a headache but she gave us some Saur gum molasses and we took that back home to mommy. And then we just, that was in the first grade there and I think we moved just about every year after that.

I thought, um, you guys lived on a farm didn't you?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Oh well we lived on a lot. We moved from down there by, we lived down there by Powell Valley the first time, a little log house down there by Powell Valley.

ma: Uh huh.

And then we moved to up here at Paoli. Daddy got a job as a tenant farmer. Then me and Leo we'd get a, we got my brother that he was two years older than me, we run around together and daddy drove the old wagon, that's all we had to go and do our grocery shopping in and he wouldn't let me and Leo go so we got under the wagon tongue, and layed on the wagon tongue and daddy hear us and gave us a whippin and sent us home and we had to walk back home.

Wow..

Then, um, we had got our food at the Peddler's truck, it came along, and mommy would send me and Leo down and brought a grocery bill, well we forgot sugar. She told us what we had left over we could buy candy. We forgot sugar and got it all in candy and got a whippin over that.

(laughing) I could see that, yeah.

And so we just moved from, every year we went to school a different place.

: Really?

Um huh. And when I was nine I went to Orleans school. And, uh daddy drove the old John Deere tractor from daylight to dark, night and day.

A lot has changed since then.

Um hum. And every time he turned it off at night it scared me because I was about nine and that ol tractor, the ol John Deere would back fire and get on fire and daddy would have to beat it out with a gunny sack, every night. Daddy, since he was a tenant farmer, us kids had to go do the milking and stuff. So I went, they let me walk once and I wanted them to be proud of me so I stopped at the pump and pumped some water in it so I could get more milk. So after that I had to do all the milking because I could get more milk. So I had to stop every morning and night and stop at the pump and pump a little water in there.

Is that, was that your only job, like every day or did you guys have to like divide it up differently?

Um, every day. That's about all I remember doing but Glen had to take care of the cattle and while we lived there Gene was about three and me and Leo put him in a tire. Pushed him up and put him in a tire and pushed it over the hill and it went so fast it hit the fence and bounced up in the air and poor little Gene he fell out and he was a puking. Me and Leo went down and got him and took him up to mommy and told mommy he was real sick and we didn't know what was wrong with him. And then Glen made a raft they had three ponds on that place and he put me

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