My Remembers

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Farnley Life

Farnley life during my growing up as a share cropper was not an easy life, and to make things comfortable the family had to be very close such as knowing one another's problems. You all sit down and ate together. Each member had their own duties to do and if one had a hard time doing their share, the other family members would help out. If I chop the wood, my sisters and mother would pick up the chips and help carry the wood in the house. If someone came up with a game, the others would make the game work in a fun way. If we were in the field chopping cotton, if one got a clean row and one got a bad row, you help out. You had prayer together every night. You sit around and told everybody what you did that day. You went to church together every Sunday and prayer meeting on Wednesday night. Mother would read the Bible to us.

We got our school work together. It was good for my mother to help get school work out because of her lack of finishing school. She was in the fifth grade when she dropped out to get married. And she continued to hang around school when she could until I was born. She learned schooling with me all the way through high school. Self taught education.

My Dad could not read or write but he was good in math, adding and subtracting and dividing. If math was too hard he would use grain or corn to figure out a problem.

If anyone got sick, they stay in bed and the others would wait on you hand and foot. In my family we did every thing together. My mother being as young as she was, she was like a child herself, so she grew up with us three kids. If one of us said or did anything wrong we got whip. Mother would all way send us kids out to get our own switch. If you came back with one too small, you went and got another one until you got
enough to plait together. She would all way whip the back, butt, and legs. She did not believe in using her hands unless it were the spur of the moment. She did not slap or hit you anywhere around the head.

My dad only whip me two times and that was for telling a lie and putting a snake on my sisters. I thought he had gone to sit down and rest from work, but he was standing at the back door looking. To this day I remember every lick. We as a famley were so close that if one was hurt we all hurt. A famley that prays together stays together.

They gave me the name George Stimpson at birth but changed it to Eddie Jr. They never went back to court to change my name. I remember in later years my mother told me about the naming. I've had a big problum getting my birth certificate.

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A midwife by the name of Mrs. Moody birthed Ruth and Bessie Lee. Mrs. Moody lived in Plano and when the time came someone would drive to town or send a message. She didn’t drive but her husband or someone would drive her out and sometimes she had to stay several days till the baby was born. I remember so well when Dad drove up with her when my baby sister Bessie Lee was about ready to be born. She got out of the Model A car looking so motherly like in her bonnet and long black dress and her black bag. The black shoes she wore were hightop and laced halfway and hooked halfway. She spent the night and when the time came, she told my father to get some sheets and rags together, get a fire going in the kitchen stove, and get some water boiling. I was five so she sent me to go to the well and start hauling water, pail after pail. Then when we finish, she said, All of you get out of here now.

Ruth was named for the Bible from the Book of Ruth. Bessie Lee was named after her Aunt Bessie, Mother’s sister. Most of my years, one through six, I wore dresses at home or around the house. There was all way more girl clothes than boy clothes. During all of my growing up days there never seemed to be any boys.

The wonderful things I remember about my family was doing everything together, from playing games together outside to playing games inside. Even the fussing and fighting, everybody got involved so it would come out so no one had the advantage over the other. All were happy about the situation.