

*The
Jess & Edna Dunn
Family History Album*

*Written By
The Children of
Jess & Edna Dunn*

*Compiled & Published by Diana Dunn Firey
December - 2001*

Reconstructed Family History Album of 2001 Contents

June of 2025

JUNE - 2025

I am making available online and in print the Dunn Family History Album contents. There are several reasons, only Ernie and Wilma are still living of the Dunn siblings. Also, technology has changed and made it easy to make available online. Lastly, the next generation may not even be familiar that this notebook exists of their parents' belongings. The only sibling that I didn't get their answers was Ivy...for one reason or another. I should have interviewed him personally and recorded his answers but everyone else is there. There's lots of information on the Dunn Kids growing up years. The next page says this album was dedicated to Bill Dunn who had just passed on. Thankfully he had filled out his questionnaire earlier that year. We hope you enjoy reading and revisiting.

Acknowledgments & Comments December - 2001

Dear Family Member:

Well, here is the *Dunn Family History* album that I've been promising for so long now. In it you'll hopefully find much insight on the growing up years of Jess & Edna's children. When Uncle Bill Dunn recently died, I thought I would use this as an incentive to dive in and complete this project once and for all. I was so glad that Bill mailed in his set of answers several months back. Even though I am still waiting on answers from Ivy, I decided to go ahead and print a first edition of the project. After he completes his set of answers I will give everyone who has been given or purchased a book an updated copy. This will allow others who have already contributed, time to think of any changes or additions (if a question was left unanswered because nothing could be thought at the time). This will also allow for any corrections to names, dates, spellings, or any other information that need to be made. (Also, if there is a photo of a main character in this album that I missed, and you would like it included, let me know.)

I would like to thank all the children of Jess & Edna Dunn for their contribution to this project. *I'd especially like to thank Ramona who made a "long term" loan of her photos.* Because of her extensive photo library (along with Dad & Mom's-Curtis & Debbie) I was able to include approximately 200 photos or variations thereof. I've also included a few from our own photos. Some of the scans I did were very clear but others not as good (depending on the clarity of the original and the size of what I was scanning). That's why some photos are crisper than others.

Hope you are enlightened and enjoy this "*journey down memory lane*".

Diana Dunn Firey
(Daughter of Curtis)



*Born: July 1, 1936
Entered Into Rest: November 29, 2001*

*This Family History
Album Lovingly
Dedicated to the
Memory of*

Bill Dunn

*“Absent from the
body, but present with
the Lord.”*

A Tribute to Bill

I count it an honor to write about Bill as he has always been very special to me, and we grew even closer as the years went by. He will really be missed.

I thank the Lord for Bill and the years He left Bill here on earth to be a blessing to others, which he truly was, to both the young and old. At the funeral home his young neighbors told us how they missed Bill since he had married and moved away. They said that if they ever needed anything Bill was always there to help them out. He visited the elderly in their homes and hospital rooms, often taking them where they needed to go. He helped the homeless and the down-and-out, giving them money, shelter, or whatever he could do for them.

Bill loved giving gifts to others. He definitely believed that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." He once bought us a car for furlough and contributed many times for our work in Peru. He made three trips there. In 1998 when he was there we went to the mountains. While there we visited a church. He was very touched. The next year he went back to Peru to take money donated by him and another brother to the mountain church so they could roof their building. But after arriving in Peru he became very ill and was in intensive care for three days and nearly died, but two weeks later he was determined to complete his mission. While in the mountains he came close to death again, but he was delighted that he was able to deliver the money to help the church. The people in Peru loved him as they saw the love of Christ in him. They will greatly miss him.

The day before he died he was sad because he didn't want to leave his wife of almost nine months, Lynda, or his children and grandchildren. He desired to continue enjoying his new marriage, his walks with Lynda and the trips they had planned to take together. He loved her very much and was so thankful that she was with him in those difficult days. He loved visiting his children, and especially his grandchildren. He loved talking about them and the great fisherman that Brandon was. He would shed a tear as he sang his song he wrote about Brandon. Because of his sadness, I told him that every time we left for Peru that we couldn't dwell on those that we were leaving behind, but we anticipated those that we would be seeing. We began talking about the great family reunion in Heaven with Opal, Mom and Dad, J.D., Ella Mae, Trudy, Ralph and the others. And most of all, the Lord.

His last day here on earth was a good day. He walked and talked and was very cheerful. After supper he, Lynda, Dave, and I sat in the living room and watched Wheel of Fortune, and then turned the T.V. off to talk, read and pray. He shared with us how he was no longer afraid of death because of the time he nearly died and the peace that came upon him at that moment. He said that his favorite chapter in the Bible was Psalm 23. We read that and many other verses in the Bible and then we each prayed. In one of his prayers (either that day or a few days before) he prayed that the Lord leave him here to be able to serve Him more by helping others. That night he prayed for his family and shared with us his desire that they grow in the Lord. We prayed that each offspring of Mom and Dad's would know Christ and go to Heaven. Bill prayed that when it was his time to go that the Lord would take him quickly and not let him suffer. When we finished praying we walked to his bedroom, and within a few minutes the Lord answered his prayer and took him to Heaven. We are so thankful to know that he no longer is suffering, choking for air, or weak. We had just sang that night, "Those that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall walk and not be weary, they shall run and not faint, teach me Lord to wait." Bill's desire is to be with each of his loved ones there in Heaven throughout eternity. How will that be? If each one will ask Christ to save him from his sins by His blood and will believe in Him with all his heart, giving himself to Christ to love Him and follow Him. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55: 6-7)

We prayed that the Lord would leave Bill here longer but maybe Opal, Mom and Dad, J.D., Ella Mae, Trudy and Ralph, and all the others were saying, "Lord, bring him up here. We want to have him here with us."

Bill, thank you for your loving example. We love you, and miss you. May each of us see you soon. *Your sis,*

Wilma

Note: Lyrics from the song Bill wrote for Brandon are included with color photo's of Bill later in this album.

(Scanned Copy of what Wilma Surretts wrote in 2001)

2001

Children of Jess & Edna Mae Dunn

1. Jay Dee (Deceased)
2. Trudy (Deceased)
(Amanda Gertrude DeFaye)
3. Curtis
4. A. B. (Died within a few hours)
5. Marvin
6. Ella Mae (Deceased)
(Mary Ella Mae)
7. Ivy
- 8 Bill (Deceased)
9. Ramona
10. Ernest
11. Wilma

June - 2025

This is a list of those alive in 2001. Only Ernie and Wilma remain.

Questions and Answers - Dunn Family History Album

1. What is your given name?

Curtis - Curtis Wayne Dunn

Marvin - Marvin Dunn

Ivy

Bill - Willie Ray "Bill" Dunn

Ramona - Ramona Clemie Jane Dunn

Ernie - Ernest Glendolen Dunn

Wilma - Wilma

2. How did your parents arrive at your name (if you know)?

Curtis - Unknown to me.

Marvin - Unknown to me.

Ivy -

Bill - After Willy Cummings, Dad's good friend.

Ramona - Mom always said she named me after both my grandmothers, Clemie Carter and Jane Dunn. She named me Ramona because she didn't want to call me either of those names.

Ernie - Don't know.

Wilma - ?

3. Where and when were you born? What home place, if you know.

Curtis - I was born at Big Cabin in Craig County, Oklahoma on January 11th, 1927.

Marvin - I was born in Oregon, August 15th, 1930.

Ivy -

Bill - Farm house 8 miles southeast of Cleveland, OK, July 1, 1936.

Ramona - I was born at home, July 19, 1938, on the old Joe Hamilton place north of Mannford.

Ernie - I was born September 20, 1941, in Terlton, Oklahoma.

Wilma - Grandpa Carter's home place - Humpy Creek outside of Cleveland, Oklahoma, March 17, 1946.

3A Do you know of any information handed down about the time you were born?

Curtis - My grandparents on my mother's side and Mom & Dad lived up around or in between Cleveland and Keystone and they *all* moved to Craig County before I was born and we lived there for one year and then we moved back up around where we lived before that. We had to move in a farm wagon with teams of mules or horses and it would take about a week each way

to make a trip but back then they could probably haul all we had on one load.

Marvin - Dad and Mom worked at farm labor in Oregon and worked in Idaho on their way home. They returned to Oklahoma when I was about 1 year old (I think).

Ivy -

Bill - About the time of the Depression

Ramona - I don't recall ever hearing anything about when I was born.

Ernie - Born at home.

Wilma - ?

4. To the best of your memory, name the various locations you resided at in your growing up years and the years you lived there.

Curtis - I was 5 years old in 1932 and that is about as far back as I can remember and we lived on the old Gilbert place about 6 miles NW of Old Keystone and that is where Ella Mae was born. In 1933 we lived on the old Woodring place about 9 miles SE of Cleveland and there was none born there. In 1934 we lived on the old Churchill place about 4 miles north of Mannford and Ivy was born there. In 1935 and 36 we lived on the old Gifford place about 7 miles SE of Cleveland and brother W.R. was born there and that is where we lived when our dad got his leg crushed when a big rock fell on it. In 1937 we lived on the old Berson place about 9 miles SE of Cleveland about 1/4 of a mile north of the Woodring place we lived at in 1933. In 1938 to the fall of 1942 we lived on Joe Hamilton's place 4 miles north of Mannford a 1/4 of a mile south of the Churchill place we lived in 1934. In the fall of 1942 we moved to a place one mile west and a mile north of Terlton and lived there until the fall of 1945 when I turned 18 years old. I had already been out on my own for 2 years working at odd jobs. I had about 30 different jobs in 30 days time back then. I worked at Goodwill a few hours, Swift Meat Packing, Armour Meat Packing, delivered ice, unloaded trucks, drove trucks, worked on the railroad, etc.

Marvin - Woodring place in 1934, Churchill place-1935, Gifford Place-1936, Beers Place-1937, Hamilton Place; 1938-1942, Terlton place 1943-45. Homeplace-1946.

Ivy -

Bill - After birthplace, we lived on Joe Hamilton's place 4 miles north of Mannford until December, 1942, Terlton through Dec, 1945, Grandpa Carter's old homeplace January 1946 (Humpy Creek) until 1952, then back to Joe Hamilton's place until I entered Marine Corps in June of 1954, and after returning from Marines, lived one year in California, 2 months with Curtis & Debbie and then rented a house in Compton, California.

Ramona - From the Hamilton Place, we moved near Terlton, a few miles north, I think. I don't remember that move or how old I was. In 1944 at the age of 6, I started first grade at Terlton. We moved to the old Carter home place when I was in the second grade. We lived there until January of 1953, when we moved back to the Hamilton place. In the summer of 1954, I went to live with Marvin & Anna Jane at Cleveland. In the summer of 1955 I moved in with Trudy & Ralph at Hallett. After graduation in May of 1956 I moved to Tulsa to make my own way in the world.

Ernie - Born at the Hamilton place, moved to the old home place when I was 3 or 4, moved back to the Hamilton place when I was 12.

Wilma - Hamilton's place (4 miles north of Cleveland), 4th grade, 1st semester, lived with Trudy and Ralph in Tulsa. 7th grade, 1st semester, lived with Marvin in Cleveland. 8th grade, lived with Trudy and Ralph in Hallett. 9-12th grade lived with Marvin and Anna Jane in Maud. After graduation moved to Tulsa, lived with Bill and Opal and then moved out and shared an apartment with

a girl I worked with at Hillcrest Hospital.

5. **At what grade and school did you complete your schooling?**

Curtis - I went 6 weeks into the sixth grade and quit school.

Marvin - 8th grade

Ivy -

Bill - Mannford, 9th Grade

Ramona - I graduated from Cleveland High School in May, 1956.

Ernie - Graduated from Mannford High School in 1959

Wilma - Graduated 12th grade in Maud, Oklahoma in 1963

5A **What school(s) did you attend and describe your transportation to and from?**

Curtis - I started to school when we lived on the old Woodring place and I walked to Dixie about two miles (more or less). I didn't go much that year or the next. In 1934 when we lived on the old Churchill place, I went to Scraping Ridge School up on top of a big hill about 2 1/2 miles from home. We walked to school. When our dad hurt his leg in 35 or 36, all of us kids (small and smaller) had to quit school for three years and work the farm. When I started back to school in 38, I was 11 years old and in the 2nd grade. I rode the school bus to Mannford school in 38 to 42 and when we moved to Terlton, I didn't want to go to a new school and be 15 in the 6th grade in school so I quit school so when you see a word that is spelled a different way than you would spell it, think nothing of it for it might be a new word.

Marvin - Rigsby-walked, Mannford-bus, Terlton-bus, Rigsby, 8th grade-walked.

Ivy -

Bill - Mannford, Terlton—school bus. Rigsby, walked 1 1/4 mile each way.

Ramona - Terlton, 1 1/2 years—rode a bus I think. Rigsby School-remainder of second grade through eighth grade (1946-1952)-we walked 1 1/1 miles through the woods, across Humpy Creek and two other little streams. There weren't any bridges and when it rained, it was a little scary crossing these streams. I remember once I slipped and fell into the "raging" water, and I was sure I was going to drown, but my brothers pulled me out. If it rained really hard, we would stay at Uncle Alvin & Aunt Mildred Sissom's house till someone came for us. If no one came we would spend the night there. A few times we stayed when the creeks weren't that high, because we just liked to spend the night there. Since no one had telephones, us kids had to decide if the creeks were too high to cross. I remember one time we stayed at Sissoms and when Dad came for us he was really mad because the creeks weren't that high.

I went to Mannford High School January of 1953 until May of 1954 and then Cleveland High School Sept., 1954 until May of 1956—rode a bus.

Ernie - Went to Rigsby School until 6th grade - walked 1 1/2 miles.

Wilma - Rigsby-walked, Mannford, walked 1/2 mile and caught school bus, Cleveland, Hallet and Maud.

6. **Did you have a nick name when growing up and what is it?**

Curtis - I was nick named Corkey when I was a baby and I am still that to some people. Also, when I was in school at Mannford, a boy by the name of Spess didn't know my name so he started to call me Eskimo because I had a lot of hair and not much of a forehead. When he started calling me Eskimo, it wasn't long until that was the only name that I was known by there in and around Mannford.

Marvin - No.

Ivy -

Bill - Bill

Ramona - My nickname was "Prip". I was told that as a baby, Trudy called me "Miss Priss". When Ella Mae tried to say this it came out wrong and I became "Miss Prip". Dad called me that till the day he died. Ivy still calls me that occasionally.

Ernie - "Snooks"

7. What sibling were you closest to and why?

Curtis - I guess that I would have to say my oldest sister, Trudy. Why? I don't know. I guess because she and I seem to get along better than I could get along with any of the others.

Marvin - Trudy and Curtis. There were big sister and brother. We fought, played and worked together.

Ivy -

Bill - Trudy, like my second mom.

Ramona - I suppose I was closest to Wilma, because I had to take care of her all the time.

Ernie - Wilma, only the two of us were left at home.

Trudy - She was like a mother, very kind, considerate, thoughtful, concerned and full of love.

8. What were some of your daily chores or duties when growing up? Describe.

Curtis - Feed, hay and milk the cows, plow the fields, plant the crops of corn, kaffi-corn, potatoes, cotton, sow the oats and gather each of the crops and pick the cotton in the fall of the year, cut and carry the wood for heating the house and cooking with, slop the hogs and water them, go get the cows in the morning and evening and drive them to the barn from the pasture to feed them. There is a lot more but too many to mention. Duties on a farm are like roads—there's no end to them.

Marvin - Milking, separating milk, feeding hogs and calves, getting horses and cows from the pastures, farm work in general, plowing, planting and cultivating, chopping and picking cotton and corn and raising truck patches.

Ivy -

Bill - Milking, haying, feeding cattle and hogs, separating milk, cutting firewood, brought cows in.

Ramona - When Ella Mae left home I became "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer" as Dad used to say. I was nine years old. From that time till I left home I did all the housework, cooking, laundry, and cleaning (though I wasn't too strong in that department). I was also responsible for caring for Wilma. I combed and braided her hair and dressed her for school. Then I made sandwiches from left over biscuits (hard tack) and peanut butter for all our lunches. What I would have given for a good ole bologna sandwich like the other kids brought in their school lunches, but since we didn't have electricity to run a refrigerator, we didn't have bologna. Years later we got a kerosene operated refrigerator. We had kerosene lamps for lighting. I had to fill the lamps with kerosene, trim the wicks, and wash the globes. I usually forgot to do this till time to light them, so I had to do it in the dark. Even with the lamps burning, it was still practically dark. I don't know how we ever read by those lamps but we did. Later on we got "modern" lighting. We got a Coleman lantern.

Every Saturday, I drew water from a cistern to do the laundry. I put a washtub on the wood cook stove, then filled it, bucket by bucket. Then I filled another tub with cold water. When the water got hot I carried it by the bucket and poured it in our old Maytag washer. Then the fun began. The May-

tag repairman may not have anything to do these days, but I would have kept him busy, because that old washer would never start. First you had to fill the tank with gasoline, then stomp on the pedal till it started. I don't remember now what I'd do to it, but I remember taking it apart and putting it together again.

Ernie - Milking and feeding livestock.

Wilma - I was the last one so all my older brothers and sisters did the work. When I moved to Hallett, I shared the dishwashing and Saturday house cleaning with Nancy and Doug, Trudy and Ralph's kids. At Maud I helped take care of my nephew, Brad, sometimes and I worked at a drugstore in the Fountain Soda and made \$12 a week.

8A. Name the chore you disliked the most.

Curtis - picking cotton.

Marvin - chopping and picking cotton.

Ivy -

Bill - Milking at 4:00 a.m.

Ramona - We didn't have electricity or running water and of course, no bathroom. We used an "outhouse" in the day time and a "pot" at night. I hated emptying that pot. Another job I hated was washing the cream separator. Every day the milk from our cows was put through the separator. The cream was saved in a cream can and the skim milk was fed to the hogs. Dad took the can of cream to town and sold it to buy staples. I had to dismantle the separator and wash it. There were "about a million" metal discs inside (or maybe only 20) that I had to separate and wash along with the bowl and spouts, then reassemble it. When the discs spun the milk, all the dirt and part of the fat formed a thick scum inside the housing (just think of sour, dirty scum). My stomach feels queasy just thinking about it. Another chore I disliked because it really wasn't my job - my brothers were supposed to split wood and carry it in for the cookstove. A lot of the time they'd go off without doing this and it really made me mad, because then I had to do it. One day I decided I wasn't doing it again. When Dad and the boys came in at noon for dinner, I didn't even have a fire built. I really thought I'd be in serious trouble, but Dad went out and split wood, built a fire and cooked dinner. He wouldn't even let me help. Then I felt really bad because I knew he needed to get back to the field. I guess my brothers felt bad too, because I usually had wood after that.

Ernie - Hauling hay.

Wilma - Working at the drugstore on Sunday afternoons when the rest of the family would go to Trudy and Ralph's to visit.

9. What was a favorite or unusual food dish you remember while growing up?

Curtis - I guess my favorite food dish would have to be cornbread and milk for it was either that or nothing at night about 8 days a week but I still like it for it takes me back to the farm where I grew up and learned how to work.

Marvin - Ice cream

Ivy -

Bill - Cornbread and milk

Ramona - My favorite food was anything besides beans and "tators" and cornbread and milk. What I really enjoyed was when Dad went squirrel hunting. He would sometimes fry the squirrel and make biscuits and gravy. I don't know if I really liked it that much, or just liked not having to cook.

Ernie - Fried chicken on Sundays.

Wilma - Maybe rice for breakfast.

10. What would you and your family do for leisure and recreation when you were a child?

Curtis - Play checkers, horseshoes, dominos and listen to Amos & Andy, Gangbusters, Mr. District Attorney, Baby Snooks, Henry Aldrich, Our Miss Brooks (about a school teacher) and on Saturday night it would be the Grand Ole Opry from Nashville, Tennessee while we were small. After we got bigger (12 or 13), the merchants in Mannford would show a movie outside up on a side of a building in warm weather (free of charge) and everyone from miles around would go to the movie that the merchants would show. We did some fishing too.

Marvin - Fishing and hunting, bee hunting and swimming.

Ramona - I really can't remember much leisure time. After Dad bought a new pickup in 1949, sometimes we'd all pile in it on Saturday night and go to Uncle Bud Carter's second hand store in Cleveland. The grownups would sit around visiting and the kids would go to a "picture show". Dad gave each of us some money, usually a dime, then he'd say, "Don't spend it all in one place." Sometimes he'd give us 25 cents and I would go to the ice cream parlor and get a double dip raspberry cone. That was absolutely the very best thing I have ever eaten.

Ernie - Fishing, hunting, swimming, riding horses.

Wilma - In high school, I went camping with Marvin and family, also vacation and sight seeing.

10A. What was your favorite recreation?

Curtis - Fishing

Marvin - Horseback riding.

Ivy -

Bill - Fishing

Ramona - We lived so far back in the sticks that we seldom had any visitors and we didn't go much except to school and church, so I enjoyed anything that involved other people. I loved going to school. At recess we played soft ball, Red Rover, hide & seek, hopscotch, and drop the handkerchief.

Ernie - (See #10)

Wilma - Camping, fishing

11. Do you remember the year or approximate year your family first owned a:

A. Radio

Curtis - About 1939

Marvin - About 1940

Ivy

Bill - 1940's

Ramona - We always had a radio, but it seldom worked because the battery was dead.

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Ernie - ?

Wilma - As far back as I remember (although we didn't have electricity until I was six in the Hamilton's rent house.)

B. Telephone

Curtis, Marvin, Ivy, Bill, Ramona, Ernie, Wilma - Never

C. Automobile (What Model & Year)

Curtis - About 1939 Dad bought a 1929 or 30 Model A Ford sedan.

Marvin - Don't know

Ivy -

Bill - 1941 or 42 - fairly new pick-up

Ramona - Dad bought an old Model A around 1947. I remember how excited we were when he came driving it home. It wouldn't run most of the time, so I don't remember much about it. In 1949, Dad sold the royalty to our farm. He used the money to buy a 1949 Chevrolet pickup.

Ernie - I remember riding in a rumble seat of a Model A.

Wilma - Always

D. Television

Curtis, Marvin, Ivy, Bill, Ernie, Wilma - Never

Ramona - We never owned a T.V. I remember going to Uncle Ed's store on Wednesday nights so Dad could watch the "prize fights".

12. Did you have any favorite radio programs when growing up? If so, what were they?

Curtis - Yes, Gangbusters, Mr. District Attorney, Baby Snooks and Henry Aldrich.

Marvin - Bob Wills, Johnnie Lee Wills and Grand Ole Opry.

Ivy -

Bill - Lone Ranger, Fibber McGee & Molly

Ramona - I remember a soap opera "Young Widow Brown" that I liked to listen to when the radio was working. We all listened to "Fibber McGee and Molly", "The Lone Ranger" and of course, "The Grand Ole Opry" on Saturday nights.

Ernie - The Lone Ranger

13. Name a popular song from your growing up years.

Curtis - Home On The Range.

Marvin - Don't Fence Me In

Ivy -

Bill - Red River Valley, Where Have You Gone Charming Billy

Ramona - Tennessee Waltz, Yellow Rose of Texas, Slowpoke, Walkin' the Floor Over You, O Susanna, You Are My Sunshine, and Little Lambs Eat Ivy.

Ernie - ?

Wilma - How Much Is That Doggie in the Window?

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(Continued from page 7)

14. Name the first movie or other memorable movie you remember seeing in the theatre?

Curtis - Roy Rogers & Dale Evans, also Gene Autry.

Marvin - Don't remember

Ivy -

Bill - Roy Rogers, Gene Autry

Ramona - I remember when I was about six years old, we'd ride in the wagon to town and sit on a quilt in the grass to watch a movie that was projected on the outside wall of a building. I don't remember what town or what movie we saw. Western movies with Roy Rogers and Gene Autry were what we usually saw at the theatre. Besides the main feature, they usually had a "cliff hanger" where the hero or heroine was in dire circumstances. You had to come back the next week to see if they got out of their predicament.

Ernie - Went to the movies on Saturday night in Cleveland. Cost was 10 cents (didn't have any favorite movie.)

15. What other types of entertainment did you have while growing up?

Curtis - Make dead falls and trap possums and skunks and sell their hides for money.

Marvin - Attending rodeos and carnivals and a circus

Bill - Baseball, ice skating on our frozen ponds.

Ramona - I loved to read though my reading material was pretty limited. We did have a bible story book that was pretty thick. I remember reading it every night when I went to bed (by the kerosene light.)

Wilma - Playing on the farm with the chickens, kittens.

16. What were your favorite hobbies and interests as a child?

Curtis - Swimming, fishing in warm weather and ice skidding on the creek on shallow water.

Marvin - Riding horses

Ivy -

Bill - (See #10)

Ramona - (See #15)

Ernie - Had show pigs.

17. Did you have any heroes or heroines as a child? Name them.

Curtis - My Dad

Marvin - No

Ivy -

Bill - Trudy

Ramona - The only person I was really in awe of was Dad. Next to God and the preacher, he was the only person I knew who was good and kind and who really cared about me. I used to feel sorry for him sometimes, though, because he had to work so hard.

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17A Describe any hopes and dreams you had for the future when you were a child.

Curtis - Getting a good job and getting in the work force.

Marvin - Wanted to own and operate a grocery store.

Ivy -

Bill - Leaving the farm.

Ramona - My hopes and dreams were pretty limited. I never imagined that I would ever do or be anything except a wife and mother. All I ever wanted was to have nice things like "everyone else". I could never imagine living as we do now. I remember thinking as a child, that when I got married, that my husband would have to build a fire and get the house good and warm before I got out of bed, and as I broke the ice in the water bucket to wash my hands and face, I thought he'd also have to heat me some water to wash in.

Wilma - I wanted to be a missionary.

18. Describe how your family fared through the depression years and any experiences that stand out to you.

Curtis - Jerry Clower said that down where he was raised up, the people were so poor from eating greens until they had to fight off the cut worms. I don't remember being quite that poor but I remember that Dad bought a sack (100 lbs.) of whole wheat and we didn't know what we were going to eat for supper one night so Dad got some of that wheat that he had bought for stock feed and washed it real good and cooked it like he would rice and it tasted real good with a little milk and sugar on it. My granddad would butcher some hogs and we would have some pork in cool weather but in warm weather we would eat chickens, rabbits or whatever else we could find and some fish too.

Marvin - Poorly, Dad's broken leg, walking on crutches for one year and a wooden peg leg he made for himself for about 4 years. Dad and my older brothers, J.D. and Curtis cutting wood for .50 cents a rick.

Ivy -

Bill - Hard work, little play

Ramona - I was pretty young in the depression years, and it seems to me as if our family was always in a depression period. I remember kids making fun of me in second grade because I went to school barefooted. I was so happy when Dad sold the cotton, which was sometime after frost had dried the bowls so we could pick it. I remember the new shoes I got then and showing them off to everyone. Another time I remember using baling wire to wire the sole of my shoe until I could get new ones. When the wire broke the sole flopped up and down every step I took. Ella Mae was six years older than me and I wore her hand-me-downs that were always too big for me. I got a new dress to wear to Ella Mae's funeral, which I outgrew quickly. I got another new dress for Jay Dee's funeral. Those were the only new clothes I ever had, except for the new pair of shoes every fall, which I outgrew or they wore out by spring. No problem, I just went barefooted. I remember one time Dad and Mom went to town, they were supposed to buy me new shoes. They got home after I went to bed that night. I was so excited about getting new shoes that I got up in the night to look at them. The only shoes I could find was an ugly pair of white women's shoes with wedge heels. I couldn't believe they were for me, but sure enough, in the morning, Dad and Mom were so proud - they had found these perfectly good shoes at Uncle Bud's second hand store. Now if they would just fit, they wouldn't have to buy new ones. I scrunched my foot up so that the shoes wouldn't go on, so I got my new shoes after all.

19. So many families had to live on nothing more than faith to get by. Do you recall such an instance in the depression? Describe.

Curtis - One morning my dad had a team hooked to the wagon going up a country road and a bread truck passed him up and went up the road just a short distance. The driver pulled over to the side of the road and stopped and got out of the truck and opened the back of it. When my dad got up with him, the driver asked Dad if he could use some bread and took a whole box of sample bread out of the truck and gave it to Dad and told Dad to burn the wrappers after he got done with the bread. This happened in 1934.

Marvin - Not enough to eat or wear as a big family. All of us kids not getting to go to school for a year or two because Dad didn't have enough money to send us.

Ivy -

Bill - Dad walked on a peg leg and farmed

20. Times have surely changed. What are some good changes since you were a child?

Curtis - There are jobs for people that aren't too lazy to work and there is money to be made by working for it.

Marvin - Better food, clothes, transportation, electric, gas running water (hot and cold) and being able to afford them.

Ivy -

Bill - Shorter working days and more leisure time.

Ramona - All of my childhood dreams have come true. I do live in a nice house with nice things. My husband doesn't have to break the ice in the water bucket and heat water for me (though I'm sure he would). I have more clothes than I can wear, and food I'd never even heard of as a child. No more drawing water, filling lamps, emptying a pot, hanging clothes on the fence to dry. All the modern appliances and gadgets would have seemed like magic back then. Actually some of them still seem like a fantasy.

Ernie - Electricity, indoor plumbing, central heat and air.

Wilma - Inside bathrooms, running water, bathtubs (instead of the round tin tub.)

21. What are some bad changes?

Curtis - #1—The majority of people have stopped going to church to work and learn what the Lord would have them do. #2 There is no justice or morals in America anymore. Anything goes.

Marvin - More crime and more people that don't want to work.

Ivy -

Bill - People not being reliable, can't count on their word, too many politicians.

Ramona - We are all so busy earning a living or striving to get more things, that we don't have time to enjoy what we already have. We don't spend much time together as a family, and we've practically lost touch with our extended family - brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. If something doesn't work just right, we throw it away and buy something new, bigger and better than the old. We haven't taught our kids and grandkids to work to achieve their goals, and that a job worth doing is worth doing well. Instead we give them practically everything, thus denying them the satisfaction that comes from achieving it on their own. Without that, the gift itself becomes meaningless, so they look to other

things for satisfaction. I don't have to tell you where that often leads, you can look at all the young lives wasted on drugs, sex and crime. It makes me grateful I was brought up during the depression.

Ernie - Drugs, fast pace.

Wilma - More sinful ways, pleasures of the world.

22. Describe one or two hard or sad times your family endured during your growing-up years?

Curtis - In 1938 my oldest brother got hurt while we were moving our cattle to the place that we were moving to. A horse fell on him and he was unconscious (Webster) for 21 days and the doctors had to cut the top of my brother's head almost off lacking about three inches in going all the way around it about 1 1/2" above his ears.

Marvin - Jay Dee was unconscious 21 days and nights - Ella Mae and Jay Dee dying at an early age.

Ivy -

Bill - Death of Ella Mae, J.D., Trudy, Mom and Dad and J.D.'s accident.

Ramona - What comes to mind immediately is Ella Mae's death in 1950 at age 17, followed by Jay Dee's death at age 27 in 1951. I was eleven years old when Ella Mae died, but I can barely remember. She had just married LaVerne Stevens and they stayed at our house a few days. She was very sick and getting sicker every day. If I remember right she went back to the sanitarium at Talihina just after Christmas and died a few days later, though I'm not really sure of that. Before Jay Dee died they were living in a little house close to Rigsby School. I remember Aunt Mildred and others being there to help care for him. I would stop by on my way to and from school but they wouldn't let us kids go in to see him. I remember his funeral at Dixie Church and the big crowd that came.

Ernie - When Jay Dee and Ella Mae died.

Wilma - Ella Mae died when I was three (when she was 17, 6 months after marrying.) Jay Dee died when I was four. Mom died when I was 14 and Dad when I was 18 and Trudy, two months later.

22A. Describe a holiday that sticks out in your memory?

Curtis - 4th of July—hot weather, homemade ice cream, fishing and swimming.

Marvin - Thanksgiving and Christmas—We had family get-togethers with lots and lots of food.

Ivy -

Bill - Christmas of 1942, Trudy came home with presents.

Ramona - Christmas was always my favorite holiday because of all the decorations and Christmas play at school, and I loved the Christmas carols and the Christmas story. In the fall we had a "box supper" at school. All the girls would decorate a box and pack two lunches in it. The boxes were auctioned off to the highest bidder who got to share the contents with the girl who brought it. The proceeds from the box supper were used to put on the Christmas play and furnish treats to everyone, a sack filled with an apple, orange, nuts and Christmas candy. This was the only present we got and I savored every piece of hard candy, the pretty ribbon candy and peanut brittle. We never had any Christmas decorations at home, except for one Christmas

morning. When I woke up, right there in our living room was the most beautiful tree I'd ever seen. Since my bed was in the living room and I hadn't seen or heard anything during the night, I almost believed Santa Claus had been there. There were treats for all of us though I can't remember what they were. It didn't really matter, just the tree was surprise enough. For the life of me I can't remember how the tree got there. I remember another Christmas when I was older. A big box arrived for us from California. Inside were individually wrapped presents for each of us. Curtis and Debbie had bought something for all of us. I remember I got a green sweater set that I wore for several years.

Ernie - 4th of July, 1953 or 1954 - All the relatives were to meet at the river on our place. Someone changed the meeting place and failed to tell us. We waited all day and no one came.

Wilma - 4th of July picnic. We all went to the lake at the old home place (Grandpa Carter's) and had a picnic with some aunts and uncles and that night our barn burned down. I think I was in 5th or 6th grade.

23. Describe one or two special or happy times your family had.

Curtis - 1. When Ivy came home from getting his mouth take care of when he was a baby.
2. When my oldest brother came home from the hospital after he was hurt by the horse.

Marvin - Grandpa and Grandma Carter's 50th wedding anniversary.

Ivy -

Bill - When Curtis came home from the Army, we had a family reunion at our place.

Ramona - What stands out in my memory is a few times the whole Carter family got together for a picnic. There was always plenty of food, and swimming in the river, horseshoes and other games. I think what I remember most is a washtub filled with bottles of soda pop covered with ice. And of course, there were lots of cousins to play with and aunts and uncles to tease us.

Ernie - When several of us got together and made ice cream.

Wilma - When Ivy came home from the Army, when we would gather in Hallett at Trudy and Ralph's for a family reunion, and when I lived with them. Also when Curtis and Debbie and kids returned from California.

24. Can you relate a true funny happening regarding you or your family during your growing up years?

Curtis - When I went fishing when I was about 9 years old and pulled that snake out of the hole of the bank under the water—no one had to tell me to let it go.

Marvin - I held a big calf while Curtis tied a 5 gallon bucket on its tail. When I turned him loose he was bucking so hard and ran through a watering hole and got the bucket full of water. He came out the other side and kicked and bucked so hard, he pulled all the bush off of his tail.

Ivy -

Bill - I was four years old - my older brothers covered my face with black suet and sat me out to meet the school bus looking like a little black boy.

Ramona - We got all our water from a cistern. It had a wooden box to cover the opening. The box had a lid on hinges that we raised to draw water in a bucket attached to a rope and

pulley. We had a cat that like to sun herself on this lid. One day I left the lid open while I carried a bucket of water inside to empty so I could draw another one. Just as I came back out I saw our cat leap up to the lid for her nap. Imagine her surprise and mine when there was no landing place. I heard a long MEOOO-OO-WW and then SPLASH! I let the bucket down and the poor thing swam over and climbed in, and I pulled her out. Then I continued to draw water. I shudder to think that this was our drinking water.

Wilma - Something I thought was funny but my Dad didn't - When I was very young, I pulled the chair back when Dad was going to sit down, but I learned very quickly that you just don't do that.

25. Transportation used to center around trains more than now. Do you have a story about riding a train you'd like to share with us?

Curtis - When I was in the army riding a train to Ft. Lewis, Washington one late night—We were rounding a curve and another train was coming right for us and I could hardly keep from pulling the stop cord and sweat broke out all over me. But there happened to be another track right beside of the track that we were on and what a relief!

Marvin - Rode my first trail from Terlton to Tulsa when I was about 13 to visit Trudy for a few days.

Ivy -

Bill - I'll soon be 65 and I've never ridden a train.

Ramona - I have never ridden on a train.

Ernie - I rode trains in England. They were a lot faster than in U.S.

Wilma - I didn't ride a train until I went to Peru.

26. Describe one or two interesting, noteworthy trips you took in your younger years.

Curtis - I was on a ship in 1949 on my way to Japan and we were out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and about mid-afternoon a storm (typhoon) hit the side of our ship and turned it over on its side and I thought I was a goner...There was a lot of praying going on at that time. A lot of the guys on that ship were in a theater watching a movie and when the ship went over on its side, that put the screen on the lower side of that compartment and the guys all landed in a heap down on the screen. Some got broken bones and hurt somewhat but none were killed. You ask what was I doing at that time? I was laying in my bunk sound asleep but that woke me up. I grabbed a pipe that was welded holding the bunks in place and I went all the way around it in mid-air and back to my bunk.

Marvin - I went with Mom and Dad, Ella Mae and Ivy to Missouri to visit Granddad Dunn.

Ivy -

Bill - Two friends and I (I was 17) went to Michigan and we got thrown in jail on Thanksgiving Day. The police thought we were runaways. They let us go the next day.

Ramona - The longest trip I took as a young child was from Rigsby School on a 4H trip to Pawnee. Mr. Brodell, our teacher, hauled us all in the back of his pickup. I was very excited about the trip. I remember seeing Pawnee Bill's Museum and having ice cream treats. Mary Lee Sissom and I put on a demonstration on setting a dinner table and won a ribbon. When I was a little older I took a few trips to Tulsa. I was simply amazed at all the people, cars and buildings. I couldn't imagine how anyone could find where they were going in all the maze of streets. One Sunday afternoon when I was about 12, my Sunday School teacher, Janie Gibbons, took us kids to Mohawk Zoo. I had been there one other time on a school trip from Rigsby. About this same time I spent a few days with Aunt Cleo and Uncle Irt when they lived on the Sand Springs line (or Charles Page Blvd.). When I was 15, I stayed a week with Trudy and Ralph

while they still lived in Tulsa. From there I went to live with Marvin and Anna Jane at Cleveland. I never lived at home with Mom and Dad after that. The only noteworthy thing about these trips is they were the only trips I took.

Wilma - I vaguely remember going on a trip with my parents. I think we went to Missouri to see Dad's family. I was only 4, more or less. When I was in the 4th grade, I lived with Trudy and Ralph in the first semester. That was the longest trip (besides the Missouri one) that I remember. And when I lived with Marvin and Ann, we traveled on vacations (San Antonio, Mexico-crossing for an afternoon, Colorado, etc.) camping out by the lakes.

27. Describe where you were and what you were doing when you first heard of Pearl Harbor being bombed.

Curtis - I was outside playing horseshoes about 4 p.m. and Trudy was listening to the radio and heard about it and came out and told all that were outside at home.

Marvin - I was coming home from school on the bus, crossing the Cimmaron River bridge north of Mannford and I heard the bus driver talking about it.

Ivy -

Bill - I don't remember except what I saw in a movie. I only remember the war but not Pearl Harbor.

Ramona - I was too young to even realize there was a war.

28. How were you affected by World War II?

Curtis - I knew that it was an awful thing to happen and I was concerned somewhat.

Marvin - We didn't have all the sugar we wanted and after the war was over, Dad had to tell Trudy that Ralph was in the hospital in California.

Ivy -

Bill - My rationing of goods and my brother-in-law having to go overseas.

Ramona (See #27)

29. What are the most important qualities your parents passed down that you would like your children and grandchildren to continue.

Curtis - Always have faith in God, be honest with others and help others.

Marvin - Faith, love, honor and hard work.

Ivy -

Bill - To be honest, to go to church and to serve God.

Ramona - I'm really kind of puzzled by this question. We spend a lot of time teaching our kids how they should behave, many times to no avail. I don't remember Mom or Dad telling us kids we should do this, or not do that. Yet we all had a strong sense of right or wrong. I think we learned through observation and from church. One quality in particular that has stayed with me is to work hard and to achieve my goals, and to make do with what I have.

Ernie - Honesty and hard work.

Wilma - Loving the Lord and His Word and House, being faithful to Him, being an honest, hard worker.

30. What are three things you would wish most for your children and grandchildren to have.

Curtis - Faith in God, good health and a good spirit.

Marvin - Faith, good health and a good job.

Ivy -

Bill - Salvation, good education, love for their grandpa, respect for their elders.

Ramona - Many things come to mind; health, happiness, success, contentment, a sense of purpose and achievement, and even wealth. But the one thing I really wish for them is to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, companion and friend and to follow his direction throughout their lives.

Ernie - To be saved, to be loved and to be content.

Wilma - A loving and obedient heart for the Lord, a life surrendered to His will, a life full of fruit for the Lord, for His eternal glory.

31. In what church affiliation were you raised?

Curtis - Undenominational community church

Marvin - Undenominational

Ivy -

Bill - Non denominational

Ramona - I attended church at Dixie Community Church which was non-denominational.

Ernie - Baptist

Wilma - Pentecostal and Baptist (Baptist from 8th grade on - Trudy & Ralph and Marvin and Ann).

32. What year did you receive your salvation and in what setting?

Curtis - I went to a revival at a country church (Dixie) under a brush arbor in hot summertime weather in 1943 and that was before air conditioners. A lot of young people were outside including myself when the alter call was made and a voice spoke to me and asked if I would accept Christ as my Lord and Savior. I went in and asked Christ to come into my heart and save me and make me a new person and He did. He will not turn anyone away that will have faith in Him and ask Him to come into their heart.

Marvin - About 1939 in Dixie undenominational church with Clyde Givens preaching.

Ivy -

Bill - First Sunday after Easter in 1957 (when I was 20) in a Nazarene church in Cleveland. I went to church with Aunt Ethel & Geneve.

Ramona - Several times, as a child, after listening to a preacher warn sinners to repent or else, I would go to the alter to be saved, but no one ever explained to me how to be saved, except to tell me to pray and "have faith". I was even "baptized" a couple of times. But nothing ever changed - I was still a sinner or so I figured. I just didn't "have faith" enough. One Sunday morning, several years later, I attended Glenwood Baptist Church at the invitation of a neighbor. During the invitation, I wanted to go to the alter but I remembered all those other times and I didn't want to do that again. Maybe it was too late for me, or maybe I was just too bad to be saved, so I put it all out of my mind, or so I thought. It just kept nagging at me and after two sleepless nights, I called the pastor at Glenwood, Brother Bob Post. He and a deacon came to my house that afternoon. Brother Bob opened the bible and showed me how to be saved. When I realized I didn't have to do anything besides accept what Jesus had already done, a great weight lifted from my mind.

So on a Tuesday afternoon, April 24th, 1962 I asked Jesus to come into my heart and He did. I could hardly wait for Bill to come home so I could tell him. We went to church the next night on a Wednesday and I went forward to proclaim Jesus Christ as my Savior. I was 23 years old. When I was baptized this time it was for real.

Ernie - 1979 at home

Wilma - I think I was 12 in the Assembly of God church in Mannford.

33. Describe any other church related memory that sticks out to you in your growing up years.

Curtis - About a year later in 1944 I went to a revival at a Pentecostal Holiness church in Cleveland and was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Marvin - Uncle Raymond Carter and Edward Zickefoose holding tent revivals at Oak Grove store lasting 3 1/2 or 4 weeks and 2 to 3 weeks at other times. Having dinner after Sunday meeting and a lot of people (between two and three hundred) going to the Arkansas River for baptismal services in the afternoon. There was a big line of people going across the sandbar, wading out in to the river to be baptized.

Ivy -

Bill - Revival that Raymond Carter and Edward Zickafoose in the late 40's. Revival that J.D. had at Dixie.

Ramona - I remember teaching a Sunday school class of small children. I pray that in my ignorance I didn't tell them anything wrong, though I probably just read the literature to them. I also remember being the Sunday school secretary. I counted people and the offerings and turned it in to the preacher, Brother Clyde Gibbons. I remember Dad used to sing a special at church sometimes, and he was always trying to get me to sing too because he thought I was a good singer. I was so bashful that my face turned red if someone looked at me but I finally agreed to sing. The pianist played the introduction and I opened my mouth but not a sound came out. The intro was played again but I still couldn't sing a word. I wished the floor would just open up and swallow me. Finally, Dad came up and together we got through the song. He never asked me to sing after that. I remember one night we were going home from church. Dad asked if Wilma was in the back of the pickup, as she usually rode in the front. He stopped and sure enough, she wasn't back there. We went back to the church but everyone was gone and the church house was locked. We went to the preacher's house and got the key and unlocked the door. There was Wilma asleep on a back pew in the dark church. She never knew we had gone.

Ernie - Went to church at Dixie - very small congregation. Clyde Gibbons was pastor.

Wilma - I remember thinking when I was in high school that I would like to be a missionary but never thought that I could. (I was super quiet and timid and very backward.) But I found out that the Lord can use anybody. He just wants us to be yielded to Him and He will do the rest if we are willing to let Him have us.

34. Describe your memories of

A. Dad Dunn (Jess Dunn)

Curtis - My dad would never turn anyone away and there were a few people that would be on foot that would come by our home in late evening and Dad would feed them their supper (cornbread & milk) and find some place for them to sleep (always only one at a time). Wilson Wooten came to our house when he was a pre-teen and Dad took him in and kept him until he was in his 20's and he helped

Dad for his room and board.

Marvin - Hard working, even tempered, laughing at jokes, serious minded and honest, working for the WPA, breaking his leg in 1936 (I think), walking on a peg-leg for a long time, never giving up, breaking horses and mules to work. He liked to hunt bee trees and going to the river to fish sometimes all night.

Ivy -

Bill - I remember Dad walking on a peg leg and I cut my leg on a bicycle spoke and he asked me if I wanted him to make me a peg leg so we could both look alike. He was the most honest and hardest working person I ever knew.

Ramona - I remember Dad as a kindhearted, jovial man who had a hard life. I remember his leg that he'd broken many years earlier, causing him a lot of pain and I remember he suffered from "rheumatiz" as he called it. Yet he got up every morning and went to the barn to milk, then on to the field, to provide for his family. I never doubted his love for us. He lived a simple life and didn't ask for much. He took us kids to church, helped his neighbors when he could and served his Lord. I don't ever remember being disciplined by Dad, but I knew when he disapproved of my actions. He had a way of letting me know he expected more of me, so that I never wanted to disappoint him again. But no matter how much I tried, I never felt that he was pleased or proud of anything I did either. He just wasn't one to talk about his feelings or express much emotion, so I never really knew what he was thinking.

Ernie - Both Dad and Mom endured many hardships. I doubt that I could have endured as well as they did.

Wilma - He was quiet (it seemed to me), sat around the house after work reading His bible, always went to church, led the music I believe. His best friend was Bill Cummings. Bill would come over and they would discuss the bible. Sometimes he would take me fishing, which I really enjoyed. Sometimes we went squirrel hunting. I never remember him mad at me.

B. Mom Dunn (Edna Carter Dunn)

Curtis - Mom would always go barefoot in warm weather and the hide on the bottom of her feet would get like soles on a pair of shoes. She would heat her laundry water up in a big kettle out in the yard and one morning she stepped on a coal of fire and it took a little while for her to feel it through that thick hide on her foot. But when she did feel it, I thought that I would have to catch her as she ran around the house. I felt sorry for her but I still get a big laugh out of it when I think about it.

Marvin - Washing clothes for a big family, sewing and ironing with irons she heated on a wood stove, cooking a lot of cornbread for dinner and having enough left over for supper.

Ivy -

Bill - The earliest memory I have is her picking cotton with Ernie laying on the end of the cotton sack as a baby. She pulled her sack of cotton and Ernie too. She loved working outside a lot more than doing housework. I was with her when she died of pneumonia in the hospital.

Ramona - Mom was very emotional at times, unlike Dad, though I never knew what she was thinking either. My memories of her are kind of painful. She was a moody person. For the most part she stayed in bed day and night. She never bathed or combed her hair and she wore the same ole feed sack gown all the time. I had to take her meals to her and try to

clean around her without making her mad. She seldom had a pleasant word for anyone. She was always reminding me that I was to honor and respect my parents. Every few months something seemed to snap with her and she would become very violent. All of us kids just ignored her for the most part, but when she was on the "warpath" as we called her outbursts, we all tried to stay out of her sight. I've seen her do things that were very frightening to a small child. I had no respect for her. In fact, I was ashamed of her. I felt she hated all of us and I felt the same about her. When I was 14 years old I woke up one night feeling terrible. I seemed to hurt all over, and I was extremely thirsty. I got up to get a drink but the water bucket was empty and I just couldn't draw a bucket of water, so I stumbled back to bed. Mom heard me moaning and came to see what was wrong. She reached for my forehead and I ducked thinking she was going to hit me for waking her up. Instead she said I was burning up with fever, and to my amazement she drew a bucket of water and brought me a drink. I remember thinking that maybe she did love me a little. Our relationship didn't change any though. When I got married and our daughter, Tammy, was small, there were times when I felt I just couldn't cope. I didn't know how to deal with temper tantrums and the "terrible twos". I thought about Mom who had bore 11 babies when times were very hard. She didn't have any of the conveniences and comforts that I had. And I thought about the way all of us kids had treated her, and I thought about the fact that Dad hadn't treated her any better than us kids did. I began to understand that she must have been terribly depressed and unhappy. I wondered how I would have reacted in her circumstances. I wished I could have known her when she was a young bride, before she gave up on life.

Ernie - (See above)

Wilma - By the time I came along, it seemed that Mom had retired. She just liked to lie around and read books. She would have me check her out books from the school library. My last year or two at home, she started going to the Assembly of God in Mannford and reading her bible a lot, and really enjoyed it.

C. Granddad & Grandma Dunn (if any)

Curtis - My Grandma Dunn lived in Missouri and she died when I was about 9 or 10 year old. I never knew her but I heard she used tobacco. After my Grandma Dunn died, Granddad Dunn came to Oklahoma to visit us. He was a Pentecostal Holiness minister and a good man. He didn't have any teeth (or any kind) and he spoke in tongues all the time (ha ha) for you couldn't understand him. A picture to him was a pitcher (Ha Ha).

Marvin - Don't remember Grandma Dunn. Granddad Dunn's first name was Ivy and he second wife's name was Ivy also. When we visited him in about 1939, I was about 9 years old. He stayed with us a while sometime later.

Ivy -

Bill - Granddad and his second wife came to live with us a short time and they acted like newlyweds. I remember him picking cotton with us.

Ramona - I never knew Dad's parents or any of this family except one sister, Celie Collins and her husband, Alfred. They lived in Terlton where Uncle Alfred drove an ice truck. They had four children, all older than me. They were Frank, Clarence, Pauline and Colleen. We maintained contact with them through the years until I left home.

Ernie - None.

Wilma - None.

D. Granddad & Grandma Carter

Curtis - Granddad and Grandma Carter would get up early every morning and they would

clean around her without making her mad. She seldom had a pleasant word for anyone. She was always reminding me that I was to honor and respect my parents. Every few months something seemed to snap with her and she would become very violent. All of us kids just ignored her for the most part, but when she was on the "warpath" as we called her outbursts, we all tried to stay out of her sight. I've seen her do things that were very frightening to a small child. I had no respect for her. In fact, I was ashamed of her. I felt she hated all of us and I felt the same about her. When I was 14 years old I woke up one night feeling terrible. I seemed to hurt all over, and I was extremely thirsty. I got up to get a drink but the water bucket was empty and I just couldn't draw a bucket of water, so I stumbled back to bed. Mom heard me moaning and came to see what was wrong. She reached for my forehead and I ducked thinking she was going to hit me for waking her up. Instead she said I was burning up with fever, and to my amazement she drew a bucket of water and brought me a drink. I remember thinking that maybe she did love me a little. Our relationship didn't change any though. When I got married and our daughter, Tammy, was small, there were times when I felt I just couldn't cope. I didn't know how to deal with temper tantrums and the "terrible twos". I thought about Mom who had bore 11 babies when times were very hard. She didn't have any of the conveniences and comforts that I had. And I thought about the way all of us kids had treated her, and I thought about the fact that Dad hadn't treated her any better than us kids did. I began to understand that she must have been terribly depressed and unhappy. I wondered how I would have reacted in her circumstances. I wished I could have known her when she was a young bride, before she gave up on life.

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Ramona - I never knew Dad's parents or any of this family except one sister, Celie Collins and her husband, Alfred. They lived in Terlton where Uncle Alfred drove an ice truck. They had four children, all older than me. They were Frank, Clarence, Pauline and Colleen. We maintained contact with them through the years until I left home.

Ernie - None.

Wilma - None.

D. Granddad & Grandma Carter

Curtis - Granddad and Grandma Carter would get up early every morning and they would

read a scripture from the Bible and each of them would start the day off with prayer and each of them would pray before breakfast or anything else that took place. They would get up about 4 a.m. each morning and everyone would wash their feet before they went to bed. My grandma was a good cook and made the best cakes that I ever tasted.

Marvin - Granddad and Grandma Carter were my favorites. I stayed with them from the last of December, 1937 to about June of 1936 and went to school for the first time. I remember cooking a lot of cookies. They lived on a hill in a rock house and I watched a big truck haul Granddad's house up the hill and the truck brakes weren't any good and it died several times and Granddad would run under the house and put a big block of wood behind the wheels of the truck. Then they took the house down over the other side of the hill to Granddad's home place, which was later (1946) our home place. I remember Granddad couldn't read or write, so Grandmother would read the Bible aloud every morning before breakfast and Granddad would pray after she read the Bible. Grandmother was the kindest person I ever knew.

Ivy -

Bill - Granddad Carter had a used furniture business and a big tent of furniture in his yard. Grandma Carter had a stroke and was bedfast the last five years of her life.

Ramona - I remember Grandma and Grandpa from a very early age though I don't remember that many details about them. I remember visiting them after they moved into town. For their 50th wedding anniversary, Uncle Alvie and Aunt Opal hosted a party for them, with all the aunts, uncles and cousins there. I remember a picture taken that day with four generations with Grandma Carter, Mom, Trudy and Nancy Carol. It seems like immediately after the anniversary party, Grandma had a stroke that left her bedfast until she died. After her death Grandpa lived alone in their house in Cleveland. He gradually lost his eyesight until he was blind, before his death.

Ernie - Remember being in their house in Cleveland, but not much else.

Wilma - I just remember Grandma Carter in bed after her stroke. Granddad Carter would listen to radio preachers. He sometimes would take me to town with him and buy me a hamburger.

35. Describe your childhood and adult memories of

A. **Trudy**

Curtis - Trudy and I were about 21 1/2 months apart and we were pretty close. We always cared what went on around us and when she died at age 39, a part of me died. We worked together on the farm picking cotton and when she left home to work in a meat packing warehouse (Armor), I went to work there too. That is where Ralph and Trudy met—they both worked at Armor Meat Packing.

Marvin - I remember Trudy working and coming home on the train and I picked her up in Terilton with a horse-drawn cart that I built. She was really wearing fine clothes and a hat. After Ralph got out of the Marines and was in the hospital for so long a different times, Trudy really had it rough for a long time, having to leave Nancy Carol with Ralph's sister in Kansas, and was in the hospital a long time, at the same time as Ralph, in Norton, Kansas. I remember that by only the faith in God that they made it through. Trudy's family and my family was real close in the last years of her life.

Ivy -

Bill - Trudy came to our house after she was married and Ralph had gone overseas in the military. She brought a box full of Christmas presents. I got a Big Chief writing tablet, mittens and earmuffs. I wanted to write my name on the tablet at bedtime and when I argued with her she spanked me for not obeying her and twenty years later I gave her a whipping. My adult memory of Trudy was taking her to Pawnee hospital when Mark was born February 23, 1960 at 2:00 p.m.

Ramona - I don't remember when Jay Dee, Trudy or Curtis lived at home. My first memory of Trudy was when we learned she had T.B. and she had to go to the TB Sanitarium at Norton, Kansas where Ralph was already hospitalized. I remember that when they had a baby, Nancy Carol, that Ralph's sister took care of her while Trudy was in the hospital. While hospitalized, Trudy learned she had a faulty heart valve that was damaged by rheumatic fever as a child. When she was released from the hospital she stayed in Norton with Nancy until Ralph was released. While Trudy was in the hospital she had a friend who had a son just a little younger than Nancy. His name was Douglas Garren. Doug's mother wanted Trudy to take care of him too. When the friend died, her will stipulated that Trudy and Ralph would be Doug's guardian. When Ralph was released they moved to Tulsa and then to Hallett. They had two more sons, George Ralph, Jr. and Mark. I lived with them during my senior year of high school. They were very good to me and treated me like a member of the family, but I knew I was an added burden to them. Trudy and Ralph both remained in bad health, but I never heard them complain or feel sorry for themselves. Their life was built on their faith that God would sustain them.

Ernie - I was living with Trudy and Ralph when Trudy died.

Wilma - She was always happy, kind and concerned. She was like a second mother to me. I lived with them in the 4th (1st semester) and 8th grade. She loved the Lord and talked about Him a lot.

B. Ella Mae

Curtis - Ella Mae was a sweet pretty little sister and she would stay with some friends of ours and go to school during the school year and then come home when school was out. I don't remember how many years that she did that before I went into the army. She got "TB" and went to a state hospital for that and after several months in the hospital, she heard about an Oral Roberts big-tent healing meeting in Houston, Texas. She left the hospital and went down to Houston to be prayed for and she claimed that she was healed. She met a young man while she was in Houston or somewhere down there and the two of them fell in love and got married. They came home a few days after I got home from Japan in 1949. They were real happy together after they got home. But after a few days, Ella Mae got real sick and after a day or two, I went to Cleveland and got the doctor and brought him out to the house (it was real cold weather). The doctor examined her and said she had pneumonia. He said that she should be back in the state hospital in Talihina, Oklahoma about 200 miles SE of Tulsa. Ella Mae was against going back to the hospital down at Talihina and she told an aunt (Linnie) that if she went back to the hospital that it would be the death of her. (Dad didn't know about her saying that at the time.) On January 4th, 1950, Dad had her taken by ambulance back to the hospital and Dad and I followed the ambulance on roads that were real slick and icy. Lavern, her husband, went with Dad and me and it was late when we got to the hospital and get her checked in. After checking her in, we went and got us a room for the night. Early the next morning before daybreak the hospital found us and said that Ella Mae had passed away about 3 a.m. on the 5th of January. Dad called the funeral home in Cleveland and had them to come back with the ambulance for her body to take it back to Cleveland. We took her to Talihina on the 4th and back on the 5th to the funeral home.

Marvin - Her staying with other people and going to high school in Cleveland and her dying while I was in Germany.

Ivy -

Bill - Very pretty, lived with the Flemings and went to school in Cleveland when she was 15 or 16. She was in a TB sanitarium and came home with her husband, Laverne Stevens. On January 4, 1950, took her back to the sanitarium to Talihina. I was 15 years old.

Ramona - My memories of Ella Mae are really vague. When she finished the eighth grade she dropped out of school. Mom and Dad never saw any reason for a girl to go to high school, since all she

would do is get married and have kids and keep house, and she didn't need a high school education for that. (When I was in the 6th grade, Mr. Brodell wanted to promote me to the 8th grade. When I told Mom and Dad they were happy that I would only have to go to school one more year. I was determined to go to high school and I thought I needed all the time I could get to figure out how. I told Mr. Brodell that my folks wouldn't let me skip 7th grade. I told my folks that Mr. Brodell changed his mind.) Back to Ella Mae - I simply can't remember anything about her while she lived at home even though we would have been in school at Rigsby at the same time. The first eight grades were all taught by one teacher in one room, but I can't remember Ella Mae at school or at home. My very first memory of her was when she left home. I came home from school one day and she was gone. I was told she was going to live with a family named Fleming to care for their small daughter, Susan, in exchange for her room and board. She started high school at Cleveland in the fall of 1947 at age 15. She had a boyfriend, Robert Besser. I'm sure this was a very exciting time in her life. Sometime in her freshman year, she was diagnosed with TB and admitted to the TB sanitarium at Talihina. She left the hospital against her doctor's wishes in the fall of 1949. She met and married a young preacher named Laverne Stevens. A few months later she died.

Ernie - I only remember seeing Ella Mae one time. She was staying with neighbors.

Wilma - No memories of Ella Mae.

C. Jay Dee

Curtis - He was a good brother and a good worker and a minister of the gospel. Brother Jimmy Williams said one morning of Jay Dee that when Jay Dee took the pulpit, he was ready to preach - he didn't have to get warmed up to preach. He was ready to get with it when he got in the pulpit. Brother Williams said that Jay Dee was the only preacher he ever saw that was that way.

Marvin - *(Note: Marvin didn't have this "Jay Dee" section in his set of questions - so he didn't know to answer this particular one.)*

Ivy -

Bill - I remember that Jay Dee and Clarence Collins ran around together, him being in the Pawnee hospital. Jay Dee and Debbie lived with us a short time after he became a preacher. Jay Dee came home from New Mexico and I remember him riding horses and wearing a cowboy hat. I was in Rigsby school when they came to tell me that Jay Dee died.

Ramona - The only memories I have of Jay Dee was after he surrendered to preach and he went as a missionary to the Navajo Indians in New Mexico.

Ernie - Only remember seeing Jay Dee once, when he came home from New Mexico.

Wilma - My main memory of Jay Dee was everyone trying to keep me away from him so I wouldn't get TB.

36. Which sibling did you fight with the most and how were these fights carried out?

Curtis - Jay Dee and I would fight quite a lot of times. He threw dinner forks and I threw rocks. I pulled a dinner fork out of my thigh one time and I put a bump on the top of his head one time.

Marvin - Curtis, with corn cobs, wood chips and boxing gloves.

Ivy -

Bill - Ivy, wrestling, gloves, clubs, rocks and stick throwing, once with a 2x4. Ivy said I hit him once with a 2x4 and nearly killed him.

Ramona - As I recall, all of us kids fought all the time. The fights were mostly verbal, but I re-

member my hair being pulled a lot. In retaliation, I used my fingernails to scratch and claw until they turned my hair loose. It seemed like my brothers all ganged up on me. Once I remember a big wasp nest by the trail on the way to school. My brothers who were bigger and faster than me would run ahead and throw rocks at the nest and get the wasps all riled. Then when I came by they would chase and sting me, while my brothers had a good laugh.

Wilma - Ernie was four years older than me so we didn't fight much. But he was the cause of the only spanking I ever remember getting. I had just put a wheel back on my old tricycle and he kicked it off and I screamed as loud as I could. My mom had him or another sibling get a switch off a tree and she whipped me and I screamed again. My dad was working out in the field and came to the house thinking something really bad had happened. We lived out in the country so I never had anybody to play with. I would try to get Ernie to play with me. He would tell me to get the cards ready and then he'd say "No, I don't want to play." I got rather frustrated with him.

37. Describe one of the funniest incidents involving you and/or a sibling (though it may not have seemed funny at the time.)

Curtis - Jay Dee and I went out to feed the pigs one time (I was about 6 and he was about 9 1/2) and I slipped up on a pig while it was eating and got it by the tail and it started running and pulled me down. Jay Dee said "Goodie, Goodie! That will teach you a lesson!". And I said to Jay Dee, "I will teach you not to make fun of what I do!" And I picked up a rock about the size of a golf ball and Jay Dee saw that I was getting a rock and he ran and got behind a 55 gallon drum that way laying on its side. I didn't have any idea of hitting him but I went ahead and threw the rock. That rock went right over the drum and came down on top of his head and put a big bump on it. I hid in the barn the rest of the day but when I came out for supper, the seat of my pants heated up.

Marvin - When Curtis tied the bucket on the calf's tail.

Ivy -

Bill - Ivy promised me that he would give me \$5 if I jumped off the roof of the barn which was about 14-16 feet high. I jumped but he never paid me and I kept reminding him down through the years - and he still hasn't paid me. Ivy and I went after the cows and Ivy rode a gentle yearling back to the barn and the dog got after then and Ivy hung on for dear life until he fell off. (I can't remember if I sicked the dogs on them or not.)

Ramona - Every place I went I had to take Wilma with me. Once when she was very small we went to a movie. During the movie she saw people eating popcorn and said she wanted some. I told her I didn't have any money for popcorn, but she got very upset and started crying. I was embarrassed and tried to hush her by putting my hand over her mouth. She just screamed louder so that it sounded like I was trying to strangle her. I tried to talk to her but she kept getting louder. I told her if she didn't hush, I would pinch her. She didn't and I did. Then she screamed, "Stop pinching me!". I was so embarrassed I thought about just leaving her there, but I knew better than that. At my wits end, I dragged her, kicking and screaming, from the theatre and down the street to Uncle Bud's store where Dad was. I told her when Dad saw how she was acting she'd be in serious trouble. She just kept screaming until we were almost there, then she broke free from me and ran in the store, all smiles and climbed on Dad's lap. I knew I was licked, so when Dad asked why we were back so early, I just said Wilma wanted to come. I can laugh about this now, but it wasn't a bit funny then.

Ernie - I hid and scared Bill as he was coming down some steps. He swung a 5 cell flashlight and it went over my head and smashed into the rock wall.

Wilma - I was showing Dad's friend how I could climb the rope swing (from a limb). I got to the top, then slid down the rope. I had rope burns on my legs that I still haven't forgotten.

38. What were your favorite pets when you were growing up (dog, cat, cow, horse, etc.) and their names, if you remember?

Curtis - A dog by the name of Trixie that was a good stock dog. There wasn't a hog in the country that she couldn't hold. She would slip up behind the hog and get it by the ham and sit down with it. And if the hog would pull loose it would leave part of the ham with the dog. We always had cow bells on some of our cattle and one evening I found Trixie asleep in the shade so I slipped away from the house and went to drive the cattle to the house. When I got about two thirds of the way to where the cattle were, I heard bells ringing and I knew that I didn't fool Trixie. She was one of our pets and we had her for several years before she got run over by a car. It sure saddened a lot of hearts. Another pet we had was a horse by the name of Ribbon that was a real good saddle pony and real fast runner. She was a lot of country horse races.

Marvin - A horse named Skipper

Ivy -

Bill - Ivy's horse Trigger. I liked all our cats, dogs and farm animals but Trigger was my favorite horse to ride.

Ramona - It seems like we always had a dog named Tippy. I don't know if it was the same dog or we just used the same name. He was used to herd the cows and tree squirrels. We had cats to catch mice. There were cows, horses, pigs and chickens, but I don't recall any of them being pets.

Ernie - Horse? Dog named Tippie.

Wilma - Tippy, a collie dog-Red, a mongrel-Wiggles, a pet pig I sold for \$12 to Uncle Ed and Aunt Tiny. We had lots of chickens, guineas, pigs, cows, etc. I remember when we cut a snake open one night and found a chick it had just swallowed.

39. Can you name a phrase that was used around your house in your growing-up years that has stuck in your mind through the years?

Curtis - When I was little or a baby, someone started calling me Cork and Corky and different ones would say, "Cork, where is your bottle."

Marvin - "It's not what you want, it's what you get that makes you fat."

Ivy -

Bill - "You boys, get up, time to go milk.", "Much obliged", "If you kids don't quit fightin', you're gonna get a whippin'."

Ramona - I always tried to fix myself up in my hand-me-down clothes. I never had any make-up or jewelry, so about all I could do was be clean and as neat as possible. I remember being told "Beauty is only skin deep." and "Beauty is as beauty does." but I wanted to be pretty anyway. I remember hearing Dad say that something or someone wasn't "worth a plug nickel". "A coon's age" meant a long time.

Ernie - "Get up, it's time to milk."

39A. Describe a time that you were punished or blamed for something that you thought was undeserved.

Curtis - While on recess at school in the 4th grade, there were two boys fighting and I stepped between them to break it up and got blamed for fighting too but there were two girls who were witnesses for

me so I didn't have recesses taken away for a week.

Marvin - When Bobbie Joe plugged Granddad Carter's watermelons.

Ivy -

Bill - It just seemed like I always got more whippings than Ivy, Ramona and Ernie put together. One time me and Dad and my brothers were hoeing cotton or corn and I was lagging behind. Dad told me that if I didn't get caught up he'd cut a switch and he did and set me on fire. Then we went to the house for dinner and Ella Mae asked me how my head was because the day before I had dived into the creek and hit my head on a rock and split it open. I told her that I had a bad headache and she washed it out with kerosene and Dad said, "Why didn't you tell me that this morning and you could have stayed home instead of going to the field?" He told her never to pour kerosene on a head wound because it could soak into the brain and kill a person. Dad felt bad about whipping me after finding out what happened and I got to say home the rest of the day.

Ramona - In grade school, Bill and I were in the same grade. When we were in the fourth grade, the whole class was supposed to be studying but there was a lot of whispering among us. The teacher told us to be quiet, so everyone but Bill hushed. Finally the teacher said that the next person she caught whispering was going to be spanked, but Bill just kept on talking. The teacher came over and asked who was talking and Bill told her it was me. The rest of the class kept quiet, so I got the spanking. Bill thought that was funny.

Wilma - Never.

40. Recall a business enterprise you had as a youngster and the type of income you received from it.

Curtis - I would make what we called dead falls and put under a big flat rock or several boards nailed together for possums and skunks to get under to get the bait and be killed. We would skin them and put their hides on a board and let them dry and when we would get several, we would take them to town and sell them. An possum hide would bring about 40 to 50 cents each and a skunk hide would bring about 60 to 75 cents each. Hunting season for hides was open about November 1st and stay open until around the 15th of March. We sometimes would take the dogs and go night hunting for possum would climb persimmon trees after dark. If they were up a tree and we found them, they would lose their skin.

Marvin - Chopping cotton and corn for the neighbors for \$2.00 a day.

Ivy -

Bill - Hoeing cotton for Alvin Sissom with Ivy and Dad. We were paid \$3 each. Granvil Sissom and I swept the Rigsby schoolhouse every Friday evening and each made \$2.50. I bought my first bicycle with it.

Ramona - I never had a business enterprise and I never earned any money until I was on my own.

Ernie - Cleaned school house at Rigsby once a week for \$5 per month.

Wilma - Sold wall plaques for \$1 each and made 10¢ I think for each one sold. Worked during high school and \$12 a week at a soda fountain in a drug store.

41. If you were to write an epitaph (a few words or one or two lines that you would want written on your headstone) about yourself, what would it be?

Curtis - "Laid to rest - An Oklahoma Highway Bridge Builder"

Marvin - Don't know

Ivy -

Bill - "Here lies a guy with 2 speeds and both of them slow."

Ramona - "In life she tried to do her best,
Though many times she failed the test.
This life is over now and victory is won,
Her Master just called 'My Child, Come Home.'
To God be the Glory, Great things He hath done."

41a. As you have reflected on your childhood, if there is something that has come to mind that is not on the above list – an incident, experience, etc., please feel free to note it here.

Curtis - More about Ella Mae....When I brought the doctor out to the house and he examined her, he could find no TB for she was breathing clear down to the bottom of her lungs. He said that it appeared that Ella Mae had no TB but was dying from pneumonia. It sure did haunt Dad and the others to hear what Ella Mae told Aunt Linnie about it being her death if she went back to the hospital. We were all sorry that we had taken her back there.

Marvin - None

Ivy -

Bill - Dad always said that I was so slow that he had to drive a stake beside me to see if I was moving. I was always proud of Dad and had the highest regard for him in working as he did with a broken leg and raising a large family. I loved Mom and I was probably closer to her (except for Wilma) than any of the others. When I was in boot camp in the Marine Corps (I had been in for a month or so) I got a letter from Mom and they had put her in Vinita, Eastern State Hospital. That was the first time I cried since I was a kid. I thank God for our family. We might have fussed and fought in growing up, but I felt close to all of them, and I believe there was a greater love for each other than most experience.

Ramona - As I look back over my life, I can barely picture the timid, bashful girl that was dropped off at the YWCA in Tulsa in June of 1956. But I remember that day well. I had \$50 from a graduation gift in my pocket and all my earthly possessions in two grocery sacks. Transients would stay at the Y for two weeks for a small charge. I was expected to find a job and a place to live before the two weeks and the \$50 was gone. I was a country hick and scared silly, but I knew it was up to me now. I bought a newspaper and answered the want ads by walking to each one, because I had no idea how to catch the bus, and I was too scared or dumb to ask anyone. I memorized the street names as I walked so I could find my way from ad to ad and back "home" again. I did find a job and a place to live, because that's what I had to do. I guess the point I'm trying to make is that I learned many valuable lessons as a child in spite of, or maybe because of, my upbringing, and as I look at my brothers and sisters lives, I feel proud. We've all had a good productive life, and I believe we have all made a contribution in the lives of the people around us and to society in general. And for that I thank God and Mom and Dad.

A Photo Tribute to Bill



Photo taken at Ray & Diana Firey's House - Spring of 2000

Absent From The Body

If they could only catch a glimpse,
Of my new eternal home,
Its sight would be a comfort,
To their mourning hearts below
If they could only understand,
There's nothing they should fear;
To fall asleep in Jesus,
Is to wake to find Him Here.

Chorus

Absent from the body,
But present with the Lord.
Now I see Him face to face,
Who could ask for more,
Than to stand and sing the new song,
With those who've come before
Absent from the body,
But present with the Lord.

The old life seems so far away,
Its troubles seem so small.
Compared to Heaven's glory,
Its effort worth it all.
So cry a tear but don't be sad,
And never say goodbye
I'll see you in the morning,
In forever's dawning light.

Chorus

Absent from the body,
But present with the Lord.
Now I see Him face to face,
Who could ask for more,
Than to stand and sing the new song,
With those who've come before
Absent from the body,
But present with the Lord.

*A couple years ago
or so, while we were
playing some sing
along music at our
house around a
campfire, Bill
requested us to sing
this song and said
he'd like us to sing
this at his funeral
when his time came.*

*We sang this at his
graveside service at
Bear Creek - Dixie
Cemetery 12-02-01*

*Words & Music
By Diana Firey - 1985*

Note in 2025: I had forgotten Bill had requested this song so many years ago. We have sang it a bunch since and it can be found on our R and D Radio YouTube Channel

My Little Cowboy

Words & Music By Bill Dunn

You're my little cowboy - You're my superstar,
You're my little compadra - Yeah, that's who you are.
We've got a lot of trails we're goin' to ride to the end,
'Cause you're my little buddy and you're my little friend.

You came to me in a low point of my life,
We just lost your grandma and she was my wife.
She went to Heaven and left me here alone.
Yeah, but two months later here you came along.

Chorus: Yeah, and you are my buddy and you are my friend,
And here I go talking to you again.
Yeah, you are my buddy and you are my friend,
And here I go talking to you again.

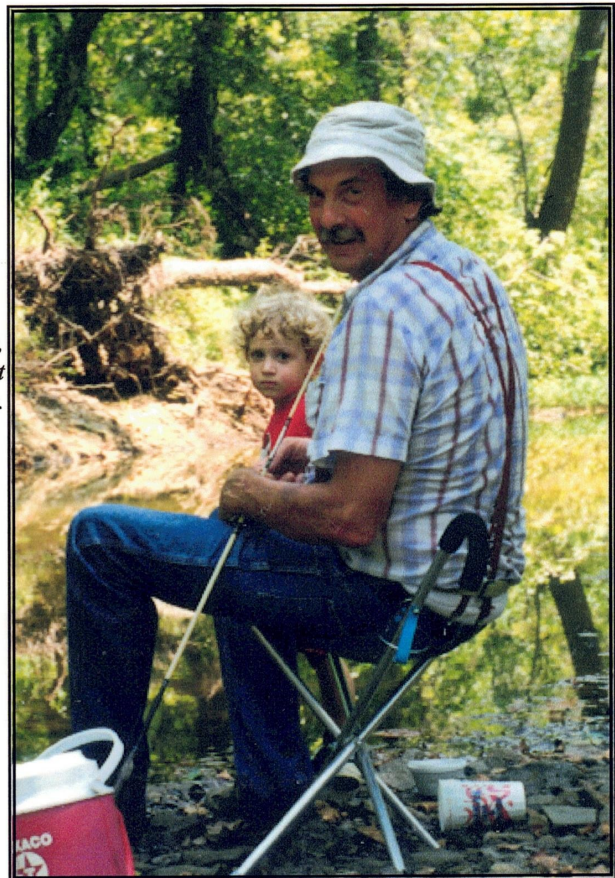
Well, here it is Christmas Day in 1993
And I sure wish that Granny was here with you and me,
But she went to Heaven and we're left here at home,
And everyday I thank my God for sending you along.
(Repeat Chorus)

Love,
Papa-Grandpa Bill Dunn

To Brandon Dewain Byrd, my grandson
In memory of his Grandma Opal Dunn

(I wrote this song during 1993 and the
last verse December 25, 1993)

Bill fishing with grandson,
Brandon, on Rock Creek at
Ray & Diana Firey's place.



Note in 2025: We still plan to compose some music to Bill's words and make a soundtrack and recording.

The Early Years



Clementine (Grandma Carter) in center in undated photo. The others on left and right are unidentified.



Carter Family Shot—Edna on second row seated



Finley and Clemie Carter with children. Edna is on back row on left.



Undated Carter Family gathering on Christmas Day at Carter place.



Jess Dunn on back row, on left. Edna Carter, second from right on back row. Others unidentified.

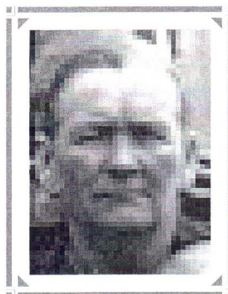


Carter children, Edna second from left with fur coat and hat.

The Early Years



Grandma and Granddad Carter and children and grandchildren. Jess and Edna are on back row on right. Curtis is seated on Granddad Carter's lap with Trudy in front and Jay Dee on right in overalls.

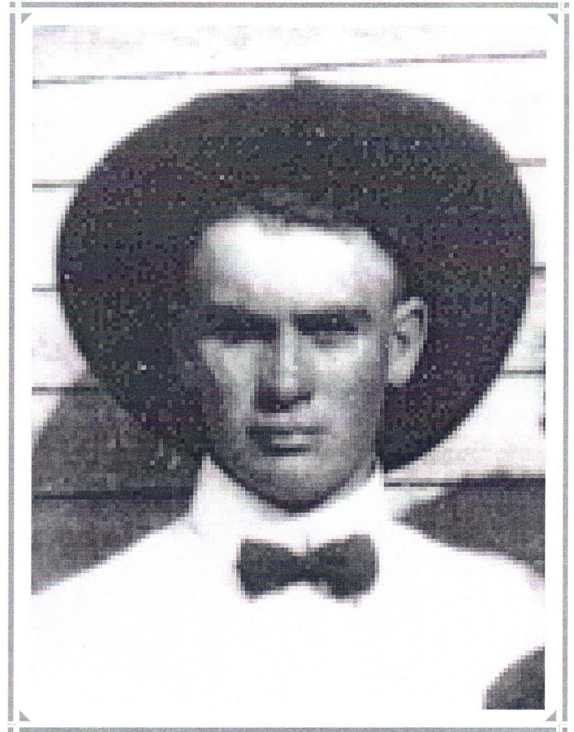
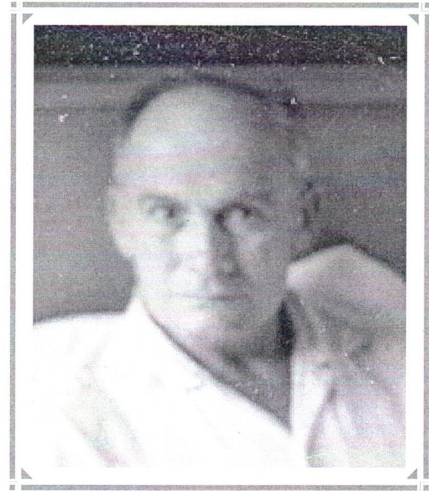
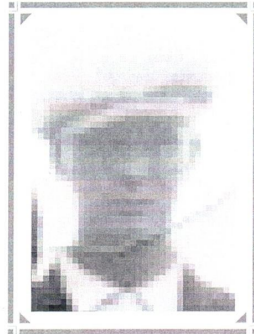


Grandma Carter from photo above.



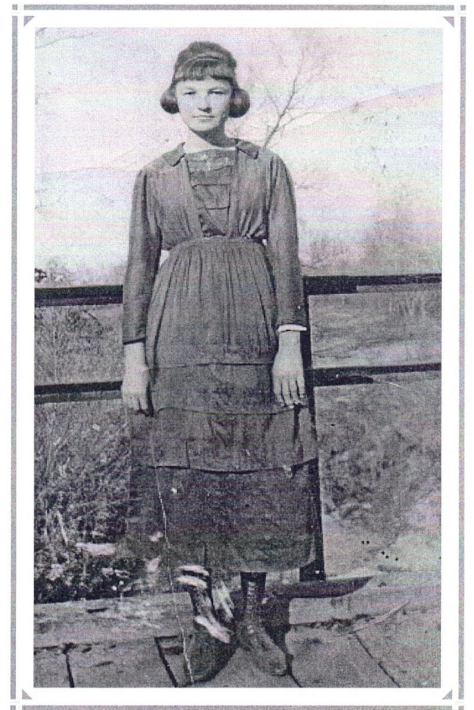
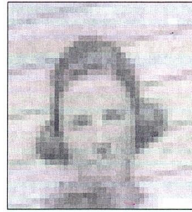
Grandma Carter from photo above.

Jess David Dunn



Jess Dunn - Wedding Day Photo

Edna Mae Carter Dunn



Edna Mae Carter Dunn



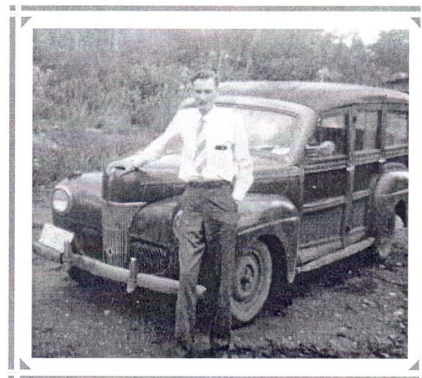
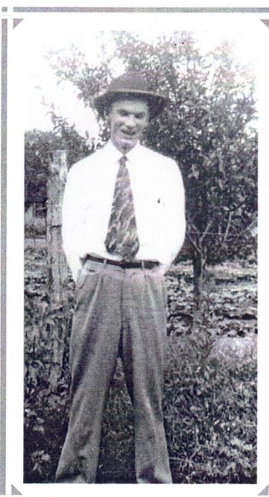
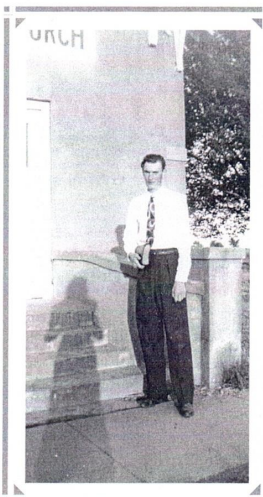
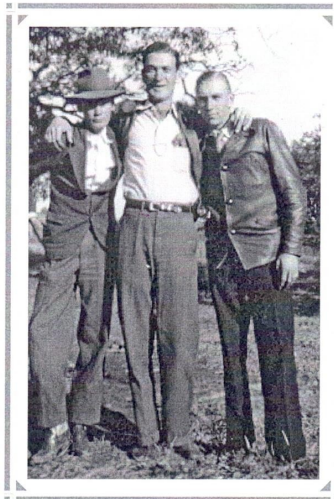
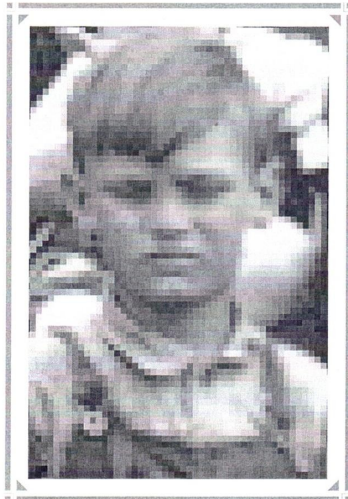
Edna Carter Dunn - Wedding Day Photo

Jess & Edna Dunn

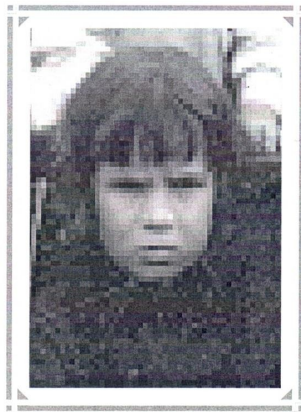
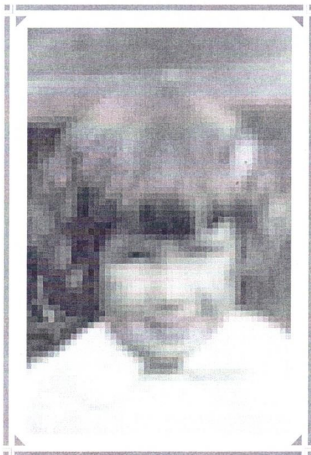
*Wedding
Day
Photo*



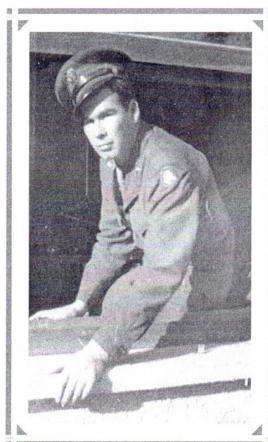
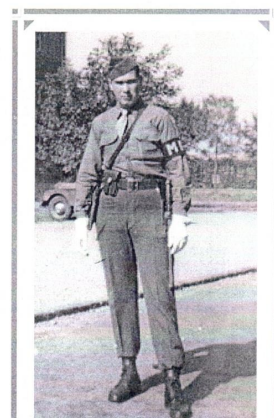
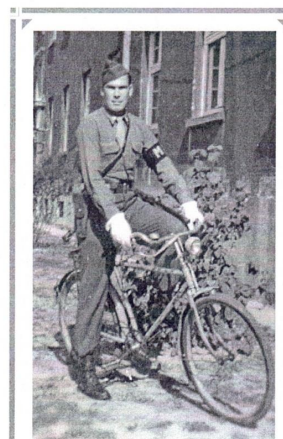
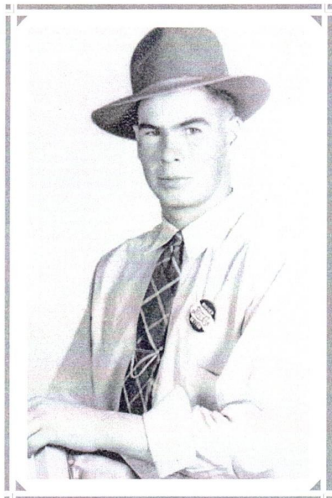
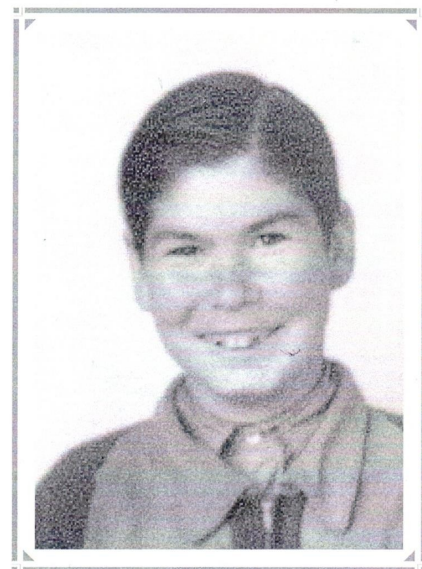
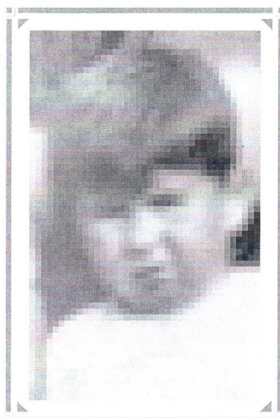
Jay Dee Dunn



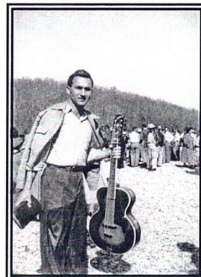
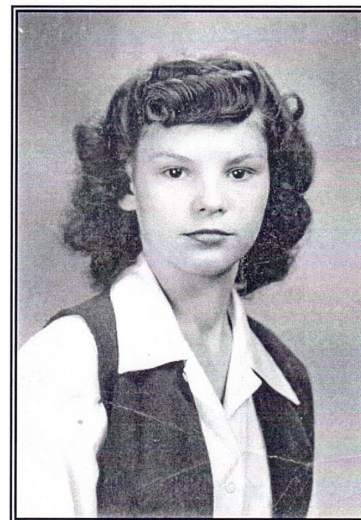
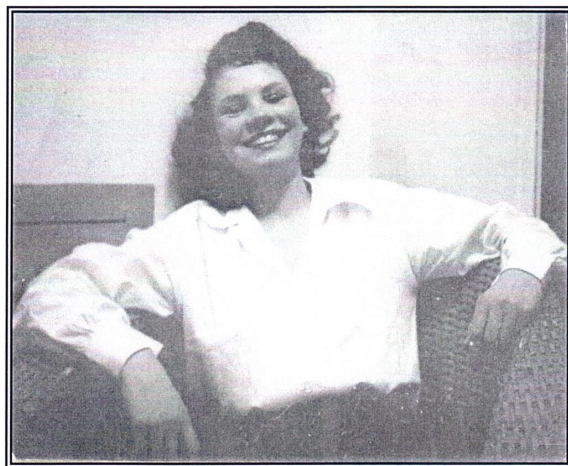
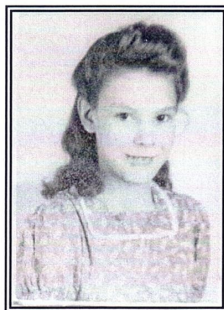
Trudy Dunn



Curtis Dunn



Ella Mae Dunn

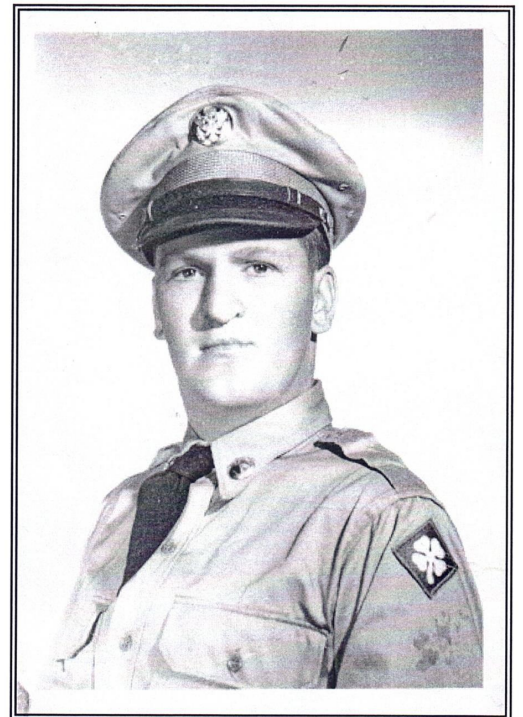
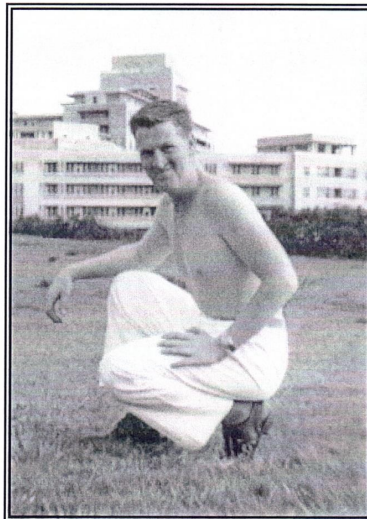
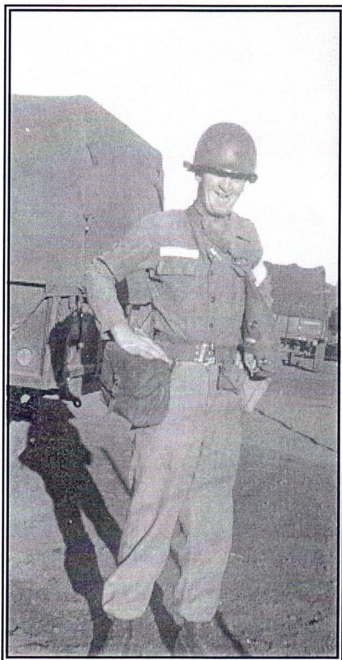


Ella Mae's husband, Laverne Stevens

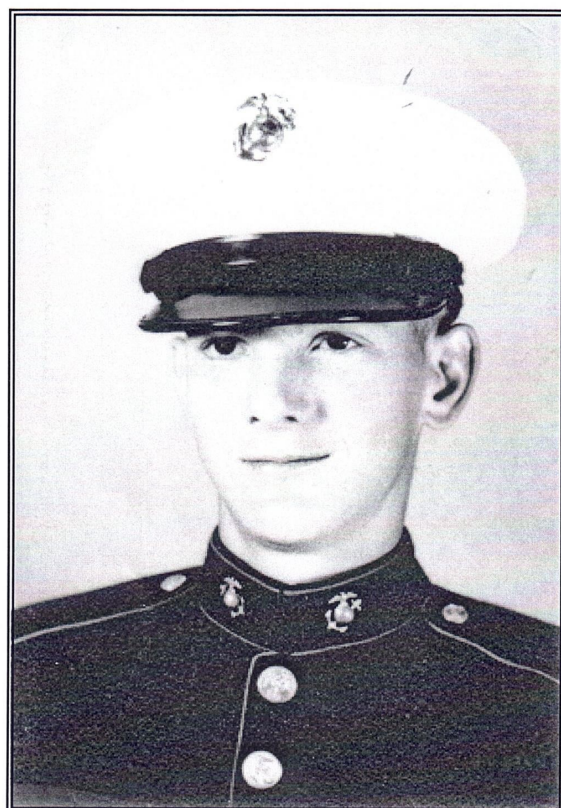
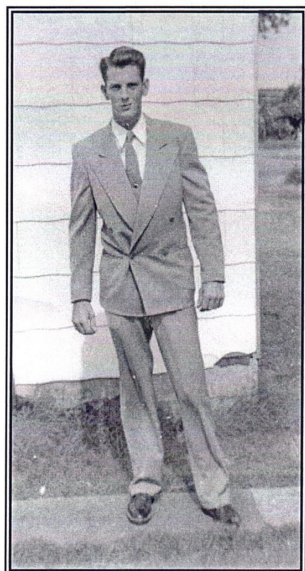
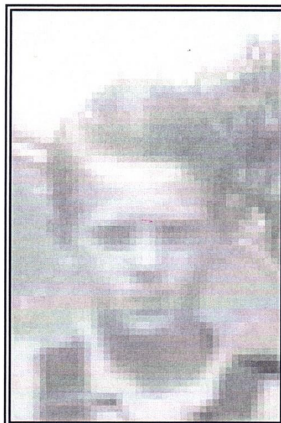
Marvin Dunn



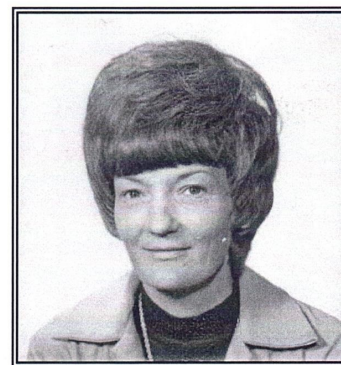
Ivy Dunn



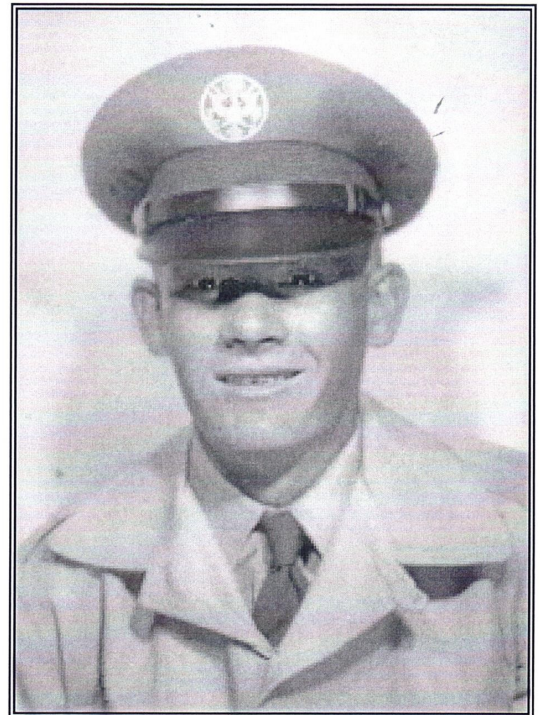
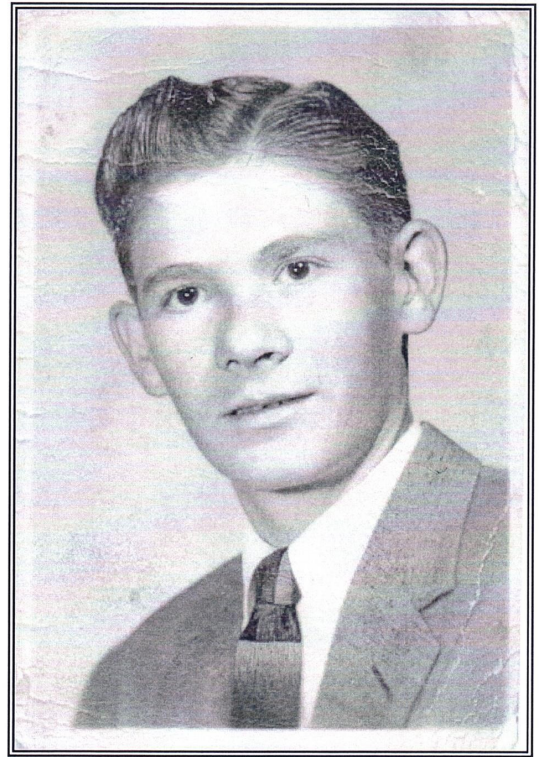
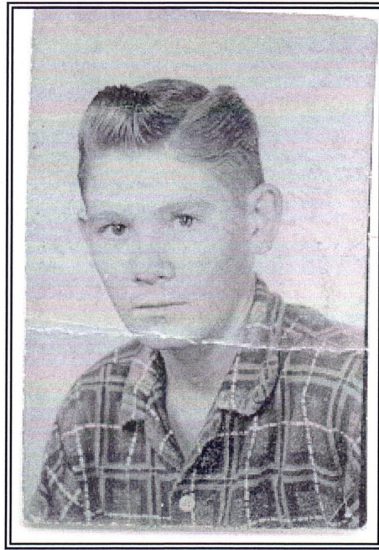
Bill Dunn



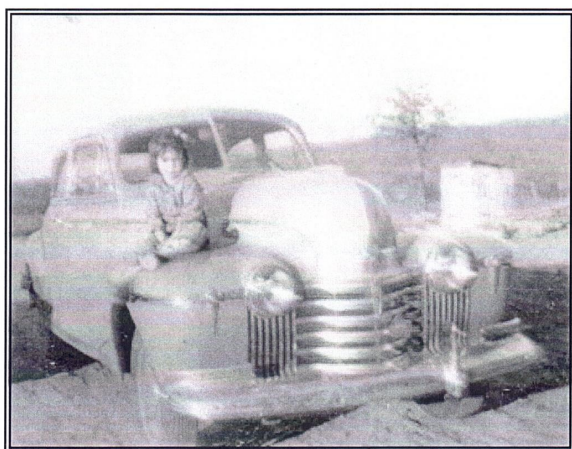
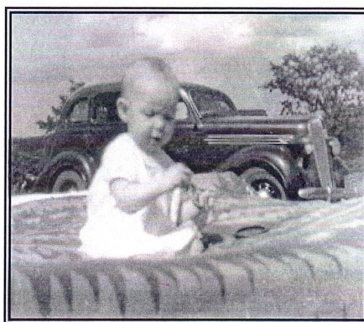
Ramona Dunn



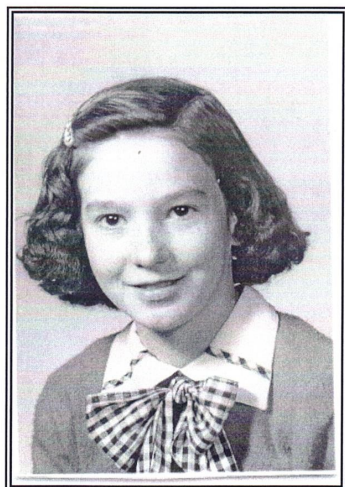
Ernest Dunn



Wilma Dunn



Wilma Dunn



Family Photos



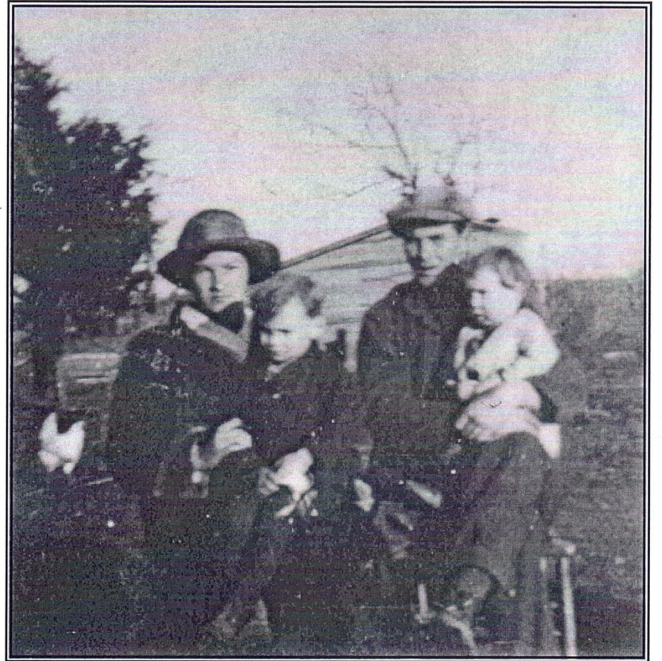
Carter Family Photo (approx. 1929). Curtis is sitting on Granddad Carter's lap with Trudy in front. Jay Dee is in overalls on right directly in front of Grandma Carter.



Jess and Edna Dunn with kids (less Curtis & Wilma).



Early Photo of Trudy and Curtis



Edna holding Jay Dee, Jess holding Trudy



Ivy (with bandaged nose) and others??



From left to right: Ivy, Bill, Taylor Cousins with Ernie in middle

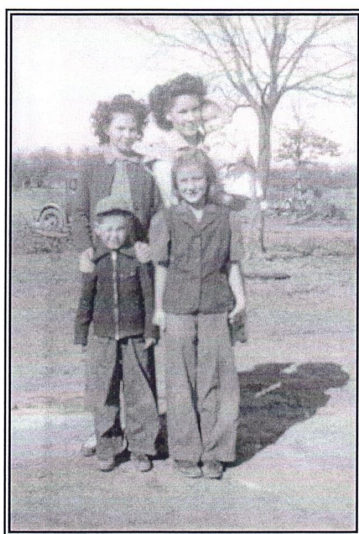


Ivy and Bill

*Ramona with Ella Mae
holding Wilma*



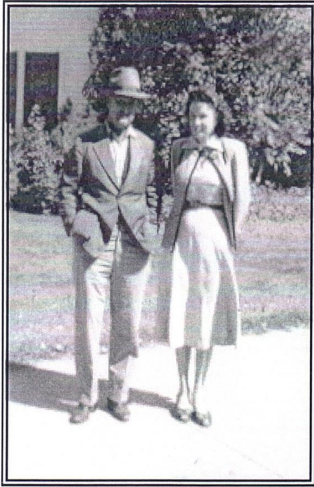
*Trudy holding
Ernie & Ramona*



*Ella Mae, Trudy holding
Nancy Carol, Ernie and
Ramona*

*Ernie holding (or trying to
hold) Wilma*





*Jess Dunn
with Trudy*



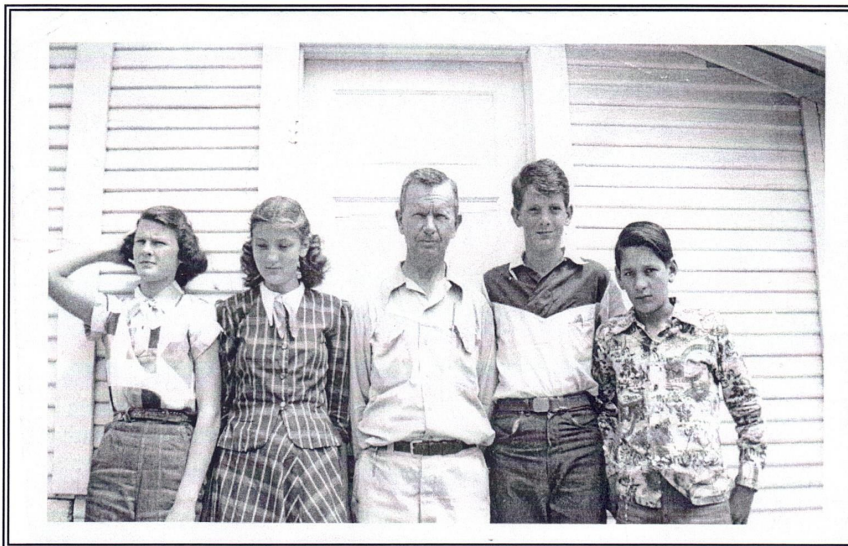
*Ella Mae,
Trudy, Jess
and Ernie*



Ella Mae holding Nancy Carol Noteware



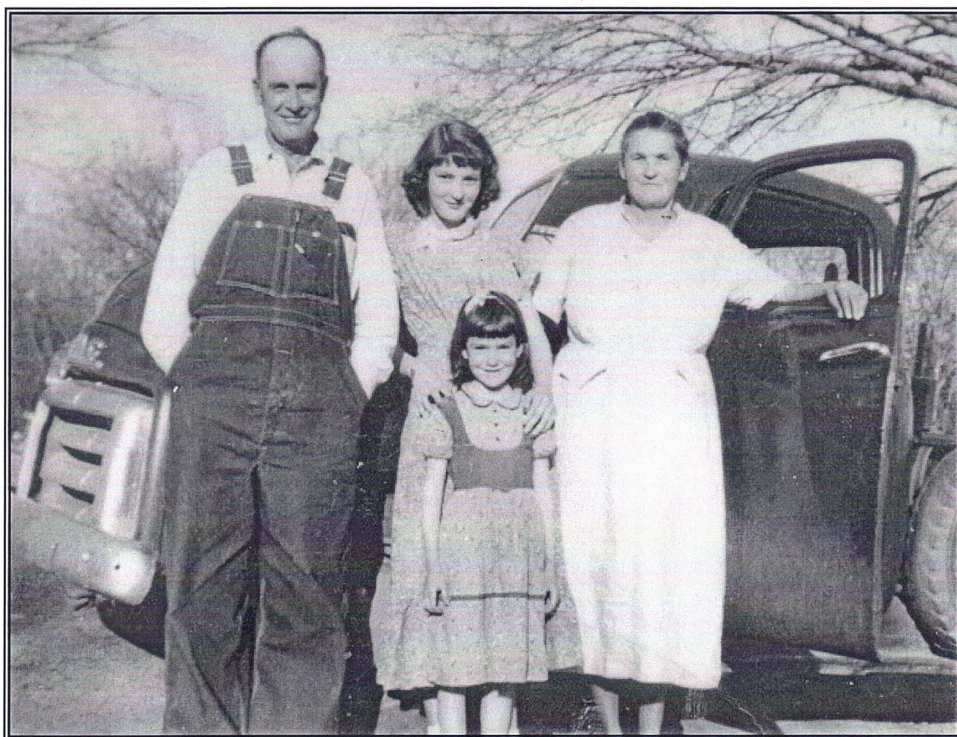
*Ramona and
Wilma*



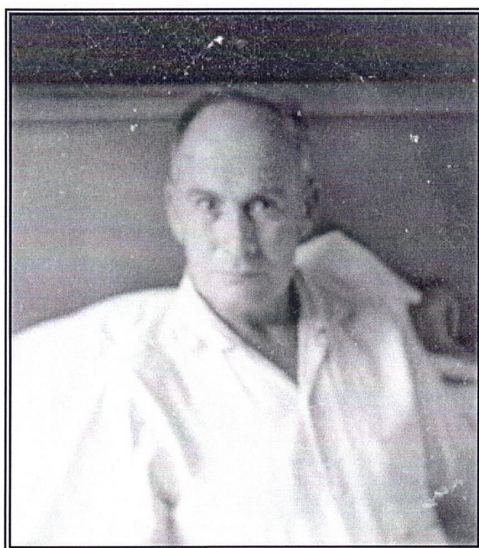
From Left to Right: Unnamed Girl, Ramona, Mr. Brodell, Bill & Granville Sissom



Trudy and Jay Dee



Jess, Ramona, Edna and Wilma



Jess & Edna Dunn in latter years.



1956



Ramona, Bill, Ernie, Ivy, Marvin, Wilma, Curtis and Trudy

1963



Ivy, Trudy, Curtis, Ramona, Marvin, Wilma, Ernie, Bill

⁷⁸
1979



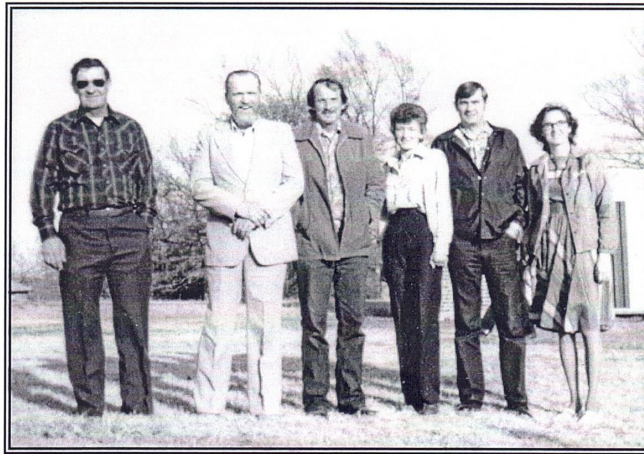
Wilma, Ernie, Ramona, Bill, Ivy, Marvin, Curtis

1984 ?



Curtis, Marvin, Ivy, Bill, Ramona, Ernie, Wilma

Late
1980 s ?



*Marvin, Ivy, Bill, Ramona,
Ernie, Wilma (less Curtis)
(Taken at Ernie & Linda's)*



*Children with Spouses
Marvin & Irene
Ivy & Avis
Bill & Opal
Willie & Ramona
Ernie & Linda
Dave & Wilma
(less Curtis & Debbie)*

August
2000



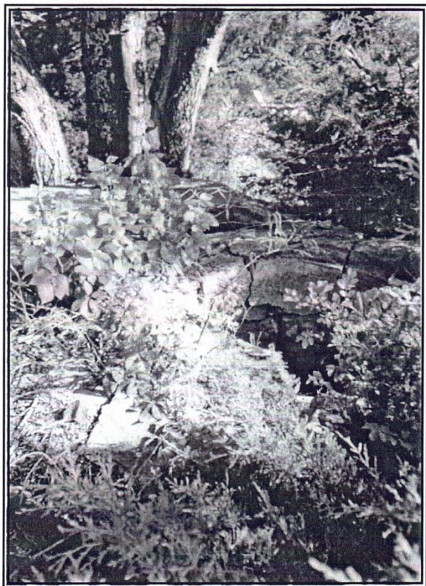
*Curtis, Marvin, Ivy, Bill, Ramona and Ernie (less Wilma) at Danny Dunn's Funeral Dinner
Cathedral of Praise Church in Sand Springs*



1984 ?

Jess & Edna Dunn's Children and Grandchildren - Carter-Dunn Reunion at Feyodi Creek Park

Dunn Memorabilia



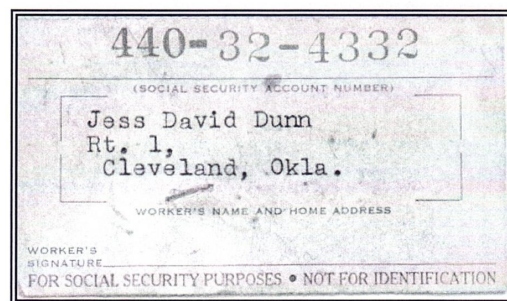
Site of Cistern at Old Carter Place



Looking down into what was the basement at the old Carter place



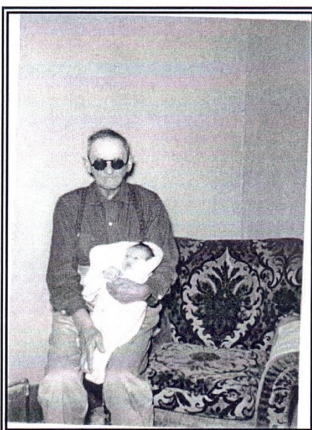
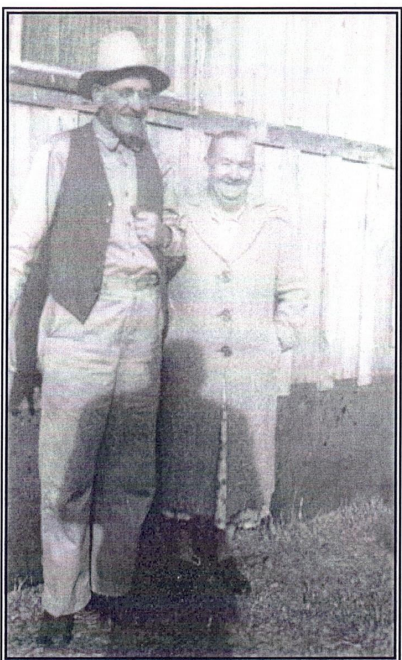
Old Joe Hamilton Place (where Dunn family lived from 1938 until 1942)



Jess Dunn's Social Security Card



*Grandma & Granddad Carter's
50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration at
Alvie & Opal Carter's house*



Granddad Carter in later years



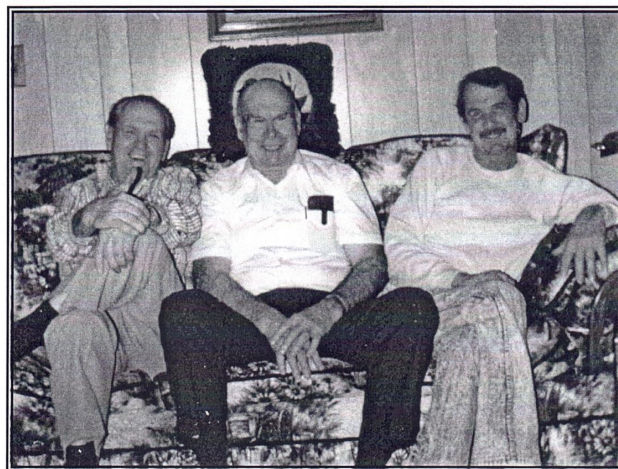
*4 Generations
Grandma Carter, Edna Dunn, Trudy
Noteware and Nancy Carol Noteware*



Ernie, Marvin, Willie and Bill at Carter-Dunn Reunion - 1980's



Ivy, Ramona, Wilma at site of old grainery at old Carter place.



Ivy, Curtis and Bill at Curtis & Debbie's House 1990's

Obituaries

In Memory of
FINLEY ALVIE CARTER

March 16, 1875
January 26, 1961

Services

P.M. Saturday, January 28, 1961
Western Heights Baptist Church
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Ministers

Rev. W. H. Goodman
Rev. Edward Zickefoose

Interment

Woodland Cemetery
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Arrangements by

Chapman Funeral Home
Cleveland, Oklahoma

FINLEY A. CARTER RITES SET TODAY

World's Own Service

CLEVELAND, Oklahoma., Jan. 27—Services for Finley Alvie Carter, 85, a retired farmer who died at his home Thursday, will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in Western Heights Baptist Church here.

He came to Pawnee County 59 years ago from his native Texas and had lived in Cleveland since 1943. He was a member of the Cleveland Church of God.

Survivors include six sons, Bud and Elvie Carter, both of Cleveland; Ed Carter, Keystone; Lloyd Carter, Sand Springs; Aldon Carter, Vinita, and Raymond Carter, Weston, Mo.; four daughters, Mrs. Lennie Lawrimore, Pawhuska; Mrs. Ethel Taylor, Cleveland; Mrs. Mildred Sisson, Keystone, and Mrs. Cleo ~~ALAN~~ 2161 W. 7th St., Tulsa; a brother, two sisters, 44 grandchildren and 46 great-grandchildren.

Interment will be in Woodland Cemetery, Cleveland, under direction of Chapman Funeral Home.

In Memory of

CLEMENTINE CARTER

January 13, 1878
October 9, 1955

Services

2 p. m., Tuesday, October 11, 1955
First Baptist Church

Minister

Rev. Edward Zickefoose

Interment

Woodland Cemetery
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Obituaries

JESS DAVID DUNN

April 2, 1902

July 18, 1964

Services

2:30 P.M. Wed., July 22, 1964

Nazarene Church
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Minister

Rev. Raymond Carter
Weston, Missouri

Interment

Woodland Cemetery
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Arrangements By

Chapman Funeral Home
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Jess David Dunn

World's Own Service

CLEVELAND, Okla. — Services for Jess David Dunn, 62, a former Cleveland resident 41 years, will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Nazarene Church. He died Saturday night in a Shawnee nursing home.

A native of Cedar Creek, Mo., Dunn came here in 1922 and made his home here until a year ago, when he moved to Shawnee. He was a member of the Mannford Assembly of God Church.

Surviving are five sons, including Curtis Dunn of Cleveland, Marvin Dunn, Maud; W. R. Dunn, 5326 W. 11th St., Tulsa, and Ernest Dunn, St. Louis, Okla.; three daughters, Mrs. Trudy Noteware, St. Louis, Okla., Mrs. Ramona Carlile, Locust Grove, and Wilma Dunn, Maud; four brothers, two sisters, including Mrs. Celia Collins, Oilton, and 19 grandchildren.

Interment will be in Woodland Cemetery here, with the Chapman Funeral Home in charge.

EDNA MAY DUNN

January 12, 1902

February 16, 1960

Services

2 P.M., Thursday, Feb. 18, 1960

Western Heights Baptist Church
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Ministers

Rev. Alvin Eaton
Mannford, Oklahoma

Interment

Woodland Cemetery
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Arrangements by

Chapman Funeral Home

Edna M. Dunn Dies; Rites At Cleveland

World's Own Service

TERLTON, Feb. 16—Mrs. Edna May Dunn, 58, a Terlton area resident 30 years, died of pneumonia in a Vinita hospital Tuesday.

A native Oklahoman, Mrs. Dunn was a member of the Mannford Assembly of God church. She was the wife of J. D. Dunn, a farmer.

Other survivors include five sons, Bill and C. W. Dunn, Cleveland, Okla.; Marvin Dunn, Maud; Ivy Dunn, San Antonio, Tex., and Ernest Dunn, Amarillo, Tex.; three daughters, Mrs. Trudy Noteware, Hallett; Mrs. W. J. Carlile Jr., 1135 S. 58th West ave., Tulsa, and Miss Wilma Dunn, Maud.

Also six brothers, Bud and Alvie Carter, Cleveland; Raymond Carter, Weston, Mo.; Ed Carter, Keystone; Lloyd Carter, Sand Springs, and Auldon Carter, Vinita; four sisters, Mrs. W. H. Lowrimore, Pawhuska; Mrs. Ethel Taylor, Cleveland; Mrs. Alvin Sissom, Keystone, and Mrs. Irving Almy, 6121 W. 7th st., Tulsa, and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Western Heights Baptist church, Cleveland. Interment will be in Woodland cemetery there, with Chapman funeral home, Cleveland, in charge.

Obituaries

IN LOVING MEMORY

Bill Dunn

DATE OF BIRTH

*July 1, 1936
Terlton, Oklahoma*

ENTERED INTO REST

*November 29, 2001
Bartlesville, Oklahoma*

PLACE OF SERVICE

*Cornerstone Freewill Baptist Church
Turley, Oklahoma*

TIME AND DATE OF SERVICE

*2:00 P.M. Monday
December 3, 2001*

OFFICIATING

Doctor Curtis Linton

PALLBEARERS

*Danny Whinery
Allan Honeycutt
Jimmy Winford
Tim Hubble
Wes Adams
Dale Carter*

MUSIC

*"Amazing Grace"
"The Midnight Cry"
"Windows Of Home"
Pianist---Lynne Graves*

INTERMENT

*Dixie Bear Creek Cemetery
Cleveland, Oklahoma*

DIRECTED BY

COLLINSVILLE FUNERAL HOME

Alvie Tenley Carter - March 16, 1895 - Jan. 26, 1961
 Clementine Dykes Jan. 13, 1878 - Oct. 9, 1955
 United in marriage
 May 1, 1898
 Udmore, Olla.

