

Summer Evenings When I Was A Child

By Missy Jones

I remember so well the happy days when I was a child. We lived in the country, and did not have "next door neighbors". But we did have neighbors, and so many times, families would come to our house to "set until bedtime." Our house faced the east, with a porch across the front of the house. In the late afternoon when neighbors came, my mother would bring the kitchen chairs out on the porch, the ladies would set in the chairs, and usually the men set on the porch, maybe with their feet on the steps. We kids would run and play, we didn't need anything organized, it was enough that we were young and healthy and wanted to run and play.

Sometimes, we would make ice cream and we would have blocks of ice that Daddy had bought in town. He would go and milk the cow earlier than usual, to have plenty of milk for the ice cream. Now, this was such a wonderful time. My sister and I would practically fight over who would get to set on the freezer. The men would be turning the handle on the freezer after my mother had mixed it all up good. Plenty of milk and cream, eggs, vanilla, and sugar was all that it needed. Daddy would salt down the ice good, and we could set and listen to the men talking about their cows, their crops, going to town, buying seed and setting hens.

Sometimes when it was late in the evening and we had kids for company, we would be making ice cream, Daddy would go in the house and bring out a pair of bed springs (metal ones) and put them in the yard and lay a mattress on the springs. We did not have grass in the yard, the yard was "Swept". Yes, we took a broom and swept the dirt in the yard, and it was hard packed. No trash anywhere. Now, I never remembered that we had sheets or blankets on the bed, but we didn't need them. In the country at that time, there were no guard lights and the night sky was so dark and the stars were so bright. We would lie on the mattress and count the stars and look up at the Milky Way and it was so pretty.

My Mother had a set of green glass bowls, probably Depression Glass, and they were fluted and very dainty. When she brought them out for us to eat ice cream out of, we thought that we were so fancy, and really up town. We were having a party. (I still have some of those green glass bowls).