

## GRANDMA LEE

Grandma Lee came from a small town in Missouri. It was larger than Hazelton, but no mountains. She didn't see mountains until she came west. Grandma Lee lived near Hannibal Missouri, which is where the story of Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher took place. She used to play in the same caves. It was rather dangerous to go into the caves, because you could get lost like Huckleberry Finn did. These caves were formed by water.

When she was a little girl the whole family would go on picnics. They would hitch the horses up to the wagon and go to the country to have a picnic. They would play and go swimming in the creeks and fishing in the lakes. They'd make their own fishing poles. They also went nut and berry picking combined with their picnics. They'd pick blackberries and take the nuts home for winter.

In winter they stayed indoors a lot and played games and cards and ~ the nuts with apples. One of the many chores they had to do around the farm in winter was to gather coal and wood. They'd gather eggs and feed chickens and had pet goats and rabbits. Her Dad made little wagons and he'd have the goats pull them around the yard.

Mrs. Lee recalls her school days: "I went to a very small school. There were two schools in the town I grew up in. One was a public school and the other was a religious school. I went to the religious school. All the grades were in the one school; kindergarten up to high school. There were four grades in one room and only five rooms in the whole school. One thing I can remember is our teacher. She was old and had taught my mother, also. She kept the kids in line. They were always very good. It might have been because she always carried a big ruler around with her wherever she went. The kids were scared of the ruler. We'd play baseball, softball and basketball. "

Of her growing up on the farm, she has fond memories. "My grandma lived on a farm and had lots of horses. Everyone had horses and cattle and grew their own wheat, corn and oats. The plows were all pulled by horses. This was another thing the children helped with - harvesting the wheat, corn and oats and

helping with the garden. The boys were let out of school early to help with this.

"My dad and grandpa used to go hunting, mostly for skins as they could sell these. They got opossum, rabbits, squirrels, gophers, skunks, foxes and badgers. We did not have bears where I lived. There were lots of birds, too. Really beautiful ones. My dad used to make little birdhouses and we could watch the little birds in the nests.

"We didn't have a car for a long time. We lived within walking distance of town and school. If we went on long trips we rode in a buggy pulled by a horse. It was called a surrey. Our first car was an old Model T. It didn't have any glass or heater, so was very cold on long trips. Had to bundle up really good to keep from freezing. The roads were mostly mud. Only the main streets in the towns were paved. We used to get stuck a lot on trips."

People dressed differently in those days, too. "Older women wore their dresses down to their ankles. My mother wore hers between her knees and ankles. The little girls always wore dresses and cotton stockings. The little boys wore short pants, knickers they were called, with stockings. When the boys were older they would go into long pants and always looked forward to being old enough to wear them.

"My grandparents always lived in Missouri, but my great-grandparents came from Ireland in 1850. They came from the East Coast in covered wagons to Missouri. They came from Ireland in a big ship because Ireland was very poor. My grandparents built a big house and we lived next door to them.

"I took a trip out west and really loved the sea and the mountains. There are no big mountains in Missouri. We had some relatives who moved to Seattle and always talked about it so much so we moved out to Seattle. The water is so clear and the air is so much cleaner on the west coast. I liked living in Seattle at first, but now would prefer a smaller town. You can get to know people a lot better in a small place. Seattle has a lot of nice things like the space needle. It's about 600 feet high and you can go up in a small elevator and look out over the whole city and see the mountains and water altogether. But it's a lot nicer being in a smaller place like Hazelton.