

Doris's Memories

Notes by Jack

While you were growing up, what things did you hear about the dust bowl?

Not a lot. It didn't impact anything in our area.

What sort of technology was used on the farm, and how did it change?

When Doris was very young, her father had a team of horses to pull his plow, but then (she can't remember exactly when), they switched to tractors and sold the horses. There weren't many other technological improvements that she could remember.

What did you do for entertainment?

They didn't really do anything except for work, eat and sleep. On Sunday they would go to Church at 2:30 in the afternoon, and sometimes (very occasionally) they would play checkers.

Where is the farm today and what happened to it?

The farm was sold after Doris's father died, and the land was subdivided and built on.

What was your profession?

Doris trained as a nurse. She practiced for 45 years.

Doris said that her family wasn't really affected by the Great Depression, which she grew up in, because her family could supply most of their food products, and everything they needed to get from the store was very cheap. They sold most of their produce from their house, milk: 13 cents a quart; eggs: 35 cents a dozen.

She described how there wasn't really a sense of community when she was growing up, as the church didn't really do anything apart from services until she started to help out there. They didn't really get together with their neighbors apart from when they went to church.

Her schoolteacher (she went to our one-room schoolhouse) was her aunt, which didn't give her an edge. Why? Because she couldn't ask her aunt about her homework after school; that was her downtime! If you didn't miss a day of school, you got three pencils at the end of the year. Doris never missed a day of school.

Her parents never expected her or any of her siblings to keep working on the farm after they graduated high school.

She generally enjoyed working on the farm, but she said it was just one of those things where it didn't matter if you liked it or not, you just had to do it!