

April 22, 1985 - Monday Morning

I've ran out of National Geographical magazines to read. So I thought I would sit here in the southerly chilly winds on the front porch of my granddad's home at Kempner Texas and write down some of the things I've heard and seen since I came here last Sunday to recuperate from my surgery.

It seems when I am here on this porch that my mind is much clearer to picking & sorting words. The breeze helps I'm sure - an ideal writing place.

Today the scene has been narrowed to just beyond the Post Office. The weather is stormy & kinda chilly. Some tornadoes have touched down around different parts of the state. One killing 3 people in 1 family near Witcha Falls Tex.

We have completely overcast skies. Fog in the south, which sure cuts the horizon short.

Some birds - several species are singing, courting & mating.

A Crow flies over once in a while mocking.

The black birds from Ft Hord have come in for their annual worm fest. Mom says they come every

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spring to eat worms then go back to Ft Hood.

6⁰⁰ + This morning we got up by had breakfast then Mom + I were on the back porch feeding the cats + enjoying the cooler outside air.

The chickens started fussing + at the west fence. We thought a yellow cat was after them. Then we thought Voss's wild sheep were playing with them. But as we watched further we noticed a yellowish red fox full grown with a red tail except for the end like a paint brush - it was a bright white.

Our voices must have scared the fox away - cause we watched him leave with no chicken. It was an unusual sight for us.

Mommy has a black hen hatching. So far she has 13 babies and 1 more egg pipped. They are all adorable - makes me wish I had a place for chickens.

There is alot of traffic down on the highway this AM - sounds like truckers.

Daddy got upset this morning. His middle is 52 inches around. Yet he says he wears size 48 pants. He wouldn't let Mom measure him so I had to. He just can't believe

that he is so big. He gets mad when anyone mentions his weight. He swears he don't eat much. But he eats enough at each setting for 4 people.

He said this morning he gets so mad at skinny people who can eat anything they want.

It's really funny in a way. But his eating habits are all his mom's fault. She never thought he ate enough so to please her he ate till she thought he was full.

Daddy would be a lot better off if he lost - but who knows, when if ever he will do that.

The sun is trying to come out now - It would be nice.

Yesterday was an unusually long day for me. I didn't go to church - I slept most of the morning. I called work & talked to P. Behoist ^{20N}. She thinks I ought to come back to work & do paper work. It would be nice & give me some money too. But I still can't wear underwear or bra. It hurts my stitches.

Dr Pat. hasn't released me to drive or return to work. It seems

Odd not going to work or not
 off in Dallas with James. I feel
 like I have quit work.

The surgery I had was
 serious so I do have to be careful.
 I haven't heard from James since
 last Monday - I hope nothing is
 wrong. I guess since we talked
 on the phone + I have written him
 nearly every day that he doesn't
 feel the need to write.

I just hope he comes this
 weekend.

Moma + I talked yesterday about
 her life at Cold Springs + Hubbard.
 They lived on a ranch that
 had a house with the front yard
 fenced in - to the right back
 corner was an oak tree that
 was so big around that Uncle Joe,
 Aunt Trudy + Moma couldn't hold
 hands + reach around the tree trunk.

She said there was a creek
 that ran between the oak tree +
 house + under the front gate.

So Grandma Roden had them
 sweep the yard weeds leaves etc down
 under the gate. She put a board
 along the fence to catch the dirt.
 The kids thought this was crazy -
 but when it rained the water washed
 dirt from the field back of the oak tree
 + caught in the front yard - the water
 left - leaving the dirt built up in

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the yard - then Grandma had the kid stack rock up along the outside of the entire fence row to catch more dirt & build up the yard.

Hubbard at that time was a gas station, store ran by Grandpa Shelton, Allen Shelton's grandpa - (Moma's first husband was Allen Shelton).

Moma left Hubbard in Sept. before Grandmat & Pa Roden left in Jan.

She didn't marry Allen till just before he went overseas ^{during WW II}. Then they stayed married for about 2 years after he came back. He was an alcoholic & stayed out with other women all the time & kept everybody pregnant but Moma so she divorced him.

She went to Waco from Hubbard & went to work.

Moma was around 17-18 when she first married. She worked in Waco after her divorce & met Daddy Virgil Cox in 1947 and they married Jan. 1948.

It wasn't long after Moma went to work in Waco that Grandma & Pa Roden moved to Waco & went to work too. Uncle Joe & Aunt Rudy too. Though Uncle Joe didn't work long because WW II got him & he went to the Army. He went to boot camp for 3 months then was shipped right on to Italy without a leave to

Come home + say bye to anyone. He didn't get home till the war was over.

Uncle Earnest was stationed at Ft Lewis Washington - He was a Military Policeman. He had flat feet so wasn't sent overseas to fight. He stayed the duration of the war at Ft Lewis Washington.

Uncle Louie was in the Navy.

Bill Miller (our cousin - married to Cousin Martha Lynn Jackson ^{Ellen} Rose's daughter) was here Saturday night along with Mike Henry.

They got to talking about the darkness of WW II. Mike Henry was in the Army stationed at London England. He said it was so dark at night that you couldn't see - you just had to feel your way. A total blackout. After the Germans bombed England was when he was there.

He said the English who knew the streets would guide the armed American soldiers on patrol through the streets + up steps - down steps to safety. During a total blackout all windows were covered. Bldgs had 3 door entrances. The street entrance you opened still into outer darkness. Once that closed you opened another door - more total darkness. When you opened the 3rd door - light. A hubbub of people going on with life - during a total blackout.

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Mike Henry said this was so the Germans didn't see light & targets at night.

He said the women in England were all over GI Joe's for free passage to America nothing more. He said he felt like he had died & gone to Heaven the way the women treated him.

Bill Miller says he was sent with the army into Melbourne Australia. When he arrived, the Japanese already ~~owned~~ had control of part of Australia.

He said at night the GI Joe's spent time in Melbourne Australia with wine women & song & days at a camp 50 miles away by train. He said the ^{U.S.} Army barely got to Australia before the Japs had full control.

Daddy called a little while ago that my check from IRS came in. He put it in the bank for me. \$147.87. It will come in handy paying bills. And to do a little work on my house.

I took a walk yesterday after church. After dinner - I walked up the road looking for cacti to take home & plant in my garden. Momma thought I had been gone too long.

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and came looking for me. She found me in the pasture trying to dig up a big pincushion cactus with big red blooms. She made me quit & come home with her.

About 1 1/2 hours later after I rested we - Momma + me went back to the pasture for the cactus. And she gathered a bucket of wild flowers to set out on the storm house. While she was digging flowers she found another cactus blooming a different species & we got it.

There is a new plant around here - wild lockspur. Momma says she hasn't seen any since she was a child. She found some growing on the hill by the fence & she is going to leave them there hoping to get some seeds to plant here at the house.

Big Momma's monthly rose bush is in full bloom and so pretty. I hope I can get mine to do so good. As soon as I can I want to go to the creek & look at the wild rose bushes there. And I want to get a couple more grape vines, too - Mustang grapes.

Somebody visited at the old Taylor house yesterday. We figured it was the Taylor girl's kids from Austin - Wanda Taylor Gustafson - Wanda + Leonard. The porch has caved in & the chimney

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fell in last fall. My great grand-
parents James Andrew & Rachel Caroline
McCullough Jackson once owned that
place.

It would be a nice place to
tear everything down & start over.
Jack & Mary Taylor were dear people
to me in my youth. When Moma
couldn't find me I was always at
Jack Taylor's in his lap lighting
his pipe or eating vanilla
wafers or filling his pipe with
tobacco. He was a dear sweet man.
like a grandpa to me.

by Cora Cox Flud