

Speaker 1:

And we should be recording. So thank you for coming in, Janice. So if you tell us your name, where you grew up, what year you were born, and where you live now.

Janice Tranbarger:

I'm Janice. I grew up on a farm in Hardin County, Iowa, by Union. Now I live in Conrad.

Speaker 1:

And what year were you born, Janice?

Janice Tranbarger:

I was born in 1948.

Speaker 1:

Thank you for sharing that. Some people are a little shy. So how did your family come to live on a farm in Iowa?

Janice Tranbarger:

My dad grew up with a farming family near Liscomb. And after he went to World War II and came home, he wanted to be a farmer. And so he bought a farm over by Union and farmed it after the war until 1968.

Speaker 1:

Wow.

Janice Tranbarger:

He passed away.

Speaker 1:

Buying the farm, that's something you can't do at a young age anymore, I don't think.

Janice Tranbarger:

No. I'm sure that they were very much cheaper then.

Speaker 1:

So when you were growing up on the farm, do you have a favorite story that is your favorite thing that happened to you growing up on the farm?

Janice Tranbarger:

A mama cat with baby kitties. We had them every year, probably a couple times a year.

Speaker 1:

That's the very best memory.

Janice Tranbarger:

And riding horses. We had horses for us three kids to ride.

Speaker 1:

How fun. So obviously, hopefully cats were not your main cash crop.

Janice Tranbarger:

No.

Speaker 1:

What crops did your family grow on the farm?

Janice Tranbarger:

They grew... We grew commercial corn and commercial beans.

Speaker 1:

Corn and beans.

Janice Tranbarger:

And had an alfalfa field that we bailed hay.

Speaker 1:

Because you had those horses.

Janice Tranbarger:

Yep, yep.

Speaker 1:

You've got to do that.

Janice Tranbarger:

And a hay mow to put it in.

Speaker 1:

You did. And then did you have any other kind of animals on your farm? The horses, the cats?

Janice Tranbarger:

My dad had hogs and beef cattle, and they went to the sale barn whenever they were ready. And my brother had to raise rabbits. He had a cage that he had rabbits in over by the garage.

Speaker 1:

Not pet rabbits?

Janice Tranbarger:

Yes.

Speaker 1:

They were pet rabbits?

Janice Tranbarger:

Yes. Yes.

Speaker 1:

So the rabbits didn't end up being...

Janice Tranbarger:

Dinner.

Speaker 1:

Dinner.

Janice Tranbarger:

No.

Speaker 1:

Did your family raise any of your own food for dinner?

Janice Tranbarger:

Yes. My mom had a huge garden. Huge. She had everything in it you could think of, rhubarb, asparagus, all the vegetables, strawberry bed. I said asparagus. We shelled peas in a large, porcelain bathtub. We had so many peas, we had to shell them into this bathtub so she could freeze peas.

Speaker 1:

And that was all just for your family?

Janice Tranbarger:

Mm-hmm.

Speaker 1:

That wasn't going to the farmer's market or anything?

Janice Tranbarger:

Nope. Nope.

Speaker 1:

Just garden feeding the family.

Janice Tranbarger:

She froze and canned everything that was in the garden.

Speaker 1:

And no rabbits in the garden?

Janice Tranbarger:

No. Nope.

Speaker 1:

I hear threats about the rabbits in the garden every once in a while. And then, so you got to help with the peas and the garden. What other kind of farm work went on in your family, and who did what? So I'm guessing Mom was heavily involved with the peas.

Janice Tranbarger:

She was in the kitchen all the time. She was an awesome pie baker. And my dad took care of the hogs and the cattle. And when us kids got old enough, I have a sister and a brother, and we would help him when we got old enough. And oh, we had chickens. We had a chicken house, raised our eggs. And we had a brooder house, it was called. That's where the baby chicks went until they grew up. And then when they were big enough, we butchered them, and we ate them.

Speaker 1:

So...

Janice Tranbarger:

Every Sunday we had fried chicken. Every Sunday.

Speaker 1:

It was always the least... Now you didn't have the chore of catching the chicken on Sunday, did you?

Janice Tranbarger:

Well, no. We didn't just catch one and eat it. One day in the summer, Dad would catch them and wring their neck. And then we'd... I don't want to... If you want the rest of the story? Put them in hot, boiling water so you could get the feathers off. And then Mom and I would cut them open and get them cut up, and it was a stinky job.

Speaker 1:

So I take it you didn't have one of those cool plucker machines like they have now with the rubber fingers?

Janice Tranbarger:

No. Nope, nope. This was all by hand.

Speaker 1:

What kind of machinery and technology did you guys have on the farm then?

Janice Tranbarger:

Well, not much with the chickens. They were just in their chicken house. And the little chickens had a heat lamp, of course. But we had international tractors with no cabs and probably a four row planter, not real big. And a combine, and a rotary hoe, and a cultivator, and a manure spreader because we had to clean the barn out, and the hog house. And mowed the lawn with a push lawnmower. We didn't have a riding lawnmower.

Speaker 1:

Did it have a motor? Or were you having one of those rotary ones?

Janice Tranbarger:

No, we had a motorized push mower.

Speaker 1:

Lots of changes. And do you have any family members who are still farming?

Janice Tranbarger:

Oh, yes. Yes. The farm that my dad bought is still farmed by our nephew. First, my sister's husband farmed it, but he passed away. And so their son farms our land, and it's over west of Union.

Speaker 1:

Excellent. So still going, even if a little different.

Janice Tranbarger:

Yep. Yep.

Speaker 1:

Well, that's all the questions we have for you today, Janice.

Janice Tranbarger:

Oh, goodness.

Speaker 1:

So thank you so much for sitting down with us and sharing your experiences.

Janice Tranbarger:

You're welcome.

Speaker 1:

It's really fun to hear about.

This transcript was exported on Feb 14, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

Janice Tranbarger:

You're welcome.