

**On Jul 18, 2020, at 7:30 AM, Lane Phelps** <[lanephelps@att.net](mailto:lanephelps@att.net)> wrote:

Charla was asking about Bill & Susie Deese's house burning when daddy was perhaps 6. Since you're the historian , I thought you might know.

And what year did Susie die?

Hope you're staying well.

Lane

**On Sat, Jul 18, 2020 at 7:58 AM Arthur Bowie** <[afbowie@cox.net](mailto:afbowie@cox.net)> wrote:

I have not heard about their house burning. I'll copy Bill Deese and Kathy T-L just in case either may have heard that story.

Susie died 21 March 1931 at their home. When Bill and Lola married 3 Feb 1932 they lived at the Deese house (because crops already planted? in Feb?)

Yes staying well and avoiding groups, bored with it all. friend on the way over now and we're going fishing

**On Sat, Jul 18, 2020 at 8:56 AM Bill Deese** <[deese97408@gmail.com](mailto:deese97408@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Arthur and Lane and Kathy,

Interesting you would ask about family history. I've been a bit hit-or-miss on collecting data through the years, but I had some good sessions with my dad (Richard) before he died in 2006 and was able to get some of it in writing. He was typical of that generation, thinking nobody really wants to hear his life story, but once the pump was primed, he gave me a lot of info. Here's most of it. Kind of long, but does mention the fire and you might enjoy reading some of the other stuff as Wilson and C.W. pop up some, too. I built this document into a one-page summary with links (blue underlined) for the reader to click on for more details. In this case, though, the links don't work and I just pasted most of it together. Sorry, no photos with this edition. Also have some of my dad's recollections of Granddaddy Bill that makes good reading. What a great heritage the Lord has blessed us with!

Richard (Pud) Deese was born in January 1922 in a farmhouse two miles east of Woodlawn School on Highway 31 near Wattensaw, Arkansas. The house burned down when he was one year old. Richard was nine when his mother, Susie, died of pneumonia. There were no wonder drugs in 1931. The younger kids often played under a shade tree while the older worked in the fields. He would often play with little toy cars. He had no tricycle but occasionally played with a wagon. Sometimes brother Wilson would hook his goat up to the wagon. No one in the family had a bike. CW would often bring Richard an old basketball from his high school to play with. One of his early jobs was shelling corn with a hand crank. He would then take it to the mill about a mile away on the horse.

Pud went to school in the Wattensaw-Beebe area all the way through high school. Pud walked two miles to school every day on a dirt road. He attended Woodlawn through 10th grade except for the one year during the depression when Woodlawn was closed. His brother, Wilson, and he rode a horse that year to Fairview Elementary about five miles away. In the country school there was winter school and summer school. Kids worked in the fields in the spring till the crops were laid by. Fall was busy with harvesting.

The family always went to bed "with the chickens" (very early) since there was no electricity. Occasionally the boys would sneak down the stairs in the middle of the night from the bedroom above their parents room. The trip down the stairs would sometimes take twenty minutes. Once down, they would walk a mile or two to a neighbor's house to be a part of a party generally prearranged by one of the neighborhood girls. Wilson would play guitar and William would play violin, pretty badly according to Richard.

Richard went to Beebe and repeated the tenth grade due to missing a lot of school in the depression. He rode the bus to Beebe High School for 10th and 11th grade and would often stay at his sister Oda's who was by then married and living in Beebe. He played jr. varsity basketball during 11th grade. During his senior year he stayed with 8-10 boys unsupervised at the Palace, an old farmhouse across from the school. They were checked on frequently by Coach and everybody was scared of Coach. There were good meals at a nearby house.

Some of the boys would wander up to town occasionally. One little boy whose mom worked the theatre ticket booth would often leave his bike outside while watching a movie. Sometimes Pud and his friend, Robert, would borrow the bike and bring it back before the movie ended. The boy's mom noticed this trend and alerted the town marshall, whom she was courting at the time. Richard was pedaling at night with Robert on the back when town marshall grabbed them. Robert took

off back to the Palace but Richard was carted off, scared to death, to the tiny closet-sized jail. Word got to Coach pretty fast and he came and bailed him out within an hour or two. No more biking after that!

William played basketball as well but stayed at coach's house. He and Pud were both seniors. William was preaching by the 10th grade in country churches. Beebee had had a strong team for several years but this year they won the State Championship for A division. (Richard has a picture of this.) They beat North Little Rock by twenty points in the semifinals which was the only team that beat them during the regular season (2 points). Richard guarded the Alma guard in the final who was short and fast and scored a lot. That season Richard had about a 4 point average, with a season high of 18. He ran track in the 440 relay and also put the shot but was fairly small for that event. He graduated high school 1941.

After graduation, he hitchhiked to Wilmington, Delaware to CW's house. He caught a ride with two salesmen all the way through West Virginia. They dropped him off at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and he hitched to Westchester just north of Wilmington. CW, who was now married, came up and got him there. While living with CW, he worked the summer for TriState Cleaners driving a truck in and out of Philadelphia picking up and delivering to commercial accounts. CW carried Richard to Washington D.C. and showed him around there and then he rode the bus home to Wattensaw.

Richard saved most of his summer earnings and added it to his basketball scholarship (room board and tuition) at Ouachita. He lived in a dorm and ate in the dining hall. He played a few years in college behind some all-stars. He failed freshman English when he didn't go to class because he didn't like speaking in front of the class. He was good on writing assignments but didn't do as well in reading and literature. Every male student at Ouachita took ROTC and he kind of enjoyed that. He was on the rifle team (experienced with a .22 from the farm) and enjoyed the drills. He went home occasionally by hitchhiking to Little Rock, riding the trolley through Little Rock for a nickel, then hitchhiking to Wattensaw.

World War II started in December of 41 and everybody knew the draft was coming. Richard spent the next two and a half years involved in WWII and then met his wife-to-be, Mary Ellen Wiley.

Mary Ellen met Richard Emory Deese in 1943 at Richmond, Kentucky when the Army sent him from Ouachita College in Arkansas to ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) at Eastern. She remembers him to be a fast runner as he would often take her by the hand and run to somewhere on campus. A year later he went overseas. Mary Ellen later graduated with a bachelors in Vocational Home Economics and went back home to Hazard to work for the Kentucky and West Virginia Power Company as a home economist..

#### 1945 Photos

After the war Richard went to Hazard, Kentucky at Christmas and was engaged to Mary Ellen. They set a wedding for February 10, 1946 and Richard returned to Wattensaw to get a car.

Richard borrowed William's 1941 Mercury to return to Kentucky for the wedding. Since none of his family could come, he asked a friend of the Wiley family, Clarence Bartlett, to be his best man. The wedding was performed in the First Baptist Church at Hazard. Mary Ellen's father, A.D., had had a recent heart attack and couldn't attend wedding. With the car loaded down with gifts they set off for Arkansas with the route over Pine Mountain covered with fourteen inches of snow. They spent the first night at Cumberland Gap. The second night was on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee. They went back through Alabama to check out the University of Alabama as a possibility for finishing up his engineering degree. Arriving in Wattensaw, Mary Ellen had never met Richard's family. The newlyweds knew that Mary Ellen's parents would soon move back from Kentucky to Decatur, Alabama because of A.D.'s declining health.

The decision was made to enroll at the University of Arkansas in February of 1946 in Fayetteville. They lived in E10, a blue-green trailer in Vets Village. Mary Ellen first worked as a cashier at the college deli. The trailer had a very small icebox and small oven that was hard to regulate. Mary Ellen was very frugal with their meager grocery budget and remembers serving small meat portions until Richard indicated he'd rather have no meat one night and have a full portion the next. The trailer did not have a bathroom and visits were made to a converted bathroom trailer used by the community.

The burner was similar to a camp stove that pumped up. Mary Ellen got acquainted with Mrs. Bonslagle, a state home agent who worked with the extension service. The lady informed her that she had "no business" working as unskilled labor at a college deli and got her a job with the Arkansas Extension Service. She worked with 4H, ladies quilting circles, etc. They borrowed money from Richard's dad for a 1942 Chevrolet two-seater sedan that she drove for her work. Thirty-eight mph was as fast as she felt safe driving this car! When she backed it into a large oak tree Richard was able to fix it, willingly and with no fuss. She recalled changing a flat tire by herself while going to an appointment in the country.

Mary Ellen was upset when she became pregnant and the doctor gave her a lecture about that being God's decision, not hers. She later fell in the shower when pregnant with Becky but with no apparent consequence. Richard did carpentry work on the side to supplement the GI bill (about \$100 per month) and was quite concerned about the finances. Mary Ellen quit her

job as Home Demonstration Agent before Becky arrived. Mary Ellen's labor was fourteen hours at the Fayetteville Hospital. Becky was born on December 19, 1946.

#### 1946 Photos

Richard dropped out of school after Becky's birth. During the summer of 1947, he got acquainted with the vocational teacher at Parkin High and his wife, Raymond and Ruth Hinkley, who had come to the university to take some courses. He was looking for teachers for the on-the-farm training program at Parkin High School. Richard signed up and they moved to Mrs. Hinkley's parent's upstairs rental, then later to a small cottage behind the Hinkley's house. They sold the Chevy and were without a car for over a year. Mary Ellen was still nursing Becky and took care not to let her cry so as not to disturb the Hinkleys. Often when they left the apartment the Hinkleys would unscrew the light bulbs to save on electricity. Richard did everything from sharecrop the cotton to extensive remodeling while there. Mary Ellen and Becky went on the train to visit her mother and father in Decatur to show off six-month-old Becky. Richard joined them later.

*Note by Bill: Haven't worked up the years I was alive into this document yet since I was there and didn't feel the urgency, but I'm getting older and need to get busy on that!*

Richard was divorced from Mary Ellen in 1971. She moved to Florida to pursue a junior college teaching career and he continued on at Auburn.

In March 17, 1974 Richard remarried a widowed lady from his church, Jay Pickens, who had lost her husband years before in a fishing accident. She had two early teen children, Sweet and Billy. They were married 31 years when Jay died of leukemia in December, 2005.

Richard retired on January 1, 1985. Part of the *Lee County Bulletin* article:

The Alabama Beef Cattle Improvement Association's (BCIA) board of directors has voted to establish a new award in honor of Richard Deese, retired ' Extension beef cattle specialist. The Richard Deese Award is to be presented annually to a member for outstanding accomplishments in the BCIA. BCIA President Warren Hall of Midway announced the establishment of the Richard Deese Award in Auburn last week during the annual meeting of the organization, which also presented Deese an award of appreciation for his work with the BCIA as an Extension Specialist. Deese, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service beef cattle specialist since 1965, retired Dec. 31. Four-H livestock specialist Bob Whittenburg, who worked with Deese throughout his career at Auburn says, "He is one the nicest people you could work with. I never saw him mad and he always did his job to perfection."

He enjoyed golfing, woodworking, gardening, traveling and grandparenting during his retirement years.

Richard began a long illness in late 2004, later diagnosed as sarcoidosis. He battled with inflammation of the lymph nodes, poor appetite and weight loss, congestive heart failure, arrhythmic heartbeat, chronic tiredness, and difficulty sleeping. In November 2005, Bob, Bill, Becky, and Billy helped he and Jay move into an assistive living facility in Auburn called Camellia Place. Jay died several months later from leukemia on December 27, 2005. . Richard died in hospice at Bethany House, Auburn, Alabama on February 23, 2006.

#### **The following was related by William Flynt on 4/6/13:**

The first summer Lola and W. H. Deese were married the two families lived at the Deese house because the crops had already been planted. Pud and William were 9; summer school (June and July) was at Fairview. They walked with Emma 7 ½ miles one way. When they were back in the Flynt house the walk was ONLY 2 ½ miles one way! (Fairview School was SE of Wattensaw.)

Alvin Flynt was born in a log cabin back off the road. The road was a wagon trail and is now Rte 31. Eventually the cabin was moved closer to the road and became part of the "new" barn.

## Deese Family History, 18 July 2020 Bill Deese July 2020

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Since I mentioned Granddaddy Bill I might as well pass on the notes I have on that too:

At 21, William Henry Deese was married to Susan (Susie) Elizabeth Flynt, 22, on March 25, 1906. They wed in Wattensaw but it was not a church wedding. Susie was renowned as an excellent cook. She died of pneumonia in 1931. Bill and Susie's children were Cecil "Cdub" William (1909-94), Oda "Red" Elizabeth (1912-1993), Wilson "Pig" Charles (1918-2004?), and Richard "Pud" Emory (1922-2006).

They lived on eighty acres in a house with an open dogtrot down the middle. There was no electricity (came in 1938). The house burned in 1923 while Bill was running a cotton gin a mile or so away. With the help of brothers and neighbors Bill built a bungalow-style house by mortgaging the farm to a country doctor that had delivered Pud. It had a double chimney in the middle with fireplaces on both sides. There was no indoor plumbing. A dug well about thirty feet from the house provided water.

All the family worked in the fields. There were lots of dogs, barn cats, chickens, hogs, a milk cow or two, a team of horses and a team of mules. Kato grew goats, so Bill's house had goat hides here and there around the house and goat meat was occasionally a dinner item. They had a family garden and grew a cash crop of cotton except for several years of strawberries. Corn was grown for feed and their own use. They went to town, either Lonoke or Beebe, about once a year in the wagon. Staples were bought in quantity. Flour and sugar were hauled home in a barrel. Most of the food was grown right on the farm. Clothes were washed once a week with water heated in a big kettle. Baths were a weekly affair with water heated at the fireplace or outside in the kettle and poured into a #2 washtub. In the summer the water in the tub was just warmed in the sun. Lye soap made at hog-killing time was used as well.

There were two things Bill made sure he never ran out of: potatoes and pork. He killed three or four hogs every fall and cured the meat. This was an exciting time and there were always fresh spare ribs, sausage, and brains-and-eggs. Bill would eat the feet, tail, etc. They hooked a sled behind a mule or horse, shot the pig with a .22 between the eyes, cut the jugular to let it bleed, and pulled it to a spot near the well. Water was heated to near boiling in the open kettle over the fire and dumped into a steel barrel which was partially buried at a 45 degree angle. A hay hook was attached to the hogs front legs and then it was dunked, first one end then the other. The hog was then pulled out onto the sled and the hair scraped off. Bill was the most sought after hog killer in the area and he would often get a portion of the pork in exchange for his help. One neighbor commented to Richard that Bill was probably the most helpful and hard-working person in the community. He was not an outspoken or outwardly affectionate person with children or friends, but they all knew he cared for them.

Susie died in 1931 after about 8 years in the newer house. The family remained in that house about a year. Oda dropped out of school and assumed much of the role of mother to the younger children. Bill had known Lola Flynt for some time as they had grown up together in Wattensaw. She had married Susie's brother, Willie Flynt. Willie died around 1922. Lola had four children, Alvin, Clayton, Emma, and William, all first cousins to Bill's children. They had previously gone to church and played together. They had often Sunday dinner together as well. Bill and Lola got married in the summer of 1932. They moved to Bill's house but farmed both places. Lola's house proved to be closer to the school and church and town so they moved there in 1933 and sold the old place. The house is still standing and is in good condition.

Lola died of encephesema at the age of ??????? Bill died at the age of 84. Both are buried in the family plot at Wattensaw Church.

Each of Bill's children got a share of the old homeplace and eventually sold it to Wilson. Wilson gave Oda's grandson an acre and a half. The land was sold by his daughters at his death.

**July 2020 This is an oral history told by Cecil William "C Dub" Deese to Katharine "Kathy" Sue Deese Tempelaar-Lietz in the presence of Emma Flynt Bowie probably in the late 1970s.**

Culpepper Watkins "Cul" Deese and second wife Nancie Thomas Josephine Arbellia Clemintine Bryant "Nan T" Deese

Cul was born in Stanley County, North Carolina, May 4, 1842; he died in Wattensaw, Arkansas, January 21, 1932 aged 89+. His parentage is unknown. He stood about 5'9" tall at maturity. It is known he had a sister, Harriet Deese Taylor, and an older brother, Alfe. Alfe was drafted into the Confederate Army and Culpepper volunteered because he was too young to be drafted. One story from his experiences during the war years is as follows: The Confederate troops were camped in a valley and were being harassed by a Union sniper from a tree on a high hill. Culpepper shot at the sniper and the harassment ceased. He never knew if he hit the sniper or just scared him away. If he did hit the man, Culpepper said it was the only hit he made in the war. Alfe was killed in the Civil War and Culpepper returned home unharmed. He contended throughout life war and slavery were both wrong.

Note: Book of Bowie shows Alfe (Alfred) being younger than Cul. -KDT-L

Sometime being discharged Culpepper moved to Mississippi and married a Sanders. They started a farm near Galena, Mississippi. They had eight children; half of them lived to adulthood.

Around 1870 the Culpepper Deese family moved west by wagon. They ferried across the Mississippi River near Galena into Arkansas. (Arkansas had become a state in 1836.) The family spoke of seeing enormous herds of buffalo in the mornings and late in the day but none in the afternoons. The narrator supposes the buffalo lay down in the tall prairie grass or went into trees near water during the heat of the day. They also saw prairie chickens. After settling [see #1 on map] near Pigeon Roost (later called Wattensaw), he built a blacksmith shop and grain mill. Later the mill was moved to the village of Wattensaw and owned by sons Jim and Bill. Culpepper's wife died soon after they came to Arkansas of pneumonia. The "cure" in those days was to pen all the windows in the patient's room to obtain maximum ventilation.

After the death of Culpepper's first wife, his widowed sister, Harriet Deese Taylor, came to Wattensaw to help with the family. She stayed for a year or so. Then Culpepper married Nan T. Bryant February 28, 1883. He raised his children at his second homeplace [see #2 on map]. Nan T. died March 21, 1939 almost 82 years of age. They had nine children. Over the years the house had many additions. Eventually it was sold to Simpson [Simmons?] and the additions were gradually taken down.

At approximately age 70 he retired from farming; sold his animals and farm implements and proceeded to do nothing for a year...fully expecting to die. But he didn't die so in 1913, after a year of retirement, he went back to farming by clearing half of a forty acre parcel [see #3 map] and by building a five room house. At age 80 Culpepper bought a car but he never drove it himself. To each of his children who lived to adulthood he gave a forty acre parcel of land. The narrator calculates that to be 440 acres to eleven children.

After Culpepper died [1932] his brother Dewey and wife Marie sold their place and moved in. They paid taxes but never bought Culpepper's property. Dewey died of cancer about 1965 and Marie got dementia. She went to Lonoke County Home. Culpepper's son Charlie was paying taxes and collecting rent in 1971 and no one owned a clear title.

Notes by KDT-L:

\*Source for Nancie's full name is from Deese family genealogy provided by Virginia Deese White, October 22, 1982.

\*Cecil William Deese, always remembered his grandfather, Culpepper Watkins Deese, with great affection and respect. As a youngster he spent many hours with him. While at college C.W. lost his mother in 1931 and grandfather in 1932.

\* Culpepper Watkins Deese's seventeen children by two wives were born from 1865 to 1899.

### William H. "Bill" Deese and Susan ("Susie") Elizabeth Flynt Deese

Bill Deese, born June 26, 1885, is the second born of Culpepper and Nan T. Deese.

He married Susan "Susie" Elizabeth Flynt on March 25, 1906. Marriage license March 20, 1906; signed by J. S. Ford, County Clerk. The marriage was performed by J. C. Beard, a church layman and justice of the peace.

Their first home [see A on map] burned to the ground in 1920. Cecil William's ("C Dub's") collection of silver dollars melted in that fire.) When the fire broke out, Bill and C.W. were at Bill's and Uncle Jim Deese's mill in Wattensaw. They saw the smoke over the tree tops and came to realize it was Bill's own home. At the time there were some state guardsmen helping at the mill. They went with the Deeses by horseback to the burning home but very little was saved. When the house burned they lost everything. Bill and Susie had three children at that time. C Dub was eleven, Oda was 8 and Wilson was only 2. They first stayed at Culpepper Deese's second home [see 2 on map] then moved to a three room log cabin [see B on map] closer to their 40 acres while a new home [see A on map] was being built on their 40. Stones for the foundation came from Ward, Arkansas, about 10 miles toward Beebe. The rebuilt house had three rooms across the front and three rooms across the back. The middle front room was a living room with bedrooms to right and left. The back rooms from left to right were kitchen, dining room, bedroom. There was a central fireplace on the living room/dining room wall. Two years after the fire Richard Emory was born.

Notes:

\*The year of the fire and number of children disagrees with Richard E. Deese's oral history.

\* C Dub Deese was leary of fires his whole life. When staying at a hotel he always checked the escape route upon arrival.

KDT-L

On March 21, 1931, Susie died of pneumonia. At the time their youngest, Richard Emory Deese, was nine and their oldest was away at College of the Ozarks on a sports scholarship. And the country was experiencing the Great Depression.

### William "Bill" Henry Deese and Lola Bell Baldwin Flynt Deese

February 3, 1932, Bill married Lola (Susie's brother's widow) at her home. At that time her children were 18, 15, 13, and 10. She had been a widow for nine years. Her land consisted of two 40 acre parcels. One parcel fronted on gravel Arkansas State Highway 31 near Wattensaw Church. The second parcel was behind the first going back from the highway. The property is slightly pie shaped with the narrow part front on the road. A creek runs diagonally across the property NW to SE. For a while it was dammed to create a pond for cows to drink from. Lola and her first husband, William "Willie" Stephan Flynt, moved their small log cabin home from back in the woods up to the highway by rolling it on logs. It was greatly enlarged. It probably started as a dogtrot. It became two rooms on the front on either side of a wide central hall. The left room was a living room/master bedroom combination with fireplace. The right was a guest bedroom with fireplace. There was always a baby bed for grandchildren later. Fireplaces were on the outer side walls of the house. Behind the front guestroom was another smaller bedroom with stairs to a sleeping attic. Behind the left front room was a dining room and behind that a kitchen. Off of the dining room and kitchen was a porch. In the mid 1950s Bill, C Dub and others built a indoor bathroom (!!!) at the back of the hall and excavated and installed a septic tank. There was an exterior door on the right wall of the hall between the back bedroom and the bathroom and steps going into the yard. A dipper and pail of water always hung just inside the back door. Near the back steps was a terrific tree with a sack-on-a-rope-swing just great for grandkids. The bigger ones would push and run under the swing giving trills and a big ride for the lucky one on the swing. A lovely porch extended across the whole front of the house with a two seated swing hanging from the ceiling. Bill planted a young dogwood off the front right corner of the porch. Eventually it became a nice sized tree. One day a stranger on the highway stopped and offered to buy the tree. But it wasn't for sale. The front yard had an unpaved circular driveway. There were several large trees which partially hung out over the road. From a distance the those where a "welcome home" sign. The dust in the driveway was powder fine and cool. The highway was paved in about 1950.

When C Dub and his family came to visit from Delaware, all the brothers, sisters and their children would get together. The dining table held about 18 so they had to eat in shifts – children first. There was homemade ice cream

with Lola's frozen sweetened strawberries and watermelon eaten outside after dark. Pat, the dog, was there for the grandchildren and bringing the cows home. He slept in the coolness under the house and never came indoors.

Lola was very active in the community church, knew everyone in the vicinity and was a relative to most of them. She was always energetic, though she looked frail, had long black hair which she braided and coiled on top of her head. She was more than generous to her and Bill's grandchildren. Bill, a pillar of his community, died March 17, 1963.

Years later Lola and her daughter Emma went by car to Florida. They had a good journey. It was a nice change of pace. Immediately upon returning home (Emma had gone back to her home in Augusta, AR) Lola broke her hip due to a fall from her back steps. She had stepped on a coiled rattlesnake and missed her jump to a fence. She dragged herself into the house past the snake to get to the phone. The doctors said she would never walk again but she was up and about in less than a year. Lola was 78 when she broke her hip. She stayed on in her home by herself during which time she had the barn taken down and changes made to the inside of the house for reasons of appearance and warmer rooms in the winter. Eventually for several years she lived with her daughter Emma in Augusta. Lola broke her other hip due to an accident in a nursing home. She lived on until June 27, 1975 passing away at the age of 82.

Note: While at Emma's Lola made a quilt top of old dress scrapes, etc. attaching a note "for Kathy's first born". It was sent to Kathy after her last born was no longer an infant. The quilt was finished and hangs by Kathy's desk. -KDTL

### **Hansel and Kathy reminiscing after dinner at Hubert's, 8/7/93**

Granddaddy Bill eating peas from a table knife with "point" of knife going almost straight into his mouth and peas rolling down the blade.

Jar in middle of table with extra spoons.

Dipper and water bucket in center hall by back door. Everyone drank from same dipper.

10-12 around dining table. Chairs touching side to side. Couldn't walk behind chairs that backed to living room wall. Granddaddy Bill at head of table with back to hall. Also a chest freezer and glass "safe" cupboard in dining room. Room size 8x12? How did we all fit in? When a big crowd was there, little kids were fed in first shift. Then grownups and older children around table – rarely ate off lap in another room or outside.

Reunions at White River, Augusta – Bowies' club. Catfish dinners, waterskiing behind Hansel's. Hansel taught C.W. & Pud and many others to ski. Pud was a "slow Learner" but he got it. Mary Ellen forgot to let go of tow rope when she fell and was pulled pretty far. It scared Martha.

One of the Flynt or Deese boys (probably Flynt – Alvin or Clayton?) and a neighbor boy were walking on 31 near Wattensaw Church at night. Came to a house. No one home. They threw stones at house don't know why. Wanted to hear sound of breaking glass? Just devilish. A neighbor man happened by and made them stop. Chewed them out royally but didn't tell Aunt Lola nor Uncle Willie or was it Granddaddy Bill by then? They never again threw stones at houses.

Granddaddy Bill was very strict with Oda and the boys she saw. Once she was talking with a boy at community event. Granddaddy Bill dislike the boy (-bad reputation?). Jerked Oda away and spanked her for all to see. Took her home and continued to spank her until Susie said "That's enough." He stopped immediately.

Hubert was bringing Oda home from a date. Oda said not to take her to the door (Granddaddy Bill had come to door in nightshirt). Hubert said he had picked her up at door; he would take her back to her front door. When they got to Granddaddy Bill, he eyed Hubert's size and went back into the house.



