

man language all the way from Berlin, Germany. The translation told of the perceived glories of the Third Reich government. The German people were in the throes of depression and Hitler seized the opportunity of promising them relief and glory in his Third Reich. We knew that Germany was far away, but hearing his voice in our classroom brought the world situation closer. It seemed to thrust us out of childhood into a world apart from our comfortable small town of Redding, Iowa.

Many farmers in our county, our father included, were not happy with President Franklin Roosevelt and all the new directives for farmers. In the election year of 1936, our county republicans organized a parade with a wagon float of penned piglets. It was decorated with *ALF LANDON FOR PRESIDENT* banners and sunflowers, the state flower of Kansas, his home state. Many of us youth marched along with the parade and had a great time. Although national polls had indicated a victory for Landon, Roosevelt was the victor.

Our memories of the depression days are not sad because we always had something to eat, to wear, and a bed to sleep in. Grandma Adair loved to go to church rummage sales where she found nice clothing for each of her families. I remember a lovely outfit of dress, coat and hat that I was proud to wear. We loved to wear the dresses that our cousins, Dale and Oakland, had outgrown and Mom had remodeled to fit us. Even though times were hard, our folks kept a sunny outlook, and gave us a childhood rich in ways that we still cherish today.

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

Homemade ice cream was a favorite summer treat, often made with strawberries from our farm. Dad would bring home a big chunk of ice from the local ice house, wrap it in burlap, and place it in the cellar until after the farm chores were completed. Meanwhile we scrubbed the wooden ice cream tub while Mom scoured the canister and dasher. We watched her put the dasher firmly into the canister and pour in a rich cream mixture; then she placed it in the freezer's tub.

Once the canister had been placed, Dad packed crushed ice all around it and mixed in rock salt to lower the freezing point. Finally, the big moment had arrived! Anticipation was high. We took turns turning the crank, beginning with the youngest. As the cream began to freeze, the older kids took turns until it was very hard to turn. That meant the ice cream was ready!

The dasher had churned the cream back and forth to form ice crystals and

to become delicious ice cream. The dasher was pulled out and we kids grabbed spoons to clean it off while the ice cream 'firmed up' before being served.

The neighbors responded to our invitation and the evening took on an air of celebration. Mom brought forth a cake and the crushed strawberries ready for each to scoop onto their velvety ice cream. Those were cereal bowls, not the dainty 'company' ones. Quiet reigned for a few moments as each busily enjoyed their treat, then accolades burst forth. "Best ever!" and "Can I have seconds?"

Those are memories that bring smiles and happy thoughts about each person there. The camaraderie and friendship were a large part of the evening. The adults chatted and laughed, while we young ones played games on the grassy lawn. Soon someone would spot the first star of the evening and we would watch to see how quickly more appeared, hoping our wishes would come true. Today, I would wish that everyone could experience such an evening.

HAYMAKING

It's a hot, dry, sunny day;
Ideal day for putting up hay.
The hayfield's ready; the farmer knows.
Hay's been cut, dried, raked in furrows.

Horses hitched and ready to go
Off to the field, nice and slow.
Rabbits scurrying, looking for cover.
'Mid alfalfa and sweet clover.

We girls take the reins,
Hearing "go easy, don't strain."
Horses plod in measured tread,
Stopping and going as they're led.

Soon we're enveloped in itchy chaff,
Feel it sifting down our backs.
Flying insects soon distract us,
Grasshoppers jumping, they disgust us.

Keeping the team in the narrow track,
Watching the men at our back.