

SR9A/rjbj

P: Well, when you got up in the morning, did you do a lot of chores or....

R: Yes, we usually did. As I said, there were no boys to do it, and my father was old. We had to help with taking care of the animals on the farm and the cows. We learned to milk cows and sometimes had to help him take care of the horses. Usually kept two horses and had a wagon and a buggy.

P: Uh huh.

R: Which was our transportation. I guess we bought our first car on '26.

P: Do you remember -- oh, the question went out of my head. What kind of crops did you grow?

R: We grew mostly corn, peanuts, and velvet beans. The velvet beans were for the cows to eat in the winter time. They were, grew on a vine and they'd run up around the cornstalks. And later he did grow some watermelons, but mostly corn and peanuts for all the animals to eat.

P: And what about your family? Did you grow staple crops for the family to eat?

R: Yes. We had a garden most of the time. We had vegetables in our garden. In the summer, of course, we had corn and peas and tomatoes and all those good things. Okra. Then in the winter time we would have collards and mustard.

P: How did you store your food?

R: Well, didn't have much way of storing it, except what did can. We canned quite a bit of food and cured the meat. It was smoked on up in the smokehouse and cured, salted down for so long and then it was washed off and hung up in the smokehouse and cured.

P: Did you have cane, sugar cane?

R: Yes. Oh, I used to love to come home from school and go out to the cane patch and cut down a cane in the fall and sit out there and chew cane. That was good.

P: Did you use that for your own supply of sugar cane syrup and for making sugar?

R: Mostly for making cane syrup. Occasionally dad made some sugar, but not very often.

P: So did you usually use honey for sweetening?

R: We used a lot of honey for sweetening, uh huh.

P: You had bees.

R: Yes, we had bees. Not everyone had bees, but we did have some bees.

P: Did you have sugar cane parties?