

LESLIE MERLE NEUKIRCH

Prepared by: Leslie Neukirch in approximately 1975

At the time I was born in 1908, mom and dad were living on the George Ellis farm eleven miles southwest of Cassoday, Kansas in the little white house west of the big house. They moved up to the big house where George was born in 1910. I started to school at #1 school when I was five years old, also mowing and cultivating corn.

Bill was born in 1912, and named William after President Taft.

Dad bought his first car in 1910, an Overland, no front doors top or windshield. The top and windshield had to be bought extra.

Fred Jr. was born in 1914.

In 1915 dad bought a new Buick touring car.

Mary was born in 1916.

Marjorie was born in 1918.

Dad bought his first farm tractor in 1916, an 8-16 Avery. Mother could list in more corn with four horses and one row lister than dad could with a two row lister and the tractor.

The winter of 1918 dad and mother made a trip to Lookout, Oklahoma and bought a farm. They left us kids with Aunt Amy and Uncle Harrison while they were gone. They lived on the Nanny Ellis place north of Dersteins and we were able to go to school. They were gone over Christmas; it rained before Christmas, and then turned to snow. All roads were drifted up over the fences. To get anywhere we had to go through the fields.

In the fall of 1919 Dad and Lewis went to Oklahoma and put in a wheat crop on the farm they bought. Dad bought a Cletrac tractor for there.

In January of 1920 we moved to Oklahoma. Uncle John and George Hamilton went on the train with household goods. Dad had bought a Ford T truck, before that he hauled the wheat twenty-six miles to Coldwater, Kansas with four horses and a wagon.

I spent the wheat harvest in header barge harvest of 1921 at the age of 13.

In 1926 dad bought a 15-30 Rumley oil pull tractor which was the first tractor that I farmed with. Also that year we got a Delco Electric Light system for the farm, two new Ford cars, a coupe and a four door. In 1928 bought a new Willis Knight four door car. In 1929 a new Caterpillar tractor, also in 1928 got our first wheat combine. Through all of the 20's we milked about twenty cows.

In 1929 I got my first car, a 1929 Whippet.

In 1930 I married Ruby Fross. We lived in Uncle Bill Pippig's house for awhile then moved to Ruby's father's place. I had rented both places and put to wheat. Shirley was born in 1931, she is married to Sonny Moore, and they live at Peabody, Kansas and have five boys. Joyce was born in 1934, she is married to Bob Ott, they live at Miami, Oklahoma and have one son and one daughter. Catherine was born in 1939, she is married to Carmen Calabresse, and they live at Newark, Delaware and they have two sons. Marvin was born in 1944, he married Linda Highsmith, and they live at Parson, Kansas and have two sons.