

We lived in rural Oklahoma, without electricity running water or any type of plumbing. Our lights were from coal oil lamps and lard (Animal fat) with cloth wicks. Most of the time we would have a water well right



outside our back door that we could draw water from. When we would wash dishes, ourselves or take a bath; we would draw the water and heat it on a cast iron stove. If we were lucky, we would get a bath once a week or so. Our bathroom was an outhouse, like our original bathroom at the property except most of the time they would have two holes.



We share cropped for a living (truck farmed). The land owner would let us live on the farm for free and we would give him a percentage of our crops each year (money). I do not know what the percentage was nor do I know if he helped pay for purchasing the seeds etc.



We farmed lots of tomatoes some Irish potatoes, corn for our animals and some sweet corn, bell peppers squash and other vegetables for our own use. We would butcher some hogs (pigs) and cattle for our meat. To preserve the meat; it would be salted and hung in the barn. We did not have a refrigerator or an ice box at that time. But, I cannot remember of ever being hungry, we always seem to have plenty of food. For entertainment, we hunted a lot! We would hunt almost every night if the weather was OK. We would hunt raccoons, skunks and possums. In the daytime squirrels. The raccoon,



possums and skunks we would skin and put them on a board to stretch, them and sell them anywhere from \$0.50 to a couple of bucks. The squirrel meals were one of our staples. The dogs enjoyed the remains of the squirrels. We had a dog named Wheeler;

he was one of the best hunting dogs in the area. In fact, there was this one guy that came out from Oklahoma City to hunt with him and always left us money. We also played a lot of baseball especially on weekends of holidays. We would also have a barn dance of some sort every month or so, also there were times that we would have a barn-raising, (building a barn or house). For a driven-in theater we would remove the seats out of the truck and sit on it to watch the movie shown on the wall of a building (silent movies). Sometimes we would go in-to town and watch a movie in a theater. Today children ask for dollars to spend at the stores. Back then we asked for mills 1/10th of a penny.



My first memory was riding in an old truck with my mother and dad. I was standing between them and my older brother Robert, was outside standing on the running board. We were moving to another place and mother was very pregnant with Teddy. Give or take a few days Robert was 2 years and 9 months older than me; I was 2 years and 9 months older than Teddy. At that time, I would assume that I was

about 2 years and 7 or 8 months old. I have older memories, but not sure if they were memories or stories but I definitely remember the above.

I remember getting a pair of shoes, maybe my first pair, because I would walk in the sand and look back at my tracks. It may seem funny but I remember it like it was yesterday.

When Ted was approximately 4 years old, he fell into one of our hotbed fires and was quickly pulled out by one of my uncles, not sure which one. (We made hotbeds for growing seeds into plants to plant later. We were able to plant a month or so before other farmers.) I'm not sure if he went to the hospital or not but I do remember that Mr. Fetner, our landlord, took care of him at his house and put this funny looking putty on him for a long-time. Mr. Fetner would always give us some candy when we went down to visit him. He lived approximately a mile or so from our house.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor I remember going over to my grandparents' house (The Boone's) and everybody was talking about joining the service. I remember dad saying he would help

grandma and grandpa with any chores if the boys left. I do not know how they arrived at who would join but I do remember Franklin and Elmo and Daniel went off to the war. Here was my first time dealing with electric! Grand Maw and Grand Paw just got electric in their home. I went into the bedroom and just kept pulling the cord and turning on the light! Much later when we were picking potatoes, I remember looking up and seeing this airplane (a P38) and then a white matchstick came out of the plane and then the plane burst in flames and crashed. As it turned out the matchstick was the pilot and he came down safely. Later, we went to the crash site where the pilot was and I remember him saying "we've got nothing left here to do so let's leave".



On Aunt Rowena 16th birthday, (mom's sister) she was visiting us, we had a fire at our house. Dad had purchased this old gas stove for mom. Instead of using the wood cookstove it would be so much faster using the gas stove. So, they took it in the house and fired it up and there were so many holes in the lines that when they pumped up and lit it, the fire sprayed everywhere and burned our house down to the ground. For some reason or another mother had a lot of silver dollars in her bedroom but instead of getting those out, dad chose to try to take the mattress out the window and left the money there. Later after the fire had subsided and everything was cooled down, mom found the silver dollars that were all melted together. And then the people came, they brought food, stoves and mattresses for us. Also they cleaned out the corncrib for mother and dad to cook, eat and sleep in. Then they cleaned out an outbuilding for Robert Ted and I to bunk in.



We did go to school most of the time. I was held back in the first grade, just could not get my mind into studying. Most of the time we went to the school in Harrah (1 to 12 grade) and we were picked up and dropped back off by bus somewhere near our driveways.



When mom had Carmelita, my sister, most of us kids were across the road at uncle Oliver Lee's house and we made homemade ice cream. This was the house she was born in.

Sometime between 1944 and 1945 we packed up all of our belonging's and went to Coolidge AZ by truck. Not sure how long it took, but, Robert, Ted and I stayed in the back of the Canvas covered truck. Each evening we would find a place to camp, build a fire and sleep. Us boys would sleep outside, mom, dad and Carmelita on the mattress in the truck. I'm not sure why we went to Arizona, but we did. While we were there, we picked cotton. Robert, Ted and I picked, then put it in mom and dad's bag. We were paid by the pound. We lived in a tent, a tent on top of a wooden platform. There my sister, later, got pneumonia and passed. Then dad decided to go to California, so we packed up our truck again and headed to California, specifically Bakersfield. For whatever reason the day we got there or a couple days later, we turned around and went back to Coolidge AZ. Dad got a job as a mechanic at a service station, we lived behind the service station in an Adobe house with all dirt floors. I think the house had two rooms, a bedroom and living room. The living room was also our kitchen and dining room, of course there was an outhouse.



Sometime in the early part of 1946 the Boones packed up all of their belongings (in Oklahoma) and headed to California. There was approximately 7 truckloads of people and belongings. It was after the war and all of the boys returned home safely! On their way to California, they stopped in Coolidge for a week so to make repairs on their vehicles and visit with us.



We stayed in Coolidge until latter part of 1946, not sure of the month. Again, we packed up our belongings and set sail back to Oklahoma. There, we rented a house; I do not remember doing any farming at this place so dad evidently was working somewhere. For school,



Robert Ted and I would ride our horse (yes, all 3 of us) to this one room schoolhouse about 2 miles down the road. Later that year my father was shot in a bar by one of his second or third cousins, Leroy Pittman! He died later that night, not sure of the date. Mom, Robert, Ted and I moved to a different place, closer to town. I remember being snowed in for a few days, going out in the snow and hunting for squirrels. Lots of fun. We would use gunny sacks (potato sacks) to wrap our feet in when we would head to the bus stop to go back to school in Harrah.



Robert upper left Ted 2 from lower right Dwane behind Ted

Sometime around Easter of 1947, Mother, Robert, myself and Teddy headed to Woodland California by Greyhound bus that took about 2 weeks. In Bakersfield, I remember this guy coming up to my mother and trying to get a date, nowadays it's called hitting on her. The Boones sent us the money for the trip. There we lived in a place called "The Labor Camp". Most of the Boones also lived there. The room was approximately 25 by 25 which served as our bedroom kitchen and living room. The bathroom, which had running water and toilets, was just a few yards from our front door. To showers, was a

different story. There we had to go almost all the way up to the front office which is around $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile or so to take our showers.

In the "labor camp" I met my lifetime friend, John Wages. We were together every day and had sleepovers most nights. Eventually he went back to Arkansas but came back again when I was in the 8th grade. After that we dated together and did everything, went to movies had our first beer. John passed a year after Eva, 2009.



Mother got a job at the Woodland laundry pressing clothes or something of that sort. Robert, Ted and I went to Beamer elementary school which was approximately one mile away on foot. At that time, I was in the 4th grade and my cousin Virgil Boone was in my class also. I went to the 5th grade the following year; and there, I had a teacher, Mis Conger, that changed my life. For some reason I understood her, if I didn't, she would explain it a different way. She made me a math

chart, I could see it in my mind, and do my multiplication tables. Later, in the 6th and 7th grade I would go back to her and she would help with my homework if I didn't understand it. When the circus came to town, I remember Miss Conger giving me two or three dollars and she said "go have fun". What a wonderful teacher she was.



Grandma and Grandpa purchased a house, at 1103 Woodland Ave in Woodland. Mom, Robert, Ted and I moved into the back section of the house and Malcolm, Ona Mae, Delaine and Retha moved in to the front section. I don't remember how we split electricity and stuff like that but I'm sure it was done satisfactorily. Eventually, mother decided to change jobs and went to work at Yolo General Hospital as a cook. There she met my stepfather, Herman Ankrom. They dated for quite a while and finally got married. All of us, except Robert, went on the honeymoon. The honeymoon, I think, lasted for

one long weekend. We went to Carson City and toured some museums and underground mines. We stayed in the house at 1103 woodland Ave for quite a while but then Grandpa retired and wanted to live in their house. From there we moved to 916 cross street in Woodland. Robert and I continued to go to the Beamer school across town, we rode our bikes, and Ted decided to go to Dingle, on this side of town. We continued that until Robert graduated from the 8th grade. I stayed at Beamer, but Robert got a job at The Rice Mill. He eventually moved into a boarding house. After I graduated from the 8th grade, we moved again to 433 Grant Street (now it's Pinedale Ave.), Del Paso Heights, CA. There I met my first love, Sharon Hughes. Later I found out that she was married before and had a boy who had passed. And also, she was five years older than me and was still married when we dated. I remember my mother throwing a birthday party for me when I turned 16. Sharon and John from Woodland was there plus a bunch of the local kids. Funny thing was, mother was a Jehovah's Witness and did not believe in birthdays and birthday parties. But for some reason she gave me one!



That's my story. THE END! Thomas Dwane McGlothlin